

Great American Boom 2026 - FAQ

What is the Great American Boom?

- The Great American Boom is the City of New Britain's celebration of Independence Day and America's 250th Anniversary. This free, family-friendly event will take place at Walnut Hill Park and features live entertainment, food trucks, family activities, a Kid Zone, and a spectacular fireworks display to close out the evening.

When is the Great American Boom?

- The Great American Boom will take place on Saturday, July 4, 2026, at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain.

What time is the event?

- The festival runs from 3:00pm to 9:00pm, with fireworks beginning at approximately 9:15pm.

Is there an admission fee?

- No. Admission to the Great American Boom is completely FREE to attend.

Where is the event located?

- The Great American Boom will be held at Walnut Hill Park.

When do the fireworks begin?

- The fireworks display is scheduled to begin at approximately 9:15pm.

Is alcohol permitted in the park?

- **NO.** Per Sec. 174 of City of New Britain ordinances, alcoholic beverages shall not be consumed in parks. Anyone found possessing or consuming alcohol may be subject to removal from the event.

Can I bring my own cooler?

- Small coolers containing non-alcoholic beverages and snacks are permitted. Glass containers and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

How much are amusement wristbands?

- Youth amusement wristbands are available for \$10 and provide access to attractions.

What activities will be available?

The Great American Boom features:

- Live entertainment
- Food trucks
- Amusements
- Rock wall
- Bungee jump
- Laser tag
- Face painting
- Roller skating

- Micro car derby racing
- Fireworks display

What is the live music entertainment schedule?

- New Britain Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet 3pm
- Soul Sound Revue 5pm
- Latanya Farrell 7pm

Where will the live music take place?

- All live music performances will take place at the Darius Miller Band Shell in Walnut Hill Park. The Bandshell will feature live entertainment throughout the evening leading up to the fireworks display.

Will food be available?

- Yes. Multiple food trucks will be on-site throughout the event offering a variety of food and refreshments for purchase.

Who can roller skate?

- Roller skating is FREE during the event and is open to everyone! Skates will be available on-site. Availability may be limited, so participants may be asked to wait for skates during busy periods.

Where can I park?

- Parking is available in City parking garages, including:
 - Badolato Garage (walking distance to the park) - 25 Washington St, New Britain, CT
 - Szczesny Garage (walking distance to the park) - 35 Bank St, New Britain, CT
 - Blogoslawski Garage - 14 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT

Is shuttle service available?

- Yes. Complimentary shuttle service will be available from:
 - Blogoslawski Garage - 14 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT

Where do shuttle buses pick up passengers?

- Shuttles from the Blogoslawski Garage will pick up passengers on Pearl Street.

Where will the shuttle drop me off?

- Shuttle buses will drop passengers off near the corner of Linwood Street and Grand Street, a short walk from the festival grounds.

When will road closures begin?

- Walnut Hill Park walking loop will be closed beginning at 7am. Hard shutdown will begin at 1p. Traffic restrictions around the park begin during the morning.

What should I expect after the fireworks?

- A large number of vehicles and pedestrians will be leaving the area at the same time. Please be patient, follow traffic directions, and allow extra time when exiting parking lots and garages.

Is handicap parking available?

- Accessible parking will be available on Linwood St. Follow event signage and directions.

Can I bring a lawn chair or blanket?

- Absolutely! Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the entertainment and fireworks.

Can I stake items into the ground?

- No. Staking any items into the ground is not permitted anywhere in the park. If you need to secure belongings, please use weights or sandbags.

Can I bring my own food?

- Yes! Feel free to pack a picnic and bring a small cooler to enjoy during the event. Please note that grilling, open flames and on-site cooking are not permitted in the park.

Can I bring my own fireworks or sparklers?

- No. Personal fireworks, sparklers, and other pyrotechnics are not permitted.

Are pets allowed?

- No. Pets are not permitted. For the safety and comfort of your animals, we ask that you leave pets at home. Fireworks displays can be overwhelming and frightening for pets, increasing the risk of stress, injury or becoming lost.

What items are prohibited?

- For the safety of all attendees, the following items are prohibited:
 - Alcoholic beverages
 - Glass containers
 - Fireworks or sparklers
 - Weapons of any kind
 - Illegal substances

What happens if it rains?

- The Great American Boom is scheduled for Saturday, July 4, 2026. Any weather-related updates will be posted on the City of New Britain's website and social media channels. The rain date is scheduled for Sunday July 5th.

Who are the sponsors for the event?

- Tomasso Group, Community Foundation of Great New Britain, Greater New Britain-Berlin Chamber of Commerce, Hospital of Central Connecticut, Bonavita Luxury & Portable Toilets, Capitol Lunch and Spring Brook Ice and Fuel Services.

Who can I contact with questions?

- For additional information, please contact the New Britain Recreation and Community Services Department at (860) 826-3360 or visit [NewBritainRec.com](https://www.newbritainrec.com).