

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DRAFT REGULATION
OF

Department of Environmental Protection

The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Sections 23-4-1 through 23-4-6, inclusive, are revised as follows:

Section 23-4-1. State park and forest recreation areas.

(a) Hours of operation.

- (1) State parks and state forest recreation areas shall be open for public use daily between sunrise and sunset. State parks [and state forests] shall be open to public vehicular traffic [to the public] daily between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and sunset, except as [provided in subsection (d) of this section or] otherwise specifically authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection. Other state forest areas shall be open between one [-half] hour before sunrise and one [-half] hour after sunset.

[Section 23-4-1](b)[.] Vandalism.

- (1) No person shall deface, destroy, alter, remove or otherwise injure in any manner any structures, buildings, vegetation, earth or rock material, trees, or fuel wood, nor shall any wildlife be molested or disturbed except as authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Commissioner may grant upon written application, permission to collect specimens, take samples and conduct other investigations for scientific or educational purposes. Such permission shall be in writing and shall be subject to such conditions, as the Commissioner deems necessary.
- (2) No person shall possess food or beverage inside of historic structures unless permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection.

[Section 23-4-1](c)[.] Hunting/weapons.

- (1) Hunting or carrying of firearms, archery equipment or other weapons, including but not limited to air rifles and slingshots, is not permitted in any state park or forest except as authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection. All carrying or use of weapons is subject to [the] applicable provisions [of Sections 26-66, 26-73, 26-86a and 53a-206] of the Connecticut General Statutes and regulations adopted thereunder.

[Section 23-4-1](d)[.] Fishing.

- (1) Fishing is permitted in all state parks and forests, except in designated swimming areas and other areas so posted. Fishing, where permitted, is [restricted to the hours between 8:00 A.M. and] from sunrise to sunset unless otherwise posted. All fishing is subject to the provisions of Chapter 490 of the General Statutes and regulations adopted thereunder.

[Section 23-4-1](e)[(1).] Alcoholic beverages.

- (1) The possession or [drinking] consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on state park or forest beaches, boardwalks and other areas so posted.

[Section 23-4-1(e)(2). Alcoholic beverages. No minor, as defined by Section 30-1 of the General Statutes shall possess or drink alcoholic beverages in any state park or forest.]

[Section 23-4-1(e)(3). Alcoholic beverages] (2) The possession of beer in containers larger than one (1) liter is prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1(e) (4). Alcoholic beverages] (3) The sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

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- (4) The Commissioner shall have the authority to ban the possession or use of alcohol in any state park acquired or opened after April 1, 2006.
- (5) The Commissioner shall have the authority to temporarily ban, for periods up to a maximum of ninety (90) days, the possession or use of alcohol at specific recreation areas if its use is creating public safety issues as determined by the Commissioner.

[Section 23-4-1](f)[.] Pets and riding animals.

[Section 23-4-1(f)(1). Pets and riding animals.] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (6) of this subsection, riding animals and pets must be [which are] on a leash that is no longer than seven (7) feet in length, and must be [are] under the control of their owner or keeper at all times. [are permitted in all other state parks and forests.]

[Section 23-4-1(f)(1). Pets and riding animals.] (2) Pets and riding animals are prohibited in Sherwood Island and Squantz Pond State Parks from April 15 to September 30, inclusive.

[Section 23-4-1(f)(2). Pets and riding animals.] (3) Pets and riding animals, including, but not limited to, dogs and horses, are prohibited in the following areas of state parks and forests at all times: all buildings, swimming areas and other areas so posted. No person shall allow any pet or riding animal under their control to [shall] enter a water body in which there is a Department of Environmental Protection designated swimming area from anywhere on [the] Department of Environmental Protection property containing that swimming area from April 1 through October 31, inclusive. [or from any contiguous Department of Environmental Protection property. Riding animals are permitted in all other areas, and pets are permitted in all other areas provided, they are on a leash no longer than seven (7) feet and are under the control of their owner or keeper.]

[Section 23-4-1(f)(3). Pets and riding animals.] (4) In state forest campgrounds, no more than [one] two pets shall be allowed per campsite. Pets are prohibited from state park campgrounds.

[Section 23-4-1(f)(4). Pets and riding animals.] (5) [Seeing-eye, and hearing-ear dogs] Trained service animals, required to perform a specific task and for the ongoing treatment of a disability or health condition, are permitted in all areas not closed to the public while accompanied by the person needing their assistance.

