

2008 FACT SHEET

- Lake Compounce, located in Bristol, CT, is a 325-acre family theme park, including a 23-acre lake and more than 50 rides and attractions.
- Now the nation's oldest amusement park, Lake Compounce has been in continuous operation since 1846 and enters its 162st season in 2008.
- Since Kennywood Entertainment took the helm at Lake Compounce in 1996, more than \$60 million in rides and attractions have been added including such favorites as: Zoomerang Coaster, Boulder Dash, Thunder Rapids Raft Ride, Bumper Cars, plus Circus World Kiddieland for the youngest set.
- Splash Harbor Water Park was added in 1998, making Lake Compounce Connecticut's largest water park, and includes fantastic water slides, spray fountains, tube slides, a wave pool, a 60-ft. New England Lighthouse, and an 800-foot lazy river known as Anchor Bay.
- In 2000, the Boulder Dash roller coaster was added, and mascots "Garfield" the Cat and "Odie," his lovable sidekick, were introduced.
- In 2002, the park began offering free soda to all guests, and continues with this terrific family tradition today.
- In 2007, "Zoomers Gas n' Go" made its debut—a 1956 mini-Corvette ride set on a 1950's themed roadway complete with a drive-in movie screen, a nostalgic gas station and period billboards—great fun for adults and children to ride together.
- An "Education Days" program offered during May and June combines educational lessons and amusement park fun for students in Grades K-12. Six different age-appropriate programs are available on topics such as physics in the "Science of Force and Motion" presentation, and activities in art, math, history, geology and science can also be explored.
- Every Fall, Lake Compounce is home to the Haunted Graveyard, New England's largest and scariest Halloween event, featuring six haunted houses and a



graveyard linked by a labyrinth of terrifying trails. This year the Haunted Graveyard will benefit the American Diabetes Association.

- Lake Compounce has been awarded “Best of Connecticut” by readers of Connecticut Magazine for the past ten years in a row.
- The name Lake Compounce was derived from John Compound, a Mattatuck/Tunxis Native American Chieftain. In 1684, he created a deed that transferred the land known as “Compound’s Lake” to a group of white settlers from Massachusetts. Nearly 200 years later in 1846, the then current owner, Gad Norton, was persuaded by an influential Bristol scientist to conduct “a series of beautiful experiments in electricity.” Well-publicized, the event drew thousands of spectators who witnessed the demonstration amidst the beauty of the woods and water. While the experiments failed in the end, the event did inspire Mr. Norton to action. He put a path around the lake, set up picnic tables, allowed public swimming and rowing on the lake, and built a gazebo for lakeside band concerts. Lake Compounce had officially opened to the public as a picturesque “picnic” park.

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