



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

POLICY & PROCEDURE

FACILITY RESERVATION

FOR BEACHES

I PURPOSE

To outline the criteria and procedures required of all organizations (internal & external) for an event/use of City of Worcester Beaches under the management and control of the Department of Public Works and Parks; Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division.

II POLICY

- 1) This policy shall cover Beaches under the jurisdiction of the City of Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks; Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division.
- 2) The use of these facilities needs to have a set policy approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- 3) Permits for event/use of Bell Pond Beach, Coes Pond Beach, Indian Lake Beach, Shore Park Beach and any other facility that opens after approval of this policy must be requested from the Department of Public Works and Parks; Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division. This application must be submitted, reviewed by the Department and approved by the Department.
- 4) Based on Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) c. 11, & 127A ½, commonly referred to as “Christian Law” which requires all municipal, recreational programs, and licensed camps to determine each participating minor’s swimming ability, prior to or at the first swimming session, in order to identify and classify non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers, and properly fitting PFDs are available to all minors engaged in swimming activities within areas classified for non-swimmers, then swim test are not required. It is the responsibility of the visiting municipal program, recreation program, or licensed camp “provider” to meet the minimum requirements of “Christian Law” when visiting any City of Worcester lake or pond designated by the City of Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks; Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Division as a recreational swimming area.

- 5) The Department of Public Works and Parks; Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division shall determine if size, fee structure or use of requested facility requires submission of said event to the Parks & Recreation Commission. The applicant shall be responsible to attend said Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to address any and all concerns of the Department and Commission if necessary.
- 6) The Parks & Recreation Commission and the Department of Public Works and Parks, Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division, shall recommend modifications for said request based on public comment for inclusion in the final permit.

III PROCEDURE

1. Individuals/groups/organizations or users shall follow all of the Rules & Regulations of the Department of Public Works and Parks, Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division as stated within the Permit Application with a specific adherence to Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) c. 11, & 127A ½, commonly referred to as “Christian Law”
2. All events/uses shall be in compliance with the City’s Human Rights Commission’s Policy Statement (See Attached).
3. Applicants shall complete as required by the Department all necessary sections of said permit.
4. The Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks; Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division will provide no guarantee of event/use approval until all necessary paper work (as required by the Department) is completed and approved.
5. The Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks; Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division reserves the right to require changes & additional submissions for any event/use.
6. The Commissioner or his/her designee of the Department of Public Works and Parks, Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division shall ensure this policy is adhered to. He / She shall have final approval of all events/uses.
7. This policy/procedure may be amended by a majority vote of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Parks and Recreation Commission Approval Record

1. This policy was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission on 6-15-17 and approved 5-0 on 6-15-17.
2. This policy was reviewed, updated, and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 19, 2023, with a vote of 5-0.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Worcester does not discriminate in its programs and activities based on age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to: Human Resources, City Hall Room 109,

(508) 799-1030, EEOAA@worcesterma.gov

