

## Frequently Asked Questions

An updated Veterans Memorial Beach structure was vetted for months before Selectmen approval. We understand there may be some confusion surrounding the changes. The Sharon Recreation Department would like to provide some clarification for you:

**My rates have considerably increased.**

We try to keep rates at an affordable level, while provide a great service each year. Here is a chart that better explains changes in the rates compared to last season.

	2016	2017
<b>Youth</b>	Free	Free ages 4& under Ages 5-17: \$16 per season
<b>Adult</b>	\$19 per season	\$20 per season
<b>Reduced (Ages 62+ or Handicap)</b>	Adult: \$67 per car  Senior: \$34 per car	Adult: \$35 per car AND must have individual passes Senior: \$25 per car AND must have individual passes

**My tax payer dollars pay for access to the beach. Why must I pay for tags?**

The fees charged for access to the lake are to off-set the direct operating costs; staffing, upkeep, etc. The goal is to charge residents a fair rate which allows the lake to operate at a break-even level.

**Will residents get a sticker or a tag?**

A survey was conducted on the Sharon Recreation Department two weeks ago, and residents preferred tags rather than stickers. Therefore, we will be providing tags this year. Please note the tag is non-transferrable and allows entry to the corresponding license plate.

**Are lifeguards even needed?**

Did you know last year, the lifeguards jumped into action and successfully rescued three guests? In addition to their guard duties, they clean both the restrooms and the general area for trash and debris left behind by visitors, and most importantly, keep the beach safe as supervising open water is a difficult task. All our lifeguards are certified by either the American Red Cross or YMCA, which is additional certification which they must seek and pay for, out of pocket.

**Why are lifeguards and gate attendants paid so much?**

Did you know for the last three seasons there is a shortage of lifeguards in the state of Massachusetts? As of January 2017, minimum wage has increased to \$11 per hour and we feel our staff should be fairly compensated for the efforts and to maintain the proper level of training.

**I travel much of the summer. Do I have to purchase a season pass?**

No, a daily fee is offered this year for those who want to periodically visit the lake. The date of the receipt issued must be submitted on the day of admission. Families can purchase on their phone, right at the gate, or print off their receipt from their home computer and show it to the gate attendant.