

Union Township

Park Rules and Regulations

Section 1

a) Hours of operations:

All Union Township Parks shall be open for public use from dawn to dusk or at such times as the Township Administrator authorizes. No person shall remain in or use any part of the facilities of the park when the park is closed.

b) Preservation of property and natural features:

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

Section 2

Garbage, Refuse, Ashes, Sewage and Waste Material:

No person shall deposit, permit or suffer to be deposited, in any part of the park, any garbage, ashes, sewage, refuse or any waste material whatsoever, otherwise than in receptacles provided for such purposes; nor dump any earth within the park without specific written permit from the Board of Trustees, or its agent.

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

No glass containers are allowed on park property. No person shall, either within or without the park, discharge into, throw, cast, lay, drop or leave in any ditch, road, storm sewer, or drain flowing into or through the park any substances, matter, or thing which shall result in pollution of water bodies.

Section 3

Hunting, Fishing, and Molesting Wildlife:

No person within the confines of the park shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, molest, harm, harass, injure, or take wild bird or animal found within the confines of the park.

Fishing is permitted within the boundaries of the park during normal hours of operation. Union Township has adopted a "Fish and Release" policy. Unless authorized by the Township Administrator, no fish may be removed from the lake. A State of Ohio fishing license is required. Exemptions 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 due to a physical disability and the person who is assisting the disabled person.

Section 4

Fires:

No person shall start a fire in the park except small fires for cooking purposes in park grills without written permit from the Board of Trustees, who may at their discretion prohibit fires or smoking for limited periods at any location or for any purpose when necessary for the protection of park property. All fires shall be put out by the person or persons starting or using the same before leaving the immediate vicinity of the fire.

Section 5

Weapons:

No person, except authorized employees or agents of the Board of Trustees shall discharge a firearm, deadly weapon, or dangerous ordinance, or air rifle, sling shot, fireworks or missile throwing device, within the park.

Section 6

Camps:

No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging place within the park.

Section 7

Disorderly Conduct:

- a) No person shall recklessly engage in conduct that inconveniences, annoys, or alarms the community within the park.

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

No person shall enter a toilet room set apart for the opposite sex.

No person shall play at games of chance.

- b) No person shall remain within the park who does not abide by conditions a and posted by the Board of Trustees for the preservation of good order and the protection of property within the park; and no person shall remain within the park who does not abide by the instructions and directions of duly authorized police officers or agents of the Board of Trustees in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person directed by a police officer or agent of the Board to leave the park shall do so promptly and peaceably.
- c) All persons who take part in any specialized activities for which there is a fee, rental, or admission charge must abide by the posted regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees for those specialized activities. No person shall be allowed within the confines of those specialized activities unless they have first paid the fee, rental, or admission charge.

- d) No person shall indulge in any noisy, boisterous conduct nor shall any person use any sound amplification device audible more than one hundred (100) feet from the device without specific written authorization from the Board of Trustees.
- e) Soccer fields and ball diamonds are to be closed whenever conditions are such that the use thereof would cause significant damage to the playing surfaces. Other areas are to 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 permanently closed until such time as opened by the Board of Trustees for public use. Areas to be closed shall be posted.

- f) No person shall drive or propel or cause a golf ball to be driven or propelled within the park.
- g) No bicycles, skates, skateboards, motorized models or any other objects with wheels except strollers will be permitted on the track or trail.

No person or organization shall place any chairs, equipment or any other obstruction on the track or trail for any reason.

Metal detecting is not permitted within any park grounds.

Section 8

Traffic/Parking:

- a) No other activities other than vehicle parking shall take place in the parking area.

All handicapped restrictions shall be observed.

No blocking of park entries or entry ways to tracks, trails, or walk ways.

No parking outside of the park area along ditches or rights-of-way.

No parking on grassy areas- vehicles shall be parked in designated parking only.

No person shall leave any vehicle in the park during the hours when the park is closed.

No person shall park or store any motor car, motorcycle, bicycle, wagon or other vehicles within the park, except in places and at such times designated by the Board of Trustees for such purposes.

- b) The state laws regulating equipment on vehicles shall apply to vehicles within the park.

- c) No portion of the park shall be used for purpose of way except drives. Roadways, paths, walks and trails established for pedestrian travel, shall not be used for vehicular travel.
- d) No person shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any park road in reckless manner without due regard for the safety of pedestrians, drivers and allother occupants of any vehicle.
- e) No person shall drive or propel or cause to be driven or propelled along or over any park road, any truck, commercial car, trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer, bus or commercial tractor, unless authorized by the Board of Trustees to make deliveries within the park, or unless engaged in work in the 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 the park area. No vehicle in excess of five (5) tons gross vehicle weight will be used to transport people to or from a park area without prior authorization from the Board of Trustees.
- f) 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.
- g) No person shall ride any horse or other animal within the park.

