



Darke County Park District Rules and Regulations



Administrative

1. Administrative Provisions

1.1 Amendment and Application of Rules and Regulation

All previous rules and regulation of the Darke County Park District are hereby revised and adopted in accordance with Ohio R.C. 1545.09, and shall be known and designated as the "Park Rules and Regulations". The Park Rules and Regulations are applicable to all property of the Darke County Park District, and to actions therein or thereon or with respect thereto.

1.2 Waivers

- There are occasions when the waiver of a particular rule is appropriate or necessary with respect to programs or operations or otherwise. Waivers of particular rules must be written but may be included in permits. Inquiries regarding a waiver of a particular rule should be directed to:
Director
Darke County Park District
P.O.Box 801
Greenville, OH 45331
- Whenever requests shall be made for the waiver of a particular rule, the Director is authorized to grant the waiver based on the effect of the activity on the general wellbeing of the park district.

1.3 General Penalty

- Whenever, in the Park Rules and Regulations, any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful, whoever violates any such provision shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a first offense; for each subsequent offense such person shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). A separate offense shall be deemed committed each day during or on which a violation continues or occurs. (ORC 1545.99)
- All fines collected shall be paid into the General Fund of the Darke County Park District (ORC 1545.09)

General Rules and Regulations

2. Animals

2.1 Prohibited Household Pets; Control of Pets

No person shall bring into, permit, have, or keep in any part of the park any household pet, other animal destructive to wildlife except dogs or cats are permitted if they have a valid registration tag (except for guide dogs registered under Ohio R.C. 955.011) and are controlled at all times on a leash or tether not more than eight feet long.

2.2 Abandoning or Releasing Animals

No owner or custodian of any animal shall abandon or release such animal in any area unless authorized to do so for wildlife management, education or other lawful purpose.

2.3 Prohibited Feeding of Wildlife; Exceptions

No person shall feed or cause to be fed any animal unless authorized to do so for wildlife management, education or other lawful purpose.

2.4 Hunting and Trapping Prohibited; Bird Egg Removal

- No person shall hunt, trap, kill or attempt to kill any animal by use of firearms, bow and arrow, air rifle or any other means unless authorized to do so for wildlife management or other lawful purpose.
- No person shall knowingly injure any bird nest or remove or injure any bird egg unless authorized to do so for wildlife management or other lawful purpose.

3. Conduct

3.1 Disorderly Conduct; Intoxication

- No person shall recklessly cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to another by doing any of the following:
 - Engaging in fighting, in threatening harm to persons or property, or in violent or turbulent behavior,
 - Making unreasonable noise or offensively coarse utterance, gesture or display, or communicating unwarranted and grossly abusive language to any person, which by its very utterance or usage inflicts injury or would tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace;
 - Insulting, taunting or challenging another, under circumstances in which such conduct is likely to provoke a violent response;
 - Hindering or preventing the movement of persons on a park roadway, or to, from, within or upon any park property, so as to interfere with the rights of others, and by any act which serves no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender,
 - Creating a condition which is physically offensive to persons or which presents a risk of physical harm to persons or property, by any act which serves no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender.
- No person, while voluntarily intoxicated shall do either of the following:
 - In a public place or in the presence of two or more persons, engage in conduct likely to be offensive or to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to persons of ordinary sensibilities, which conduct the offender, if he were not intoxicated, should know is likely to have such effect on others;
 - Engage in conduct or create a condition which presents a risk of physical harm to himself or another, or to the property of another.
- When to an ordinary observer a person appears to be intoxicated, it is probable cause to believe such person is voluntarily intoxicated for purposes of subsection (b) hereof.
- Whoever violates this section is guilty of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor except that if the offender persists in disorderly conduct after reasonable warnings or request to desist, the offender shall be charged with a violation of Ohio R.C. 2917.11.

3.2 Failure to Disperse

- Where five or more persons are participating in a course of disorderly conduct in violation of "Disorderly Conduct, Intoxication" section, and there are other persons in the vicinity whose presence creates the likelihood of physical harm to persons or property or of serious public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, a law enforcement official or authorized official of Darke County Park District may order the participants and such other persons to disperse. No person shall knowingly fail to obey such order.
- Nothing in this section requires persons to disperse who are peaceably assembled for a lawful purpose.

3.3 Public Meetings or Events

- No individual or organization shall conduct, sponsor or promote any public meeting, concern, theater, event or other public activity without a prior permit. No event or activity sponsored

or promoted by any individual or organization shall be permitted if it constitutes a hazard or danger to the personal safety of park employees, the participants or other park visitors; endangers peace and good order in the park; interferes with the regular and normal use of the facilities and activities by the park visitors; or which is inconsistent with the use of the park for normal purposes.

