

Town of Wilton

Recreational Parks and Facilities Use Policy

I. STATEMENT OF NEED:

To provide public open space and recreational programming opportunities it is necessary for the Town of Wilton to develop a sound and consistent policy that will provide guidance for evaluating and establishing policies. The policies allow the Town of Wilton to offer expanded recreational programs and establish priorities at the Town's Parks and Recreational properties. The Town of Wilton Parks and Recreation Director and/or the Wilton Police Department shall enforce the Recreational Parks and Facilities Use Policy. Specific Town Ordinances referred to in the policy shall be enforced according to the ordinances.

II. EVALUATION OF POLICIES AND FEES

The Town of Wilton Parks and Recreation shall review and make appropriate amendments to the policies and fees annually. Amendments are to be submitted to the Board of Selectpersons for review and approval. The fees will be listed in an addendum to this policy.

III. PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES HOURS OF OPERATION

The Town of Wilton strictly enforces the Town's curfew ordinance for minors under the age of 18. Curfew hours for minors are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. town-wide. Curfew hours listed below are intended for minors.

In addition, the Town enforces the Parking and Traffic Ordinance. Please refer to the ordinance regarding the hours for parking of vehicles in specific locations.

The following hours of operation pertain to all town parks and parking areas and include adults and minors.

- A. **Kineowatha Park**- High Street, Wilton. Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dark.
- B. **Bishop Park** – Main Street, East Wilton. Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dark.
- C. **Village View Park** – Village View Street, Wilton. Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dark.
- D. **East Wilton Ball Field** – Main Street, East Wilton. Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dark.

E. **Bass Park** – Lake Road, Wilton. . Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dark.

F. **Foot of the Lake Parking Area** and adjacent property – Lake Road, Wilton. Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dark

G. **Boat Launch and Landing** – Canal Street Wilton. Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dark.

H. **Carry In/Out Boat Launch and Landing** – Pond Road, Wilton. Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dark.

Presence Prohibited – No person shall be present in Town Parks or Recreational Facilities parks during said periods of time without the permission of the permitting authority.

Hours May Vary – The permitting authority may vary the attendance hours for special activities and special events.

Special Closures – Any section of any park or facility may be declared closed to the public by the Recreation Director or Chief of Police at any time for any interval of time, either temporarily or at regular stated intervals, by posting suitable signs. No person shall remain in such a closed area.

IV. USE AND ENJOYMENT

No person shall interfere with the use and enjoyment of the parks by other members of the general public, including blocking access to swim areas. Portable canopies are not to be placed in any of the parking areas at any of the park or public facilities listed in Section III without prior permission of the Recreation Director.

No person shall unreasonably disturb the peace of others enjoying the parks and facilities, as well as homeowners or businesses located adjacent to or in the neighborhood of the parks and facilities.

Smoking (to include cigarettes, vaping, electronic cigarettes, etc) is prohibited at any Town recreational park, listed as A. to E. in Section III.

Consumption and possession of alcohol and drugs (including marijuana) at any Town recreational park or facility is strictly prohibited.

Per the Town of Wilton Dog Ordinance, no person shall allow a domestic animal to run at large within the town limits, including in a town park or facility. Dogs are not allowed on the beach at Kineowatha Park. Dogs shall be under restraint, controlled by a leash, or at “heel” beside a competent person and obedient to those persons commands. Owners must clean up after pets. It is a violation of the dog ordinance to fail to properly remove and dispose of any feces left by a dog on any street, sidewalk, or publicly owned property. A pet receptacle is available at the Boat launch.

Per the Town of Wilton Swimming and Diving Ordinance - Swimming and/or diving is prohibited along the entire frontage of the municipally owned property designated as the boat launch and area, including from the boat dock and also including the Canal

Street bridge and the sewer pipe which runs adjacent to the Canal Street bridge.

No person shall deposit rubbish, refuse, garbage or other waste material in a park, except in the receptacles so provided. Where receptacles are not provided, all such rubbish or waste shall be carried away from the parks by the person responsible for its presence.

No person shall climb, damage, remove, or pick the flowers or seeds of a tree or other plant.