Section 9

Intoxicating Liquor:

No person shall possess an open container of beer or intoxicating liquor, as defined by Section 4301.1 of the Ohio Revised Code within the park.

Section 10

Controlled Substances:

No person shall possess, obtain, nor use a controlled substance, as defined by Section 4301.1 of the Ohio Revised Code, within the park.

Section 11

Harmful Intoxicants:

No person shall sniff, breathe, nor 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.

Section 12

Public Intoxication:

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

Section 13

Commercial Enterprises:

No person shall sell or offer for sale any article, thing, privilege or service within the park without prior authorization from the Board of Trustees and no person shall do any begging, hawking, peddling or soliciting therein.

Section 14

Signs:

No person shall expose, distribute or place any sign, advertisement, circular, notice or statement, or display any banner, emblem or design, within the park, without prior authorization from the Board of Trustees.

Section 15

Domestic Animals:

- a) No person shall herd, graze, drive or permit to run at large within the park, any cattle, horse, mule, donkey, goat, swine, sheep or other animal, or any poultry or other fowl without specific written permit of the Board of Trustees or their designee.
- b) No person shall bring into or permit within the park a domestic dog or domestic cat unless such is under constant control and supervision and held on a leash no longer than six feet in length or in a location designated for the run and roam of domesticated animals ("Dog Run"). This section does not assure admittance of park visitors with their pets to such locations and at such times as may conflict with the Board of Health requirements or preservation of public safety and order within the park.
- c) No pets or other animals shall be allowed to disturb or become a nuisance to other users of the park.
- d) It shall be the duty and responsibility of the owner, keeper or person in control of any pet which has deposited any fecal matter on park property or recreation areas to immediately cause said fecal matter to be removed and deposited in a suitable container or receptacle under the immediate control of the owner, keeper or person in control of the pet.
- e) Pets are not permitted in play equipment areas or in sand recreation areas unless the animal is an "assistance dog" and falls under the definition provided for in Ohio Revised Code 955.011.
- f) Owners, keepers or persons in control of any pet are responsible for their dogs and any injury caused by them. The Township is not a guarantor of the physical health, safety or fitness of any Park user or the safety of any person or animal using the parks. All users of the park use the park at their own risk, without any guaranty or warranty of any kind by the Township.
- g) "Dog Run" area
 - a. Certain park properties may have designated areas for off-leash "Dog Run" area. These areas will be marked by signs and enclosed in fences from the remaining areas of the park.
 - b. Within designated Dog Run areas, animals are permitted to be off leash
 - c. Dogs less than four (4) months old are not permitted in the dog run area
 - d. Female Dogs in season are not permitted in the dog run area.
 - e. Any animal or human not maintaining appropriate behavior within the dog run area must immediately leave the area.

Section 16

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 the park prior to authorization of the Board of Trustees.

No event or activity sponsored or promoted by an individual or organization shall be permitted if, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, it will constitute hazards and dangers to the personal safety of the participants or other park visitors; endangers peace and good order in the parks; interferes with the regular and normal use of the facilities and activities by park visitors; or which is inconsistent with the use of the park lands for park purposes. This includes, but is not limited to engaging in “metal detecting” within the park properties. No party is authorized to purposely disturb the park lands in a manner that may create risk of harm to other users of the park property.

Section 17

Playground/ Tot Lot:

No child shall be left unattended.

Rules for each playground are posted at each Tot Lot.

Section 18

Pond:

- a) No swimming or wading.
- b) No boating of any type.
- c) No motorized models or remote control devices.
- d) No ice skating, ice fishing, or snowmobiling.
- e) No child under age of 12 years old may fish unless accompanied by an adult.
- f) Fishing permitted only with a proper license. (See Section 3)

Section 19

Effective Date:

These rules and regulations shall take effect and be in force as April 15, 1989.

Section 20

Penalties:

Whoever violates any of the above stated regulations or amendments are guilty of a minor misdemeanor for a first offense; for each subsequent offense such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. **Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 505.261 and Resolution 89-10 of the Union Township Board of Trustees.**

Section 21

Purpose:

The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to protect and preserve the resources and property of the parks, and promote the safe enjoyment of the parks by all park visitors.