[Section 23-4-1(f)(5). Pets and riding animals] (6) This subsection shall not apply to the proper use of dogs while in the act of hunting or to Law Enforcement or DEP personnel acting in the course of their employment.

(7) Persons bringing pets or riding animals to state recreation areas shall remove and properly dispose of pet waste (feces) left by the pet or riding animal under their control.

[Section 23-4-1](g) Notices[/] and signs.

- (1) No person shall erect, [or] post or distribute any notice or sign upon state park or forest property unless authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection manager in charge of such park or forest property.

[Section 23-4-1](h)[.] Commercial restrictions.

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(1) The use of state park or forestlands or any improvements thereon for private gain or commercial purposes is prohibited, except by concessionaires or vendors with written permission of the Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, or by Special Use License issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.

[Section 23-4-1](i)[.] Meetings[/] and proselytism.

(1) Political meetings and proselytism [or political or marketing surveys] may be conducted only in areas and at times approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection [manager in charge] or the Commissioner's designee. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

[Section 23-4-1](j)[.] Littering.

(1) No person shall dispose of any material in a state park or forest, except in receptacles provided for such disposal. [No person shall possess any paper, garbage, food or beverage containers, or other refuse in an area conspicuously posted by the Department of Environmental Protection as an area where such possession is prohibited.]

[Section 23-4-1](k)[.] Dumping.

(1) Disposing of any material in a state park or forest which was not accumulated during the use of such facilities is prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1](l)[.] Trails[/] and roads. [Horse or bicycle riding on foot trails is prohibited.]

(1) Trails are open unless posted closed to hiking, mountain biking or other types of trail-related activities. Horseback riding is prohibited on trails unless posted as permitted. Use of any trail, road or path posted as closed by the Department of Environmental Protection is prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1](m) [(1).] Boats.

(1) Boats shall be restricted to areas posted for boating by the Department of Environmental Protection, and are prohibited in swimming areas.

[Section 23-4-1(m)(2). Boats.]

(2) No person shall fasten a boat to any state park or forest pier or anchor [a boat to any dock or] in any launching area so as to prevent free access to the pier, dock or launching area.

(3) Vessels launching from Squantz Pond State Boat Launch are prohibited from using a motor or combination of motors in excess of 25 horse power (HP). Larger motors may be attached but the propeller must be removed and the motor inclined out of the water or as high as possible. No motorized vessels may land or offload/unload passengers or equipment on DEP-owned property outside of the launch area.

[Section 23-4-1](n)[.] Gambling.

(1) Gambling in any form on state park or forest property is prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1](o)[.] Disorderly conduct.

(1) Disorderly conduct, public nudity, intoxication, and obscene or indecent behavior are prohibited, and all forms of rough play, or activities or contests creating hazards to persons or property, including, but not limited to, the use of paintball guns or other similar devices, are prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1](p)[.] Picnicking.

(1) Picnicking [shall be limited to those places designated] is allowed unless otherwise posted by the Department of Environmental Protection.

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[Section 23-4-1](q) [(1)] Fires.

(1) Fires may be kindled only in grills, stoves, fireplaces or other designated campfire facilities.

[Section 23-4-1(q)(2). Fires.] (2) No person may kindle or maintain a fire within five (5) feet of any tree, building or shrub except in those location where the Department of Environmental Protection has provided fireplaces or grills.

[Section 23-4-1(q)(3). Fires. Fire residue shall be disposed of, if at all, in receptacles or areas designated for such purposes.]

(3) Fire residue shall be properly disposed of in hot coal/ash receptacles, where provided.

(4) Fire residue shall not be disposed of in a manner that may damage property or cause injury to a person

[Section 23-4-1(q)(4). Fires.] (5) No fire shall be left unattended.

[Section 23-4-1](r)[.] Athletics.

(1) The playing of baseball, football, soccer, golf or other athletic games is allowed unless otherwise restricted. [shall be restricted to areas designated for such purposes by the Department of Environmental Protection manager in charge.]

[Section 23-4-1] (s) [(1).] Swimming.

(1) Swimming is allowed except where posted as prohibited [restricted to areas posted for swimming] by the Department of Environmental Protection.

[Section 23-4-1(s)(2). Swimming.] (2) All persons in swimming areas shall obey the lifeguards.

