



TOWN OF ACTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT
472 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720
(978) 929-6640
www.acton-ma.gov/recreation



Frequently Asked Questions about NARA Park

1. Do I have to pay to enter the park?

The park does not charge fees for general admittance or for parking. During the summer season, the park does charge fees for beach use and boat rentals.

2. Are dogs allowed at the park?

Yes, however dogs are not allowed on the beach and all dogs must be leashed at all times.

The following are the Town of Acton Bylaws Relating to Animal Control:

E22. No person shall own or keep a dog, six months or older, within the Town unless a license for such dog is obtained from the Town Clerk. The license period is the time frame between January 1st and the following December 31st, inclusive. The fee for such a license will be determined by the Board of Selectmen in a public meeting.

E23. Any person who is the owner or keeper of a dog in the Town of Acton and who fails to license said dog within the time required by Chapter 140, Section 137 and 137A of the General Laws shall be subject to a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to be collected as provided by law.

E24. No person owning or keeping any animal in the Town of Acton shall permit the animal to go at large to the injury or nuisance of others. In addition, a dog should not go outside the boundaries of the property of its owner or keeper unless under the complete and effective control of said owner or keeper by means of a leash or otherwise.

E25. Owners or keepers of animals in violation of the foregoing section shall be subject to fines which shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen.

3. Can I just go to NARA Park and have an outing?

NARA Park Picnic Areas and Bathhouse Pavilion are generally rented out during peak hours and peak season and most weekends. Enforcement of permits is handled by the Recreation Dept and NARA Park staff. We encourage you to have a permit to secure the picnic/field location for your outing. A group of people is considered more than 6 people. Users who do not have a permit can be asked to leave and must vacate picnic areas if the area has been permitted. For a Field and Facility Permit Application and Fee Schedule, please visit www.acton-ma.gov/recreation and click on the Fields and Facilities link.

4. What is the Water quality at NARA Pond? Is it tested?

State regulations require that public swimming areas be tested periodically for acceptable levels of E. coli bacteria, to protect the health of the bathing public. NARA pond is a freshwater ecosystem that supports fish, turtles, frogs and other forms of life. Testing is performed by the Acton Board of Health on a weekly basis and a water sample is sent to a lab with results made available in 24 hours. Bacteria testing requires this incubation period. A result that exceeds 235 ppm will trigger the closing of the beach to swimmers, until follow up testing, which will be performed daily, shows a reduction to acceptable bacteria levels. It should be noted that beach closings at NARA are not a frequent event. Please contact the Board of Health if you would like additional information at 978-929-6632.

5. What is the walking perimeter of the NARA Park interior pathway?

The pathway around the entire Park is approximately 1 mile. The pathway around just the pond is approximately a ½ mile. During the winter, it may/may not be maintained due to other town snow removal priorities.

6. Is the walking path plowed in winter?

During the winter, the path may or may not be maintained due to other town snow removal priorities.

7. Is there SLEDDING and/or ICE SKATING at NARA Park?

Sledding: Sledding is at your own risk. It is recommended that any sledding that takes place, be done on the hill towards the fields. We ask that you please refrain from sledding towards the amphitheater or the pond and to not build sled ramps.

Skating: Skating is at your own risk. The pond at NARA Park is a natural pond and therefore we do not recommend skating on it or any open outdoor pond or lake. We advise skaters to use indoor or outdoor man-made rinks.