

**R-23-2-19 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AT EASTERN POINT BEACH PROPERTY FOR THE YEAR 2023**  
**(APPROVED FEBRUARY 21, 2023)**

**WHEREAS**, Eastern Point Beach Property is for the use and enjoyment of City of Groton residents and non-resident City of Groton taxpayers and others; and

**WHEREAS**, rules and regulations must be established and enforced for the health, safety and welfare of all City of Groton residents and non-resident City of Groton taxpayers and others; and

**WHEREAS**, the following rules and regulations are to be effective for Eastern Point Beach for the Year 2023:

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**(Subject to change at any time during the season)**

Eastern Point Beach Property is for the use and enjoyment of City of Groton residents and non-resident City of Groton taxpayers and others.

\*For purposes of this document, City resident shall mean; City residents or City taxpayers whose registration does not show a City of Groton address.

**A. Hours**

Park hours posted 5:30 am to 11:30 pm

Gate hours 8:00 am – 8:00 pm, applicable fees apply

Lifeguards on duty 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, daily

Beach Patrol on duty 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, daily

**ALL RULES APPLY YEAR ROUND 24/7**, except where noted

**B. Vehicles:**

Vehicles eligible to enter Eastern Point Beach will be as follows:

Registered passenger vehicles not exceeding 12 passenger capacity

Pick-up trucks

Motorcycles

Trailers, mobile homes, golf carts, etc. are prohibited.

**C. Parking Permits:**

All fees are non-refundable. Seasonal Rates:

City Residents/City Taxpayers 62 years old and older*	\$ 20.00
City Resident/City Taxpayer	\$ 40.00
City Resident/City Taxpayer (additional Vehicle)	\$ 30.00
Town of Groton Taxpayers 62 years old and older*	\$ 40.00
Town of Groton Taxpayers	\$ 80.00
Non-resident 62 years old and older*	\$ 55.00
Non-resident	\$100.00
Special Pass City resident/City taxpayer 62 years and older**	\$ 20.00
Special Pass for resident/City taxpayer with a disability under 62 years of age***	\$ 40.00

Military Discount with ID

\$5.00

\* To be eligible for this rate, an individual must be 62 years of age on or before Labor Day.

\*\*Available only to a City resident with no motor vehicle in the household determined on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Parks and Recreation

\*\*\* Available only to a City resident with no motor vehicle in the household determined on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Parks and Recreation and documentation of disability.

New parking permits will be issued by the showing of a current and valid motor vehicle registration. City of Groton residents or City taxpayers whose registration does not show their City of Groton address must show proof of residence (examples: electric bill or current lease agreement). The permit **must be adhered** to the driver's side of the vehicle on the inside of the windshield, in the lower left hand corner. The permit on the vehicle must match the registration number of the vehicle it was purchased for.

**D. Replacement of Pass:**

If your pass needs to be replaced due to purchase of a new vehicle, replacement of windshield or any other reason, you must bring in the old pass. Replacement passes will cost \$5.00. Lost passes require the purchase of a full price new pass.

**E. Daily Rates:**

Weekday	\$20.00
Weekends/Holidays*	\$30.00
5:00pm – 8:00pm	½ price parking daily Non-Residents, City Residents –Free (except on Special Events)

\*The holidays are July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day.

(Starting at 8:00 p.m. daily there will be no charge for entrance to the beach, except during Special Events.)

**F. Bus Trips:**

Bus loads are limited to no more than three (3) per day. Reservations are required in advance by contacting the Parks and Recreation office at 446-4128. The charge for buses will be \$100.00 per bus per day, but does not permit the bus to park on the property. There will be no charge and/or bus limit for City of Groton Recreation program buses.

**G. Temporary parking permits:**

A temporary parking permit is available free of charge for current parking permit holders whose vehicle is in the repair shop for up to of five (5) days. These permits are available by bringing a written statement from the repair shop, written on their letterhead, which details which vehicle is being repaired and the number of days the vehicle will be in the shop. Letters are to be presented at the Parks and Recreation office Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm to request the temporary parking pass.

