



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Compounce Celebrates a Record-Setting 175 Years of Memory-Making Fun

America's Oldest Amusement Park gets a new look, a new waterslide, and new food event for 2021

Bristol, Conn. (April 16, 2021) – On Saturday, May 8, America's Oldest Amusement Park marks a milestone unmatched throughout the country: the start of its 175th season of fun.

Rides start rolling at 11 a.m. on May 8, from a 110-year-old hand-carved carousel and 1927's *Wildcat* wooden roller coaster to New England's first triple-launch coaster, *Phobia Phear*. Crews are hard at work on a full-scale transformation befitting a destination celebrating 175 years young. From the moment guests arrive at Lake Compounce, they'll notice new touches including fresh colors, new landscaping, added seating and shade, and more. After entering through the iconic tunnel, jaws will drop as guests approach the beautiful Main Gate area and walk through the turnstiles to the reimagined Main Street, with twinkling lights and a magical ambiance.

"We're ready to celebrate our nearly two centuries of history this summer at Lake Compounce," says General Manager Larry Gorneault, Jr. "The transformation we've undergone this offseason embraces our past while creating a more inviting and exciting amusement park for our Guests to enjoy."

The great American amusement park was created at Lake Compounce on October 6, 1846, when local scientist, Samuel L. Botsford, attempted to blow up the lake. Though he ultimately failed, entrepreneur and property owner Gad Norton saw potential in the crowds gathered in the scenic grove between lake and mountain. Soon, Norton installed picnic tables, strolling paths and rowboats – the height of amusement for the era.

Today, Lake Compounce is anchored by the signature rides of a family amusement park, with four roller coasters including *Boulder Dash*, awarded #1 Wooden Roller Coaster in the world five times. Classic attractions include the carousel, Ferris Wheel, *Down Time* drop tower, and a children's attraction area, Circus World. In addition to the enhancements happening all over the park, diners can dig in at the new **Timberjack Chowhouse**, serving customizable burgers and outdoor seating to spread out and grab a drink. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the *Crocodile Cove* water park opens to guests with new, Instagram-friendly photo spots, major updates to the Bath House restroom and changing areas, and most excitingly, New England's newest waterslide, [Venus Vortex](#). Riders will journey through twists and turns on a three-person raft before plummeting into the jaws of the hungry Venus Flytrap!

"Located right next to Bayou Bay wave pool, this massive 6-story waterslide, decked in bright yellow and green, will tower over the lake." says Gorneault. "This new ride gives our Guests a great new way to beat the heat of the summer."

Venus Vortex isn't the only reason to visit this year. Season Passholders can enjoy exclusive perks and discounts, such as a free slice of birthday cake, complimentary cotton candy and more on weekends from May 8 – 23. Plus, guests can enjoy live entertainment and indulge in the new mouth-watering food and craft drink festival, **Bites and Pints**, every weekend in June. Bites and Pints features hand-crafted menu items created by local chefs, Donte Jones, and Michone Denae Arrington, chefs and co-owners of The Art of Yum in Southington and Waterbury. Stretchy pants will be a must at this new marquee event.

Lake Compounce's primary focus to support all the new offerings of the 2021 season remains on providing a [clean, safe and fun experience for all](#). Capacity will continue to be monitored to ensure guests and team members

have sufficient social distancing during their days, and facial coverings will be required for all Team Members and Guests aged two and older. Facial coverings can be removed while eating or drinking, and while enjoying water-based attractions such as the Crocodile Cove water park. Visitors will find additional measures similar to last summer when tens of thousands of people safely enjoyed Lake Compounce, including dozens of hand sanitizer stations, signage to remind on key safety measures, and frequent cleaning of high-traffic locations, including ride attractions.

Lake Compounce is open Saturdays and Sundays, plus Memorial Day, from May 8 through June 26. Then, the park will be open Thursdays through Mondays until August 22. Park leadership will carefully monitor attendance trends and conditions in the region with the hopes of expanding operating days and hours during the summer months. For the best deals on tickets and season passes, please visit [LakeCompounce.com](https://www.lakecompounce.com), where information on health and safety measures, special events, and more can also be found.

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About Lake Compounce and Palace Entertainment

Lake Compounce is New England's premier family theme and waterpark and is located in Bristol, CT. Featuring over 50 rides, shows, and attractions, Lake Compounce is the oldest continuously operating amusement park in North America, celebrating its 175th year.

Palace Entertainment is one of the leading leisure park operators in the United States and is owned by Parques Reunidos. Palace Entertainment owns and operates 21 major entertainment and educational venues across 10 different states, offering a wide range of family-friendly rides, attractions, and educational experiences.