



MetroParks of Butler County Rules and Regulations

Authorized and approved by Board of Park Commissioners

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The following sections of the Ohio Revised Code pertain to the establishment and enforcement of Park rules and regulations by MetroParks of Butler County.

1545.09

Bylaws, rules, and regulations - The Board of Park Commissioners shall adopt such bylaws, rules, and regulations as the Board deems advisable for the preservation of good order within and adjacent to Parks and reservations of land, and for the protection and preservation of the Parks and parkways, and other reservations of land under its jurisdiction and control, and of property and natural life therein. Such bylaws, rules, and regulations shall be published as provided in case of ordinances of municipal corporations before taking effect.

No person shall violate any of such bylaws, rules, or regulations. All fines collected for any violation of this section shall be paid into the treasury of such Park Board.

1545.13

Police powers - Such employees as the Board of Park Commissioners designates for the purpose may exercise all the powers of police officers within and adjacent to the lands under the jurisdiction and control of such Board. Before exercising such powers, such employees shall take an oath, and give a bond to the state in such sum as the board prescribes, for the proper performance of their duties in such respect.

1545.99

Penalty - Whoever violates section 1545.09 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than \$150 for a first offense; for such subsequent offenses such person shall be fined not more than \$500.

Definitions

As used in these Rules and Regulations:

“Park” or **“Parks”** or **“Parklands”** or **“Preserves”** means any and all land owned or controlled by the Board of Park Commissioners of MetroParks of Butler County.

“Board” or **“Park Board”**: the Board of Park Commissioners of MetroParks of Butler County, or its designated representative.

“Executive Director”: the Executive Director of MetroParks of Butler County or his or her designated representative. “

“Motor Vehicle”, **“Motorized Bicycle”** or **“Vehicle”**: any device or vehicle, upon or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a path, roadway or highway.

“Park”: any designated park, open area, or MetroParks-managed area

“Police Officer” or **“Officer”**: certified Ohio Peace Officer who is employed in such capacity by MetroParks of Butler County.

“Person” includes any person, persons, members of partnerships and/or members or officers of corporations and/or their employees.

Exceptions

- A. These rules are not applicable to employees, volunteers, contractors or agents of the Board in pursuit of his or her official and sanctioned duties.
- B. A MetroParks Special Permit must be obtained to waive these rules. Special Permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Board of Park Commissioners of MetroParks of Butler County does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations:

Section 1: Preservation of Property & Natural Features

- A. No person shall injure, deface, disturb, or defoul any part of the Park or any building, sign, equipment, or other property found therein.
- B. No individual or team shall play on, practice on, or in any way use a sports field at a time when the area is marked as closed by the Executive Director or his or her designee or when field conditions are such that activity is likely to cause damage. No individual or team shall fail to vacate a sports field when such field has been reserved by another party.
- C. No person shall carry on or about his or her person a container capable of propelling paint by means of a gaseous charge.
- D. No person shall collect any animal including birds, invertebrates (including mollusks), non-game fish, amphibians and reptiles or plant material in any area of the Parks, except leaves that have dropped from trees may be collected for educational purposes. Game fish and wildlife may be taken as permitted elsewhere in these Rules and Regulations.
- E. No person shall leave the official or improved trails while visiting posted natural areas of the Park.
- F. No person shall bring into the Park for purpose of cultivation any plant, seed, bulb, tuber, or other vegetation.
- G. No person shall collect any rock, mineral, fossil, historical artifact or archeological material in any area of the Park.
- H. No person shall operate a metal detector within the Park.

Section 2: Garbage, Refuse, Ashes, Sewage, and Waste Material

- A. 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, other than in receptacles or pits provided for such purposes nor dump any earth within the Park.
- B. No person shall discharge into, throw, cast, lay, drop, or leave in any river, brook, stream, storm sewer, or drain flowing into or through the Park, any substance, matter, or thing, either liquid or solid which may or shall result in the pollution within the Park.

