

Town of Harwich Beach Rules and Regulations

Definition: Beach includes beach, parking lot, and abutting sand dunes for both salt and fresh water Town-owned property.

1. No alcoholic beverages will be possessed or consumed on any public beach, and no person shall be intoxicated, or commit any obscene or indecent act or use profane/obscene language.
2. No littering. All refuse must be placed in rubbish containers provided. No glass containers will be allowed on beaches. No household refuse allowed in rubbish containers.
3. No person shall damage, deface, or remove any building, structure or sign belonging to the Town of Harwich.
4. No selling, advertising, or giving away of goods and services will be permitted except by concessionaires under contract with the Town or by written permission from the Recreation and Youth Commission.
5. No fires are allowed except in designated areas with a Cook Fire Permit and approval from the Recreation and Youth Department.
6. No animals or pets are permitted on any beaches between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
Exception: Red River Beach: Dog walking is allowed in the parking lot area only from dawn to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to dusk.
7. No tents, travel trailers, campers, or other units shall be used for habitation.
8. No person shall disturb the peace and tranquility of others.
9. Children twelve (12) years of age or younger must be accompanied by an adult or person responsible for his or her behavior within the beach area.
10. Ball playing, kite flying and Frisbee playing are permitted at the discretion of the Lifeguards only.
11. Inflatables and beach umbrellas are permitted at the discretion of the Lifeguards only.
12. Scuba diving, skindiving, and all other methods of underwater swimming are prohibited in designated swimming areas.
13. Sailboats, kayaks, windsurfers, surfboards etc. are prohibited, except for designated areas of Red River Beach and freshwater ponds.
14. Speed limits on all beach parking lots shall not be in excess of 10 miles per hour and motor vehicles will not be allowed to park or travel beyond designated parking areas.
15. No individual or group of individuals will be granted reserved parking places.
16. Fishing is not permitted in designated swim areas when Lifeguards are on duty.
17. All beach parking lot areas are closed from 10:00 pm until 6:00 am, and all beaches are closed from midnight to 6:00 am.
18. No motorboat of more than 10 horsepower or used for waterskiing may be launched or operated from the boat ramp at the east end of Long Pond (Wixon Memorial, off Cahoon Rd).
19. Smoking and Nicotine Delivery Products are prohibited at all public beaches.
20. The launching, operation, landing, or retrieval of drones on public beaches is prohibited.
21. Catch and Release Fishing Tournaments are only allowed at Long Pond during the following dates: the day after Labor Day through the day before Memorial Day.

Violators of these Rules and Regulations are subject to and punishment by a fine of not more than FIFTY (\$50.00) DOLLARS excepting for the following fines:

Littering and Household Trash Fine of TWO HUNDRED (\$200.00) dollars.

"Scooper Law" - Board of Health Regulation, Part II, Resource Protection. Violations of this regulation are subject to a non-criminal disposition fine of FIFTY (\$50.00) dollars.

Regulation Prohibiting Smoking in Public Places – Board of Health Regulation, Violations of regulation are subject to a non-criminal disposition fine of ONE HUNDRED (\$100) dollars.

Per order of the Town of Harwich Selectmen Board and as adopted and amended at a public meeting by the RYC, March 26, 2024.