



BREATHTAKING VIEWS
RUSTIC ELEGANCE
UNIQUE HISTORY

The Ellie Mitchell Pavilion at Rocky Neck State Park

Perched atop a rocky bluff with expansive views of Long Island Sound, this unique and historic waterfront venue is a stunning location for your wedding, corporate event, seminar, private party or gala.

Our bright, rustic and elegant event space will create a truly memorable event for you and your guests.



The Ellie Mitchell Pavilion
at Rocky Neck State Park, Niantic, CT 06357
860.739.5471 | portal.ct.gov/DEEP
deep.rockyneckpavilionrental@ct.gov



Welcome

Rocky Neck State Park is located on the shores of Long Island Sound in East Lyme, CT. Its varied terrain, sprawled across 710 acres, offers something for everyone. Clear waters and the half-mile long stone-free beach, with expanses of white sand, make it ideal for swimming or as a stunning natural backdrop for photos. Many beautiful picnic locations are scattered throughout the park. Diverse trails within the park provide easy and interesting walks to the scenic salt marsh and to points of interest, including Baker's Cave, Tony's Nose and Shipyard. Family camping within walking distance of the beaches is also popular at Rocky Neck with 160 wooded and open campsites, as well as three rustic cabins, offering guests convenient and memorable overnight accommodations. An abundance of wildlife can be found in the park, including ospreys, cranes, herons, and mute swans which are frequently observed wading across the cattails and rose mallow in the broad salt marshes.

The Pavilion

Perched atop a rocky bluff with stunning views of Long Island Sound, the Ellie Mitchell Pavilion is an impressive and historic cobblestone structure on the park's western shoreline. Built in the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), relief agencies constructed the curved masonry building and stone fireplaces of native materials and crafted supporting pillars with wood cut from each of our state parks and forests in existence at the time, making this historic building a truly unique and gorgeous space. An expansive row of waterfront-facing windows allow for ample natural lighting and a private terrace with impressive views allows visitors to soak in the beauty of this elegant venue.





A Unique History

Construction of the Pavilion began in 1934 and was not completed until 1937. It was designed by the state parks engineering department, and constructed by a federal jobs program, the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The cobblestones all came from stone walls that were located within the park.

The tree trunk pillars on both floors were taken from each of the state parks in the system at the time - one to six pillars from each park. Each pillar is stamped with a roman numeral to identify which park it came from.

The flat fieldstones on the terrace were taken from ledges in Devil's Hopyard State Park, when the existing state highway through the Hopyard was being built.

The capstones on the terrace walls, the upper deck walls, and the chimneys were quarried from the ledge east of the pavilion. The quarrying operation had left much quarried rock piled about on the ledges adjacent to the building site, when it was abandoned decades prior to the state's acquisition of the property.

The old concrete fish mill, which sat on the flat lawn area at the edge of the water in front of the pavilion, was torn down and broken up during construction of the pavilion. It furnished fill material for the space between the front wall and the terrace, and enough 12" I-beams to support the first floor.

The building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed at a total cost of \$240,000. All the work was done by WPA labor supervised by WPA engineers.



