

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP
PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

ADOPTED JANUARY 18, 2001
AMENDED NOVEMBER 5, 2009
AMENDED JANUARY 5, 2012
AMENDED APRIL 6, 2021

RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION I. OPERATION

Sycamore Township parks will be open for public use only during times officially posted by the Board of Trustees. No person shall remain in or use any part of park facilities after closing time, unless by special written permission of the Board or its agent.

Areas may be closed whenever conditions are such that any activity conducted thereon would cause unnecessary damage to such area. Park areas under construction or development are closed until such time as opened by the Board for public use. The closed areas shall be posted.

SECTION 2. USE OF PARK FACILITIES

Picnic shelters, picnic areas, picnic tables, and play areas are available on a first come, first served basis unless reserved through the Township office and issued a written permit. Deposits and fees for use of shelters will be determined by the Board.

Athletic fields and volleyball courts are available also on a first come, first served basis, unless reserved through the Township office and issued a written permit. Persons or organizations with written permits have sole use of their designated area during the times listed on the permit. Athletic fields are not to be used if such use will cause damage to the area.

Batting cages must be reserved through the Township offices. Persons or organizations with written permits have sole use of the batting cages during times listed on the permit.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to cancel or relocate any individual or group holding a written permit to use any park facilities. Users of shelters, athletic fields, play areas, and other park facilities are responsible for proper cleanup of the areas they use. Failure to do so can result in loss of deposit and or permission to use the area. Failure to clean up may also cause an additional charge for labor by Township personnel. Clean up must be completed the same day as the event. Compliance with this rule for purposes of deposit refund shall be at the sole determination of the Board's agent.

SECTION 3. CHILD SUPERVISION

No child under ten years old shall be left unattended in any areas of the parks.

SECTION 4. PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

No person shall injure, deface, befoul, or disturb any part of a park or any building, sign, equipment, or other property found therein; nor shall any tree, flower, shrub, rock, or other mineral be removed, injured, or destroyed.

No park fixtures or equipment (picnic tables, bleachers, waste receptacles, soccer goals, etc.) shall be moved to other locations within the park or removed from park property without written permission of the Board or its agent.

SECTION 5. PRESERVATION OF GOOD ORDER IN THE PARKS

No individual or organization shall conduct, sponsor, or promote any public meeting, concert, theater, athletic event, or other public activity in a park without prior written authorization of the Board or its agent.

No event or activity sponsored or promoted by an individual or organization shall be permitted if, in the opinion of the Board, it will constitute hazards and dangers to the personal safety of the participants or other park visitors; endanger peace and good order in the parks; interfere with the regular and normal use of the facilities and activities by park visitors; or is inconsistent with the use of park lands for park purposes.

No person shall sell or offer for sale any article, thing, privilege, or service without a written permit from the Board or its agent, and no person shall do any begging, hawking, peddling, or soliciting herein.

SECTION 6. GARBAGE, REFUSE, ASHES, SEWAGE, AND WASTE MATERIAL

No person shall deposit, permit, or suffer to be deposited in any part of the parks, any garbage, ashes, sewage, refuse, brush, chips, or waste materials whatsoever, other than in receptacles provided for such purposes. No person shall dump any earth within the parks without specific written permission of the Board.

No person shall bring in or cause to be brought into the parks from outside park boundaries any garbage, ashes, sewage, refuse, appliances, or furniture for depositing in any manner within a park.

No person shall, either within or from without a park, discharge into, throw, cast, lay, drop, or leave in any storm sewer or drain flowing into or through a park any substance, matter, or thing, either liquid or solid, which may or shall result in the pollution of the water courses within the park to such an extent as to unreasonably or improperly prevent or interfere with the conservation of the natural resources of the parks, by preventing, interfering with, or lessening, to an improper or unreasonable degree, the use of said water course for recreational or other proper park uses, or to endanger the health of park visitors in the proper use and enjoyment of same.

SECTION 7. HUNTING, FISHING, AND MOLESTING WILDLIFE

No person within the confines of a park shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, molest, harm, harass, injure, or take any wild bird, animal, fish, minnows, or aquatic life found within the confines of a park, or therein rob or molest any bird nest or take the eggs of any bird or animal.

SECTION 8. WEAPONS

No person, in any park, except authorized employees or agents of the Board, or law enforcement authorities, shall discharge a sling shot or other missile-throwing device, including archery equipment. Furthermore, no person, in any park, except authorized employees or agents of the Board, or law enforcement authorities, shall discharge any fireworks or other explosive substances.

SECTION 9. FIRES

No person shall start a fire outside of a park grill or fireplace. Park grills are to be used for cooking only with the use of a shelter. All fires shall be extinguished thoroughly by the person or persons starting or using the same before leaving the immediate vicinity of the fire. The Board may at its discretion, prohibit fires or smoking for limited periods at any location or for any purpose when necessary for the protection of park property.

The fireplace in Bechtold Pavilion may be used with a permit from the Board of Trustees or its agent. No firewood may be brought in. Firewood will be provided by the Township for a \$20.00 fee. No food may be cooked in this fireplace.

SECTION 10. ANIMALS

Pets are permitted in the parks, with exceptions. Pets must be controlled and confined to a leash. Pet owners must have in their possession some device for the removal and containment of such pet's excrement and shall remove to a waste receptacle any excrement deposited by any pet under their control.

Pet owners shall not bring pets into playground areas.

No person shall bring into, have, or keep in a park any cat, reptile, or other animal destructive of bird life.

