

# Aya Po Ad-Hoc Committee Report

October 11, 2022

The committee has reviewed the 2015 Camp Aya Po Ad Hoc Committee report, the Aya Po survey, and the 2021 Covid survey of residents. Neither survey discussed security issues. However, the committee discussed recommendations from the 2015 Aya Po report, which included a gate for the parking area, posting Camp Road as “No Parking,” and the provision of an onsite caretaker. In addition, the committee reviewed reports from the police and animal control identifying the frequency of complaints responded to, none of which resulted in citations.

**Charge 1** “Address security issues at the park,” items a-f; vandalism and litter, dogs running free and not under the control of their owners, unlawful burning, alcohol and marijuana usage, after-hours usage, and risk management aspects of swimming at Hurds Lake,

In response to the first charge, the committee voted to make the following recommendations:

1. The Aya Po side of Camp Road should be a no-parking area. This will provide access to the boat launch and dry hydrant and ensure clear passage for traffic and emergency vehicles.
2. The town should cut back the brush around the stone wall bordering the field more frequently. The committee anticipates that vandalism may be reduced by providing the image of a well-kept property. This will also offer a clear sightline from the road to the waterfront.
3. The committee noted that the rules are only posted on signage in the parking area. The committee recommends moving some signage to trailheads and places where people congregate.
4. The BOS should develop a community education campaign using various town media outlets explaining the rules and voicing a commitment by top public officials to promote and support the rigorous enforcement of drug/alcohol use, leash laws, fires, and significant public safety concerns.
5. The committee believes that while litter, vandalism, and other prohibited acts cannot be eradicated entirely, the presence of a “caretaker” with on-premises housing would provide the most effective deterrent. The committee recommends that a concrete pad be pored with a utility hookup, allowing the town to offer the site to a “host camper” with an RV who would provide onsite support and monitoring in exchange for the use of the campsite (program models attached). There is no intention to develop overnight public camping.
6. The committee took notice of both stated public interest and use of the beach area, leading to the determination that swimming is essential to achieving the property's highest and best use. The committee also reviewed guidance issued by the Department of Public Health (DPH) for public swimming as annotated by the town Sanitarian. The

committee voted that swimming should be allowed at the swimmers' own risk, at the beach area, and with the caveat that the town operates the swimming area consistent with DPH guidance. (DPH guidance attached)

**Charge 2** “Analyze, assess and determine the best usage of the park, using all available data, including the 2015 Aya Po survey and the 2021 survey of residents.”

The committee came together with a range of views of what the “best usage of the park” meant personally. There was universal agreement within the committee that establishing sufficient infrastructure to support swimming in accordance with DPH guidance safely was essential. Beyond that, some felt that leaving the property in a natural state represents the best use. On the other end of the spectrum, a rentable venue with possible additional structures to create a steady revenue stream was discussed. In the end, the committee agreed to a development plan which serves identified community needs, respects the need to maintain open space, and addresses security concerns.

Given the popularity of swimming, both in survey data and observed usage, the first project should be the concurrent construction of a bathroom structure, similar to the one on Field Road, and the pad and utility hookup for the caretaker. The committee strongly believes that the development of any structure without the presence of a caretaker dramatically increases the risk of vandalism.

The committee also recommends constructing a multipurpose structure, taking advantage of the old fireplace's design and limiting its use for civic and town recreation. The limitation is intended to mitigate the impact on the surrounding open space and alleviate community traffic concerns. This would permit the Recreation Department to offer four-season outdoor recreational opportunities.

**Charge 3** “Recommending fundraising opportunities to support the ongoing use and operation of the park.”

The committee discussed charging for parking but recognized several logistical challenges. Our recommendation for building usage limits access usage fees to cleaning etc. which will limit the revenue potential. Attached is one of the more ambitious proposals which has several options which could be implemented in whole or in part. Otherwise, most of the support for the care of structures, or other onsite maintenance, will fall to the community.

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## Mill Run Campground Host

### **DESCRIPTION**

As a campground host, you will be responsible for providing visitors with information, assisting campers with making/changing reservations through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov), keeping campsites tidy, and maintaining daily communication with park rangers/maintenance personnel.

### **DUTIES**

Providing Information and assistance to campers/visitors. Assisting campers with making/changing reservations on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Keeping track of campers to make sure they arrive and leave on time. Keeping the campgrounds and beach area tidy. Working closely with Park Rangers/Maintenance Personnel. No cleaning on bathrooms is necessary as cleaning services are contacted out.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Must passed criminal and child clearance background check.  
Must provide proof of Covid-19 vaccine # 1 and 2.