General Information



- **Capacity:** 300 Guests
 - **Availability:** Our rental season extends from Memorial Day through Columbus Day
 - Events held on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays may begin as early as 5:00pm with set-up beginning no earlier than 3:00pm
 - Events held on Mondays - Thursdays may begin as early as 10:00am with set-up beginning no earlier than 8:00am
 - There is an 11:00pm curfew for all events on any day of the week
 - **Caterers:** Renters of the pavilion must use an approved caterer. Please view our website for a current listing of approved caterers. Renters must notify the park of the name of the selected caterer a minimum of 120 days prior to the event. Caterers are required to carry and provide the necessary licensing and certificate of commercial liability insurance for food and alcohol as required by the State of Connecticut. The Commissioner may approve or disapprove any caterer or contractor at any time, based upon past performance to demonstrate competence or disregard for legal requirements. Caterers may install a 12 x 12 tent in the service area at rear of building for the purpose of food preparation. Only electric or Sterno type food warmers are allowed in the building. **Catering, or other service vehicles, must be able to fit through a tunnel with a 9' clearance.**
 - **Rental period:** Rentals include 5 hours of primary event time, and an additional 2.5 hours for set-up and clean-up (typically this additional time is scheduled as two hours prior to the event, and ½ hour following the event). Guests may not enter the rented premises until the primary event activity is scheduled to begin.
 - **Liability:** The renter shall be liable for the failure of any guest or contractor to vacate the rented premises by the time the event is scheduled to cease and will be charged a late fee.
 - **Alcohol:** If renters choose to offer alcoholic beverages, they must be provided free of charge as the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the property. Keg beer is not permitted. Tipping bartenders or waitstaff (including use of tip cups, collection or donation containers) is strictly prohibited, and no servers may accept a tip.
 - **Photo Booths:** Fully enclosed "photo booths" are prohibited. Photo areas must be open on at least two sides.
 - **Prohibited items:** No birdseed, glitter, confetti, rose petals, silly-string, rice, other 'fling-ables' or scattering material that would need to be raked or swept up is allowed. Candles are prohibited in all areas except in the fireplaces. Fireworks (including Chinese Lanterns) sparklers, and helium-filled balloons are prohibited.
 - **Decorations:** Due to the historic nature of the property, all decorations must be of a freestanding type. No taping, gluing, stapling, or tacking of any material is allowed. Decorations may not be attached to any lighting fixtures, sprinklers, or wall ornamentation.
 - **Rental Fee Includes:**
 - Five hours of event time, and 2 ½ hours for setup and breakdown
 - Use of grounds (please know that the park is a public facility and visitors are permitted on the grounds until sunset)
 - Exclusive use of the pavilion (one event per day)
 - Exclusive use of waterfront private terrace
 - Flexible options for ceremony locations
 - VIP parking access for 12-15 of your guests
 - Ample parking for all other guests
 - Use of our tables and chairs
 - Use of bridal suite/private dressing room
 - Use of our kitchen for catering prep
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Rental Fees

Rental fees are subject to change, and are based on the number of guests at your event.

- For events with up to 200 guests:
 - Base Rental Fee - includes 5 hours of primary event time and 2 ½ hours for set-up and breakdown: \$3,750 (50% due at time of reservation, balance due 60 days prior to event)
 - Optional Additional Hour: \$845 per hour (or portion of)
 - Security Deposit: \$500 due 60 days prior to event
 - Overtime Late Fee: \$975 is charged if guests or contractors remain beyond purchased time.
- For events with 200 guests or more:
 - Base Rental Fee - includes 5 hours of primary event time and 2 ½ hours for set-up and breakdown: \$4,950 (50% due at time of reservation, balance due 60 days prior to event)
 - Optional Additional Hour: \$975 per hour (or portion of)
 - Security Deposit: \$500 due 60 days prior to event
 - Overtime Late Fee: \$975 is charged if guests or contractors remain beyond purchased time.



Reservations

To reserve your special date, we require a signed agreement and payment of 50% of the rental fee in the form of a bank check or money order. No personal checks can be accepted.

Rental fee amount due at the time of reservation (50% of full rental fee)

- \$1,875.00 for events with up to 200 guests
- \$2,475.00 for events with 200 guests or more

Cancellations and Refunds

Cancellations must be submitted in writing at least 180 days prior to the scheduled event. If the cancellation is received in writing at least 180 days prior to the scheduled event, we will return 100% of the rental fee paid, less \$250 for processing, and 100% of any security deposit paid.

Important Dates to Remember

- **120 days (4 months) prior to the event:** Renter must provide caterer's name, contact, and phone number.
- **60 days (2 months) prior to the event:** The balance of rental fee (\$1,875 or \$2,475) and security deposit (\$500) must be paid in full (as well as any additional hours needed at \$845 or \$975/hour). A finalized event timeline is also due at this time.



Floor Configuration

The Pavilion offers large, open floor plans which allow for many different layouts to suit your event. Formal events such as weddings and galas are held on the second floor. Ceremonies can take place indoors at the Ellie Mitchell Pavilion, or anywhere on the property.

