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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Public scoping meeting planned for Jamaica State Park’s  
2 long-range management plan

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources invites the  
6 public to participate in developing a new long-range  
7 management plan (LRMP) for Jamaica State Park. An in-person  
8 public scoping meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4, from 6  
9 to 8 p.m. at Townshend Town Hall, 2006 VT-30, launching a  
10 month-long opportunity for the public to learn about the property

11 and provide input. The comment period will remain open until  
12 Friday, April 3.

13 Jamaica State Park covers an area of 1,118 acres across  
14 the towns of Jamaica and Londonderry. The park ranks among the  
15 top 25 percent busiest of Vermont's state parks and serves as a  
16 major recreation destination, featuring the 125-foot Hamilton  
17 Falls, the West River Trail, whitewater recreation opportunities on  
18 the West River, and a popular day-use area and campground.

19 People have gathered in the West River Valley for  
20 thousands of years. Archaeologists have uncovered tools and  
21 pottery left behind many hundreds of years ago within the  
22 modern park footprint. The park also supports important wildlife  
23 habitat, including amphibian breeding sites, deer wintering areas,  
24 black bear feeding areas, and potential bobcat den habitat.

25 Hamilton Falls is an important feature of Jamaica State  
26 Park and is addressed through two complementary planning  
27 efforts with different scopes. The Hamilton Falls Master Plan is a  
28 distinct planning effort for visitor use management at and  
29 immediately surrounding the falls and the Switch Road Trail,  
30 covering approximately 10 acres.

31 The Jamaica State Park LRMP covers the full 211-acre  
32 Hamilton Falls Natural Area and the rest of the park. The LRMP  
33 will address broader land management goals but will not revisit  
34 site-specific visitor use management at the falls. Public input on  
35 visitor use management at Hamilton Falls was gathered during  
36 the summer of 2024 as part of the Master Plan process.

37 A public responsiveness summary will be released with  
38 the final master plan.

39 Long-range management plans guide land management  
40 on state-owned lands for a 20-year period, balancing ecological,  
41 recreational, cultural, and economic values. Public scoping is an  
42 early and important step in the process, allowing Vermonters to  
43 share how they use and value these lands. Public input at this  
44 stage helps shape the plan, which will be shared for further  
45 public comment before a final draft is adopted.

46 The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to  
47 attend. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. and can be sent  
48 through the Jamaica State Park website at  
49 [vtstateparks.com/parks/jamaica](http://vtstateparks.com/parks/jamaica).

50 A recording of the meeting and a project StoryMap — an  
51 interactive webpage with maps, background information, and  
52 planning materials — will be available online.

53 Public comments may be submitted in writing at the  
54 meeting, by email to [anr.statelandsplanning@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.statelandsplanning@vermont.gov), or  
55 through a comment form that will be posted on the Jamaica State  
56 Park website after the public meeting.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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