

MAY 2021

SOMERS REC CONNECT



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Somers Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life of our residents and strengthen the bonds of community by offering diverse and affordable recreational and cultural programs in welcoming and safe parks and recreation facilities. We strive to make fitness, health and wellness a priority for people of all ages. We aim to create a happy and healthy community where residents come together to play, learn and live.

Somers Recreation Contacts

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Somers Recreation

****NOTE****

Current COVID-19 Guidelines will be followed in all of our programs.

Programs may be cancelled and rules and guidelines may be changed with little to no notice.

PROGRAMS AND CAMPS

Saturdays Unplugged

We could all use some time to unplug and recharge. There are many benefits to unplugging for just 24 hours... you might find you are more relaxed and happier, you'll sleep better and your thoughts may become clearer. For the month of May, why not continue to unplug? Just one day a week. Go for a walk. Play a new game. Take up a new hobby. Read a book. Listen to a podcast. The ideas are endless! Let's do this, Somers!!

"There is no Wi-Fi in the forest, but I promise you will find a better connection." -Unknown

Summer Day Camp... is only 8-weeks away!!

Don't miss out on 8-weeks of Summer Camp FUN!! Camp will run from June 28th-August 20th, Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:00 p.m. at Field Road Park. Carley Bergamini is our Director of Camp and Sophia Carenzo is our new Assistant Director. Our Camp Counselors include Sam Alaimo, Celia Bruel, Amelia Carenzo, Justin Donohue, Giovanna Gioscia, Samantha Hansen, Danielle Hoague, Derek Hostetler, Aiden Miller, Alyssa Milliken, Emily Renzoni, Emily Reynolds, Gabby Tullock and Khadija Williams!!

Our themes for the summer are Crazy Days, Nature Week, Camp Olympics, Animal Week, Science Week, We've Got Talent, Super Hero Week and Carnival Week. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Our maximum capacity is 50 campers for each week so be sure to register early! We don't want you to miss out on all of the fun activities we have planned for you!!

A message from our Camp Director, Carley...

Hi everyone! My name is Carley Bergamini, and I am so excited to be returning as Director of Somers Day Camp this summer! I have lived in Somers since I was 6 years old, and this will be my fifth year working with the Somers Day Camp. I am so excited to see some returning faces, as well as meet new friends this summer! I am about to enter my senior year at Southern Connecticut State University, where I am studying elementary and special education. One day, I hope to become a first or second grade teacher! I love to play soccer, dance, and go to the beach. I love to watch football (Go Green Bay!) and I love anything Disney! Summer camp is something I look forward to each year and I can't wait to see everyone soon!

Small Fry Camp

We are offering a Full Day and/or Half-Day option this year! Our Small Fry Camp is for Ages 3-6 and will be held from July 12-August 13 from 8:30-4:00 p.m. at Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Chorus/Band Room. Half-Day a.m. option runs from 8:30-12:00 and the p.m. option runs from 12:30-4:00 p.m. Our weekly themes are Circus Week, Space Exploration, Beach Fun, Super Hero Week and Farm Adventures! Camp activities include games, free play, circle time, story time, music and movement, arts and crafts, puzzles, games, etc.

Heather Aston, Director of Small Fry Camp, is a 1st Grade teacher at SES and the Director of our BASES After School Program. Heather brings many years of teaching experience and also enjoys directing lively, interactive activities that focus on developmental activities, physical exercise and entertainment. Amy Bulgajewski will be joining Heather as our Assistant Director. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Counselor-in-Training (C.I.T.)

We are hiring C.I.T.s for our Summer Camp. Must be ages 13-16. Camp dates are June 28th through August 20th. Please click [HERE](#) for the C.I.T. Job Description and click [HERE](#) for a Town of Somers Application for Employment.

Application deadline is May 14th.



Somers Recreation

Registration is now OPEN for the following Classes and Camps. Register through Somers.RecDesk.com TODAY!!

