BEACHES

Jennings Beach 880 South Benson Rd. & Beach Rd.
Lake Mohegan 960 Morehouse Highway
Penfield Beach 323 Fairfield Beach Road
Rickards Beach 255 Fairfield Beach Road
Sasco Beach 1401 Sasco Hill Road
South Pine Creek Beach 1424 South Pine Creek Road
Southport Beach 1505 Pequot Avenue

Section 1 – All beaches shall be open from dawn to 11:00p.m. all year round, or such later times as specifically approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Section 2 – (a) The operation of a motorized vehicle is prohibited on any beach, park, or open space area except in those areas designated for such purpose by the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission, as appropriate, and excepting official vehicles engaged in maintenance or emergency activities.

(b) No person shall park or store any motorized vehicle, bicycle, boat trailer or personal property at any public bathing beach, boatyard, marina, or Open Space Area of the Town of Fairfield except in those areas set aside and designated for such purpose by the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission, as appropriate.

Section 3 – (a) Seasonal and temporary parking permits issued annually by the Parks & Recreation Commission are required for entry to all Town beaches and marinas from Memorial Day Saturday to and including Labor Day, except Jennings Beach, which may require permits on weekends, starting with the first weekend in April through Labor Day. For marinas, annual permits will be required from April 1 through the third weekend in November.

b) Seasonal parking permits for all Town beaches, marinas and the Transfer Station will be issued to vehicles registered as paying taxes to the Town of Fairfield. Tax Town (051) must be on the vehicle registration for proof for resident rates which will be set by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Any South Benson Slip occupant shall receive a free sticker that gives them access to a designated area in the Marina from Memorial Day Saturday through Labor Day.

(c) Fairfield Residents and or Residential Real Property Taxpayers paying vehicle taxes to a Town other than Fairfield, may, at the time of registration complete a “Change of Address Card for Operators License and Vehicle Registrations Application” which will be mailed to the DMV in order to qualify for resident rates. If unable to do so, that vehicle will qualify for Non-Residents rates. (Sole Proprietors and LLC are not eligible for beach parking permits)

d) Non-Resident categories are as follows and rates will be set by the Parks and Recreation Commission

- Residential Real Property Taxpayers with vehicles paying taxes to a Town other than Fairfield for access to All Beaches and the Marina
- Non-resident for access Jennings and Penfield Beaches ONLY
- Town of Fairfield employee and any honorably retired former Town employee for access to All Beaches and the Marina

(e) Beach stickers may be withheld from those who are delinquent in their taxes to the Town.

(f) Seasonal and temporary motor vehicle parking permits must be permanently affixed and properly displayed on the left front of the windshield of the vehicle. RVs may park at Jennings Beach only.

(g) Only fishermen, boat owners and their guests shall be allowed vehicular entry into the South Benson Marina and Ye Yacht Yard between 11:00p.m.and dawn.

(h) The Parks & Recreation Commission may suspend or revoke any official permit if the person to whom it is issued shall violate any provision of these regulations or shall cease to be qualified to hold such a permit.
(i) The Parks & Recreation Commission may charge a daily parking fee for the parking of any vehicle, which does not display a valid parking sticker only at Jennings Beach and Penfield Pavilion. At Lake Mohegan a charge will be made at the beach entrance for any person who does not hold a seasonal pass.

(j) Beach stickers are permitted for combination vehicles.

(k) Groups wishing to enter any Town beach or Lake Mohegan must first secure written permission from the Parks & Recreation Department and will be assessed a fee.

(l) Bonfires may be reserved by persons at least 21 years of age and only at Jennings Beach. Any location exceptions must be made by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Bonfires may only be permitted between May 1 and Sept 30. A fee, determined by the Parks & Recreation Commission will be assessed for each bonfire.

Section 4 – (a) No person shall dress or undress in any portion of any public beach except in buildings designated for such purpose by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The removal of outer garments placed over proper swimming attire shall not be considered a violation of the provisions of this section.

(b) Persons using Town beach facilities and swimming in designated areas shall be appropriately attired. No person over the age of five years, male or female, shall allow his or her private parts to be exposed to public view while that individual is on public beach, park or open space property of the Town Of Fairfield. For purposes of this section, “private parts” are defined as the genitals, and also, as to females, that area of the breast known as the nipple.

Section 5 – (a) Use of beach facilities by any child under 12 years of age is prohibited, except when such child is under the supervision of a person at least 16 years of age. Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control or providing supervision of any child under the age of 12 years who knowingly leaves such a child unsupervised may be in violation of Public Act 97-298.

(b) Swimming at the public beaches shall be confined to those areas designated by the Parks & Recreation Commission and its agents, and swimming outside those areas, including the boat area at the eastern end of Jennings Beach, is prohibited.

(c) Swimming to or from a boat onto or from a Town beach is prohibited.

(d) The use of artificial means of support or floatation in swimming areas or boat landing areas is prohibited, except for the area on the westerly side of the jetty at Sasco Beach, and except for designated Town agents using such equipment in the performance of their duties. (Artificial means or floatation gear includes kickboards, surfboards, rubber rafts, air mattresses, tire tubes, rubber balls, and the like.)