Basement: Closed storage, elevator, and stair access

1st Floor: Open Bay - picnic tables, restrooms (Men's toilets: 12; Women's toilets: 20) - floor capacity: 800

2nd Floor: Open Bay - wedding/event floor, private terrace, two single stall restrooms - floor capacity: 300

3rd Floor: Closed attic storage, elevator and stair access

Available for use (included in rental fee):

- 200 - White padded chairs (indoor use only)
- 40 - Brown metal folding chairs for outdoor ceremonies
- 50 - 5' round, brown/tan metal folding tables (each table seats 8)
- 8 - 3 ½' tall cocktail tables with 3' round tan surface, single brown pedestal support
- 12 - 3' X 8' rectangular tables, tan surface, brown folding metal legs



Second Floor Plan

Dimensions:

Interior floor area: 34.5' x 210'

West side outdoor terrace area: 29.5' x 69'

East side outdoor terrace area: 29.5' x 69'

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the price to rent the Pavilion at Rocky Neck and is a security deposit required?

Pricing depends on the number of guests that you plan to have. Please see **Rental Fees** section for more information.

A \$500 security deposit is required to be paid 60 days in advance of the event.

Is set-up time and take-down time included in the rental fee?

Yes, the rental fee includes 2.5 hours of set-up and take-down time in addition to the five hours of event time. If you will need more time for your event, one additional hour may be purchased.

What if my event runs late?

If the event runs over the scheduled event hours purchased, late fees of \$975 per hour or portion thereof will be charged.

What will happen if I need to cancel my event?

- If you cancel your event in writing at least 180 days before the scheduled event, we will return 100% of the rental fee you have paid, less \$250 for processing, and 100% of any security deposit that you have paid.
- If you cancel less than 180 days before your scheduled event, we will return 100% of any security deposit that you have paid.
- If the DEEP Commissioner cancels your rental under §23-4-17 or for any authorized reason, the Department will return to the renter 100% of any fees paid.

Is there a parking fee for my guests?

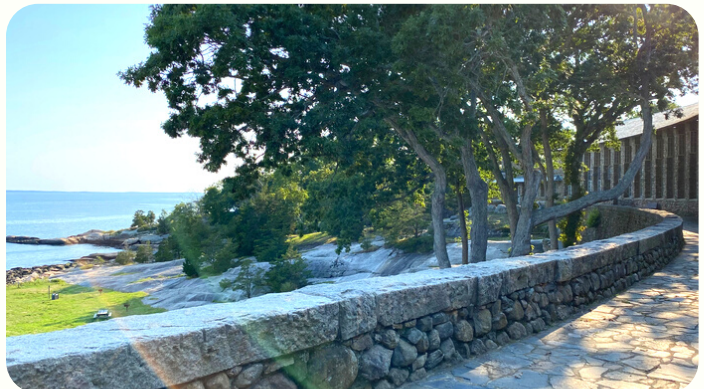
Vehicles entering the park for outdoor rehearsals on dates other than the rental event date will be charged the parking fee in effect at that time. On the day of your event, free guest parking is reserved in a designated lot which is approximately a 5-minute walk from the Pavilion. Renters may designate 12-15 vehicles as VIP guests, and these vehicles will be able to park adjacent to the Pavilion.

Are there any other costs involved with renting the Pavilion at Rocky Neck?

Renters of the pavilion are responsible for choosing and hiring a caterer from the approved caterer list available on our website. Depending on the type of event, you may also wish to hire a photographer, musician, florist, or entertainer as desired. You will also need to rent or have your caterer or planner obtain table linens and place settings, including glassware. Pavilion tables and chairs are available for use inside the Pavilion rental floor only. Chairs may not be used on the terrace. On-site payment of tips, donations, or other cash offerings to service providers are strictly prohibited per State Statutes.

Is WIFI available?

Unfortunately, WIFI is not currently available at the Pavilion.



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the rules for decorating the Pavilion?

