



# WESTPORT CONNECTICUT


## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

LONGSHORE CLUB PARK

260 SOUTH COMPO ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880

(203) 341-5090

MEMO TO: Town of Weston Board of Selectmen

MEMO FROM: Jennifer A. Fava, Westport Director of Parks and Recreation 

CC: James S. Marpe, Westport First Selectman

DATE: January 29, 2018

RE: **Compo Beach Emblem Fee Increases**

As requested by Weston Town Administrator, Jonathan Luiz, this memo serves to provide some background information regarding the fee increases for Compo Beach parking emblems.

The 2017 summer season at Compo Beach produced a wide range of concerns that have been voiced over many months from the residents of Westport. These concerns include traffic, parking, overcrowding, poor behavior of beach users and the upkeep and cleanliness of the facility.

The Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Commission have been working diligently to address our residents' concerns in an effort to make the 2018 summer season one that is more enjoyable for all of those who use our beach. As part of this comprehensive review of the beach operation, the department has made a number of recommendations which have been reviewed and approved by the Commission, and where necessary, also by the Board of Selectmen. A number of those recommendations will require extra expense, which, in turn, need to be offset by an increase in fee revenue. This resulted in an adjustment to all of our parking related fees.

As taxpayers to the Town of Westport, Westport resident fees were increased at a lower rate than those who do not pay taxes to Westport. Although Weston residents are not taxpayers to the Town of Westport, Weston residents still pay significantly less than other non-residents for their seasonal emblems. Moreover, we do not limit the number of seasonal emblems that can be purchased by Weston residents. Any other non-Westport resident, pays a fee of \$775 per emblem and those emblems are limited to a maximum of 350 sold for the upcoming season. Therefore, not only are Weston emblems not limited in the number sold in any way, but at a rate of \$375, Weston residents receive a discount of \$400 and at \$200, Weston seniors receive a \$575 discount from the non-resident rate.

Below is a breakdown of what has transpired so far and additional details on how these concerns are being addressed:

Concern	Solution
Overcrowding of the beach and parking lots	Create designated daily parking area limited to 100 vehicles
	Change daily pass to be single entry only
	Reduce maximum number of non-resident beach emblems sold from 600 to 350
	Designate on-street parking on Hillspoint Road, between Compo Hill Ave. and vicinity of 246 Hillspoint Road to be beach emblem parking only May 1 – September 30 (to be presented to Traffic Authority for approval)
Beach rules and regulations and their enforcement	Modification to the “Rules and Regulations Governing the use of Municipal Beaches, Yacht Basins, Longshore Club Park, Park Areas and Recreation Facilities” (approved by BOS at January 10, 2018 meeting)
	Incorporate Police presence for safety and enforcement purposes
Cleanliness of beach, grounds and restrooms	Add more trash cans along the beaches
	Additional staffing for facility oversight and “clean-up crew”
	Additional cleaning service staff on weekends for restrooms

As you can understand, there is an additional cost to the Town of Westport to put into effect the expanded services necessary to implement these solutions. The additional staffing, additional cleaning service for the restrooms, and a police presence to help educate users of the rules, while also enforcing them, takes funding levels above what has been budgeted in the past.

These additional costs have been estimated at approximately \$200,000, the recovery of which has been spread across all of our beach fees. The portion of the increase added to beach emblem fees was increased based on the current proportions throughout our emblem fee rates.

As the majority of the beach rates have not been increased since prior to the 2015 season, please note that even without the additional \$200,000 needed to fund these expanded services, an increase was already intended for the 2018 season as minimum wage has increased since 2015, which effects our operating cost at the beach.

The table below outlines the respective fees:

ITEM	2017	2018
<b>BEACH EMBLEMS</b>		
Resident – Parking	\$40	\$50
Resident – Senior/Handicapped	\$20	\$25
Non-Resident	\$490	\$775
Resident Vehicle Not Taxed In Westport	\$225	\$285
Resident Senior Vehicle Not Taxed In Westport	\$115	\$145
Care Giver Beach Access	\$250	\$315
Care Giver Combo	\$330	\$415
Resident Handicapped Vehicle Not Taxed In Westport	\$115	\$145
Weston Resident	\$250	\$375
Weston Senior	\$135	\$200
Vehicle Not Taxed In Weston	\$490	\$775
<b>DAILY PASS</b>		
Weekday	\$30	\$40
Weekend	\$50	\$65

Additionally, for many years, the Weston Town Clerk’s Office has been responsible for issuing approximately 40% of Weston emblems. It has recently come to our attention that the issuing of Compo Beach permits has caused their own work to be deferred during peak summer hours. So that we no longer impose upon the Town Clerk’s Office, the Town of Westport Parks and Recreation Department will take over the issuing of all beach emblems. While Weston residents are welcome to come to our office, it is not necessary as they can continue to purchase their emblems online, or by mail through the Westport Parks and Recreation office, which also accepts credit cards for our customers’ convenience.

We look forward to making the 2018 summer season at Compo Beach more enjoyable for all of our users.