Section 3: Hunting, Fishing, and Harassing Wildlife

- A. No person within the confines of the Park, shall hunt in areas not specifically designated for hunting, pursue with dogs, trap, harm, harass, feed, or injure any wild bird or animal found within the confines of the Park, or therein rob or harass any bird nest, or take the eggs of any bird.
- B. No person shall fish in any waters in the Park in a manner contrary to State of Ohio Law or regulation, or in waters where fishing is prohibited.
- C. The use of unattended hooks, fish traps, spears or gigs, bows and arrows for fishing, the harvesting of mollusks and seining are prohibited. Fishing shall not be permitted during the hours the Park is closed.

- D. Regarding the lake at Voice of America Park: No person shall fish without a valid MetroParks fishing permit. Nor shall any person fish from shore or boat in an area on part of or adjacent to the lake where such practices are prohibited. No person shall take any fish from the lake that does not conform to the specific species, variation, size and/or quantity of the fish that may be taken under the fishing permit.
- E. No person, on property owned or controlled by the MetroParks of Butler County shall purposely prevent or attempt to prevent any person from hunting, trapping or fishing for wild animals as authorized by the Board by any of the following means:
 - 1. Placing oneself in a location, in which they know or should know that their presence may affect the behavior of the animal being hunted, trapped or fished.
 - 2. Creating a visual, aural, olfactory, or physical stimulus intended to affect the behavior of the wild animal being hunted, trapped or fished.
 - 3. Affecting the condition or location of personal property intended for the use of the hunting, trapping or fishing activity.
- F. In any Park area where the Board has authorized individuals to hunt, no other persons shall be permitted within such Park area so long as the hunting is authorized.
- G. No person shall construct, place or use a permanent-type tree stand, or place spikes or other metal objects into a tree to act as steps or to hold a tree stand on any Park property. Authorized hunters may use temporary tree stands while making every effort to minimize damage to the tree. No tree stand shall be left in the Park unattended except by special permit.
- H. No person shall unnecessarily or continuously use or shine spotlights or automobile headlights onto Park lands, except under the direction of a Police Officer or Park employee, or except where necessary for the preservation of human life or property.

Section 4: Fires, Firewood, Embers, Smoking

- A. No person shall cut any tree living or dead or gather firewood within the Park.
- B. No person shall kindle, build, maintain or use fire other than in places in the Park provided or designated for such purposes.
- C. No person shall discard, leave or dispose of any matches, embers, fires, briquettes, coals, cigarette, cigar, or other burning objects which have not been extinguished entirely.
- D. No person shall smoke in any area of the Park where smoking has been prohibited and has been posted or within any building within the Park.
- E. No person shall bring any firewood into any Park.

Section 5: Firearms and Weapons

- A. All Park buildings except buildings that are used primarily as a shelter, restroom, parking facility for motor vehicles or rest facilities shall be posted with the following sign: Unless otherwise authorized by law, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person's control, convey, or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance onto these premises.
- B. No person, except a Police Officer, law enforcement officer, a person permitted within a designated hunting area, a person within a designated target range shall carry or possess an air rifle, slingshot, bow, crossbow, rocket, missile throwing device, switchblade, hunting knife, dagger, or metal knuckles within a Park.
- C. No person, except a Police Officer, another law enforcement officer, a person hunting in a designated hunting area, a person shooting in a designated target range, or a person specifically authorized, shall discharge any firearm, firework or explosive substance, or air rifle within or into a Park. Further, no person shall discharge a weapon within a designated hunting area or target range unless:
 - 1. such person possesses a valid MetroParks special permit for hunting; and
 - 2. such person possesses all Ohio licenses, permits, and/or stamps as required under Ohio Division of Wildlife regulations; and
 - 3. such person if hunting, possesses only those weapons permitted under Ohio Division of Wildlife regulations.

Section 6: Camps

- A. No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging place within the Park outside of areas designated for such use. Nor shall camping occur without proper reservations and payment of fees.