- An appeal may be made from the decision of the Director by filing written notice with the Board of Park Commissioners within thirty days of the Director's decision.

3.4 Disturbing the Peace

No person shall operate or play a radio, TV, musical instrument or amplifier or sound equipment so as to disturb the peace and good order.

3.5 Engine Powered Miniature Models and Toys

Engine-powered miniature model rocket or rocket-type device and toy radio controlled airplanes, boats, cars, sirens or other noisemaking devices shall not be operated.

3.6 Closing Hours; Emergency Closing

- No person shall remain, stop or park within the confines of any part of the park, including without limitation roadways and parking areas, between the period of dusk to dawn, except in emergency or with prior permit.
- No person shall remain, stop or park within the confines of any park, including without limitation roadways and parking areas, which has been closed.

3.7 Fires

No person shall start a fire, unless authorized to do so for resource management or other lawful purpose.

3.8 Sales Require Prior Permit

No person shall solicit, beg, hawk, peddle or sell anything of value or service within the park, without a prior permit.

4. Health, Safety and Sanitation

4.1 Litter and Deposit Thereof

- As used in this section:
 - "Litter" means material of any kind, including without limitation, garbage, trash, waste, rubbish, ashes, cans, bottles, paper, cartons, boxes, the residue of foods, edibles and liquids which is being discarded, or other refuse or lawn waste.
 - "Deposit" means to discard, drop, throw or place in a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents its being carried away by the elements.
 - "Litter receptacle" means a dumpster, trash, garbage or litter can, bin or similar container in which litter is meant to be deposited for removal.
 - No person shall discard litter, except to deposit litter from a permitted activity in a litter receptacle provided for such purpose.

4.2 Removal of Barricades or Warning Lights

No person shall destroy, remove, damage or extinguish

any barricade or sign or warning light that is placed for the protection of the public.

5. Law Enforcement

Compliance with Lawful Order, Resisting or Abusing Officer or Authorized Official of the Park District

- No person shall fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order given by a law enforcement officer or any authorized official of Darke County Park District, or willfully resist, obstruct or abuse any official in the execution of his/her office.
- No person, without privilege to do so, shall do any act which hampers or impedes any park employee or any other official in the execution of his/her office.

6. Liquor Control

6.1 Consumption, Sale or Possession

- As used in this section, "alcohol" and "intoxicating liquor" have the same meanings as used in Ohio R.C. 4301.01.
- No person shall drink, sell, possess or offer for sale any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage.

7. Property Offenses

7.1 Property Defacement, Destruction or Removal

No person shall injure, deface, destroy, disturb or remove any part of the park, including without limitation any building, sign, equipment or other property therein, or any rock or mineral, historic or prehistoric artifacts, nor shall any person knowingly cut down, destroy, girdle, burn or otherwise injure, deface, destroy, disturb or remove any vine, bush, shrub, sapling, tree, flower, grass or other vegetation standing or growing in the park.

7.2 Signs or Notices Prohibited; Exception

No person shall post any sign, advertisement or notice within the park, except reasonable freestanding directional signs on the day of an event provided such sign are removed at the conclusion of such event. No such sign shall be affixed to any tree or park property.

8. Recreational Activities

8.1 Horseback Riding

No person shall ride a horse within the boundaries of any park without permit.

8.2 Swimming

- As used in this section, "swimming" includes, without limitation, any form of activity involving submersion or use of flotation devices in or on water, such as swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling or use of floating objects.
- Swimming is hereby prohibited from any area of the parks.

8.3 Sled Riding, Skiing and Ice Skating

No person shall sled ride, ski or ice skate, except in areas designated and posted.

8.4 Camping or Sleeping

No person shall establish, conduct or maintain any camp, lodging or sleeping place in park areas.

8.5 Operation of All Purpose Vehicles Prohibited

No person shall operate, within the park, an all purpose vehicle. "All Purpose Vehicle" as used herein means any vehicle designed primarily for cross-country travel on land and water, or on more than one type of terrain, and steered by wheels or caterpillar treads, or any combination thereof, including vehicles that operate on a cushion of air, vehicles commonly known as all-terrain vehicles, all season vehicles, mini-bikes and trail bikes.

9. Sex Offenses

9.1 Solicitation of Sexual Activity

No person shall solicit sexual activity from any other person. "Sexual activity" as used herein means sexual conduct or sexual contact or both, and have the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2907.01.