[Section 23-4-1(s)(3). Swimming.] (3) Swimming hours are from sunrise to [8:00 A.M. until one-half hour before] sunset.

[Section 23-4-1(s)(4). Swimming.] (4) No person shall swim in long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, a skirt, a dress or other [similar] restrictive clothing.

[Section 23-4-1(s)(5). Swimming.] (5) Washing of persons or articles in the waters of swimming areas is prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1 (w) (1).] (t) Swimming aids.

(1) Inflatable or buoyant devices (including, but not limited to, inner tubes, ring buoys, balls, air mattresses and rafts) are prohibited in those areas at state swimming areas that are protected by on-duty lifeguards, except for U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices when worn by swimmers. The use of U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices may be required in certain areas as determined to be appropriate by the Department of Environmental Protection. These areas shall be designated by the posting of conspicuous signs notifying individuals of the required use of the U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices.

[Section 23-4-1(w)(2). Swimming aids.] (2) Snorkels [and face masks] are prohibited in guarded swimming areas.

Section 23-4-1 (w)(3). Swimming aids.] (3) Goggles, facemasks and flippers are permitted in swimming areas.

[Section 23-4-1(x)(1).] (u) Scuba/[] and skin diving equipment.

[(1) The use of skin diving or scuba equipment is permitted in designated areas only, subject to Section 15-135 of the General Statutes and regulations adopted thereunder and provided that not fewer than two persons shall engage in the activity at the same time in the same area.]

[Section 23-4-1(x)(2). Scuba/skin diving equipment.] [(2) No] (1) Under-water fishing devices are [permitted] prohibited in designated swimming areas.

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[Section 23-4-1(x)(3). Scuba/skin diving equipment. The use of skin diving or scuba equipment, other than flippers in designated swimming areas is prohibited.]

[Section 23-4-1 (t). Changing of Clothes. Changing of clothes in places other than those provided for such purposes is prohibited.]

[Section 23-4-1 (u)] (v) [Crockery and] Glassware.

(1) The possession or use of [crockery or] glass [containers] on the beach or in swimming areas is prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1 (v).] (w) Fireworks.

(1) The possession or use of all classes of fireworks [on] in any state park or forest [land] is prohibited except as authorized by [upon permission of] the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. Such [permission] authorization shall be in writing and subject to [Section 29-357 of] the applicable provisions of the General Statutes and regulations adopted thereunder and such conditions as the Commissioner deems necessary.

[Section 23-4-1](x)[.] Noise.

(1) No person shall cause or allow any noise which infringes on the ability of others to enjoy state park or forest property, except as authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection or the Commissioner's designee. [manager in charge.]

[Section 23-4-1](y)[.] Avoidance of fees.

(1) The avoidance of fees established in accordance with Section 23-26 of the General Statutes at the various state parks and forests is prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1(aa)(1).] (z) Buildings[/] and structures.

(1) No person shall use any building or structure for any purpose other than that for which it is designated.

[Section 23-4-1(aa)(2). Buildings/structures] (2) No person may attach any electrical extension cord to any electrical receptacle unless authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection manager in charge.

[Section 23-4-1 (bb)(1).] (aa) Public water facilities.

(1) The use of public drinking water facilities for the purpose of washing is prohibited.

[Section 23-4-1(bb)(2). Public water facilities.] (2) No person shall attach any item to a faucet without prior approval of the Department of Environmental Protection manager in charge.

[Section 23-4-1(cc).] (bb) Losses or theft.

(1) The State assumes no responsibility for the loss or theft of any article in any state park or forest.

[Section 23-4-1(dd) Rock and ice Climbing.

Rock and ice climbing are potentially dangerous sport which pose a risk of injury. All rock and ice climbers are responsible for assessing the safety of the climb for themselves and for any minor accompanying them, relative to the climber's skills, having regard to the condition of the terrain, weather and the climber's experience and equipment. The State provides no supervision, inspection or maintenance of the rocks, ice or cliffs, and State personnel are not authorized to instruct or advise climbers and are not responsible for warning of dangerous conditions. Weather conditions can make the rocks too

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hazardous to climb. Rock and ice climbers shall assure that their activity does not damage any natural resources.]

[Section 23-4-1] (cc) [.] Tents.