H. **Walk-ins:**

Children 17 years old and under – **FREE**

City of Groton Residents/City of Groton Residential Taxpayers with ID – **FREE**

Residents that do not have a picture ID can show a current lease agreement or tax bill and can obtain a picture ID at the Parks and Recreation Office. City of Groton Residents/City of Groton Residential Taxpayers may walk-in with their guests at no cost.

Non-Resident/ Non-Taxpayer Walk Ins - **\$5.00**

**Guest Pass:**

City of Groton Residents/City of Groton Residential Taxpayers can purchase a walk in guest pass for up to 4 adults - **\$30.00. This is for WALK-IN purposes ONLY**

That would be left at the Gatehouse upon arrival at the beach and picked up on their way out. This does not include business or commercial property.

I. **Military Families**

Families of crew members of submarines returning home or departing may be allowed access to Eastern Point Beach at no cost to view the boats only when the Parks and Recreation Office is notified in advance by the designated personnel on the Sub Base via email alert.

J. **Fishing**

An area at the far end (northwest end) of parking area is open to fishing. Fishing on any other area of beach property is prohibited.

K. **Parking**

All registered motorized vehicles (as defined in eligibility Rule B) require a season permit to gain entrance to the beach. The permit **must be adhered** to the driver's side of the vehicle on the inside of the windshield, in the lower left hand corner. Motorcycles must laminate pass and display to gate attendant each time they enter Beach property.

All vehicles must be parked in the designated parking spaces in the parking area. Do not park along yellow curbing or yellow striped area.

1. No vehicle parking or standing allowed in any part of the entrance driveway (strictly enforced).
2. Drop-offs and pick-ups must be done in the designated Loading Zone white curbing area (strictly enforced).
3. Parking permit does not guarantee a parking place. Parking will be limited to City of Groton residents and non-resident taxpayers when the parking lot reaches 90% of capacity.

## **L. Rules and Regulations**

1. Dressing or undressing will only be permitted in the restroom areas.
2. No profanity, obscenities or vulgarity, spitting, towel snapping or fighting is allowed on Beach property.
3. No throwing of stones, sand or other objects is allowed on beach property.
4. Children ten (10) years of age or younger must be accompanied by a person at least twelve (12) years of age to gain admittance to use the beach property.
5. **Per City Ordinance 198:** Section 1 (b) No pet leashed or unleashed shall be allowed on the Eastern Point Beach park property at any time from Memorial Day through Labor Day. During the off season State of CT Regulation of the Department of Public Health, Section 1, 19a-36-B61 (10) will be enforced. (Except for service dogs and the goose patrol dog).
6. No gambling on beach property.
7. Running is not permitted on sandy beach.
8. No climbing walls.
9. Ball playing is confined to the Zbierski House lawn, the playground, the volleyball court and the basketball court.
10. Kite flying is confined to the lawn behind the Zbierski House.
11. No glassware is allowed on sandy areas.
12. Scuba diving is only permitted on the Thames River side of beach property. Wind surfing, canoes, sunfish, jet skis and similar watercraft are restricted to the beach area in front of Zbierski House.
13. No tents or screens allowed on the sandy beach area or Tyler House lawn. Small child cabanas are permitted but must not restrict the lifeguards view or path to the water. Staff has the right to request that any item be removed from the sand area.
14. No swimming/wading off the rocks, breakwater or parking lot area. Where posted, patrons are to keep off the rocks
15. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed anywhere on the Eastern Point Beach property unless a Special Permit for the Sale or Consumption for Alcohol at the Zbierski House has been granted by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

