

City of Groton Parks and Recreation

Summer Playground 2025

Welcome to the City of Groton Summer Playground 2025! We have an exciting summer program planned, and we are glad that your child(ren) have chosen to spend it with us. The following packet is designed to help parents and children understand the expectations of our program and to help keep our program safe and successful as it has been for many years.

Our goal is to create a fun, safe, enjoyable place for the children to spend their summer.

Parks and Recreation Director: Mary Hill	(860)-446-4128 HillM@cityofgroton-ct.gov
Playground Director: Todd Clarke	(860)-772-4013
Playground Supervisors: Ashley Porter Marianne Rice	Ashley Porter (Playground Supervisor) (860)-772-4015 Marianne Rice (Beach Supervisor) (860)-772-4029
Summer Playground Hours:	Minnows - (Pre-K-TK) 8:30AM-11:30AM Snappers - (K, 1 st , and 2 nd Grade) 8:30AM-3:00PM Piranhas - (3 rd and 4 th Grade) 8:30AM-3:00PM Marlins - (5 th and 6 th Grade) 8:30AM-3:00PM Barracudas - (7 th , 8 th and 9 th Grade) 8:30AM-3:00PM **Grades are based on the grade they will be going in to in the Fall
Program Dates:	Jun 23, 2025 to Aug 8, 2025



Things for Parents to Remember

Please remember it is our goal to create a safe, fun and enjoyable environment. We ask that you impress upon your child that inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Swearing, fighting, inappropriate conversations, and any actions that make others feel uncomfortable are not acceptable forms of behavior. Disciplinary action is based on a case-by-case basis. If a problem continues, further disciplinary actions including parent contact and dismissal from the program may occur.

Supervision of children will start at 8:30AM and conclude at 11:30AM for children in Minnows, Pre-K-Kindergarten and 3:00PM for children in Snappers, Piranhas, Marlins and Barracudas GRADES 1st -9th. We are not responsible for children who arrive before 8:30AM. They will not be signed-in before that time. The person designated to pick up your children that day MUST come in and sign them out. Children will not be dismissed until they are signed out. Children who are not picked up in a timely manner may be taken to the City of Groton Parks and Recreation Office where they can be picked up.

Late Pick-up Policy: A late fee is charged for any child(ren) not picked up by the closing time. There are no exceptions or warnings. This "no exceptions" policy makes it easier to apply the late policy to everyone consistently and fairly. The late fee must be paid before the child attends the next day of playground. Families are charged only one charge for each occurrence. Payment can be made by cash or check and given to the playground director (Todd Clarke) or dropped off to the Parks and Recreation office in the City Municipal Building. If you know you are running late, please contact your child's supervisor to inform them of the anticipated time of pick-up. It is helpful to know in advance so our staff can help your child adjust to the late arrival. A late fee is still assessed. If a parent has not contacted the supervisor's phone by closing time, the playground supervisor will attempt to contact the parents using the primary and alternate phone numbers provided.

\$10 6-10 minutes late

\$15 11-15 minutes late

\$20 16-20 minutes late

\$30 21-25 minutes late

\$50 after 25 minutes –

BEACH DAYS: All participants attending the beach should arrive in appropriate swim attire, and should bring sunscreen, a water bottle, a towel and a change of clothes. Playground

staff is **ONLY** allowed to assist with spray on sunscreen. There is an opportunity to purchase lunch from the concession stand on Beach Days, if using this option please provide your child(ren) with money to purchase lunch.

******In the event that it is raining on your child's assigned beach day an announcements will be made on the Parks & Recreation Department voicemail posted on Facebook and on website by 7:30am announcing that all participants will report to Thames River Magnet School.

We do not permit any type of electronic devices to be used during our program (ex. Cell phones, game boys, iPods, etc.) These items should be left at home. We have plenty of activities planned for the children to do during the day. Our program is **NOT** responsible for personal belongings. We ask that all personal and valuable belongings be left at home. In the event that an emergency arises and you must contact your children please contact the playground supervisor or the Parks and Recreation Office.

Please have children dress appropriately. No short shorts or clothing with offensive or inappropriate material. Sneakers are a good idea for the playground as we will be playing and running. Sandals are permitted, but can be troublesome when running or playing. Shoes must be worn at all times while at the playground. Mornings can be chilly at the playground site so packing a sweatshirt or long sleeve shirt is a good idea. Extra clothes on beach days and certain field trips are also a good idea, as children may want to change before returning to the playground site.

LUNCH & SNACK: Minnows will have snack daily and all other groups will have snack and lunch daily. Staff members are not allowed to give children food, if they come without their lunch they will be allowed to call home and/or will be offered **FREE** lunch from the **FREE** lunch program. Please remember to pack food in proper containers so that heat and animals will not spoil snacks and lunches. Free Breakfast and Lunch will be provided for the children. We encourage you to send them with **water bottle and a healthy snack** as well. Lunch each day will be from 12:00-12:30 except for beach days.

Rules and Expectations

Respect

We expect all of the children to get along and respect each other's differences. If there are any issues we ask that the children come and speak to their Specialists or Playground Supervisor. We are here to help and will do whatever we can to solve any problems between the children.

