

Let Your Water Journey Begin

Notes from the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

With summer days in full swing, we all want to hit the water. Some of the State's busiest campgrounds are along rivers and lakes with accessible beaches and safe swimming spots. But for those willing to trade easy access for the remote beauty of open water, canoe camping can't be beat.

Never considered canoeing to your campsite? Below are some suggestions that provide a variety of experiences for first-time canoe campers just learning the ropes, seasoned paddlers looking for a rewarding mini-adventure, and everyone in between.

SIMPLE AND REWARDING

Osmore Pond

Visit small and quiet **Osmore Pond**, part of New Discovery State Park in Groton State Forest. Osmore Pond offers a gentle introduction to this exciting way of getting around with your friends, family and gear.

Campers can drive right up to the boat ramp, pack their gear into the canoe, and paddle straight to a campsite. For those without a boat of their own, consider a boat-to-remote package that includes camping and canoe rental.

VISIT the park [online](#). | **VIEW:** [CAMPSITE MAP](#) + [DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#)

ONE PORTAGE AWAY

Kettle Pond

Also in Groton State Forest, **Kettle Pond State Park** offers a more remote camping experience. Campers park ¼-mile from the lake and carry their boat and gear (called *portaging*) down a trail to the lakefront. Six remote waterfront camping sites are then just a paddle away. A hiking trail surrounds the perimeter of this pond—meaning that if you forgot your matches in the car, you can easily walk back to get them. Bonus: For history buffs, look for site #11, one of the few remaining vertical log lean-tos built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) back in the 1930s.

VISIT the park [online](#). | **VIEW:** [CAMPSITE MAP](#) + [DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#)

A PADDLER'S PARADISE

Green River Reservoir

Green River Reservoir State Park is perhaps best defined by what it *doesn't have* rather than what it does have. Although the Reservoir is over 650 acres in size, visitors will not hear any motorboats, nor will they see summer cottages on the fringes of the water. With 19 miles of undeveloped shoreline, the Reservoir feels ...undiscovered. The park map itself is painted like a hidden treasure map.

Because of its easy access, this is a popular park for canoe campers—but the combination of a large body of water and a limited number of day use permits means there is ample space for everyone.

Twenty-eight campsites are available by canoe or kayak only, and they are situated up to 2 miles from the launch site. Revel in the stillness of human-powered travel and be rewarded with pristine sunsets and the haunting call of loons over the quiet waters.

VISIT the park [online](#). | **VIEW:** CAMPSITE MAP + [DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#)

MORE INFO:

[Friends of Green River Reservoir](#)

For multi-day trips, check out suggestions from our partners:

Island Hop in Northern Lake Champlain



Paddle between Burton Island, Woods Island, and Knight Island over multiple days to explore Vermont's "inland sea."

[Burton Island](#) – A developed campground run by the State Park on the north end of the island offers hot showers and a store. Four Remote Paddlers' tent sites exist at the south end of the island, offered by LCC and Vermont State Parks. Remote sites can be reserved up to two weeks in advance, or first-come first-serve.

[Woods Island](#) – Remote tent camping. No amenities. Reserve up to 11 months in advance.

[Knight Island](#) – Lean-to and tent camping. No amenities. Reserve up to 11 months in advance.

***Check out the [Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail guidebook](#) for routes!**

Let the Connecticut River Take You



Snow geese use the Connecticut River as a road to migrate north come spring. Use it as your summer paddling map for multi-day canoe camping with a variety of shore-side access points and offerings.

Take a stop at the [Path of Life Sculpture Gardens](#) in Windsor, which contains a path leading to a brewery in town and deluxe three-room outfitter tents.

[Wilgus State Park](#) is a popular spot for a last night stay and easy take out location. Enjoy a hot shower!

***Check out the [Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail](#) webpage for a list of access points and campsites along the river in Vermont and New Hampshire.**