

CENTENNIAL GROVE REGULATIONS

(most recently revised May 2, 2016)

A. INTRODUCTION

Whereas, the Town acquired the property known as the Centennial Grove, including the playing field area known as the Field of Dreams, for the purposes of conservation, recreation, and water supply; and,

Whereas, Centennial Grove has been kept primarily in its natural state to preserve a habitat for native plants and wildlife and to protect the integrity of this valuable natural resource of the Town;

Whereas, to gain access to Centennial Grove, traffic must use narrow residential streets;

Whereas, the Town has limited resources to provide public safety, traffic control and maintenance services to this area; and

Whereas, the public has an interest in limiting the use of Centennial Grove because allowing too many users may cause environmental, watershed, and public health degradation and may overburden the Town's ability to provide public safety and maintenance services;

Now therefore, as custodians of Centennial Gove and stewards of the Town's natural resources, the Town of Essex, acting by and through its Board of Selectmen, hereby promulgates the following Centennial Grove Regulations to reserve, with limited exception, the use of the area for its own inhabitants.

B. GENERAL USE

1. Centennial Grove is open to Essex residents and their guests only, with the following exceptions:
 - a. participants and spectators associated with organized youth league sporting events at the Field of Dreams that have been permitted by arrangement with the Selectmen's Office (during the event only)
 - b. participants in organized events that have rented the Centennial Grove through the Selectmen's Office (during the event only)
 - c. camp counselors, staff, participants, and invitees associated with the YMCA Camp Dory (during camp hours only)
2. Any person not meeting an exception above, OR not outwardly and prominently displaying an official Town of Essex resident tag obtained from the Essex Town Clerk, OR not identified by a person displaying said tag that they are a guest of said person will be required to leave the property. Tags may be obtained by all Town residents, free of charge, from the office of the Essex Town Clerk at Town Hall, during normal business hours. The Town Clerk will require such proof of residency as she deems sufficient.

3. All parking at Centennial Grove (both at the Field of Dreams lot and the upper lot) is for residents with valid stickers only. Illegally-parked vehicles will be ticketed and/or towed. Parking in the upper lot is for residents with valid stickers only, at all times of the year. Exceptions to the above residents-only rules include participants and spectators associated with organized youth league sporting events at the Field of Dreams who are parked in the Field of Dreams lot (during the event only), participants in organized events that have rented the Centennial Grove (during the event only, may use either the Field of Dreams or upper lots), and camp counselors, staff and invitees of YMCA Camp Dory (during camp hours only, may use either the Field of Dreams or upper lots).
4. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in any area of Centennial Grove without a one-day Wine & Malt license issued on connection with an organized event (see Section C Rentals).
 - a. Application for a one-day Wine & Malt license for the sale and/or serving of beer and wine only may be applied for through the Essex Licensing Board. Applicants who are issued a Wine & Malt license must also hire a private duty police officer (through the Essex Police Department) for the entire time of the event and applicants and/or their caterer must provide the Town with a copy of a \$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars) certificate of insurance liability.
 - b. Applicants must apply for a one-day Entertainment license when the event is having live or recorded entertainment and charging an entrance fee.
 - c. Applications for a One-Day Wine & Malt and/or Entertainment license must be received by the Essex Licensing Board Office (Town Hall, 30 Martin Street) at least 14 days in advance of any event.
5. Groups of 20 or more must have a permit for use of the Grove facilities (see Section C. RENTALS). The Grove facilities cannot accommodate groups of 300 or more.
 - o Groups of 150 or more shall be responsible for scheduling the delivery of additional sanitary facilities for their event and are directly responsible for costs related to the rental of extra units.
6. No fires of any description shall be allowed without a permit from the Essex Fire Department. Cooking is only allowed on charcoal grills or hibachi stoves in designated areas.
7. Please note that the Town of Essex does not provide lifeguards.
 - a. INDIVIDUALS SWIM AT THEIR OWN RISK and are encouraged to hire a lifeguard at their own expense.
 - b. No boats are allowed in the swimming area and no motorized boats are allowed to land passengers at Centennial Grove.
8. Centennial Grove is open, subject to the conditions set forth herein, from sunrise to sunset.

9. DOGS ARE PROHIBITED at Centennial Grove at all times as stated in the Essex Animal Control By-Law, Section 4-16.3(d).

C. RENTALS

1. Rental of the Centennial Grove facility is based on strict compliance with the following regulations.
 - a. Applicant(s) assume full responsibility for injury to themselves or anyone in their group as well as vandalism to Town-owned property.
 - b. A certificate of insurance liability in an amount deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen naming the Town as an additional insured and a Hold Harmless Agreement signed by an authorized signatory representing the group must be submitted with application.
 - c. The Town is not responsible for loss of or damage to personal possessions.
2. The rental fee for non-resident for use of the Grove is \$400.00. The rental fee for residents of the Town of Essex (groups of 20 or more) who wish to reserve a definite date for use of the facility is \$175.00 Monday through Thursday) and \$300 Friday through Sunday. The fee, at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen, may be waived in certain instances. An additional \$50.00/\$100.00 trash removal fee will be charged except when applicants or their caterers remove all trash associated with the event. All checks are made payable to the Town of Essex and must be submitted with your application. The ball fields at the Field of Dreams and Centennial Grove Cottage are not included in a standard rental of the picnic pavilion but approval to rent the ball fields and/or cottage may be obtained from the Board of Selectmen on a case by case basis for an additional fee.
3. Applications and rental/permit fee(s) for use of Centennial Grove must be received by the Selectmen's Office at least two weeks in advance of scheduling a rental in order to guarantee the reserved date.
4. Applicants must apply for a Food Handling Permit, issued by the Essex Board of Health, when food or beverages, will be sold.

D. USE OF FIELD OF DREAMS SPORTS FIELDS

1. Organized youth sports leagues may reserve seasonal playing field dates and times through the Office of the Board of Selectmen.
2. Use of the playing fields is based on strict compliance with the following regulations.
 - a. Applicant(s) assume full responsibility for injury to themselves or anyone in their group as well as vandalism to Town-owned property.
 - b. A certificate of insurance liability in amounts deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen naming the Town as an additional insured and a Hold Harmless Agreement signed by an authorized signatory representing the group must be submitted with application.

- c. The Town is not responsible for loss of or damage to personal possessions.
3. Each league must pay to the Town a \$10 fee per participant for the season.
4. Applications and fee(s) for use of the playing fields must be received by the Selectmen's Office within at least two weeks in advance of scheduling a use in order to guarantee the reserved date.
5. Non-youth league, special rental use of the ballfields is subject to availability and only with the authorization of the Board of Selectmen. An additional charge of \$50.00 will be assessed when use of the ball fields is requested as part of a rental permit issued in accordance with Section C hereof.