

# 84 Maidstone State Park

4858 Maidstone Lake Road, Maidstone, Vermont

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Twelve thousand years ago the Ice Age carved out a beautiful gift in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. When glacial ice melted, a deep, clear, cold body of water was created, covering 796 acres with a depth of over 120 feet. Today, Maidstone Lake is surrounded by acres of remote boreal forest, brims with a wide variety of wildlife, and features Maidstone State Park, federally-designated on the National Register of Historic Places.

Following the land purchase from the New Hampshire-Vermont Lumber Company, Maidstone State Park was one of 21 Vermont State Parks constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s. As a direct result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Program, Maidstone State Park shares the distinctive "naturalistic" landscaping and rustic architecture with other CCC-constructed parks throughout the United States. The CCC built the park's lodge and picnic shelter, as well as fireplaces at a number of campsites, all of which are still in use today.



Maidstone State Park is celebrated for its remoteness and exceptional wildlife habitat. In recent years, Maidstone Lake is one of the few Vermont lakes where loons have chosen to rear their young—quite the compliment from this avian species once considered to be endangered in Vermont. In addition, the lake seems to support a robust trout and salmon population, as record fish have been caught over the years. Early records indicate that the lake was stocked with 5,000 salmon during the years of 1885 and 1886. At that time, the fish were transported by rail car to a location close to where the salmon would be stocked, and then brought to the designated location by horse.

Maidstone State Park campground has 34 tent or trailer sites and 37 lean-tos. There are play areas, hiking trails and swimming beaches within the Park. Hunting and fishing are allowed in season.

## **Sources:**

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