- (1) Full coverage tents are not permitted in day-use areas, including, but not limited to, beaches, parking lots and picnic areas.
- (2) Rigid frame (event-type) tents are not permitted to be erected on state park or forest property except as authorized in writing by the Commissioner of Department of Environmental Protection or the Commissioner's designee.

[VEHICLES - TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS.]

Section 23-4-2[(a).] Vehicles – traffic and parking regulations.

(a) Parking.

- (1) Parking of [any] vehicles shall be limited to such places and hours as [are] designated by markings, signs or postings. [The presence of an improperly parked vehicle] It shall be prima facie evidence that the registered owner of the vehicle was the operator at the time of [the] any parking violation.

[Section 23-4-2(b). Handicapped parking. Parking in a parking space designated for handicapped drivers without displaying a handicapped person's card or plate is prohibited. Unauthorized display of a handicapped person's card or plate is prohibited.]

[Section 23-4-2 (c).] (b) Speed limit.

- (1) Unless otherwise posted, the speed of any vehicle in state parks or forests shall not exceed twenty (20) miles per hour.

[Section 23-4-2 (d)] (c) Traffic signs.

- (1) No person shall operate [a], park or stand any motor vehicle in a manner contrary to any [a] traffic or parking sign.

[Section 23-4-2(e). Riding on outside of vehicles. No person shall operate any motor vehicle when any person is riding upon the running board, fender, hood, or top of such vehicle, except as provided in Section 14-257 of the General Statutes.]

[Section 23-4-2(f).] (d) Motor vehicles, use restricted.

- (1) Motor vehicles, including motorcycles and motorized bicycles, are restricted to operating on roads, parking lots, campsites and other areas [so] posted for such, except as authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection. [manager in charge.] The use of all other motorized vehicles, except motorized wheelchairs, is prohibited, except as authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection.

[Section 23-4-2 [(g).] (e) All-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles, use restricted.

- (1) No person shall use any all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile, as defined in Section 14-379 of the General Statutes on any state park or forestland except in the areas posted for the use of such vehicles.

[CAMPING REGULATIONS]

Section 23-4-3[(a)]. Camping regulations.

(a) Campground areas.

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(1) Camping is restricted to such places and times as are designated by the Department of Environmental Protection.

[Section 23-4-3](b)[(1).] Camping permit.

(1) Any person wishing to camp in a state park or forest campground area must secure a permit.

[Section 23-4-3(b)(2). Camping permit.] No camping permit shall be issued to anyone under the age of eighteen years.]

(2) A person must be eighteen years of age or older to secure a camping permit.

[Section 23-4-3(b)(3). Camping permit.] (3) The permittee [accepts responsibility for] is responsible for the campsite and the conduct of all members of the camping party [under the age of eighteen.] and all visitors to the campsite.

[Section 23-4-3(b)(4). Camping permit.] The camp stay shall extend from 1:00 P.M. on the date of arrival or date reserved until twelve noon] (4) No one shall occupy a campsite prior to check-in time or stay past check-out time of the last day covered by the permit. Equipment left on the site after the date and time of expiration of the permit will be considered abandoned.

[Section 23-4-3](c)[(1).] Camping equipment.

(1) No person shall place any vehicle, camping or other equipment on any state park or forest campsite without a permit.

[Section 23-4-3(c)(2). Camping equipment.] (2) Camping is restricted to camp trailers, tents and similar equipment except where otherwise designated by the Department of Environmental Protection manager in charge.

[Section 23-4-3(c)(3). Camping equipment.] Maximum trailer size shall be no more than eight and one-half (8 1/2) feet wide by thirty-five (35) feet long, tongue included.]

[Section 23-4-3(c)(4). Camping equipment.] (3) Any and all camping equipment on a single campsite may not occupy a total of more than four hundred (400) square feet of ground area.

(4) Any unauthorized or abandoned vehicles, camping or other equipment may be removed by any law enforcement officer of the Department of Environmental Protection or by the Department of Environmental Protection manager in charge or his or her designee. Any fees or fines incurred or costs for removal, disposal or storage of equipment shall be the responsibility of the owner of the equipment.

[Section 23-4-3](d)[.] Trespassing.

(1) No person shall trespass on the campsite of another.

[Section 23-4-3](e)[.] Transfer of permit.

(1) No person shall transfer a camping permit to another.

[Section 23-4-3.](f) Lights.