No person shall herd, graze, drive, permit to run at large within a park any cattle, horse, mule, donkey, goat, sheep, or any other animal within a park except with prior written permission of the Board.

SECTION 11. PARKING

Vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas only - no parking on grassy areas is permitted without written permission of the Board or its agent.

All handicapped parking restrictions shall be observed.

No blocking of park entries or entry ways to trails or walkways is permitted.

No other activities, such as roller blading, skate boarding, or improper bicycling shall take place in road or vehicle parking areas; except in areas clearly marked and closed off for that purpose.

No person shall leave any vehicle in a park during the hours which a park is closed. Any vehicle within a park after closing time will be subject to towing at the owner's expense.

No person shall park or store commercial car or truck, trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer, bus, recreational vehicle, boat, watercraft, commercial tractor, or any other vehicle with a gross vehicle weight over 6,000 pounds in any Township park unless prior permission from the Township is obtained.

SECTION 12. TRAFFIC

No person shall drive or propel or cause to be driven or propelled along or over any roads within the parks, any vehicle at a rate of speed greater than ten miles per hour.

State laws regulating equipment on vehicles shall apply to vehicles within the parks.

No portion of a park shall be used for the purpose of travel by motorized vehicle except designated, paved roadways, except by agents of the Board or police officers. Paths, walks, and trails established for pedestrian travel shall not be used for vehicular travel. Motorized vehicles used as a means of transportation for disabled individuals are permitted on paved trails and walkways.

No persons shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any park road in a reckless manner without due regard for the safety of pedestrians and drivers and all other occupants of any vehicle.

No person shall drive or propel or cause to be driven or propelled along or over any park road, any commercial car or truck, trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer, bus, or commercial tractor, unless authorized by the Board or its agent to make deliveries within a park, or unless engaged in work in a park that has been contracted for with the Board, or unless delivering or picking up persons using a truck or trailer as transportation to or from a park area. No vehicle in excess of five tons gross vehicular weight may be used to transport people to or from a park area without prior written permission from the Board or its agent.

No person shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any park road without complying with all traffic signs and all posted traffic regulations.

SECTION 13. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

No person shall recklessly engage in any boisterous, disorderly, or indecent conduct that annoys, inconveniences, or alarms the community within a park.

No person shall do any indecent, lascivious, lewd, or improper acts therein.

No person shall pilot a drone recklessly or in a manner to inconvenience the public or surrounding community.

No person shall play games of chance within a park, except by written permission of the Board or its agent.

No person shall obstruct, resist, or be abusive of or use profanity to a Township police officer or agent of the Board in and during the lawful discharge of his or her duties.

No person shall remain in a park who does not abide by the conditions adopted by the Board for the preservation of good order and the protection of property within a park; and no person shall remain within a park who does not abide by the direction of a duly authorized police officer or agent of the Board in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person directed by a police officer or agent of the Board to leave a park shall do so promptly and peaceably.

All persons who take part in any specialized activities for which there is a fee, rental, or admission charge must abide by the regulations adopted by the Board for these specialized activities.

No person shall indulge in any noisy, boisterous conduct nor shall any person use any sound amplification device without specific written permission of the Board or its agent.

No person shall remain in or use any part of the facilities of a park during times when a park is closed except by written permission of the Board or its agent.

No person shall drive or propel any type of golf ball or cause the same to be driven or propelled within a park.

No person or organization shall place any obstruction or markings on any trail, building, or structure within a park for any reason.

No person shall use skates, skateboards, rollerblades, bicycles, motorized models, or any other objects with wheels recklessly or in a manner to inconvenience the public.

SECTION 14. CAMPS

No person shall establish or maintain any camp or temporary lodging within a park, without the written permission of the Board or its agent.

SECTION 15. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

No alcoholic beverages shall be sold in any park except with specific written permission from the Board or its agents with the rental of an athletic field, shelter or pavilion area. Alcoholic beverages are only permitted in shelter or pavilion areas unless authorized in other areas by the Board or its agents.

SECTION 16. PUBLIC INTOXICATION

No person shall be under the influence of beer, liquor, or any intoxicating beverage, controlled substance, or harmful intoxicant within a park.

SECTION 17. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

No person shall possess, obtain, or use any controlled substance as defined by Section 4301.01 of the Ohio Revised Code within a park.

SECTION 18. HARMFUL INTOXICANTS

No person shall sniff, breathe, or otherwise use in any way other than the intended use by the manufacturer, any product containing a harmful intoxicant as defined by Section 2925.01 of the Ohio Revised Code within a park.

SECTION 19. SIGNS

No person shall place any sign or advertisement except with written permission of the Board or its agent.

SECTION 20. ENFORCEMENT/PENALTY

All State of Ohio criminal and traffic laws will be enforced in the parks. Additionally, the Board has adopted as laws within the parks these Rules and Regulations which further protect and preserve the resources and property of the parks and ensure that safety of all park visitors.

Any person violating any of the foregoing Rules and Regulations and any amendments or additions thereto shall be fined a sum not exceeding \$100.00 for the first offense, nor more than \$500.00 for a second or further offense.

Violations of any of these regulations shall be considered prima facie grounds for immediate dismissal from a park and revocation of previously granted authorization to same by any member of the law enforcement agency designated by the Board, or by an agent of the Board, to enforce the Rules and Regulations contained herein.

SECTION 21. TERMS

The term "park" as used herein means any Sycamore Township Trustees approved parks land owned, leased, or controlled by the Board of Trustees of Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.

The term "person" includes persons, corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies.

SECTION 22. EFFECTIVE DATE

These bylaws, Rules, and Regulations shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.