



KARA DELAHUNT/For The Patriot Ledger

Two of three outdoor swimming pools at Normandy Farms Campground.

NORMANDY FARMS

■ **COST:** \$35 to \$69 a night, depending on the site and day. Weekends and sites with full water, electric, sewer and cable service cost the most.

■ **WHAT'S THERE:** You name it. Multiple pull-in RV sites, four pools, clubhouse, store, hot tub, ball field, fishing pond.

■ **OUR RATING:**



Umm... I don't have a fire ring at my site," I told the ranger helping out another camper nearby, pointing to my campsite, a fact I'd been fretting over all evening.

He smiled, I swear, the biggest smile I've ever seen, and told me he'd just have to fix that for me.

Minutes later, he was by again, dropping off my own personal fire pit. Some sort of s'moremobile drove by, selling firewood, marshmallows, chocolate and graham

crackers to the crowd of campers who hadn't remembered to pack their own.

This was my welcome to Normandy Farms Family Camping Resort, where the living is so surreal that it's like you're in a Disney movie.

It would be unfair to compare the place to state campgrounds, which charge far less per night and have to work within the state budget.

The name says it all – this is not

your typical campground.

Instead of hotel rooms there was row after row of RVs, home for campers tired of the amenities elsewhere in the park.

The setting is less wooded than most state campgrounds, but lack of tree-buffer between sites seemed of little concern to these campers; they were too busy splashing in one of four pools to care.

■ **Biggest surprise:** The s'moremobile – probably not its real name – a truck that goes through the campground, selling firewood, marshmallows and chocolate, among other things.

■ **High point:** With amenities like a hot tub and cable hookups, this is like the Cadillac of camping.

■ **Low point:** Interstate traffic was audible and visible from the campsite, which afforded little privacy. This isn't the kind of place you go to escape.

■ **Best for:** Families.

■ **Reception area:** Like all of the buildings, clean and looked brand new. Because I was a first-time visitor, a ranger escorted me to my campsite.

■ **Bathrooms and showers:** Cleaner than mine at home.

■ **Camp store:** Well stocked, with reasonable prices. Snack bar has coffee, ice cream and meals.

■ **Grounds:** Clean and well-maintained. Don't go expecting to become one with nature, but on the other hand, there weren't any mosquitoes.

■ **Campsites:** Most are close together and offer little privacy. Overflow campers got to choose a spot in the middle of a field alongside other RVs, tents and cars. The staff tells you when you book a site whether you will be in the field.

■ **Amenities:** Recreation hall with fitness room, billiards, television, games. Playground, fishing pond, ball fields, four pools, hot tub, shuffleboard, horseshoes, disc golf course, bocce, cable hook-up at some sites.

■ **Atmosphere:** Family-oriented, quiet at night.

■ **Policing:** Ranger drove through at the beginning of the quiet time, maybe later, too, but I fell asleep. There was very little noise and nearly all families, so I didn't notice any disturbances where they had to intervene.

– DIANA SCHOBERG