(1) All lights [of campers, other than] on a campsite, except those needed for safety, shall be extinguished by 11:00 P.M.

[Section 23-4-3.](g) Campfires.

(1) No Combustible material can be added to campfires after 11:00 P.M.

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[Section 23-4-3 (g).] (h) Quiet hours.

(1) No person shall cause or allow any noise, which disturbs the tranquility of others between the hours of 10:00 [11:00] P.M. and 7:00 A.M.

[Section 23-4-3 (h).] (i) Campground parking.

(1) The maximum number of motor vehicles allowed per campsite is two (2) unless posted otherwise.

[Section 23-4-3 (i).] (j) Campsite occupancy.

(1) The maximum number of occupants allowed per campsite is six. [Where a campsite is occupied by more than four persons, each person in excess of four shall pay an additional fee.] However, a parent or parents accompanied [only] by any number of their children under the age of eighteen may occupy a single campsite irrespective of the six-person limitation. [above and shall not have to pay an additional fee for each person in excess of four.]

[Section 23-4-3(j).] (k) Visitors.

(1) Visitors shall park in designated visitor parking areas only and shall not otherwise drive or park within the campground. Visitors are permitted to enter state park or forest campgrounds between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and sunset, and must leave the campgrounds by 10:00 P.M.

[Section 23-4-3 (k).] (l) Permit forfeiture.

(1) A permit shall be forfeited if the permittee fails to occupy the campsite within the first twenty-four (24) hour period for which the permit has been granted.

[SPECIAL REGULATIONS]

[Section 23-4-4(a). Use of Boats on Squantz Pond. No person shall use the shore of Squantz Pond within Squantz Pond State Park in the town of New Fairfield for the purposes of entering, parking, launching or landing any boat with a motor larger than seven and one-half (7-½) horsepower.]

[Eviction and Penalties]

Section 23-4-[5]4(a) (1). Eviction and penalties.

(a) Eviction.

(1) Violation of any provision of Sections 23-4-1 through 23-4-[4]3, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall be sufficient cause for eviction for a period of [not less than] twenty-four hours. [but not more than one year.]

[Section 23-4-5(a)(2). [Eviction.] No person evicted with written notice shall enter any state park or forest during the eviction period.

[Section 23-4-5 (b)(1)]. Penalties.

(1) Any person who violates any provision of Sections 23-4-1 through 23-4-[4] 3, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall have committed an infraction.

[Section 23-4-[5] 4(b)(2)(A). Penalties.] (2) Any person who violates any provision of Sections 23-4-1 to 23-4-[4] 3, inclusive, of these regulations shall pay a [fine of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00).] fine in accordance with the fee schedule established by the judges of the Superior Court of the state of Connecticut.

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[Section 23-4-5(b)(2)Penalties]. (3) Any person who enters a state park or forest during an eviction period in violation of Section 23-4-[5] 4(a) of these regulations shall pay a [fine of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).] fine in accordance with the schedule established by the judges of the Superior Court of the state of Connecticut.

Section 23-4-6. Collection of Fees at Recreational Boating Facilities. (a) A four dollar daily fee per vehicle or combination of a tow vehicle and trailer [shall] may be collected for parking on Saturdays and Sundays from the first day of April to the last day of October, inclusive, and on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day at the following boat launch facilities: 1. Bantam Lake, Morris; 2. Barn Island, Stonington; 3. Bayberry Lane, Groton; 4. Branford River, Branford; 5. Connecticut River (I-95 bridge), Old Say brook; 6. Coventry Lake, Coventry; 7. Highland Lake, Winchester; 8. Great Island, Old Lyme; 9. Connecticut River (Haddam Meadows), Haddam; 10. Housatonic River, Milford; 11. Candlewood Lake (Lattins Cove), Danbury; 12. Lake Lillinonah, Bridgewater; 13. Lake Lillinonah, Newtown; 14. Lake Zoar, Southbury; 15. Niantic River, Waterford; 16. Rainbow Reservoir, Windsor; 17. Connecticut River (Salmon River), East Haddam; 18. Saugatuck River, Westport; and 19. Thames River, New London; (b) For the purposes of this section, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day shall be as defined in Section 1-4 of the Connecticut General Statutes; (c) A ten dollar per vessel fee [shall] may be collected for each pump-out of sewage from such vessel's marine sanitation device holding tank or holding tanks at the pump-out facility on the Connecticut River in Old Lyme.

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