

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION I. OPERATION

Hamilton Township parks will be open for public use only during times determined 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 Township Administrator.

Areas may be closed whenever conditions are such that any activity conducted thereon would cause unnecessary damage to the area. Park areas under construction or development are closed until such time as opened by the Township Administrator 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 are determined by the Board of Trustees. 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.

The Township Administrator 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 Township Administrator.

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, defoul, 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 Township Administrator.

SECTION 5. PRESERVATION OF GOOD ORDER IN THE PARKS

No event or activity sponsored or promoted by an individual or organization shall be permitted if, in the opinion of the Township Administrator, 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 Township Administrator, 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, or permit 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, nor dump any earth or other materials within the parks without specific written permission of the Township Administrator.

No person shall, either within or from outside a park, discharge into, throw, cast, lay, drop, or leave in any stream, creek, storm sewer or drain flowing into or through a park any substance, either liquid or solid, which may or shall result in the pollution of the water courses within the park.

SECTION 7. HUNTING, FISHING AND MOLESTING WILDLIFE

No person within the confines of a park, unless authorized by specific written permission of the Township Administrator, shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, molest, harm, harass, injure, or take any wild bird or animal found within the confines of a park, or therein rob or molest any bird nest or take the eggs of any bird or animal.

Fishing is permitted at Hamilton Township Parks during the park's normal hours of operation. Hamilton Township utilizes a "Catch and Release" policy for its parks. Unless authorized by the Township Administrator, no fish may be removed from any lakes or streams. A State of Ohio fishing license is required. Exemptions to the licensing requirement are granted as follows: persons under the age of 16; persons 66 years old or older; persons who are unable to engage in fishing without the assistance of another person due to a physical disability and the person who is assisting the disabled person.

SECTION 8. WEAPONS

No person, in any park, except authorized employees or agents of the Board, or law enforcement authorities, shall discharge firearms of any description, air rifle or pistol, slingshot, or other missile throwing device including archery equipment, or discharge any firearm, fireworks, or explosive substances, or air rifle or pistol therein.

SECTION 9. FIRES

No person shall start a fire within a park, except small fires for cooking purposes in park grills, without written permission from the Township Administrator. No "bonfires" shall be permitted in the park grills. 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 Township Administrator may at his or her discretion, prohibit fires or smoking for limited periods at any location or for any purpose when necessary for the protection of park property.

SECTION 10. DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Pets are permitted in the Township's parks but 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.

SECTION 11. PARKING

Vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas only – no parking on grassy areas is permitted without written permission of the Township Administrator. 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 Administrator 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 (10) miles per hour.

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 law enforcement 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 any vehicle along or over any park road without complying with all traffic signs, including but not limited to marked areas with "No Vehicles Beyond This Point" signs, and all other posted traffic regulations.

SECTION 13. PROHIBITED 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 indulge in any noisy, boisterous conduct nor shall any person use any sound amplification device without specific written permission of the Township Administrator.

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

No person shall operate a drone or any other gas-powered remote control model within any park without express permission of the Township Administrator.

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

No skates, skateboards, rollerblades, motorized models, or any other objects with wheels except bicycles, strollers, wheelchairs, and motorized vehicles used as a means of transportation for disabled individuals, will be permitted on trails or walkways unless otherwise posted or with written permission of the Board or its agent.

No person shall takeoff or land, or cause to takeoff or land, a hot air balloon without specific written permission of the Township Administrator.

SECTION 14. CAMPS

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

SECTION 15. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

No alcoholic beverages shall be sold or consumed in any park except with specific written permission from the Township Administrator with the rental of a shelter or pavilion area. No open containers of alcoholic beverages shall be permitted within the parks except in areas designated for dispensing and consuming same, except with written permission of the Township Administrator.

SECTION 16. SIGNS

No person shall place any sign or advertisement except with written permission of the Township Administrator.

SECTION 17. ENFORCEMENT/PENALTY

No person shall remain in the park who does not abide by the Hamilton Township Parks Rules and Regulations. In addition, no individual shall remain in the park who does not abide by instructions and directions of duly authorized law enforcement officers or agents of the Board in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person ordered to leave the park shall do so promptly and peaceably.

The following activities shall be a proper basis for the forcible removal of any individual from the park by any authorized law enforcement officer or agent of the Board in the lawful performance of their duties or the imposition of fines and penalties as set forth below:

- A. Violation of any Hamilton Township Parks Rules and Regulations;
- B. Violation of the Ohio Revised Code;
- C. Use, sale, or possession of intoxicating liquor or beer as defined in R.C. 4301.01 or as authorized by special permit of the Board;
- D. Use, sale, or possession of any controlled substance or harmful intoxicant as defined in R.C. 2925.01;

- E. Any person deemed to be under the influence of beer, intoxicating liquor, or other controlled or harmful substances shall be removed;
- F. Being in the park after dark;
- G. Trespassing in park areas that are under construction or specifically prohibited and identified by proper signage.

Any person violating any of the Hamilton Township Parks Rules and Regulations, including any amendments or additions thereto, shall be fined a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first offense, nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each second or further offense, pursuant to R.C. 505.261 and applicable Resolutions of the Hamilton Township Trustees.

SECTION 18. TERMS

The terms “park” as used herein means any land owned, leased, or controlled by the Board of Trustees of Hamilton Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.

The term “person” includes persons, corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies or any other entity.

The term “Board” as used herein means the Hamilton Township Board of Township Trustees.

The term “pet” shall mean any privately owned animal, whether domestic or wild.