(e) Skim boarding is not permitted in any of the Town’s swimming areas except for a conditional skim boarding area at Jennings Beach. No Ramps or any other hard objects can be brought into that area and the area can be closed to skim boarding at any time by representative of the Fairfield Recreation Department and Waterfront staff for reasons of safety and crowd management. Swimming can also take place in that area. The use of skim boards in that area should be considered at the participant’s own risk and individuals participating in these activities in what is considered a reckless manner by the beach staff, can be excluded from the skim boarding area by representatives of the Fairfield Parks & recreation Department and Waterfront Staff.

Section 6 – (a) Water Skiing in the Ash Creek Channel, Southport Harbor, South Pine Creek Channel or within 100 feet of any Town-designated swimming area is prohibited, nor shall any boat be operated above the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage within 100 feet of any Town-designated swimming area. A boat cannot be moored within 100 feet of any Town-designated swimming area.

(b) Jet skiing or kite skiing in or over designated swimming or boating areas is prohibited.

(c) Scuba diving in designated swimming and boating areas is prohibited, except by agents of the Town in the performance of their duties. Scuba diving shall only be permitted in the marina during the performance of emergency repairs to boats at dockside.
(d) The cleaning of any boat or vessel below the water line is prohibited in all marina areas.

(e) In accordance with EPA and DEP Regulations – there is no pressure washing of boats allowed on premises in or out of the water. This includes in-water bottom cleaning, hull scraping, or any process that occurs underwater to remove anti-fouling paint on the boat hull.

Section 7 – Loitering on the patio area of the Jennings Beach, Penfield or Lake Mohegan pavilion is prohibited.

Section 8 – Amusement machines on the beach are prohibited.

Section 9 – Fishing or the cleaning of fish in any Town designated swimming areas is prohibited.

Section 10 – (a) Loaded firearms are prohibited on any town beach, marina, park, or open space, except when carried by law enforcement officers in the execution of their duties.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (a) of this section, loaded firearms on any open space area are permitted when performed pursuant to a permit issued by the Fairfield Conservation Commission.

Section 11 – (a) No person, or persons, or organization shall camp overnight or construct tents, stands, benches, shelter or other structure of a temporary or permanent nature, nor hold any sponsored gathering or function on any Town park, beach, marina or open space without the express permission of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, or their designee, as appropriate.

(b) No alcoholic beverages are allowed on Town parks, beaches, marinas, or open space without the express written permission of the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission, as appropriate.

(c) From Memorial Day Saturday until Labor Day Monday, Jennings Beach will have designated smoking areas and will prohibit smoking in other areas on that beach. Smoking will be prohibited in Concession areas on all beaches.

Section 12 – No person shall engage in any athletics, games or contests, except swimming at any public beach swimming areas of Town, except in areas designated for that purpose by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Section 13 – (a) No glass containers or glass utensils shall be carried into or used in any public beach or parking area. (This section shall not prohibit a concessionaire from using glass containers in the conduct of his business, provided no food or refreshments are sold or dispensed in glass containers or glass utensils.)

(b) No person shall discard or cast any litter, refuse, paper, cans or other trash in/or upon a public beach, parking area, sailboat storage areas or marinas except in containers designated for that purpose by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Section 14 - (a) Dogs or horses may enter beaches, open space areas, and marinas only under the following conditions:

(i) Dogs and horses accompanied by a person responsible for them shall be permitted to enter any town beach only during the period from October 1 to March 31. At all other times dogs and horses are forbidden to enter any town beach, including the parking areas for such beach.

(ii) When permitted to be on a Town beach, dogs must be leashed at all times, except while on the premises of Jennings Beach only, dogs may be off leash provided they are under the control of the person responsible for them. Dogs shall be prohibited from Boardwalks, Pavilions and playgrounds. Persons responsible for dogs and horses must clean up after their animals while they are on the beach or in the parking areas.

(iii) Leashed dogs may be permitted in the parking area of the Town Marina year-round. Leashed dogs may enter the dock area to enter or leave boats. Dogs in the dock area shall be the responsibility of the boat slip owner.
(iv) No dog shall be permitted to roam at large in any park, playlot, beach, open space area or marina. No dog shall be permitted in any park or playlot at anytime.
(v) Leashed dogs only are permitted in Ash Creek Open Space Area but not in the picnic area or play area.

(b) The following rules shall apply on all open space areas other than Ash Creek:
(i) All dogs must be leashed, or if unleashed, kept under the control of the person responsible for them at all times.
(ii) All dogs must be leashed within one hundred feet (100-ft.) of a parking area or picnic area, or such other areas as may be designated by the Conservation Commission.
Persons with dogs in their vehicles shall park in areas to be designated by the Conservation Commission.
(iv) All persons shall remain on designated trails as marked by the Conservation Commission.
(v) All persons walking dogs shall endeavor to remain on designated trails as marked by the Conservation Commission.
(vi) No more than three (3) dogs may be walked by a person on any open space area.
(vii) No Domestic animals, including dogs and horses, are permitted in the Metro Center Conservation easement.

Section 15 – No person shall light, kindle or use any fire on any Town beach, park, marina, or open space, except in receptacles installed for this purpose, or by the authority of the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission, as appropriate.