

Talking Points:

The Economic & Community Vitality Provided by Swimming Holes in Vermont

-Read from 3 "Why Rivers Matter" cards, re: swimming holes

-Swimming holes are community gathering places for all generations and they are well-loved because:

- they have clean, chlorine-free water

- people enjoy the connection to nature

- people enjoy the adventure of it, a shared experience with family or friends

- they are free to access (you don't have to pay a membership)

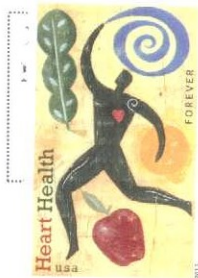
-While they are free to access, swimming holes draw people from local communities as well as from far-reaches of the state and often out of state visitors as well. This brings money to the local economy- to gas stations, restaurants, creamie stands as well as Inns and Bed and Breakfasts. (Note the Stowe website "summer" home page).

-Swimming holes truly are a treasure to Vermont's rural communities. We don't have the ocean shore, instead we have miles of rivers flowing through our state. Rivers that offer us their deep pools and giant rocks perfect for jumping from. Swimming holes that see hundreds of visitors on a hot summer day, and also swimming holes that are off the beaten path, hidden gems known to locals as "their spot". Public access is not guaranteed at our swimming holes, and the Vermont River Conservancy is committed to protecting these special places to be enjoyed by generations to come. We are grateful for the support from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to provide necessary funding to ensure our swimming holes will continue to provide economic and multi-generational community vitality for the next generation of Vermonters and beyond. Thank you for considering to fully fund VHCB this year.

Why do rivers matter to you? Please tell us below. Your story will join others as part of a statewide traveling display & social media event, and will help us protect the rivers you love! www.vermontriverconservancy.org

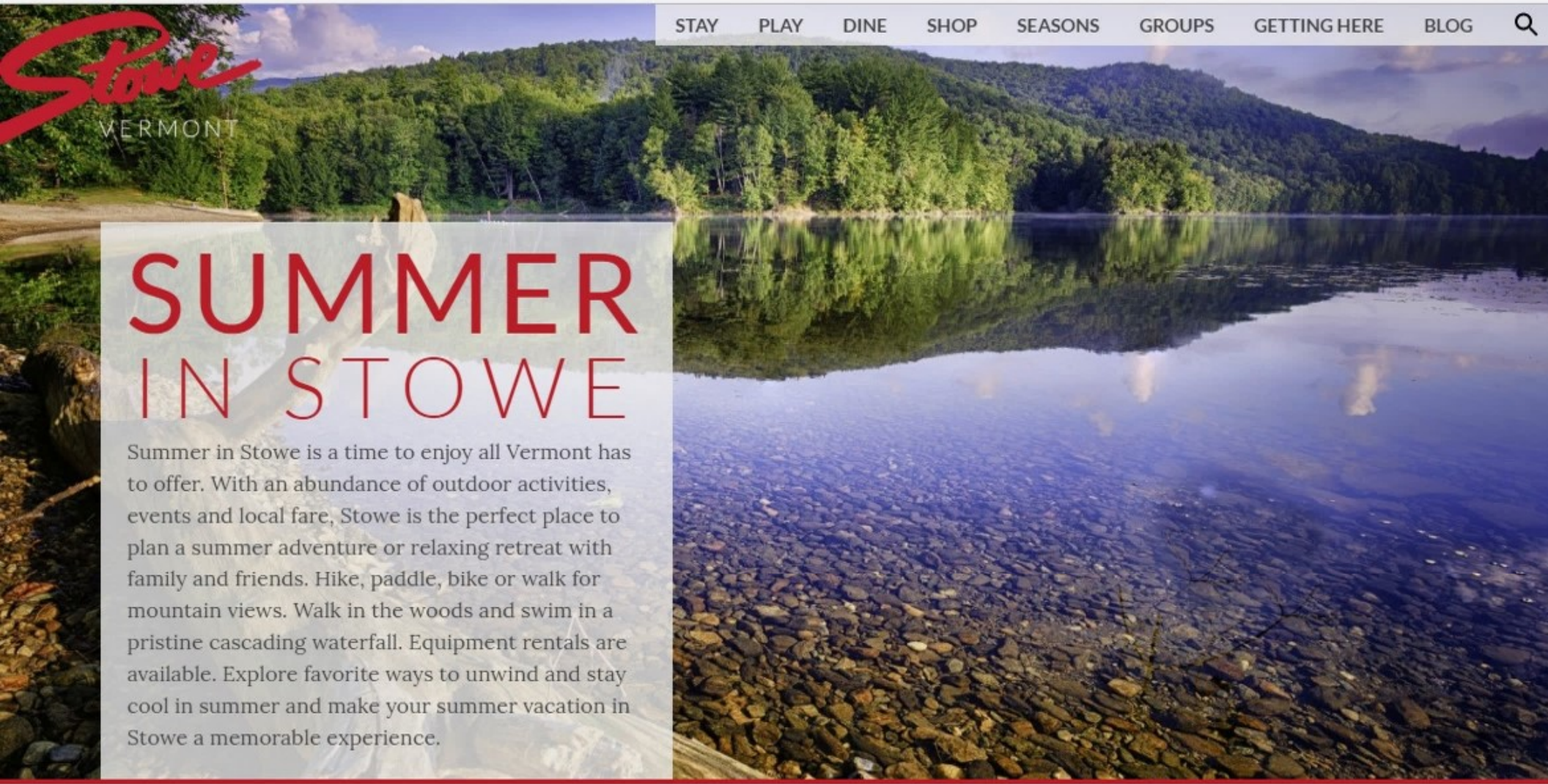
I LEARNED TO SWIM IN NOISY,
CHLORINATED PUBLIC POOLS. THE FIRST
TIME I SWAM IN A SPOT CALLED THREE
RIVERS, I PICKED MY WAY OVER STONES &
GUARDEDLY EYED THE CURRENT. IN I WENT
& ... HOW ODDLY FRESH. SOON I WAS FLOATING
IN GOLDEN GREEN LIGHT UNDER THE ARCH OF
TREES. MUSIC FROM SONGBIRDS. FLICKERS OF
SILVER FISH. AND BEST OF ALL, THERE WERE
MY KIDS SPLASHING AROUND A SLICK
BOULDER, WILDLY ECSTATIC TO PLAY
KING OF THE MOUNTAIN, IT'S ONE OF THOSE
TIMES I KNEW I GRASPED HEAVEN ON
EARTH, EVEN AS IT FLOWED THROUGH MY
FINGERS.

Photo credits: Jay Ericson (kids),
John Lazenby (heron), Jamie Dolan
(kayaker), John Fisher (Journey's End)



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SUMMER IN STOWE

Summer in Stowe is a time to enjoy all Vermont has to offer. With an abundance of outdoor activities, events and local fare, Stowe is the perfect place to plan a summer adventure or relaxing retreat with family and friends. Hike, paddle, bike or walk for mountain views. Walk in the woods and swim in a pristine cascading waterfall. Equipment rentals are available. Explore favorite ways to unwind and stay cool in summer and make your summer vacation in Stowe a memorable experience.

SEARCH

