SUFFIELD COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Parks & Recreation | Senior Center | Mini-Bus Transportation | Youth Services

Babb's Beach Lakefront Access, Parking, and Use Policy
Suffield Parks & Recreation Department
Effective Date: July 8, 2026

Purpose

The purpose of the update to the Babb's Beach gate fee policy is to help preserve a safe, clean, and family-friendly environment for Suffield residents and visitors. In recent years, increasing use of the beach has contributed to a number of ongoing issues, including violations of park rules such as marijuana use, trespassing across neighboring private properties to access the beach, parking/entering on/of private property, and littering on the beach and throughout the surrounding residential neighborhood, including discarded diapers and other refuse. These activities diminish the quality of the park experience, create additional maintenance and enforcement demands, and negatively impact beach patrons, staff, and nearby residents. Updating the gate fee policy is intended to better manage beach use, encourage responsible visitation, and protect Babb's Beach as a welcoming community resource for families.

1. General Access Rules

- **Seasonal Hours**: Open 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM daily, weather permitting. Hours subject to change. Check www.suffieldrec.com for complete seasonal dates and times.
- **Resident Access**: Suffield residents with valid park stickers (obtained at Town Hall/Town Clerk/Sunrise Park) enter free of charge. Proof of residency is required.
- **Non-Resident Access**: **$40 per vehicle** (up to 5 people. $5/person after fifth) or as updated by fee schedule. Additional fees apply for larger groups. This fee aligns with other facilities in CT and MA, and is adjusted from the original fee established in 2017. Non-residents must pay on-line at the time of reservation.
- **Non-resident members of Citizens Restoring Congamond and Windsor Locks residents must make a reservation by email, recreation@suffieldct.gov or calling Parks & Recreation at (860) 668-3862.**
- **Capacity Management**: Advanced reservation for non-residents (must be made no less than 24 hours in advance) and payment will be required at time of reservation. These are both done online at www.suffieldrec.com or in-person at the Parks & Recreation office at: 145 Bridge Street, Suffield, CT. Reservations for residents are recommended.
    - Proof of Payment and Reservation will be required to enter the facility.
    - All those entering the facility will be issued numerical entry bracelets.
    - Daily capacity limits will be enforced.
- **Walk-Ins**: All entrants, including pedestrians, will need proof of residency.
- **Resident Walk-In Pedestrian Access:** The entry fee is waived for the Suffield resident and up to five (5) guests at time of entry.
- **Non-Resident Walk-In Pedestrian Access: $20 per person aged 12 - 59 years. Seniors (60+) and children aged 5-11 years are $5 per person. Ages 4 & under are no charge.**

2. Parking Regulations

- **Primary Parking**: All beach visitors are required to use the main parking lot at Babb's Beach. Parking is permitted only in designated areas. All vehicles must vacate the lot prior to closing time.
- **Remote Public Lot (approx. ¼ mile away at Babb's Field)**: This lot **is not authorized for Babb's Beach access**. Vehicles parked there for the purpose of accessing the beach are subject to ticketing, towing at the owner's expense. The lot will have limited hours and a parking time limit during beach season.
- **Street Parking**: No parking on residential streets adjacent to the beach/park during beach (May–October) except for vehicles displaying valid Suffield resident permits. "No Parking" zones may be enforced with towing, at the owners expense.
- **Enforcement**: Police and Parks staff will actively patrol. Improperly parked vehicles may be ticketed and/or towed.

2. Trespassing and Private Property Protection

- Visitors must use only the main entrance. Crossing private property to access the beach or park is prohibited and may be treated as trespassing.
- Do not park on private property for beach access.
- Unauthorized shortcuts or informal paths from streets or the remote lot will be blocked or signed as closed.

3. Use and Conduct Rules

- **Prohibited Activities**: No alcohol, drugs, smoking, glass containers, open fires/grills (except designated areas), large parties, or disruptive behavior. **No tents** are allowed on the property. No inflatables or unauthorized flotation devices in swim areas. Pack out all trash.
- **Groups**: Non-resident groups larger than ten (10) require prior approval and additional fees. Contact Parks & Recreation at: recreation@suffieldct.gov or (860) 668-3862.
- **Animals and Watercraft**: There are no pets or watercraft (no beaching boats, jetskis, etc…) allowed on the beach.
- **Safety**: Swim only in designated areas. Follow all posted rules and staff instructions.

4. Enforcement and Penalties

- Violations of access, parking, or conduct rules may result in:
    - Immediate removal from the premises.
    - Fines, towing fees, and/or loss of privileges.
    - Criminal charges (e.g., trespassing, littering).
    -

6. Fees and Revenue

All non-resident fees support maintenance, staffing, cleanup, and improvements at Babb's Beach. Fee amounts and structures are set by the Town of Suffield and may be adjusted at any time.
This policy may be updated as needed to address changing conditions.

S:\ParksRec_General\Babbs