The Pavilion is a historic building and in order to maintain it and protect it from damage, decorations are limited to free-standing or tabletop centerpieces. Candles are only allowed in the fireplaces (unless using battery-operated candles).

Can I have alcohol served at my Pavilion event?

Yes, you may have alcohol at your event in the Pavilion. Alcohol must be served to guests by certified bartenders employed by the caterer. Guests may not bring their own alcohol or serve themselves or others alcoholic beverages from the bar under any circumstances. Alcohol shall be served free of charge, and tipping a bartender or server is strictly prohibited. Tips, donations, or other cash offerings are not permitted per State Statute. Kegs are strictly prohibited.

What is prohibited at Pavilion events?

- Smoking is not permitted inside the Pavilion.
- No tents or canopies may be erected, other than a caterer's tent.
- Pavilion chairs and tables cannot be removed from the building. Chairs are not allowed on the terrace.
- Live animals or pets are prohibited in the Pavilion and the surrounding grounds.
- No open flames or tiki torches, except for candles which may only be used in fireplaces. Candles used in table settings must be battery-operated. No cooking may occur inside the building. No butane, lamp oil, propane or kerosene use.
- Sparklers, Chinese lanterns, fireworks, drones, helium-filled balloons and confetti are all prohibited.
- Fully enclosed photo booths are prohibited.
- Kegs and personal alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- No tips, donations or other cash exchanges to contractors/servers are permitted on State Park premises for any purpose.
- All Connecticut Park and Forest Official Regulations also apply to Pavilion events.



Approved Caterers 2020-2023

Cloud Nine Catering
256 Boston Post Road
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-388-0800
www.cloudnynecatering.net

Gourmet Galley Catering, LLC
138 Norwich Westerly Rd.
North Stonington, CT 06359
860-415-9589
www.gourmet-galley.com

Ivy's Simply Homemade
316 Boston Post Road
Waterford, CT 06385
860-442-8646
www.ivyssimplyhomemade.com

Mystic Market / Coastal Gourmet
63 Williams Avnue
Mystic, CT 06355
860-572-1111
www.coastalgourmetct.com

Old Tymes Restaurant
360 West Main Street
Norwich, CT 06360
860-887-6865
www.olderdetymes.com



Caterers may install a 12 x 12 tent in the service area at rear of building for the purpose of food preparation. Only electric or Sterno type food warmers are allowed in the building.

Catering, or other service vehicles, must be able to fit through a tunnel with a 9' clearance.





Local Lodging Options

For your convenience, below is a list of lodging options within a 15 minute drive of the Pavilion. Please note that these businesses are privately operated and have no affiliation with the park.

Americas Best Value Inn

380 Bayonet St., New London, CT. 06320
860-440-2899

Clarion Hotel

269 North Frontage Road, New London, CT. 06320
860-442-0631

The Inn at Harbor Hill Marina

60 Grand Street, Niantic, CT. 06357
860-739-0331 www.innharborhill.com

Motel 6

269 Flanders Road, Niantic, CT. 06357
860-739-6991 www.motel6.com

Niantic Motel

265 Flanders Road, Niantic, CT. 06357
860-739-6921 syed@nianticmotel.net

Oakdell Motel

Route 85, Waterford, CT. 06385
860-442-9446 www.oakdellmotel.com

Red Roof Inn

707 Coleman Street, New London, CT. 06320
860-443-7154 www.io145@redroof.com

Rodeway Inn

211 Parkway North, Waterford, CT. 06385
860-442-7227 www.rodewayinn.com

Quality Inn

100 Essex Rd, Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-395-1414

Sleep Inn and Suites

5 King Arthur Dr., East Lyme, CT. 06333
860-739-1994 www.choicehotels.com

Spring Hill Suites by Marriott

401 North Frontage Road, Waterford, CT. 06385
860-439-0151
kschroder@waterfordhotelgroup.com

Looking for a truly unique experience for your guests?

Rocky Neck State Park offers a campground within walking distance of the pavilion with 160+ sites and 3 rustic cabins. The campground is open from late May through September.

For more information, please visit us online at portal.ct.gov/deep





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