



## 2009 Fact Sheet

- Lake Compounce, located in Bristol and Southington, CT, is a 407-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 164<sup>th</sup> season in 2009.
- Lake Compounce has invested more than 40 million dollars over the past 12 years in rides and attractions including such favorites as Boulder Dash, Zoomerang Coaster, Thunder Rapids Raft Ride, Bumper Cars, Thunder 'n Lightning, Zoomers Gas 'n Go, plus Circus World Kiddieland for the youngest set.
- Lake Compounce is now operated by Palace Entertainment. Palace Entertainment hosts over 14 million visitors annually at 38 locations with seven theme parks, ten waterparks and 21 family entertainment centers, and is the largest operator of waterparks and family entertainment centers in the nation. Palace Entertainment is part of the Parques Reunidos family of parks.
- Splash Harbor Water Park was added in 1998, making Lake Compounce home to Connecticut's largest water park. It 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 has been voted one of the World's Best Wooden Coasters by coaster enthusiasts throughout the world.
- In 2002, the park began offering free soda to all guests, and continues with this terrific family tradition today.
- In 2006, Thunder n Lightning joined the cast of thrill rides at Lake Compounce, swinging riders to heights of over 90 feet at more than 60 mph.
- In 2007, "Zoomers Gas n' Go" made its debut—a 1956 mini-Corvette ride that is 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.

# Lake Compounce

NEW ENGLAND'S FAMILY THEME PARK

- 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.
- Lake Compounce became a park nearly 200 years later in 1846, when the then current owner, Gad Norton, was persuaded by an influential Bristol scientist to conduct "a series of beautiful experiments in electricity" using the lake on the property. 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 open his property to the public. 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.

Website: [www.lakecompounce.com](http://www.lakecompounce.com)

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