



About the Lake Champlain Committee

The **Lake Champlain Committee** (LCC) is the only bi-state membership-supported organization solely dedicated to protecting Lake Champlain's health and accessibility. We use science-based advocacy, education, and collaborative action to protect and restore water quality, safeguard natural habitats, ensure recreational access, and foster stewardship.

LCC was founded in 1963 by New York and Vermont citizens to prevent the lake from becoming an international commercial seaway for supertankers. Since then we have played a role in every major lake issue, from preventing a nuclear power plant on the Charlotte, Vermont shore to developing an international water quality agreement to reduce nutrient pollution. LCC led efforts to clean up lakeshore Superfund sites and ban the use of phosphates from laundry and dishwasher detergents and lawn fertilizers. We opened the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail to provide a safe recreational corridor for human-powered craft.

We believe an informed and engaged citizenry is key to lake protection. Our educational programs seek to involve people in stewardship of this beautiful resource we collectively own. We launched one of the longest-running citizen water assessment programs in the world, run an award-winning blue-green algae monitoring program, and produced an award-winning natural history book. We link our positions to science, bring a whole-lake perspective to issues, and help advance solutions to water quality problems.

About the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail

The Lake Champlain Committee opened the **Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail** in 1996 to provide a safe recreational corridor for human-powered craft. Today the Trail includes 40 locations on New York and Vermont public and private lands, providing access to more than 600 lakeshore and island campsites. Sites range from primitive locations with a wilderness ambience to campgrounds with full amenities. LCC produces an annual guidebook available through membership, oversees an active stewardship program for remote Trail locations, and collaborates with public and private land managers to maintain the Paddlers' Trail. LCC's long-term goal is to have sites located roughly a day's paddle apart (about every 8-10 miles under normal paddling conditions).

DRAFT SITE DESCRIPTION FOR 2014 EDITION OF TRAIL GUIDEBOOK

Pending Town of Charlotte endorsement to add a site to the Trail system

Charlotte Town Beach - Charlotte, Vermont

Owned and Managed by the Town of Charlotte / Day Use Only

The Charlotte Town Beach day-use site is a popular recreation and picnic area located at the mouth of Holmes Creek. Land along the beach just south of the swimming area and north of the mouth of Holmes Brook and the covered bridge. (The land south of the bridge is private property and should not be used to land or launch.) The beach itself is a crescent of small cobbles and the lake bottom is generally rocky. Foot protection is advised, as zebra mussels are an ever-present nuisance. The beach has a west exposure, and is well-protected from south winds. There is modest protection from north winds -- this improves about a half mile to the north after rounding Hills Point.

Approaching from the south, paddlers will pass rocky shorelines with bluffs ranging 10-20 feet in height. This shoreline (and to the north beyond Hills Point) offers good examples of Limestone Bluff Cedar-Pine Forests, characterized by rock outcrops and northern white cedars. Often twisted with upswept trunks, these slow-growing trees may be more than 300 years old. This natural community is considered rare in Vermont. The approach from the north takes you past Meach Island, then past a lovely wooded shoreline that includes some interesting rock formations. Continuing south from Hills Point to the Town Beach you'll pass a number of picturesque lakefront homes. The small Charlotte Town Center is less than a three-mile walk from the Town Beach and offers two locations for prepared sandwiches, beverages and light groceries. From the beach parking lot head south on Lake Road about 1.7 miles to the intersection with Ferry Road and then turn east (left) along Ferry Road for about one mile further to get to town.

The beach is the primary swimming site for the town and offers shaded picnic tables with a lake view of the Adirondack High Peaks. This is a great place to take in the sunset. During the swimming season there is a dock and two rafts to accommodate swimmers. Park amenities also include grills, tennis and horseshoe courts, a baseball diamond and playground for those wanting a leg stretch and break from paddling. Men's and women's rest and changing rooms are a short walk from the shoreline and open 8 a.m. through sunset during the summer season. There are no potable water supplies or showers on site and pets are not allowed. There is ample parking for a fee of \$3 for town residents, \$6 for non-residents during the summer season but no fee for site use or arriving by boat. Swim at your own risk.

