

## Chapter 134

### PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PUBLIC LANDS

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**[HISTORY. Adopted by the Board of Selectmen 4-2-19. Amendments noted where applicable.]**

**Article I  
Rules and Regulations**

**§ 134-1. Purpose.**

This chapter is enacted to establish rules and regulations of the parks, recreational facilities and public lands owned by the Town of Bow.

**§ 134-3. Definitions. [Amended 10-26-21 by Ord. No. 21-06]**

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**PERMIT:** Any written license issued by or under the issuing authority, permitting the performance of a specified act or acts.

**PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PUBLIC LANDS:** Any lands situated in the Town now owned, or hereafter acquired, under the jurisdiction of the Town, or any lands so designated. These facilities include, but are not limited to, Hanson Memorial Recreation Area, Sargent Park, Town Gazebo, Nottingcook Forest, Hammond Nature Preserve, Community Center property, Bow Town Pond and Farrington Corner Recreational Trail.

**§ 134-4. Hours for use.**

Public lands and parks owned by the Town shall be open for use by the Town's residents and others desiring to use the lands and parks between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**§ 134-5. Permit required for use after hours.**

A permit will be necessary for use of parks and public lands during hours other than as established herein. Such permit or permits authorizing such use or uses of the public lands or parks shall be granted in writing by the Board of Selectmen. All conditions of the permit approved must be adhered to, and any falsifications or violation of the terms and conditions or rules and regulations shall constitute grounds for its revocation by the Board of Selectmen.

**§ 134-6. Misuse of facilities.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to deface, destroy or remove any sign, fence or other structure or any living plant material, or cut and/or remove trees, shrubs, wetland plants and grasses, or remove or disturb the soil. Forest and land management practices as instituted by the Board of Selectmen are excluded.

**§ 134-7. Littering.**

No person shall commit, permit, or allow the dumping, placing or dropping of any trash, bottles, cans, or any other type of refuse except in a proper receptacle furnished by the Town.

**§ 134-8. Firearms use.**

All State of New Hampshire hunting and firearms statutes and regulations must be followed.

**§ 134-9. Operation of motor vehicles.**

- A. No person shall operate any motor vehicle, with the exception of Town maintenance work, or grooming equipment in any part of the Town parks and public land except on roadways or snow trails established expressly for the operation of motor vehicles and designated as such by the Board of Selectmen.
- B. No person shall park or be permitted to park any vehicle in any area of a public land or park except those specifically designated for parking.

**§ 134-10. Dogs running at large.**

The Bow Annual Town Meeting adopted the provisions of RSA 466:30-a, Dog Control Law, on 3/14/87. See Chapter 44 Animals, Code of the Town of Bow, for these regulations.

**§ 134-11. Violations and penalties.**

Any violation of any provisions of this Chapter shall result in a fine of no less than \$25.00 and not more than \$500.00.

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**Article II**

**Athletic Fields Use Policy**

**§ 134-12. Purpose.**

This article contains the policies and procedures for the rental of recreational facilities and parks within the Town of Bow. The purpose of this policy is to assure that usage, access, and distribution of all recreational sites are in accordance with Town regulations. The primary use of Bow recreation facilities and parks is for resident recreation activities. Town facilities may be made available for additional activities if available and if not in conflict with proper maintenance of the facility or other community use.

**§ 134-13. Priority of use by category; permit application and issuance.**

A. Permits for field/facility use are issued by the category in which the organization or event is placed. The Parks and Recreation Department shall be responsible for assigning the use of the Hanson Memorial Recreation Area athletic fields (Gergler, Goodwin, Gordon and Gosling), Sargent Park athletic field, and the Knox Road Field, based on the following priority order:

- (1) Group I: Bow Parks and Recreation sponsored activities. These activities include programs run by the Recreation and Parks Department, such as day camps, after-school programs, day programs, special events and seasonal sporting activities.
- (2) Group II: Designated Bow youth sports organizations. These groups are independent organizations that have been established to serve the recreational interests of the participants.
- (3) Group III: Bow School District activities
- (4) Group IV: Non-profit youth and adult athletic programs with at least 50% Bow resident participation.
- (5) Group V: Non-profit youth and adult athletic programs with less than 50% Bow resident participation
- (6) Group VI. Private groups who request the use of facilities on an occasional basis when space is available.

B. Applications for all field usage shall be on a form approved by the Town Manager. Applicants must submit completed Application, Certificate of Liability Insurance and any necessary fees to the Bow Parks and Recreation Department. Fees and charges for field usage are found in Chapter 124, Fee Schedule, of this Code. Permits and forms will be signed by Bow Parks and Recreation Director and kept on file at the Parks and Recreation Department.

- C. Renters must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and a person at least twenty-one (21) years of age must supervise events during the time of use.
- D. Upon issuance of a permit, the holder, or agents of the holder of any permit, shall be liable for any and all damages done to the park facilities during the times the permit is in effect.

**§ 134-14. Special events.**

Permits are required for special events to reserve a facility or area. The Town Manager and/or his/her designee shall be authorized to issue use permits. No permit is required for any event sponsored and sanctioned by the Board of Selectmen.

**§ 134-15. Restrictions.**

- A. All private groups, businesses or organizations that charge fees and/or earn a profit are not allowed usage unless the Board of Selectmen grants an exception to the policy approving the rental request and assesses the rental fees.
- B. No for-profit vendors are allowed on Town owned or leased property to sell goods such as food, souvenirs and any other items for sale, unless permission is received from the Board of Selectmen.

**§ 134-16. Permit revocation.**

Violation of any law, ordinance, rule, regulation, or permit conditions by the holder, or agent of the holder of any permit, shall constitute grounds for revocation. The Town Manager or his/her designee shall have authority to revoke a permit. Appeal of a denial or revocation may be made to the Board of Selectmen.

**Article III**  
**Bow Town Pond**

**§ 134-17. Bow Town Pond rules and regulations.**

In addition to the rules and regulations set forth in Article I of this chapter, the following rules and regulations shall apply to Bow Town Pond:

- A. Swimming in the Bow Town Pond is prohibited at all times.
- B. No one may use any type of watercraft or flotation device on or in Bow Town Pond at any time. Exceptions to this prohibition include emergency services of any type which may be present for training or in response to a call; employees of the Town of Bow as necessary for the performance of their official duties; and any radio-controlled toy boat or other similar toy.

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- C. Fishing in the Bow Town Pond is reserved for persons who are under the age of fourteen (14). All fish taken shall be immediately removed from the hook and returned to the Pond. Nothing in this provision shall be construed as preventing a person who is prohibited from fishing to assist or instruct a person who is legally fishing, provided that only the person who is legally fishing possesses fishing equipment.
- D. Ice skating. The Town Manager or his/her designee will post the designated skating area on the Pond as open or closed for use. The skating area shall be declared open only when there is eight (8) inches or more of ice. All persons who venture onto the ice for skating or for other on-ice activities do so at their own risk.