



East Lyme

Parks And Recreation Commission

Policies And Regulations

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- I. Definitions
 - A. Commission - The East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
 - B. Department – The East Lyme Parks and Recreation
 - C. Director – The East Lyme Parks and Recreation
 - D. Resident – a person, and their immediate family members who live with them, whose primary residence is in East Lyme; or the principal owner of a business that is located in East Lyme as documented by a tax bill, utility bill, car registration or rent/lease agreement.

- II. Properties under the control of the Commission
 - A. Cini Park
 - B. Darrow Pond (portion)
 - C. Hole In The Wall Beach
 - D. McCook Point Park
 - E. Liberty Green
 - F. Niantic Bay Beach and Boardwalk
 - G. Miracle League Field
 - H. Samuel M. Peretz Park @ Bridebrook
 - I. Smith-Harris Park
 - J. Main Street Park
 - K. Veterans Memorial Park

- III. General:
 - A. The Director is empowered to direct the complete operation of all parks and facilities. Any decisions related to these rules made by the Director may be appealed to the Commission.
 - B. Any person aggrieved by any action of the Director, or their appointees, may appear before the Commission to seek redress from such action.
 - C. The operation of amplified sound systems is allowed by special permission from the Director. Once permission is given, the user must take into consideration necessary precautions to ensure that the level of sound will not be a nuisance or annoyance to adjacent residencies.
 - D. Pets are allowed in parks subject to existing laws and ordinances provided that they are properly leashed or restrained. However, owners can be restricted from bringing pets to parks, events, or areas where there are groups of people gathered, where there are safety or health concerns, or when in the determination of the Director that it is in the public interest to restrict pets. When a use permit has been issued by the Parks and Recreation Department, the user may limit or restrict pets from areas or activities covered by the permit.

- E. The commercial use of, or vending within, parks requires a special permit issued by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- F. Posting of signs or banners in parks requires permission from the Director. Non-authorized signs may be removed without notice.
- G. Park users are responsible for their own trash and litter. They may use receptacles, if available. If not, they must remove trash and litter when they leave.
- H. Parking is permitted in designated areas only
 - 1. For events where large or overflow crowds are anticipated the sponsoring organization may be responsible for providing police service to control traffic and parking.
- I. The following activities are prohibited from all areas under the Parks and Recreation Commission jurisdiction except as elsewhere noted herein:
 - 1. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages
 - 2. Excessive noise or profanity
 - 3. Hunting or the removal or destruction of any plant or animal life
 - 4. Use of tobacco, smoking (tobacco, marijuana or other products) or vaping products.
- J. Parks and Recreation facilities are open and available to the public during daylight hours unless they are closed for specific reasons. Facilities may be used after hours for approved activities.
- K. Parks, or parts thereof, may be closed from time to time for repairs, maintenance, renovations, inclement weather or when use would endanger the public or be detrimental to the facility. Notice of such closures will be made public.
- L. The Commission sets standard rental, parking, admission, services, deposits or other fees at its discretion. The Director has the authority to modify fees charged when they deem it is in the best interests of the Department to do so.
- M. The Commission recognizes that from time-to-time unusual cases involving hardship may require variance of the strict enforcement of these Policies and Regulations. Application for variance of the rules should be made to the Director in writing setting forth the hardship. The Director shall bring such request before the Commission for action.

IV. Park Facility Reservations and Use

- A. Fields, Picnic Areas, Pavilions and Tents
 - 1. All organizations, leagues or individuals desiring a facility reservation permit shall apply using a form made available through the Department.

2. Permit holders assume financial responsibility for any damages to the facility and actions by people attending the event. Permit holders may be required to provide a "Certificate of Insurance" as specified by the Director.
- B. Unreserved use is available on a first-come, first use basis. When there is more than one group using a space, there will be a sharing of facilities by everyone.
 - C. At no time shall an individual or group be given exclusive use of McCook Point Park including the Main Beach, Hole-In-The-Wall Beach, or Cini Park facilities.
 - D. The Commission reserves the right to revoke the permit of any individual or organization which fails to abide by these Rules and Regulations, whose actions cause damage or safety concerns, or whose members engage in disorderly conduct.
- V. Athletic Field and Court Reservations and Use
- A. When athletic fields or courts are not reserved, they are generally available to the public. Activities that have the potential to damage the facility or that pose a danger to others may be restricted at the discretion of the Director.
 - B. Facilities
 1. Samuel M Peretz Park at Bridebrook
 - a) Lighted Softball Field
 - b) Baseball Field
 - c) Founders Field
 - d) Keser Field
 - e) Berardo Athletic Field
 - f) Basketball Court
 - g) Pickleball Courts
 2. Smith Harris Park
 - a) Albert Buecher Field
 - b) George Jones Field
 - c) Presidents' Field
 - d) John Bath Field
 - e) George J Seebeck Field
 - f) Middle School Soccer Field
 3. Veterans Memorial Park
 - a) Baseball Field
 - b) Softball Field
 4. Flanders School
 - a) Miracle League Field