No person shall dig in or otherwise disturb grass areas, or in any other way injure or impair the natural beauty or usefulness of any area.

All persons must obey all signs posted in any park for the protection of property, or the promotion of the health, safety, or general welfare of the occupants of a park or recreational facilities or the residents of the town.

No person shall use any public park or facility for the purpose of overnight accommodation or a temporary or permanent abode or habitation, except with the written permission of the Recreation Director or permission by the Police Department.

Fires, fire pits, grills, mini grills or other types of cooking appliances shall not be allowed at any public park or facility listed in Section III, unless grilling facilities provided (Kineowatha Park) or with the written permission of the Recreation Director and appropriate fire permits. Fireworks will not be allowed in any public park or facility except with the written permission of the Recreation Director and appropriate permits. The Special Events Permit application must be completed.

Specific Rules may be designated and posted at the Parks or facilities for specially designated areas, such as the Skateboard Park, Ball Fields, Basketball Park, and Beach areas within Kineowatha Park.

No sales of any products without prior authorization of the Wilton Board of Selectpersons.

Motorized watercraft will not be allowed at or near the docks /float or swim area at Kinneowatha Park or near the swim area at the Foot of the Lake area.

V. VEHICLE OPERATION

State Law Applies – All provisions of state law relating to the operation of motor vehicles shall apply within parks.

Stay On The Road – No person shall operate any vehicle in a park on any areas except a public way, park road, or parking area, or in those areas specifically designated by the Town, except as authorized by the permitting authority.

Designated Areas – A person shall park a vehicle only in a designated parking area and in accordance with any pavement markings, posted directions or the instructions of any parking attendant.

Night Parking Prohibited – A person shall not leave a vehicle, construction equipment or construction materials standing or parked at night in a park after closing hours without permission of the Recreation Department or the Wilton Police Department. Any vehicle, equipment or materials found in a park after closing hours shall be removed and stored at the expense of the owner.

VI. HUNTING AND FIREARMS

- A. Disturbing Wildlife Prohibited – No person shall hunt, trap, or disturb wildlife in a park.
- B. Discharge Prohibited – No person shall discharge a firearm, blank gun, air rifle, spring gun, bow and arrow, slingshot, sling, or any other type of weapon which is potentially dangerous to human beings or to wildlife, except as authorized by the permitting authority as part of a special event.

VII. SPECIAL EVENTS

Town parks will be made available, on a limited basis, for special events subject to the following restrictions:

Permit Required – Athletic events and events sponsored or conducted by the Town shall be exempt from special event permitting requirements, however, any other person or organization which desires to conduct or sponsor a special event or rent any buildings for a special event at a Town Park must first apply for and obtain a permit from the Recreation Director. Fireworks will not be allowed in any public park or facility except with the written permission of the Recreation Director and appropriate permits. The Special Events Permit application must be completed

- A. Permitting Authority – The Wilton Recreation Committee shall be the permitting authority for all special events, although, the Committee may, at its discretion, defer permitting authority for any special event to the Wilton Board of **Selectpersons.**
- B. Application Fee – An application fee for a special event will be required of all applicants to cover administrative costs incurred by the Town in permitting the special event, said fee to be set from time to time by the Wilton Board of **Selectpersons.**
- C. Damages - Any damages to the building or property shall become the responsibility of the person or persons signing the special events agreement. The Town will have any necessary repairs made and an invoice sent for repairs to the renter responsible. If the payment is not made within two weeks of the date of invoice, the Town may forfeit the privilege of renting to the party in the future.

The Town of Wilton is not responsible for lost, stolen or damage done to items left by a renter. All items belonging to the renter are to be removed after the event. Items in the kitchens are the property of the Town for use by the rental community. No items are to be stored without the expressed written permission of the Recreation Director. Items such as tables, chairs, pots, utensils, potholders, etc are provided for use by all renters and should not be removed from the premises.

Approved by the Wilton Board of Selectmen on November 1, 2011.

A true copy _____
Diane Dunham, Wilton Town Clerk

Amended: August 2021