16. No patrons should set up blankets or towels in front of the lifeguard stand so as to block lifeguard's direct route to the water.
17. **Per City Ordinance 199:** Prohibiting smoking at the locations identified in ordinance.
  - a. Park or recreation area shall mean any outdoor area owned or operated by the City of Groton and open to the general public for primary recreational purposes, regardless of any fee or age requirement including but not limited to beaches, picnic areas, playgrounds, sports or athletic fields, bleachers, walking paths, gardens, hiking trails, bike paths and dog parks. A park or recreational area shall not include any paved public sidewalk immediately abutting the boundary of the park or recreational area or any other designated (posted) area. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$120.00 per violation.
18. All garbage is to be carefully put into the containers provided. No littering allowed.
19. No overnight camping or open fires on the beach.
20. Only Coast Guard Approved Type III Personal Flotation devices are allowed, all other flotation devices are not allowed. Special devices are allowed for children with special needs.
21. No skateboards, roller-skates, roller blades or razor scooters are to be used on beach property.
22. No Drones allowed on the property.
23. Remote control devices with cameras attached to them are not allowed on the property.
24. No bicycle riding on beach property. Recreational motorized scooters, mopeds and bikes must be stowed in bike racks, during the season. During the off-season bicycle riding will be allowed in the parking lot area ONLY.
25. Proper beach attire is required: No thongs or "G" strings allowed. Nudity is prohibited.
26. Radios, boom boxes, etc., should maintain a volume as not to disturb others. Music selection should abide by rule #2.
27. Idling of vehicles on park property. Connecticut regulations prohibit vehicles of all kinds from unnecessary idling for more than 3 minutes. Pursuant of CT [Regulations \(RCSA\) 22a-174-18](#).
29. During the beach season, abuse and violation of any rules, regulations, or ordinances listed herein may lead to loss of parking permit and/or beach privileges (subject to review by the Recreation Director). Parks & Recreation Director reserves the right to alter or override

any rule or regulation according to his/her discretion due to special circumstances.

#### **M. Beach Picnic Area**

1. Picnicking will be allowed only in designated areas. No picnicking will be allowed on the sandy area of the beach.
2. All cooking must be within the picnic areas.
3. The use of the picnic facilities on the grounds is on a first come, first-serve basis; reservations of areas for clubs or organizations must be requested in writing to the Parks and Recreation Department. Use of facilities for groups of more than 25 people may be prohibited on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
4. Picnic tables are distributed to benefit the general public. Special requests can be made to the office for permission to move tables together for larger groups.
5. All the picnic tables and grills are available to all guests at the beach on a first come first serve basis. Individuals that rent the Zbierski House may not ask patrons to vacate the area around the House.

#### **N. Special Events**

In the event that there is a Special Event held in the area which will have an impact on the parking at Eastern Point Beach, the following criteria will be in place at the discretion of the Beach and Parks Committee.

1. There will be no rental of the Zbierski House on the dates of the Special Event and any scheduled rain dates
2. Beach Hours of Operation could be extended to 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. There will be staff at the facility during these hours.
3. Parking Fee will be \$40.00 for those without a Season Beach Pass, no matter what day of the week the Special Event falls on.
4. All the approved Rules and Regulations of Eastern Point Beach will be in full effect.

#### **O. Do NOT Feed the Wildlife**

People naturally enjoy the good feeling they get from feeding waterfowl. They like to get close to them and feel that supplementing the natural diet of wildlife and geese with corn, bread and other household foods helps them survive better in the wild. But there are several things we should consider concerning the welfare of animals being fed:

1. Artificial feeding and close human contact changes the natural behavior of wildlife. It alters migrating instincts and can reduce their ability to survive in the wild. Fed wildlife can get use to human presence – ultimately to their detriment from hunters, etc.

The periodic welfare given to wildlife by supplemental feeding causes a difficult adjustment. The periodic supplemental feeding is too often given when the wildlife need it least – during the moderate weather. When it ends abruptly, they do not have access to alternate food sources.

2. Artificial bird food items such as bread can also cause dietary deficiencies when they become the primary food sources. Research has shown that trace elements available only in a balanced, natural diet of wild duck foods are essential to promote good health in wild fowl.
3. Large numbers of waterfowl are concentrated by supplemental feeding practices, the possibility of a waterfowl disease epidemic is increased. Some parasitic, bacterial, and viral diseases can be spread from ducks to people and other wildlife.

Feeding wildlife “people food” is the equivalent of “junk food”. Wildlife are capable of finding their own food, even in cold winter months of January and February. In periods of extremely abnormal cold, biologists and conservation officers monitor the conditions of wild ducks, and if they need supplemental feeding, they will make that publicly known and do something about it.

If you or your children enjoy feeding the wildlife, do it at the zoo, park, or nature center where it is approved.

Remember: **FEEDING WILDLIFE MAY MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD, BUT IT IS NOT HELPING THEM.**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the Rules and Regulations at Eastern Point Beach for the Year 2023.