C. Reservations

1. Requests for use of athletic fields must be submitted using forms or methods available from the Department.
2. Permit holders assume financial responsibility for any damages to the facility and actions by people attending the event. Permit holders may be required to provide a "Certificate of Insurance" as specified by the Director.
3. Conflicts in scheduling or requests for use of the field shall be resolved at the sole discretion of the Director with the cooperation and assistance of the leagues involved.
4. Applicants may be required to post a deposit as set by Commission for security, to be refunded if the fields are left in substantially the same condition after the event.
5. Fields will only be used for specified athletic purposes.
6. Fields close and lights go out no later than 10:00 p.m.
7. Reservations may be canceled due to weather or field conditions. User groups must provide contact information for a representative who will be the person notified of cancellations.

D. Field Houses and Refreshment Stands

1. Youth sport organizations shall have the exclusive right to purchase and sell refreshments from the refreshment stands located at their respective fields during their seasons.
 - a) The buildings shall be kept in a neat and orderly fashion by assigned organizations.
 - b) Leagues shall have the option of loaning assigned buildings to other organizations that have been granted use of the adjacent field(s).
2. Smith-Harris Park:
 - a) The building located between Jones and Presidents' Fields is designated as the East Lyme Little League Field House.
 - b) The building located adjacent to the George J. Seebeck Field is designated as the East Lyme Youth Football Building.
3. Veterans Memorial Park
 - a) Building next to the baseball field is designated as the Babe Ruth stand.
 - b) The building next to the softball field is designated as the Little League Softball stand.

VI. Beaches

A. Facilities

1. McCook Point Park
2. Hole In The Wall
3. Niantic Bay Beach

B. Beaches are generally staffed during the “summer season” from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

C. Generally, lifeguards will be on duty in areas approved for swimming from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., each day, as the Director requires.

D. Swim areas will be designated and properly marked.

E. Pets are prohibited at beaches when the following applies:

1. State of Connecticut Regulation of the Department of Public Health, Section 1, 19a-36-B61: Domestic animals shall be prohibited in the water and the land immediately adjacent to the water of a public swimming area when the public swimming area is open for use.

F. No glassware is allowed on the beach.

G. Use of any type of floatation device except those approved by US Coast Guard is prohibited.

H. No kite flying at Niantic beaches due to high voltage wires nearby.

VII. Special Use Facilities

A. Niantic Bay Boardwalk. Many members of the community have donated funds through memorial benches and plaques to improve the Boardwalk so users are encouraged to use the boardwalk and fixtures with appropriate respect.

1. Prohibited:

- a) Fishing from the Boardwalk
- b) Unauthorized vehicles
- c) Climbing on or over the boardwalk railings
- d) Biking and skating
- e) Pets
- f) The placing of memorabilia, trinkets, and pad locks, etc. is prohibited on railings, chain link fencing or benches. Items will be removed from the Boardwalk on a regular basis.

B. Liberty Green

1. Banner Display Policy for the Liberty Green

- a) All organizations, leagues or individuals desiring to display a banner shall apply for permit application on form made available through the Parks and Recreation office.

- b) No banners shall be erected or displayed at the Liberty Green without a permit issued by the Department.
- c) Banners shall be hung from the two poles on site and be no larger than 3' X 20'.
- d) Applications will be accepted on a first come/first serve basis. The maximum number of banners is two (2) to be displayed at one time.
- e) Banners must be removed 48 hours after the permit has expired.

VIII. Special Revenue Fund

- A. The Special Revenue Fund was created for all program expenses and revenues of the Department.
- B. The Special Revenue Fund will be a revolving account.
- C. Annual reports on the status of the Special Revenue Fund will be made to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance.
- D. Surplus fund balance in the Special Revenue Fund will be used for the purposes of:
 - 1. Future program development
 - 2. Special Events
 - 3. Park Improvement projects
- E. Park improvements with an expense in excess of \$5,000.00 from the Special Revenue Fund must receive Commission, Board of Selectman and Board of Finance approvals.

Amended November 2024