9.2 Using Restroom Facilities

No person, except law enforcement or park employees or children of tender age accompanied by a supervising adult of the posted sex shall enter a restroom posted for the opposite sex.

10. Weapons and Fireworks

10.1 Possession/Discharging Firearms or Dangerous Weapons

- No person shall possess or discharge any air gun, rifle,

shotgun, revolver, pistol, firearm, switch blade, hunting knife, dagger, metal knuckles, slingshot, or other dangerous weapon.

- This section does not apply when firearms are possessed or used by a park official or other law enforcement official in the execution of his/her office.

10.2 Throwing or Shooting Missiles

No person shall throw, shoot, propel or release possession of an arrow, missile, pellet, stone, metal, paint ball or other similar substance capable of causing

physical harm to persons or property.

10.3 Fireworks Prohibited

- "Fireworks" as used in this section means any composition or device prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, fragmentation or detonation, except ordinary matches and except as provided in Ohio R.C. 3743.01.
- No person shall possess or discharge any fireworks.

Motor Vehicle and Traffic Rules and Regulations

11. Motor Vehicle and Traffic

11.1 Leaving Junk and Other Vehicles on Park Property Without Permission or Notification

No person shall willfully leave any vehicle or an "abandoned junk motor vehicle" as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63 on a park roadway or parking area, or upon or within the right of way of any park area, for twenty-four consecutive hours or longer, without notification to the park office of the reasons for leaving the vehicle in such place.

For purposes of this section, the fact that a vehicle has been so left without permission or notification is prima-facie evidence of abandonment

11.2 Use of Walks and Trails

- No person shall use any portion of the park for purposes of travel except roadways, walks and trails established for such purposes. No person shall operate any motor vehicle on trails established as foot trails.
- No person shall operate any type of self-propelled vehicle or any vehicle moved by animal or human power upon any foot trail. No person shall operate a bicycle except on roadways, parking lots, paved all-purpose trails or trails specifically designated for bicycle use.

11.3 Board Authority to Regulate Local Traffic

The provisions of the State Traffic Code as contained in Ohio R.C. Chapters 4511 and 4513 do not prevent the Board from enacting local traffic regulations covering the following activities with respect to the roadways under the jurisdiction and within the reasonable control of the Board:

- Regulating the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles;
- Regulating traffic by means of traffic control devices;
- Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblages on roadways;
- Regulating the speed of vehicles in parks pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4511.07(E);

All traffic control devices placed pursuant to the provisions of these traffic codes shall conform to the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, as set forth in Ohio R.C. 4511.09.

11.4 Placing Injurious Materials or Obstruction in Roadway

- No person shall place or knowingly drop upon any part of a roadway or parking area any tacks, bottles, wire, glass, nails or other articles which may damage or injure any person, vehicle or animal, except such substances that may be placed upon the roadway or parking area by proper authority for the repair or construction thereof.
- Any person who drops or permits to be dropped or thrown upon any roadway or parking area any noxious, destructive or other injurious material shall immediately remove the same.
- Any person authorized to remove a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a roadway or parking area shall remove any glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the ground from such vehicle.
- No person shall place any obstruction in or upon a roadway or parking area without proper authority.

11.5 Obedience to Traffic Control Devices

No pedestrian or driver of a vehicle shall disobey the instructions of any traffic control device placed in a park area.

11.6 Tampering with Traffic Control Devices Prohibited

No person, without lawful authority, shall knowingly move, deface, damage, destroy, or otherwise improperly tamper with any traffic control device.

11.7 Squealing Tires, "Peeling," Cracking Exhaust Noises

No person shall unnecessarily race the motor of any vehicle and no person shall operate any motor vehicle, except in an emergency, in such a manner that the vehicle is so rapidly accelerated or started from a stopped position that the exhaust system emits a loud, cracking or chattering noise unusual to its normal operation, or whereby the tires of such vehicle squeal or leave tire marks on the roadway, commonly called "peeling".

11.8 Littering From Motor Vehicle

- No operator or occupant of a motor vehicle shall, regardless of intent, throw, drop, discard or deposit litter from any motor vehicle in operation upon any roadway or parking area, except into a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents its being carried away or deposited by the elements.
- No operator of a motor vehicle in operation upon any roadway or parking area shall allow litter to be thrown, dropped, discarded or deposited from the motor vehicle, except into a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents its being carried away or deposited by the elements.
- As used in the section, "litter" means garbage, trash, waste, rubbish, ashes, cans, bottles, wire, paper, cartons, boxes, automobile parts, furniture, glass or anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature.