

Rules & Regulations For Mason Parks

Authority

1. The following rules and regulations are adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Mason, pursuant to SECTION 1545.09 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, for the preservation of good order within and adjacent to Parks and Reservations of land, and for the preservation and protection of the parks, parkways, and other reservation of land under its jurisdiction and, control and of property of natural life therein.

Definitions

1. Park District shall mean City of Mason Park District which includes Heritage Oak Park, Quinn Park, Meadows Park, Corwin M. Nixon Park, Pine Hill Lakes Parks, and Frank Hosea Woods.
2. Park shall mean any land or water area owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the park district.
3. Board shall mean the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District.
4. Director shall mean the director of the Park District.
5. Peace Officer shall mean a park district employee qualified to enforce the rules and regulations of the park district pursuant to Section 1545.13 Ohio Revised Code, and every other law enforcement officer of the City of Mason, State of Ohio or any political subdivision thereof, including, but not limited to, State Highway Patrolmen, Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs, Constables, and Division of Wildlife Game Protectors.
6. Person shall mean any individual, company, partnership, corporation, or association, or combination of individuals, or any employee, agent or officer thereof.
7. V.I.P. shall mean volunteers in the parks assisting with park programs, and operations. A V.I.P. has the authority to request persons to abide by the rules and regulations of the park district.
8. Park Waters shall mean any lake, pond, stream, channel, or other body of water, or any part thereof, whether natural or artificial, located in a park.
9. Fish or Fishing shall mean taking or attempting to take fish by any method, and all other acts as placing, setting, drawing, or using any device commonly used to take fish whether resulting in such taking or not.
10. Animal or Animals shall mean quadrupeds, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and insects.
11. Motor Vehicle shall mean any vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power.
12. Vehicle shall mean everything on wheels.
13. Watercraft shall mean any vessel designed for navigation on water, including, but not limited to any rowboat, sailboat or motorboat.
14. Motorboat shall mean any watercraft propelled by any mechanical device, electric motor, or internal combustion engine.

Hours

All parks in the city shall be open to the public during the daylight hours provided. However, the Corwin M. Nixon Park and Heritage Oak Park hours are set as follows:

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| 1. Corwin M. Nixon Park: | May- August | 7:00 a.m.-Sunset | |
| | September-April | 8:00 a.m.- Sunset | |
| 2. Heritage Oak Park: | March-October | Sunrise-11:00 p.m. | Sunday-Thursday |
| | | Sunrise-Midnight | Friday and Saturday |

The City Manager's Office may modify the aforesaid opening and closing hours when, in its discretions, the public interest would be served by such modification. Any change in the aforesaid hours shall be posted at park entrances no later than midnight preceding the day on which they are effective.

Scheduled Events & Activities

1. Events and Activities scheduled by persons or organizations or by the Department of Recreation shall have priority to the use of parks and recreational facilities. Otherwise, parks and recreation facilities are available for the use of the public on a first come first serve basis.
2. The Scheduling of events and activities space and time therefore, at parks and recreation facilities, shall be first approved by the office of the Director of parks and Recreation. In scheduling events and activities, the following categories shall apply in the descending order:
 - a. The Department of Recreation
 - b. Fraternal, civic, religious, social, athletic, and charitable organizations whose regular meeting place is located within the City or whose regular membership is made up of a majority of persons who are residents of the City.
 - c. Industrial organizations sponsored by industries located within the City.
 - d. Other fraternal, civic, religious, social, industrial, athletic, and charitable organizations
3. An Organization utilizing a park recreational facility for a reserved or scheduled function shall, as a condition of the reservation and scheduling, be responsible for providing adequate control and supervision over members and guest utilizing the park s or recreational facility. Organizations scheduling and reserving recreational facilities are thereby also insuring that the park or recreational facility used is not damaged by the use of their members and guests at the functions. Upon notice and hearing before the City Manager or Hearing Officer designated by him/her, if it is determined that, by the exercise of adequate control and supervision, the organization could have prevented the violation or damage substantially decreased the likelihood of same occurring, the City Manager or Hearing Officer may thereafter refuse to schedule or reserve a park or recreational facility for the organization for a maximum period of 18 months.

Vehicles

1. Driving in Permitted areas. No person in a park shall operate a vehicle except on and within the paths and road provided for such vehicles.
2. Barricades. No person in a park shall drive around, cause to be moved or damage any Barricade or barrier so placed to temporarily or permanently close a road to traffic.
3. Speed. No person in a park shall operate a motor vehicle at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour in a park or recreational facility.
4. Parking. No person shall park any vehicle except in places designated for this purpose.
5. After hours parking. No person shall park any vehicle except in places designated for this purpose.
6. One way roads. No person in a park shall drive a vehicle on a road or path in the direction other than that indicated by the traffic signs.
7. Trucks. No person in a park shall drive a truck, tractor, or other vehicle, which is at that time used for transportation of goods or material, over any park road without a permit from the Director/
8. Road Limits. No person shall operate, move, park, or locate a vehicle, or combination of vehicles, having a gross load capacity in excess of three-fourths of a ton in a park or recreational facility unless the prior approval of the Department of Parks and Recreation is obtained.
9. Safety. No person 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.
10. Impounding vehicles. Vehicles in parks in violation of these Rules and Regulations shall be removed or cause to be removed by peace officers to a location, in or outside of the park, where the same may be kept until owners, or their authorized representative, obtain an order from the Director or his/her agents releasing such vehicles to the owners thereof, or their authorized representatives.
11. No person in a park shall intentionally accelerate a motor vehicle causing the rubber to mark park roadway surfaces.
12. No person shall park any motor vehicles or other means of conveyance, walk, or trespass upon any area not secured by a gate during the hours when a park is closed except by permit from the Director.
13. No person who is not handicapped or operating a motor vehicle to transport a handicapped person shall stop, stand or park any motor vehicle at specifically designated locations provided for the handicapped.
14. No person shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any park road without complying with all traffic signs and posted traffic regulations.

Protection of Natural & Ecological Environment

1. No person shall injure, deface, disturb or damage in any manner any part of the park property or part thereof, which is owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the park property or part thereof, which owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the park district; nor shall any trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other plants animals, fossils or minerals be removed, injured or destroyed.
2. Special exceptions to the above may be permitted for the purposes of scientific research, if approved guidelines are followed and collecting of natural minerals is authorized by written permit of the Director.
3. Exceptions to the above could also be made for removal of non-native (alien or exotic) species by park personnel and for generally accepted land management practices.
4. No person shall install or plant any materials except with a permit from the Director.
5. No person shall climb or rappel any rock escarpment or other natural features.
6. When walking on a designated hiking trail, walking trail, or designated recreational area, no person shall leave the hiking trail, walking trail, or designated recreational area without the permission of the Director.

Animals

1. No person in the confines of the park shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, molest, harm, harass, injure or disturb wild animals or take wild birds or animals, or therein rob or molest any bird nest or take the eggs of any bird found in the confines of the park.
2. Special exceptions to trapping of wild animals may be permitted for the purposes of scientific research, if approved guidelines are followed; including use of humane live trapping methods and release of the animals, and the trapping is authorized by written permit of the Director.
3. Trapping and removal of non-native animals to preserve native wildlife and habitats may be accomplished by park personnel.
4. No person in a park shall Fish in park waters in violation of any sign or signs prohibiting fishing or a manner thereof.
5. No person in a park shall Hunt Fish with a bow and arrow.
6. No person in a park shall have in his/her possession or shoot crossbows.
7. No person in a park shall ride a horse, mule, donkey, cattle or other animal in the park without the specific written permit of the Director.
8. No person shall bring into, have, or keep in the park, any animal destructive of wildlife, nor shall any person bring into or permit within the park a domestic dog or a domestic cat unless such is under constant control and supervision and held on a leash no longer than six feet in length.
9. 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.

10. No person being the owner or having charge of a dog, cat or other animal shall permit the dog, cat, or other animal to be present in areas designated or posted as Play Areas within a park or recreational facility.

11. The City of Mason shall have the right to impound or destroy a feral or diseased animal.

Personal Conduct

1. No person in or adjacent to a park shall conduct himself/herself by word or by act, in a riotous, disorderly, boisterous, threatening or other manner so as to disturb the peace and good order of the park.
2. No person shall use any sound amplification device audible more than twenty (20) feet from the device without specific written permission from the Director. No speakers, amplifiers, or similar equipment shall be displayed outside of a vehicle.
3. No person shall remain within the park that does not abide by conditions adopted and posted by the Board 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 of a duly authorized peace officer or agent of the Board, in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person directed by a peace officer or agent of the Board shall do so promptly and peaceably.
4. No person shall obstruct, resist or be abusive of, or use profanity to a park peace officer or agent of the Board in and during the lawful performance of his/her duties.
5. No person in the park shall willfully assault or commit bodily injury upon another or engage in or abet or aid in any fight, quarrel, or other disturbance.
6. No person or groups of persons shall assemble in or adjacent to a park for any unlawful purpose or riotous assemblance or with intent to annoy, harass, or inflict property damage or bodily injury upon another person or persons or inflict damage to the park.
7. No person in a park shall solicit or attempt to solicit another to engage in an act of sex perversion or solicit or request another to commit, perform, or engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene, or indecent act or behavior.
8. No person with the intent to do so shall willfully interfere with, disrupt, or prevent the conduct of any recreational program event or activity conducted by or having been scheduled through the Department of Parks and Recreation at the park or recreational facility.

Intoxicating Liquor/Controlled Substances, Harmful Intoxicants

1. No person in a park shall sell or offer for sale any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage.
2. No person in a park shall be intoxicated or under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage.
3. No person in a park shall consume, possess or display the presence of any alcoholic beverage in a park.
4. No person in a park shall possess, sell, or offer for sale any type of narcotic drug, opiate, or hallucinogen, or any equipment for administering such drugs, opiates or hallucinogens.

Power Models & Toy Engine Units

1. No person in or adjacent to a park shall operate any engine powered model or toy airplane, without the written authorization of the Director of Parks and Recreation. Such Director has the discretion of determining whether or not authorization should be given based on other activities in the area and whether or no the operator has the necessary licensing.

Firearms & Weapons

1. No person, except a police officer, shall possess or discharge a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous ordnance, air rifle, slingshot or missile-throwing device.
2. Firearms, bows and arrows, knives, air or gas guns, missiles, slingshots or other missile throwing devices or any snares or traps brought into a park may be confiscated by peace officers.

Camping

1. No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging place or sleeping place, within the park, without the specific written permit from the Director.

Fires

1. No person shall start a fire in the park except small fires for cooking purposes in park grills.
2. The Director may at his/her discretion prohibit fires or smoking for limited periods at any location or for any purpose when necessary for the protection of park property.
3. All fires shall be properly contained and extinguished by the person or persons starting or using the same before leaving the immediate vicinity of the fire.
4. No person shall collect wood in a park for any purpose.
5. No person shall place portable stoves or grills in shelters or on combustible picnic tables.
6. No person shall deposit burning material or hot ashes on grass or plants, or in refuse containers.

Commercial Activities

1. No person in a park shall sell or offer for sale any article, privilege, or services unless such sales or offer is pursuant to a contract with the park district.
2. No person in a park shall beg, peddle, or solicit for money, a privilege or service.
3. No park shall be used for commercial purposes except with a permit from the Director.

Erecting and Attaching Signs

1. No person shall erect a sign or attach a sign to property owned or controlled by the park district, nor shall any person display any placard, notice advertisement, circular, banner, or statement of kind other than a permanent sign on a vehicle.

Water Activities

1. No person shall place any boat, canoe, raft or watercraft of any type upon or in a lake, pond, stream or other waters within the boundaries of the park without specific written permission from the Director.
2. No person shall swim, bathe, wade, or enter into any waters within a park.

Fireworks and Explosives

1. No person shall have in his/her possession or ignite any fireworks.
2. No person in a park shall have in his/her possession or detonate any explosives or explosive devices.

Prohibited Activities

1. No person in a park shall operate an all-terrain vehicle, air balloon, hang glider, or metal detector.
2. No person in a park shall operate a snowmobile, engage in sledding, skiing or ice-skating except in areas and times designated by the Director.

Employee Exemption

1. Acts of employees of the Park District, to the extent necessary for the performance of their authorized duties, shall be exempt from the provisions of these Rules and Regulations.
2. The Director may from time to time designate a Park District employee or employees to exercise any authority permitted him under these Rules and Regulations.

Ejection From The Park

1. Peace Officers and employees of the Park District may order any person violating any of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations to leave the park and no person shall fail to obey such orders.
2. Any person repeatedly violating rules and regulations may lose the privilege of entering a park for a period of time as designated by the Director therein.

Penalty

1. Whoever is convicted of or pleads guilty of a violation of Sections 963.04 (a), (b), (c), 963.05 (a), (b), 963.06 (a), (b), 963.07, 963.08, or 963.09 shall be guilty of minor misdemeanor on the first offense. On a second offense within one year after the first offense such a person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. On each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. Penalties are as provided in Section 501.99. (ord. 43-1980. Passed 4-28-80)