Tennis Camp:

Instructor: Eric Henne, Somers High School P.E. Teacher

Learning to play tennis offers a gift for life! We will be promoting teamwork, social skills and sportsmanship... this is a great outlet to help promote motor skills! Class descriptions, dates, times, fees, etc. can be found [HERE](#).

Pickleball Camp:

Instructor: Eric Henne, Somers High School P.E. Teacher

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Whether you are a beginner who just wants to learn a new sport for fun or you're a seasoned player who craves the thrill of more competitive play, pickleball offers something for everyone! Class descriptions, dates, times, fees, etc. can be found [HERE](#).

Art/Music Camps:

Instructors: Jack Yarrows and Joey Wedge

Somers Recreation is pleased to offer a 5-week Art/Music Camp this summer - June 28th-July 29th!! Courses will be offered in half-day sessions with morning (9:00-11:30 a.m.) and afternoon (12:00-2:30 p.m.) sessions. All classes will be held at Kibbe Fuller. Class descriptions, dates, times, fees, etc. can be found [HERE](#).

SOMLAX Lacrosse Camp

Instructor: Ken McCarthy, Varsity Lacrosse Coach at SHS

Ken McCarthy, Varsity Lacrosse Coach at SHS for over 28 years, and his staff will provide a safe environment where players of all ages and abilities can have fun and improve their game by learning fundamental skills and advanced tactics and techniques of lacrosse. Camp will run June 28th-July 1st from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Click [HERE](#) for more information. Registration is now open on Somers.RecDesk.com.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE & JULY

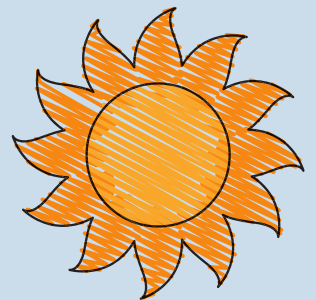
June 5th & 6th: Girls on the Run 5K Celebration

June 14th: Flag Day

June 20th: First Day of Summer

June 20th: Father's Day

July 4th: Independence Day



Somers Recreation

STEM Summer Camps

Instructors: K-Rockets Engineering & Technology School

We have a variety of classes for youth interested in all things STEM related!! Classes are being held for those entering Grades 1-5 and entering Grades 6-8; Lego Engineering, Science Fun, CSI-Crime Scene Investigation, Fun Robotics and Minecraft Mod Design!! Class descriptions, dates, times, fees, etc. can be found [HERE](#).

Discover Golf Camp at Cedar Knob Golf Course

Instructors: Cedar Knob Staff

Is your child interested in learning a sport he or she can play for a lifetime? Somers Recreation is partnering with Cedar Knob Golf Course to offer the **DISCOVER GOLF: Youth Golf Camp**. Learn the fundamentals of golf while making new friends and having fun! A typical day includes golf etiquette, driving range and on-course instruction, chipping and putting, contests and a half-hour lunch break. Class dates, times, fees, etc. can be found [HERE](#).

Wiffle Ball Camp

Instructors: "For the Love of the Game"

Wiffle Ball Camp is BACK for another week again this summer!! We brought it back because we know... **it's everyone's favorite backyard game!!** Camp description, dates, times, fees, etc. can be found [HERE](#).

We are working on more Summer Programming for you. Please be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) for updates...

Yoga-in-the-Park

Join Amanda Welch, Somers High P.E. Teacher, as she leads an 8-week, All-Levels, Outdoor Yoga Series on Monday Evenings; June 14th-August 9th! **More information coming soon!**

Tabata Fitness Classes

Amanda Welch is instructing an 8-week, full-body, Tabata (HIIT) Fitness Series. Tabata is a great way to increase strength, lose weight, improve flexibility and/or build muscle. Tentatively schedule for Wednesday Evenings; June 16th-August 4th. **More information coming soon!**

Summer Cornhole League

Who doesn't love Cornhole?? Come on down to Field Road Park for some friendly competition between family and friends! We're looking for teams to compete in a FUN, 8-week Cornhole League. The first 5-weeks will consist of regular game play and the last 3-weeks we will run a double elimination tournament. We only have space for 8 teams (2-6 players/team) so you'll need to register early. Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday Evenings; June 15th-August 3rd.

More information coming soon!

Fortnite Summer League

Somers Recreation is venturing into ESports! We will be looking for teams to represent Somers Recreation as we compete against other Recreation Departments across the country!

More information coming soon!!

Somers Recreation

Making a Splash in Somers!

We've got some exciting news for you, Somers!
Did you hear that we are adding a Splash Pad at Field Road Park?

Bill and Wendy McCloskey have donated funds to build a splash pad in memory of their daughter, Macie Grace, who in 2007 passed away at six-days old of Trisomy 13, a rare, genetic disorder.

The McCloskey's wanted to give back to their community and to share the kindness that was bestowed upon them during those difficult days. We can't wait to share their story with you. It is a story of grief, giving and finding joy and happiness again.

We are starting a fundraising campaign to raise the remaining funds needed to complete this project and will be sharing more information with you in the coming weeks.



Macie's Place Splash Pad Drawing



Macie's Place Splash Pad Drawing

Somers Recreation

May 17th-21st

Help the Somers Public Works Department put an end to hunger by donating non-perishable goods. All donations should be dropped off at Geissler's Supermarket from May 17th-21st and will be donated to the Somers Congregational Church Food Pantry.



Help the Somers Public Works Department put an end to hunger during National Public Works Week.

Drop off non-perishable goods to Somers DPW

When: May 17th - 21st 8:00AM – 3:00PM

Where: Geisler' Supermarket, 95 South Road

**All collected items will go to the
Somers Congregational Church Food Pantry**

Follow us on Twitter @NEAPWA

Use the hashtag #FillPWTruck to join the convoy!

*This event is sponsored by the
New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association*

Somers Recreation

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POLICIES & GENERAL INFORMATION

Refund Policy:

The Somers Recreation Department will provide a full refund when a program is cancelled. All refund requests for a program that has not been cancelled must be submitted at least one week prior to the start of the program. Refunds will not be issued once a program begins unless there is an injury or illness which prohibits active participation in the program and is documented by a physician. No refunds will be issued without a [Refund Request Form](#). If a refund is granted, the amount will be pro-rated to reflect the number of remaining days in the program from the date the Refund Request was submitted.

Weather Cancellation Policy:

The Somers Recreation Department follows the Somers School District inclement weather policy. If schools are closed, recreational activities and rentals are cancelled. Every effort will be made to adhere to the following notification windows. Weather cancellations will be communicated the following ways by 4:00PM weekdays and 2 hours prior to game/program start times on Saturdays:

1. Website: <http://somers.recdesk.com/recdeskportal/>
2. Facebook: www.facebook.com/somersrecreation
3. Via text alerts (sign up instructions below)
4. Tune into WFSB Channel 3 for the most recently updated information. If there are no updated announcements, please assume all games/programs will continue as scheduled.

*****Any cancellations due to weather/thunderstorms that may occur after 4:00PM weekdays and within the 2 hour window of games/programs on Saturdays will be determined by the staff onsite.***

Sign up for Text Alerts on the Somers Recreation [RecDesk](#) Website:

- <http://somers.recdesk.com/recdeskportal/>;
- ***Login to your RecDesk account from the Member Info tab of your household account;***
- ***Scroll down to Phone Numbers and Mobile Notifications;***
- ***Enter your mobile number and mobile carrier;***
- ***Click the box under Opt-in Text Alerts.***

Photo Policy:

Participants in Somers Recreation Department's events, programs and camps acknowledge that photographs and videos may be taken during these activities. By participating in our programs, you allow reproductions of these photographic materials to be used in promotional activities including but not limited to: brochures, email campaigns, social media and more exclusively by the Somers Recreation Department.

Register Early:

Please be sure to register **EARLY** for programs you wish to participate in. ***Somers Recreation reserves the right to cancel programs due to low enrollment.***

We are Social!

Be sure to "LIKE" Somers Recreation on [Facebook](#)! Check out the Somers Recreation website at Somers.RecDesk.com for all of our latest events and programs.

FORMS

[Field Use Permit](#)

[Pavilion Gazebo Rental Form](#)

[Refund Request Form](#)

Somers Recreation

****NOTE****

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Recreation Subsidy Program:

The Somers Recreation Department, in conjunction with Somers Social Services is pleased to provide the Recreation Subsidy Program. The Recreation Subsidy Program is available to Somers residents and is income based.

Applicants should contact Social Services at 860-265-7551 to inquire about the Recreation Subsidy Program or to complete an application. You can view a Recreation Subsidy application [HERE](#).

For complete information on the Recreation Subsidy Program please click the Policy Page link [HERE](#).

Information on the guidelines used for subsidy eligibility & program allocation can be found [HERE](#).



Thank You!

Somers Recreation Department would like to extend a sincere **"THANK YOU"** to the hundreds of volunteers who contribute thousands of hours to help make recreation in Somers function and flourish. Somers Recreation Department programs and classes, our youth sports teams and leagues, and the outstanding special events offered in town are the result of community-wide assistance and support. Recreation in Somers is truly a collaborative effort, and the hard work of our community members results in outstanding and diverse recreational opportunities for our residents.

Somers Youth Sports Leagues:

[Basketball](#)

[Lacrosse](#)

[Little League](#)

[Soccer](#)

[Softball](#)

Somers Senior Center:

The Town of Somers Senior Center is open to all residents ages 55+. All seniors are welcome! It is our goal to create a warm and welcoming environment where seniors feel at home and can take part in social, educational and recreational activities.

Don't miss out on all of the great programming brought to you by the Somers Senior Center. Follow the below link for more information on programs...

[Somers Senior Center – Somers \(somersct.gov\)](http://SomersSeniorCenter-Somers.somersct.gov)

Somers Alert System

**Have you registered with Everbridge yet?
If we can't REACH you, we can't ALERT you!**

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Alert me!

**Or, text 'Somers' to 888777 to receive text
message alerts.**

Somers Recreation

PARKS & FACILITIES

Connor's Place at Field Road Park

Connor's Place is a boundless playground located at 96 Field Road. It was constructed in memory of Connor Swan and was completed in 2007. The playground features two playscapes, one for children under the age of 5 and the other larger area for children ages 5 and up. A recycled rubberized surface creates a safe play environment for kids of all ages. Connor's Place includes wheelchair accessible ramps, high back swings with seatbelts, several rock climbing walls and slides, elevated sand tables, sandbox (bring your own toys), benches and more! The pavilion at Connor's place is the perfect place for birthday parties, family events, or business outings. The pavilion features several picnic tables, a charcoal grill, electrical outlets, and nearby restrooms, basketball court and volleyball court.



HIKING & TRAILS

Wondering about the trail network present in Somers? The Somers Recreation Department would like to thank the dedicated organizations and passionate volunteers including the Northern Connecticut Land Trust and Somers Open Space & Trails Committee for their tremendous efforts in the preservation and maintenance of the trail networks outlined below.

Bald Mountain Length: 1.25 miles - [Trail Map](#)

Difficulty : Moderate

Overview: This loop includes sections of challenging, steep terrain. Where the trail splits approximately 1/8 mile from the parking area, take the left fork for a more gradual climb or the right fork for a steeper, more direct route to the summit. The summit of Bald Mountain is 1,121 feet above sea level, which makes it the highest point in Somers. Although this is the only maintained and marked trail on the mountain, many unmarked trails exist along the ridge to the north and on the west side of the mountain offering the possibility of a longer hike. [Complete Trail Description.](#)

Access: To reach the trailhead, follow Rte. 190 east 2 miles from the center of Somers to Randall Road. Turn left on Randall, then Left on Lance and right on County Road. The small parking area is located on the left just past 159 County Road.

Allowed Uses: Non-motorized trail open to everyone during daylight hours.

NOTE: Hunting is allowed on adjacent state land so please wear bright clothing and use caution during hunting season.



Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.

—Frank Lloyd Wright

Somers Recreation

HIKING & TRAILS CONTINUED...

Forest View North and South - Length: 1.2 miles - Total distance from Whitaker Woods parking area to summit of Soapstone: 3.2 miles. [Trail Map](#)

Difficulty: Moderate

Overview:

The Forest View Trail connects the Northern Connecticut Land Trust's (NCLT) Whitaker Woods property on Wells Road in Somers to trails on Soapstone Mountain with access to the summit.

[Complete Trail Description.](#)

Access: Although the trail crosses Mountain View Road, it is not recommended that hikers park there due to limited parking and poor sight lines for cars coming down Mountain View Road. Better options are to park at Whitaker Woods and hike uphill to Soapstone Mountain with a car spotted at the upper or lower Shenipsit State Forest Soapstone parking areas off Gulf Road, or an up and back hike from Whitaker Woods.

Allowed Uses: Hikers & Equestrian Riders

Scantic Riparian Area - Length: 0.5 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Overview: NCLT's Scantic Riparian Area Nature Preserve is located off of Durkee Road in Somers and is open to the public for walking or horseback riding. It is an outstanding location for birding and there is also beaver activity in the area with a beaver dam and at least one lodge. The former loop trail along the river is closed due to periodic flooding as well as a broken footbridge. A walk of about a half mile along the powerline maintenance road leads past cattail marshes. [Complete Trail Description.](#)

Access: Park under the powerline tower on Durkee Road just west of the Scantic River bridge. Walk around the locked gate across the road to access the area.

Allowed Uses: Hiking and Equestrian Riders. ***Due to the large bird population please leave Fido at home when visiting the area.***

Skyline Scenic Area - Length: 1.5 mile loop

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Overview: The Skyline Scenic Area offers a 1.5 mile trail loop with a broad, panoramic view across the Connecticut River Valley on clear days from the scenic overlook. The trail is well-marked with yellow plastic diamonds. The shortest way to the lookout point is to the left from the parking area. This half mile section, known as the Ledge Trail, includes a steep, rocky section that may be treacherous when wet, snow covered, or icy. To the right from the parking area is the much easier, mile-long section leading to the same lookout. [Complete Trail Description.](#)

Access: The small Skyline Scenic Area parking area is located on the north side of Stafford Road about 0.2 miles west of the intersection with Root Road. It is not plowed in the winter.

Allowed Uses: Non-motorized trail open to hikers

***It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim
upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality
of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully
changes and renews a weary spirit.***
-Robert Louis Stevenson



Somers Recreation

HIKING & TRAILS CONTINUED...

Whitaker Woods

Length: A total of almost five miles of trails have been built which create the opportunity for several loop hikes of various length and difficulty. [Trail Map](#)

Difficulty: Varying from easy to moderate

Overview: Whitaker Woods is a unique 266 acre property in the center of Somers that is pristinely maintained. The land is characterized by a variety of terrain with the network of trails taking you past stone walls, over brooks, through stands of mature white pine, and across open fields. The main trail is the Old Forest Loop which starts and ends at the Wells Road parking area. This 1.8 mile long trail follows old woods roads for almost its entire length with steady climbs to its highest elevation at the top of the loop whether walked clockwise or counterclockwise. All the other trails are accessed from the Old Forest Loop, branching off at various points. [Complete Trail Description.](#)

Access: Parking lot near 80 Wells Road.

Allowed Uses: No motorized vehicles. Hikers are asked to keep dogs leashed and under control at all times. All trails except the Overhill Trail and Underhill Trail are also open to horses and riders.

Land Owner: Northern Connecticut Land Trust

Camp Aya Po

Length: 1 mile to 1.6 miles [Trail Map](#)

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Overview: Camp AyaPo consists of 178 acres formerly owned by the YWCA and purchased by the town of Somers in 2014. There are several trails located on the property – one that encompasses Hurds Lake and others leading to the summit of Perkins Mountain. [Complete Trail Description.](#)

Access: Take Route 190 to Battle Street just east of the Route 190 intersection with Route 83. After several miles, Battle Street turns into Mountain Road. Remain on Mountain Road and take a left on Camp Road and look for the parking area on the left.

Allowed Uses: This property is open during daylight hours for non-motorized passive recreation activities both on the trails and on the water. All trails except the Lakeside Trail are multiuse trails open to equestrians and mountain bikers as well as hikers. Hurds Lake can be used for fishing and limited kayak or canoe use. A small boat ramp is located at the west end of the dam.

There is no lifeguard on duty and visitors swim at their own risk.

McCann Family Farm

Length: 1.95 miles to 3.0 miles. [Trail Map](#)

Difficulty: Easy

Overview: The popular beautiful, hilly, 84 acre McCann Family Farm stretches from near the center of Somers on Route 190 up the northwestern slopes of Soapstone Mountain. Two marked trails are maintained as well as several unmarked paths. The 1.95 Shady Brook Trail (blue diamonds) stays in the northern 2/3 of the property, while the 3.0 mile Jerry Stage Trail (yellow diamonds) visits the southern boundary area. [Complete Trail Description.](#)

Access: The entrance and parking area are located on the south side of Route 190 about 0.7 miles east of the light at Rt. 83 or 0.5 miles west of the light at Gulf Road.

Allowed Uses: Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash at all times. No motorized vehicles or horses are allowed. The parking area is plowed following winter storms to allow access for passive winter recreation activities. **Land Owner: Northern Connecticut Land Trust**



Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

-Albert Einstein

Somers Recreation

HIKING & TRAILS CONTINUED...

SOMERSVILLE MILL TRAIL

Length: 1 mile from mill site to Bailey Road parking area. [Trail Map](#)

Difficulty: Easy

Overview: This trail offers a pleasant walk along the Scantic River starting at the Somersville Mill site and following the south side of the river into Enfield where it connects to a Connecticut DEEP trail and continues to the Scantic River State Park parking area on Bailey Road. The trail is marked with yellow diamonds and follows along the river bank for much of its length. At the far end be sure to take time to look at the ruins of the dam and canal which supplied water for the Powder Hollow munitions factory.

Access: A small parking area is located at the site of the former Somersville Mill on Maple Street just past the south end of the Scantic River bridge. The trail can also be accessed from a DEEP parking area on the north side of Bailey Road off Rte. 191 in Enfield.

Are you interested in participating in Town of Somers HIKING & TRAILS activities and events? Check out a calendar [HERE](#) of upcoming happenings.

If you have questions or comments about the trail network in Somers, please contact Somers Recreation Department at 860-265-3840.



PLANET GREEN FREE MAIL IN RECYCLE INK PROGRAM

Do you or someone you know have inkjet printer cartridges that need to be disposed of and are not sure what to do with them?

Planet Green offers a FREE mail in recycling program! If you have four (4) or more cartridges simply put them in a box, click on this link to receive a free USPS shipping label, <https://doorstepink.com/pages/recycle-free-shipping-request>, put the label on the box and send them to Planet Green. Planet Green recycles the inkjet cartridges for re-use.

Or better yet... just drop them off at the Recreation Department and we will recycle them for you!

This service is free and keeps inkjet cartridges out of our waste stream. Please help us to reduce, reuse and recycle!

****Printer Ink Cartridges Only -- Toner Cartridges will not be accepted****