### **SKILLS**

- Backpacking/Camping
- General Assistance
- Supervision
- Visitor Information
- Working with People

### **WORK ENVIRONMENT**

The Mill Run Campground is a small rural family friendly campground located in Friendsville, MD. Your primary duties will be to provide Visitors with Information and assistance while enjoying your stay at the Mill Run Campground. We also provide you with a volunteer hat and vest, an electric vehicle, as well as tools and accessories to help make your tasks easier.

### **JOB HAZARDS**

- Slip, trip, and fall hazards

### **BACKGROUND/REFERENCE CHECK REQUIRED**

- Yes

**Site link:** <https://www.volunteer.gov/s/volunteer-opportunity/a093d00000Vvm3AAG/mill-run-campground-host>



**Connecticut Department of  
Energy & Environmental Protection**  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation  
State Parks & Public Outreach Division

## **Adopt a Park Application**

*Groups, individuals and families may use this form to apply to serve as adopting volunteers.*

### **Part I: Adopting Volunteer Information**

1. Name of individual, or person in charge (if group or family):

Name:

Address:

City/Town:

State:

Zip Code:

Home Phone:

E-mail:

If a group or family, please list the names of the participants:

2. If a group, please provide the name of the group, business, agency, etc.:

Business Phone:

ext.

3. Emergency Contact for family, group or individual:

Relationship:

Emergency Contact Phone:

4. Have you volunteered for the DEEP before?  Yes  No

If Yes, when:

Where:

Describe Tasks Performed:

5. Please indicate the park you are interested in adopting, and the area you are interested in maintaining. For example: "Wadsworth Falls State Park, The Big Falls"

6. If interested in helping us control invasive species, please describe your level of knowledge and expertise:

**Part I: Adopting Volunteer Information (continued)**

7. Adopting volunteers are asked to commit to one-year of service, visiting their park more often during our busiest period, between May and September, at least once a month. Please identify the dates and times you are available and able to maintain your site during this time:

| May | June | July | August | September |
|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|
|     |      |      |        |           |
|     |      |      |        |           |
|     |      |      |        |           |
|     |      |      |        |           |
|     |      |      |        |           |

8. If needed, would you be willing to bring your own cleaning and gardening supplies?  Yes  No

9. Do you have a valid driver's license?  Yes  No

If yes, provide License Number:

10. Youth 16 and under need to be supervised by a responsible adult at all times during the activity. If you (the applicant) or other members of the group are under 16, please name the supervising adult(s):

11. Describe experience (professional certifications, community service, training or special licenses) that may assist in your volunteer work (if any certificates or other licenses have expiration dates, indicate the dates):

12. Are you fluent in a language other than English?  Yes  No

If yes, which one(s)?

13. Have you ever been convicted under criminal or military law, forfeited bond or collateral, or are criminal charges currently pending against you? (Exclude minor traffic violations or any offense settled in juvenile court or under a youth offender law.)  Yes  No

If yes, provide a detailed explanation about the nature of conviction, degree of rehabilitation and if applicable, how long it has been since you were released.

Check here if additional sheets are necessary. Please label and attach them to this sheet.

## Part II: Release of Liability and Certification

The applicant and all individuals who will be participating as volunteers must sign this part.  
*(Minors need to have parents/guardians sign this part.)*

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <p>"I intend to volunteer with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.</p> <p>I agree to abide by the rules, policies, directives and laws of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. I hereby release the State of Connecticut and its employees and agents from any liability for any accident or injury I might suffer during the course of my volunteer work including accidents or injuries that occur as the result of negligence, but not intentional acts or omissions, by employees or agents of the State of Connecticut.</p> <p>I certify that the information on this application is correct. I understand that the first month is a trial match for both DEEP and I, to see if my experience is a good match with the DEEP."</p> |             |
| <i>Signature</i>  | <i>Date</i> |
| <hr/>   |             |
| <i>Printed Name</i>   |             |
| <hr/>   |             |
| <i>Signature of Parent/Guardian, if applicable</i>  | <i>Date</i> |
| <hr/>   |             |
| <i>Printed Name of Parent/Guardian, if applicable</i>   |             |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if additional signatures are required. If so, please reproduce this sheet and attached signed copies to this sheet.</p>  |             |

Please mail, fax or e-mail the completed, signed application to:

Wanda Torres, Volunteer Coordinator  
State Parks Division  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm St.  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Fax (860) 424-4070  
[Wanda.Torres@CT.Gov](mailto:Wanda.Torres@CT.Gov)

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) if you: have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

## Aya Po Advisory Committee

The following are considerations if swimming is allowed at Hurds Lake.

The following was sent from the Somers Sanitarian,

Todd,

Below are the monitoring guidelines for public swimming areas.

