



Coast, spending about \$100,000 and using technology to speed up lift service. It's a few years, but we're looking forward to the number one spot. PHOTO: Brian Nelson



Leon Mountain overview. PHOTO: Second Design

# Loon Mountain

## PULS A RESORT POLL TRIFECTA

### The East Coast's Number One Ranked Park, Pipe, And Overall Resort



This year, we decided it was time for the East Coast to have a voice of its own in the Resort Poll. Unlike did we know that one resort would shine so brightly—Loon dominated every category in the new East Coast Resort Poll, proving this year season that it truly offers everything a skater could ask for: from a spot, somewhat scene on and off the hill to a pristinely maintained park and pipe—Loon's taking East Coast shoveling to new heights.

The Overall Resort win means that Loon has the complete kit: everything from excellent food to speedy lifts, dependable snow quality, and a welcoming vibe from the locals and staff. As far as lodging and nightlife go, if you've got the pocket for top-class accommodations, Loon and the town of Lincoln have you covered; but if like most traveling skiers, you're looking to beat on a budget, the nearby college town of Plymouth is your place. A 25-minute drive down the highway leads to cheap lodging, drinks, and food; the place has seen so many skiers come through on their way to Loon that you and your camped-up five dollar bill will be welcomed with open arms.

While college parties and cheap pizza are definitely perks on a trip to Loon, the park's real realty put it out front. The famed Loon Mountain Park (LMP) is a spectacle all in itself, atop the list of longest parks in the east at 3,500 feet. The crew of dedicated park staff keeps everything clean and ready for your shredding pleasure—they're all boarders with the same interests as you. "We want

to make sure that we want to ride on our days off," says Park Manager Jay Scambio. "We see fun in other park staffs riding here on their free days."

Taking a run at Loon isn't your average park lift. New England weather hangs enough to reach your booties for the next run. On the way down to LMP, you'll find the pocket parks to get you warmed up and entertained, and Loon has some of the best side-of-the-trail jobs and secret lines around. Once you're in LMP, you'll find perfectly sculpted slickers and handfulls of one-point jobs, all linked together with continuous flow. Not quite ready to step to LMP? Want a few more warm-up days? Loon has a Burton Progression Park for beginners, and the intermediate park doubled in size last winter, so take your pick.

At the bottom of LMP sits Loon's now top-ranked Superpipe. It's no secret to have a good pipe on the East Coast, but Loon put in the work to make it happen. And they're still raising the bar; they just placed up a new eighteen-foot Zappig, giving their chances of holding on to next year's number-one spot.

This summer, Loon's installing snow down all of LMP, which means that the snowmen will be up and blowing earlier than ever, and LMP will be firing all season long. They're building a dozen new jobs, and riders got a sneak peek last season at their latest creation, that can only be described as a flubbe on steroids: four 30-foot rails set on staves. Loon is host to dozens of core contests, most notably Eastern



Loon Mountain's Superpipe. PHOTO: Brian Nelson



Loon's Big Snow contest. By all the accounts, it's the most exciting snow contest in the world. Riders compete in a variety of events, including freestyle, freeride, and pipe. PHOTO: Brian Nelson