Behavior Protocol

If a child has behaviors that are not adhering to the 4 basic principles: **Respect, Responsibility, Safety, and Kindness** and staff have provided adequate

interventions/strategies to support behavior. After the staff are given 2 warnings he/she will be written up for the behavior on the behavior form. This is a tool to help us keep track of behaviors, call parents and to give the child an opportunity to change behavior and to be successful. Behavior forms should be completed if the child does not adhere to the commands and expectations.

If we feel a child is deemed to be unsafe at camp or has been warned at least two times for their unsafe behavior, we will send a child home. In the case of any aggressive behavior that could harm a staff member or camper, the child will be sent home immediately. A child may miss the following day at camp as a consequence. If a child is sent home due to behavioral issues at camp, parents must meet with camp staff members prior to the child's readmission to camp. If this becomes a pattern, we will terminate the child from attending camp.

Fighting/Hands on

Fighting, of any kind, will not be tolerated during the hours of the summer playground program. In the event of a fight, the individuals involved will be subject to 1-2 day suspension from the Summer Playground program and the incident will be documented. On the second offense there will be documentation and discipline will be at the discretion of the supervisor based on offense.

Children should not be touching each other for any reason. If touching of another person becomes an issue it will be documented, the individuals will be separated and parents will be notified.

Electronics

Electronics of any kind are not allowed to be used during the Summer Playground hours. Cell phones, game boys, iPods, etc. will be taken away if seen in use. If a child needs to contact their parents they will be allowed to use the supervisors' phone. **In the event a parent needs to contact a child, they may call the Recreation Office at 860-446-4128 or the Playground Supervisors Ashley 860-772-4015 or Marianne 860-772-4029**

Inappropriate Conversations

This rule will have a three-strike policy. The first strike will result in a time-out and a discussion with the Recreation Specialist of the group. Strike two will be a discussion with the Playground Supervisor and written documentation of the incident. The Third strike will be a phone call to Parent/ Guardian and a 1 day suspension. If a problem continues disciplinary action will be handled by the Playground Director.

Bullying

Under no circumstances will bullying be tolerated during Summer Playground. If there is an instance of bullying, the individual(s) will be spoken to by the Recreation Specialist of their

group and the incident will be documented. Further instances will be documented and discussed with the parent. If a problem continues a disciplinary action, such as, suspension from the program can occur.

Disrespect

Disrespect of any kind to staff members, Bus drivers, or other participants will not be tolerated. When a child is asked to do something by a staff member they are expected to comply. In most cases it is in the best interest of every person's safety. In the event this rule is not followed it will result in documentation, a time-out, and discussion with group Specialist. If the problem continues disciplinary action will be decided upon by the Playground Supervisor in charge and Playground Director.

Sportsmanship

Our program is designed to provide a place for children to have a fun, safe, active summer. We expect all children to "play fair" and even though some of our activities are competitive, we expect the children to have fun and not always be concerned with winning. Our main objective is to have fun and create a sense of teamwork, not to always win. If an individual demonstrates poor sportsmanship during an activity he or she will be asked to sit out for the rest of the game.

Misuse of Equipment

Our equipment is for the enjoyment of all children, and we expect that they take care of the equipment and use it for the purpose intended. If misuse of equipment becomes an issue, the privilege of using the equipment will be revoked until the individual(s) demonstrate that they are capable of using it correctly.

Trash and Clean up

After snack and lunch children are expected to clean up their mess and put their belongings away before moving on to the next activity. If the group area is not left in proper shape children will not be allowed to participate in the next activity until the area is cleaned. If trash becomes a problem the Recreation Specialist of the group will decide on a solution to the problem. Children are also expected to help clean up at the end of the day. Whatever equipment they used should be collected and put in the group equipment bag.

Field Trips

Field trips are included in weekly registration fees this summer. By signing your child up for Summer Playground it is assumed you are giving consent for your child or children to attend scheduled field trips. If you do not want your child(ren) to attend a field trip, please let a supervisor know ASAP, and we will make arrangements for your child to participate in alternate activities for the day.

To the Parents & Children,

Our rules are in place to keep our program and children as safe as possible. The goal of the Summer Playground Program has always been to give the children a safe, fun, active, exciting place to spend their summer. We ask that parents review the rules and expectations with their children. Staff members of each group will review the rules on the first day and throughout the summer as necessary. The Playground staff is always available to answer questions, concerns, and any other topics parents and/or children would like to discuss with us. We are glad that your children have chosen to spend their summer with us! We have a lot of great activities planned and anticipate an exciting summer ahead!

Thank You!

~Your 2025 Summer Playground Staff

To ensure that all rules and expectations are understood, we ask that you review this packet with your child and return this form signed and dated to the Recreation Specialist of your child's group by June 27, 2025. All participants of The City of Groton Summer Playground Program MUST return this form signed and dated. We thank you for your cooperation and look forward to working with your child this summer!

I have read and reviewed this packet with my child and we understand the rules and expectations of the City of Groton Summer Playground Program.

Child's Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Child's Group:

Date: