

Crocker Pond Recreation Area **2024 Permit Rules & Regulation**

Updated: April 28, 2024

Permit stickers are available at the Pond during operating hours.

I. To obtain a Crocker Pond permit sticker you must:

1. Be a resident of the Town of Westminster with a verifiable address; and
2. Present a valid license and vehicle registration for each vehicle indicating Westminster address.

Any special circumstances may be addressed to the Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee.

Two permits allowed per household with valid registration for each vehicle; registered owner must present registration to obtain permit. The permit is valid for the current season only.

The permit sticker with matching license plate number must be affixed to the vehicle inside windshield lower left driver's side so as to be visible to staff upon arrival at the Crocker Pond Recreation Area.

II. Daily Guest Pass

The guest pass may be obtained at Crocker Pond. The permitted resident must accompany their guest into the facility. Guest passes must be displayed on the dashboard in plain view in both the resident and guest vehicles. Vehicles with no sticker or guest pass are subject to fines and/or towing at vehicle owner's expense. Please be aware that the permitted resident is ultimately responsible for their guest's conduct, including notifying their guest of the rules and regulations of Crocker Pond. Guests must leave when the permitted resident leaves.

III. Replacement Permits

Replacement permits will be issued upon reasonable proof of loss/theft of a permit, or if the vehicle is sold and plates transferred to a new vehicle.

IV. Misuse of Permits and Revocation of Permit

At all times, the permit shall remain the property of the Town of Westminster. The permit holder has been issued a use privilege, and agrees that the permit (privilege) may be revoked if misused. The permit holder agrees that the Town of Westminster, through the Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee, will be the final judge as to whether a permit has been misused. The following shall be considered misuse:

1. Permit registration number does not match the registration number of the vehicle to which it is affixed.
2. Permit is not permanently attached to the vehicle (Except with written permission of the CPRAC).
3. Permit has been altered, defaced, copied or made unreadable.
4. Violation of the Crocker Pond Recreation Area Rules and Regulations.
5. No longer a Town resident.

Persons whose permitted privilege has been revoked may appeal the revocation in writing to the Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee.

Disclaimer

The Crocker Pond Recreation Area is a use-at-your-own-risk town property. The Town of Westminster disclaims any and all liability for personal property loss, damage or personal injury or death arising out of the use of the Crocker Pond Recreation Area. - Use Crocker Pond at your own risk, waiving all claims to personal injury or death and/or property damage or loss to the extent permitted by law.

Crocker Pond Recreation Area Rules & Regulations 2024

GENERAL

- 1 Beach areas under the control of the Town of Westminster will be open:
 - Season opening Saturday, May 25, Sunday May 26, Monday May 27, 2024.
 - Open weekends only until school is out.
 - Open weekdays on June 13 until school is back in session August 26, 2024.
 - Open Labor Day, September 2, 2024.
 - Open weekends only for the remainder of the season until September 8, 2024.
 - Hours are 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. until the week of August 14 when they will change to 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. due to darkness.
 - Rain dates may apply. The hours/days of operation may be adjusted at the discretion of the Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee.
- 2 Fires for cooking are permitted only in charcoal grills provided. Personal charcoal grills and propane stoves may be used if placed on top of Crocker Pond grills. Do not place grills on picnic tables. Charcoal is to be properly disposed of after use in designated containers. Wood burning is not allowed. All fires must be extinguished 30 minutes prior to closing.
- 3 Smoking, vaping and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- 4 Do not litter. Carry-in carry-out policy in effect.
- 5 No person shall bring any animal, with the exception of service animals, into the beach, picnic or fishing areas.
- 6 No soliciting.
- 7 No person shall operate a snowmobile, dirt bike, all-terrain vehicle, or any other motorized land vehicle at the Crocker Pond Recreation Area.
- 8 **All children 14 and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult.**
- 9 Please leave fresh water mussels alone, they help filter the water.
- 10 Crocker Pond beach is surrounded by private property. Respectful boating and swimming is allowed in the water. The dam, berms surrounding the dam, and all islands are off limits as they are private property and do not belong to the Town of Westminster.
- 11 Severe Weather Policy: The Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee has adopted the following policy in the event of severe weather.
 - Thunder/ lightning - all guests and staff must exit the water and beach area and wait in their personal vehicles until 30 minutes have passed without any thunder/lightning.
 - During severe storm conditions or warnings, the pond and beach area may be closed at the discretion of the attendant(s) and guests may be required to evacuate the premises.
 - At the discretion of the attendant(s), boats may not be launched during severe storm conditions or warnings.

SWIMMING & BOATING

- 12 The possession of glass containers on any beach area or upon the water is prohibited.
- 13 **No inflatables. No person shall use any inner tube ring, buoy, air mattress, arm floats, or device of inflatable air cell construction, nor any plastic foam floatation device (including but not limited to boogie boards and noodles) in the waters of Crocker Pond. The prohibition on inflatable air cell apparatus includes, but is not limited to, all inflatable boats, paddle boards and rafts. A clearly labeled, serviceable Coast Guard approved personal floatation device, jacket or vest may be used as a safety aid at the Crocker Pond beach.**
- 14 Electric motors up to 5 horsepower are allowed. Gasoline engines are not allowed.
- 15 Watercraft may be launched at designated areas only. Trailers are not allowed on the beach area or in the water.
- 16 Coast Guard approved life jackets must be worn by children age 12 and under at all times while in/on a watercraft. As per Massachusetts law there must be one life jacket for each person in any watercraft in use on Crocker Pond. Watercraft include but are not limited to canoes, kayaks, wind surfers, paddleboards and approved boats. No inflatables.
- 17 Watercraft must be out of the water 30 minutes prior to closing.
- 18 Kayaks and Canoes may be stored at the Pond during the season. Owner must supply lock and chain and complete waiver form. The Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee and/or Town of Westminster are not liable for any loss or damage. See waiver form for details.

TRAIL USE

- 19 Trails designated as **hiking trails** are intended for pedestrian travel [e.g. hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing] only and shall not be utilized for any other trail activity. Dogs must be leashed at all times. The leash must not exceed 6' in length.
- 20 Trails designated as **biking or mixed-use trails** may be used for both pedestrian use and pedal biking at your own risk.
- 21 The railroad tracks run along the Crocker Pond Recreation Area property line. The railroad right of way is private property and is **off limits to everyone** using the Crocker Pond Recreation Area.

HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING

- 22 Hunting is not allowed on Crocker Pond property. Fishing and trapping are subject to all applicable General Laws and Division of Fisheries and Wildlife regulations and statutes.
- 23 No fishing within 50 feet of the designated swimming area and/or raft.