

This document contains the Connecticut regulations for State Park Entrance and Parking Fees. These regulations became effective on May 24, 2007; Fee changes are effective June 29, 2007. This document was prepared by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and is provided for the convenience of the reader. This is not the official version of the regulations. The official regulations are published by the State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch, Commission on Official Legal Publications in the Connecticut Law Journal. In the event there is inconsistency between this document and the regulations as published in the Connecticut Law Journal, the Connecticut Law Journal publication will serve as the official version.

**Section 23-26-2. Definitions.**

For the purposes of section 23-26-2 to 23-26-11, inclusive:

- (a) "Admission fee" means a fee required under section 23-26-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State agencies;
- (b) "Calendar-year pass" means the motor vehicle pass provided for in subsection (c) of section 23-26 of the Connecticut General Statutes;
- (c) "Charter Oak pass" means the lifetime pass provided for in section 23-26(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes;
- (d) "Columbus Day" means the second Monday in October;
- (e) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the Commissioner's representative;
- (f) "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection;
- (g) "Late day parking fee" means the fee required under subsection (d) of section 23-26-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies;
- (h) "Motor vehicle" means motor vehicle as defined by section 14-1 of Connecticut General Statutes [;] and as follows:
  - a. "passenger motor vehicle" has a seating capacity of 12 or fewer people,
  - b. "mini-bus" has a seating capacity of more than 12 but less than 30 people,
  - c. "bus" includes a motor bus or school bus that has a seating capacity of 30 or more people;
- (i) "Parking fee" means a fee required under section 23-26-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies;
- (j) "Person" means person as defined by subsection (c) of section 22a-2 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and
- (k) "Special use license" means "license" as defined by section 23-11 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**Section 23-26-3. Admission Fee.**

Except as otherwise provided in section 23-26-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, no person shall be admitted to:

- (a) the Dinosaur State Park exhibition building without paying the following admission fee:
  - (1) Persons under the age of six years: free
  - (2) Persons six years of age through twelve years of age: \$2.00
  - (3) Persons thirteen years of age and older: \$5.00
- (b) the Fort Trumbull State Park historic buildings and educational exhibits without paying the following admission fee:
  - (1) Persons under the age of six years: free
  - (2) Persons six years of age through twelve years of age: \$2.00
  - (3) Persons thirteen years of age and older: \$5.00
- (c) the castle at Gillette Castle State Park without paying the following admission fee:
  - (1) Persons under the age of six years: free
  - (2) Persons six years of age through twelve years of age: \$2.00
  - (3) Persons thirteen years of age and older: \$5.00

**Section 23-26-4. Heritage passport.**

- (a) A Heritage passport may be purchased at Dinosaur State Park, Fort Trumbull State Park, or Gillette Castle State Park during normal operating hours at the price of \$50 for a family of 2 adults and up to 4 children.
- (b) A family who has purchased a Heritage passport shall, from the date of such purchase until the end of that calendar year, be admitted without payment of an admission fee to the following facilities:
  - (1) Dinosaur State Park exhibition building
  - (2) Fort Trumbull State Park historic buildings and educational exhibits
  - (3) The castle at Gillette Castle State Park

**Section 23-26-5. Day Use Parking fees.**

- (a) No person shall enter Pataconk Lake Recreation Area in a motor vehicle, other than a bus, before 4:00 p.m. on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday without paying the following parking fee:
  - (1) Vehicle with Connecticut license plates - \$7.00
  - (2) Vehicle with out of state license plates - \$10.00
- (b) No person shall enter Gardner Lake State Park in a motor vehicle other than a bus, without paying the following parking fee:
  - (1) Before 4 p.m. on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday:
    - (A) Vehicle with Connecticut license plates - \$7.00
    - (B) Vehicle with out of state license plates - \$10.00
  - (2) Before 4 p.m. Monday through Friday:
    - (A) Vehicle with Connecticut license plates – \$5.00
    - (B) Vehicle with out of state license plates – \$7.00
- (c) With the exception of boat launches, at any state park or other recreational facility at which a parking fee is in effect on the effective date of this section, a person entering in a motor vehicle, other than a bus, shall pay the following fees:
  - (1) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$6, the new fee shall be \$5;
  - (2) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$7, it shall remain at \$7;
  - (3) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$9, the new fee shall be \$10;
  - (4) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$10, it shall remain at \$10;
  - (5) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$14, the new fee shall be \$15.
- (d) With the exception of boat launches, at any state park or other recreational facility at which a parking fee is in effect on the effective date of this section, a person entering in a motor vehicle, other than a bus, after 4:00 p.m. but before 6:30 p.m. shall pay the following fee, to be called the “late day parking fee”:
  - (1) The late day fee shall be \$5.00 at all salt water beach facilities, Harkness Memorial State Park and Squantz Pond State Park;
  - (2) The late day fee shall be \$4.00 at all other inland parks.
- (e) At any existing state park facility where fees are not currently charged or at any new state park facility, the Commissioner may charge parking fees consistent with charges authorized pursuant to this section.

**Section 23-26-6. Parking fees for buses.**

- (a) A bus shall not enter any state park or other recreational facility without presenting a bus permit obtained from the State Parks Division and paying the following parking fee:
  - (1) For a trip originating in Connecticut: \$75.00 per bus
  - (2) For a trip originating out-of-state: \$100.00 per bus
- (b) A mini-bus does not need to obtain a bus permit from the State Parks Division but shall not enter any state park or other recreation facility without paying the following parking fee at the ticket booth:
  - (1) Mini-bus with Connecticut license plates: \$25.00
  - (2) Mini-bus with out-of-state license plates: \$40.00

**Section 23-26-7. Calendar year pass.**

- (a) A Connecticut resident may purchase a calendar year pass that will cover the required parking fee at any state park, boat launch, or other recreational facility if the person affixes said pass on the windshield of the person’s passenger vehicle. On the effective date of this regulation that fee will increase from \$40 to \$50 for the calendar year.
- (b) On the effective date of this regulation, the Commissioner may offer, and an out-of-state resident may purchase, a non-resident calendar year pass for a fee of \$75, that will cover the required parking fee at any state park, boat launch, or other recreational facility if the person affixes said pass on the windshield of the person’s passenger vehicle.

**Section 23-26-8. Special use license permit.**

- (a) The application fee for a special use license permit to be issued to a non-profit organization, that is eligible for or complies with section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, shall be \$25. The permit would allow the said non-profit organization to conduct a single event subject to the conditions enumerated in the permit.
- (b) The application fee for a special use license permit to be issued to a for-profit organization or company shall be \$500. The permit would allow said for-profit organization to conduct a single event subject to the conditions enumerated in the permit.

**Section 23-26-9. Charter Oak Pass.**

Any person to whom the Commissioner has issued a Charter Oak Pass shall not be required to pay a parking fee at any state park, boat launch, or other recreational facility if the person presents such pass at such facility.

**Section 23-26-10. Special Tours.**

- (a) Special tours may be conducted of the castle at Gillette Castle State Park during the regular park season. Such tours would commence following the conclusion of the last tour of the day and would be more extensive in presentation and coverage than the tours provided under the normal admission fee.
- (b) A fee, not to exceed \$20, would be charged per person.
- (c) Tours would be by reservation only and subject to the availability of park staff.

**Section 23-26-11. Tourism Initiatives.**

The Commissioner may, when participating in a statewide tourism initiative in consultation with the CT commission on Culture and Tourism, discount or waive admission to DEP facilities where a fee is charged.