A few highlights include:

- A sanitary survey must be completed at the beginning of each season.
- Weekly testing.
- Signage for no lifeguard on duty and emergency numbers.
- Each morning the beach needs to be inspected for hazards.
- No fishing or boat launching in swimming area. If allowed on the pond, the swim area must be buoyed off.
- On-site toilet facilities (separate for men and woman) with signage must be provided. The floors need to be treated daily with a sanitizer.
- Domestic animals not allowed in or around swimming area.
- Inflatable or buoyant devices are not allowed.
- Glass containers, fires, charcoal or gas grills, ball or Frisbee playing, the possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages should be prohibited on the beach.

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/environmental\\_health/recreation/pdf/030316GuidelinesforMonitoringSwimmingWaterpdf.pdf?la=en&hash=28975D4D6BE95D44707D551DEDAF7C50](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/environmental_health/recreation/pdf/030316GuidelinesforMonitoringSwimmingWaterpdf.pdf?la=en&hash=28975D4D6BE95D44707D551DEDAF7C50)

Or post "Swimming Not Allowed" and not have to adhere to the previous requirements. Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

*Andrea Vitrano  
Sanitarian  
(860) 763-8216*

- 3 - Members Only Camping
- 4 - Corporate Camping
- 5 - 150-Car Parking



| LOT NUMBER | AREA TO BE   | AREA TO BE | AREA TO BE |
|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 1          | EXISTING LOT | 4,420.00   | 4,420.00   |
| 2          | EXISTING LOT | 4,420.00   | 4,420.00   |
| 3          | EXISTING LOT | 4,420.00   | 4,420.00   |
| 4          | EXISTING LOT | 4,420.00   | 4,420.00   |
| 5          | EXISTING LOT | 4,420.00   | 4,420.00   |
| 6          | EXISTING LOT | 4,420.00   | 4,420.00   |
| 7          | EXISTING LOT | 4,420.00   | 4,420.00   |
| 8          | EXISTING LOT | 4,420.00   | 4,420.00   |

NOTES:  
 1. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE ZONING REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES.  
 2. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.  
 3. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE LOCAL ORDINANCES.  
 4. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.  
 5. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE DEEDS AND EASEMENTS.  
 6. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS.  
 7. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS.  
 8. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS.

DESIGNED BY: [Name]  
 DRAWN BY: [Name]  
 CHECKED BY: [Name]  
 APPROVED BY: [Name]



REVISION: 11/13/14 - MOSES NOTE  
 REVISION: 11/13/14 - CHANGE BY COMMENTS

**CAMP AYA PO SUBDIVISION**  
 PROPERTY OF  
**THE TOWN OF SOMERS**  
 STARBOARD ROAD, CARP ROAD & MOUNTAIN ROAD  
 SOMERS, CONNECTICUT

SCALE: 1" = 200'  
 DATE: JUNE 30, 2014  
 SHEET NUMBER: 1 OF 4

TOWN OF SOMERS  
 PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT  
 100 MAIN STREET, 3RD FLOOR  
 SOMERS, CT 06083



**CAMP AYA-PO PROSPECTUS**

Seasonal Weeks: 14  
 12-Hour Work Day for 98-Days: 1,176

**Operational Expenses**

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Guard Shack Staff                             | \$19,813        |
| Payroll (@\$14 per hr)                        | \$16,464        |
| Employment Taxes (Fed, SS, Medicare @.159)    | \$2,618         |
| Workers Compensation (@\$4.44 per \$100)      | \$731           |
| Liability Insurance                           | \$5,000.00      |
| E.Coli Testing                                | \$1,400.00      |
| Algea Testing                                 | \$1,200.00      |
| Beach Replenishment Reserve                   | \$2,500.00      |
| Pond Maintenance Reserve Contribution         | \$2,500.00      |
| Roadway and Parking Area Reserve Contribution | \$2,500.00      |
| Building Maintenance Reserve Contribution     | \$3,000.00      |
| <b>Total Operational Expenses</b>             | <b>\$37,913</b> |

**Revenues**

|   |                 |          |              |
|---|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| Sponsors                                      | \$4,000         |          |              |
| Sponsor-A                                     |                 | \$2,000  |              |
| Sponsor-B                                     |                 | \$1,000  |              |
| Sponsor-C                                     |                 | \$1,000  |              |
| Parking Passes                                | \$24,125        |          | <b>Count</b> |
| Season Passes @ \$75                          |                 | \$20,625 | 275          |
| Day Passes @ \$5                              |                 | \$3,500  | 700          |
| Camping & Events (yoga, art classes, running) | \$10,000        |          | 0            |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                         | <b>\$38,125</b> |          |              |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                            | <b>\$212</b>    |          |              |