

**R-26-02-15- RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AT EASTERN POINT BEACH PROPERTY FOR THE YEAR 2026
(APPROVED FEBRUARY 2, 2026)**

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 2026:

**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:

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. 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 860-446-4128. 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.

F. 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, during business hours, to request the temporary parking pass.

G. 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.

H. 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.

I. Water Sports

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.

J. 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 limited to City of Groton residents and non-resident taxpayers when the parking lot reaches 90% of capacity.

K. General Regulations

1. No profanity, obscenities or vulgarity, spitting, towel snapping or fighting is allowed on Beach property.
2. No throwing of stones, sand or other objects is allowed on beach property.
3. Children 12 and over can come to the beach unattended. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a person at least fifteen (15) years of age to gain admittance to use the beach property.
4. Ball playing is confined to the Zbierski House lawn, the playground, the volleyball court and the basketball court. Ball playing may be permitted in the water past far beach per staff discretion. Running is only allowed at far beach at the staff discretion.
5. Kite flying is confined to the lawn behind the Zbierski House.
6. No glassware is allowed.
7. Single pole umbrellas and canopies only on sandy beach area and no strings should extend from your canopy. 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 if it could cause a safety concern.
8. No swimming/wading off the rocks, breakwater or parking lot area. Where posted, patrons are to keep off the rocks. No climbing walls.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. All garbage is to be carefully put into the containers provided. No littering allowed.
12. No overnight camping/parking or open fires on the beach.
13. No skateboards, roller-skates, roller blades or razor scooters are to be used on beach property. During the off-season these items will be allowed in the parking lot area ONLY.
14. No Drones allowed on the property. Remote control devices with cameras attached to them are not allowed on the property.
15. 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.

16. Proper/appropriate beach attire is required. Nudity is prohibited. Dressing or undressing will only be permitted in the restroom areas.
17. Radios, speakers, etc., should maintain a volume as not to disturb others. Music selection should abide by rule #2.
18. 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.

L. Ordinances/CT Regulations

1. **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).
2. **Per City Ordinance 199:** Prohibiting smoking at the locations identified in ordinance.

The intent and purpose of prohibiting smoking/vaping at the locations identified in this ordinance is to protect the public health, safety and welfare by reducing exposure to second hand smoke/vapor and tobacco/vaping waste product.

- a. Smoke or Smoking shall mean the burning of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or any other similar device, whether containing, wholly or in part, tobacco, cannabis, or hemp.
- b. Vape or Vaping Device shall mean any device that employs a heating element, power source, electric circuit or other electronic, chemical or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that may include nicotine or cannabis and is inhaled by the user of such product.
- c. Electronic Nicotine/Cannabis Device shall mean an electronic device that may be used to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or cannabis to a person inhaling from the device and includes, but is not limited to, a vaporizer, electronic pipe, electronic hooka and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device.
- d. Tobacco/Cannabis products shall mean: 1.) any substance containing tobacco/cannabis or any tobacco/cannabis product in smoking/vaping forms, but not limited to light cigarettes, hookah tobacco, snuff, snus, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, cigars, pipe tobacco, vape pen, electronic nicotine delivery systems or any other preparation of tobacco. 2.) any product of formulation of matter containing biologically active amounts of nicotine that is manufactured, sold or offered for sale, or otherwise distributed with the expectation that the product or matter will be introduced into the human body, but does not include any product specifically approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence.
- e. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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.

M. Beach Picnic Area

1. Picnicking will be allowed only in designated areas.
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 placed 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. 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.
2. Parking Fee will be \$50.00 for those without a Season Beach Pass, no matter what day of the week the Special Event falls on.
3. All the approved Rules and Regulations of Eastern Point Beach will be in full effect.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the Rules and Regulations at Eastern Point Beach for the Year 2026.