Section 7: Disorderly Conduct

- A. No person shall, either by work or act, indulge in any unreasonably noisy, boisterous, disorderly or indecent conduct, or in any manner disturb the peace or good order of the community within the Park; nor shall any person play at games of chance or be intoxicated, or do any indecent, lascivious, lewd, or improper act therein.
- B. No person shall resist, or be abusive of, or use profanity to a Police Officer, employee, or volunteer in and during the lawful discharge of his or her duties.
- C. No person shall knowingly make a false statement or knowingly swear or affirm the truth of a false statement previously made to a Police Officer, law enforcement officer, employee or agent of the Board.
- D. No person shall remain within the Park who does not abide by conditions adopted and posted by the Board for 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 agent of the Board, in the lawful performance of his or her duties. A person directed by a police officer or agent of the Board to leave the Park shall do so promptly and peaceably.

- E. No person shall swim in any waters or wade in waters deeper than 2 feet within or adjacent to the Park unless such location is designated as a swimming or wading area by the Board or unless he or she has been issued a permit to do so by the Executive Director or his or her designee.
- F. No person shall place or launch any boat, canoe, kayak, raft, or watercraft of any type in any lake, pond, or stream which has not been designated for this purpose.
- G. No person shall launch a boat or watercraft with engine(s) from a launching site or ramp within the Park.
- H. No person or group of persons shall loiter in or near any building, restroom, or other structure; nor loiter in or near a motor vehicle or vehicles, on or about a motorcycle or motorcycles, or on or about bicycles within the Park.
- I. No person shall knowingly disregard the instructions, warnings, or commands of any sign legally placed in the Park.
- J. No person shall operate or permit the operation of any sound amplification system within a Park so that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of 50 or more feet from the source except when the system is used to request medical or vehicular assistance or to warn of a hazardous road condition.
- K. No person shall knowingly place or drop upon any part of a trail, lane, road, or street, owned or maintained by MetroParks, any tacks, bottles, wire, glass, nails, screws, trees, brush, thorns or other articles which may damage or injure any person, a vehicle, or an animal within or adjacent to the Park.

Section 8: Indecent Conduct and Exposure

- A. No person shall appear in the Park in a state of nudity, or commit, perform, engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene or indecent act or behavior.
- B. No person shall solicit or attempt to solicit another to engage in an act of sexual perversion or solicit or ask anyone to commit, perform, or engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene or indecent act or behavior.

Section 9: Traffic

- A. No pedestrian, driver of a vehicle or operator of a bicycle shall fail to obey the instructions of any traffic control device within the Park.
- B. No person shall drive or propel or cause to be driven or propelled along or over any road, trail or pathway within the Park, any vehicle at a greater rate of speed than the posted speed limit.
- C. No driver shall permit a person under the age of 16 years to ride in the open bed of a pickup truck within the Park. No person shall ride on the sides, wheel wells, or tailgate portion of a truck bed.
- D. No person shall Park or store any motor car, motorcycle, bicycle, wagon, boat, or other vehicle within the Park, except in places designated by the Board for such purposes or in an emergency situation with approval from a Police Officer or another designee of the Board for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours.

- E. No motor vehicle shall leave the roadway or designated parking area unless the driver is instructed to do so by a Park employee, a Police Officer, or another designee of the Board or unless the Board has designated an area for off-road motor vehicle use and that motor vehicle is within such an area.
- F. No person shall operate within the Park any type of off-road or all-terrain vehicle such as snowmobile, dirt bike, go-cart, or any motorized bicycle, scooter, or similar device except in areas as have been designated for such purposes.
- G. No portion of the Park shall be used for purpose of way, except drives, roadways, paths, walks and trails established for such purpose; and footpaths or walks designated for pedestrian or equestrian travel shall not be used for vehicular purposes.
- H. No person shall drive upon or along any Park road or drive, which has been closed and posted with appropriate signs or barricades by order of action of the Executive Director, a Police Officer or other employee or agent of the Board.
- I. No person shall ride or walk a bicycle on any trail, pathway or walkway unless said trail, pathway or walkway is specifically designated.
- J. No person shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any Park road, trail or pathway in a reckless manner without due regard for the safety of others within the Park, or while under the influence.
- K. No person shall accelerate a motor vehicle in such a manner as to cause the rubber tires to spin, mark or deface the Park roadway or parking lot.
- L. No person shall ride any horse or other animal within the Park, except upon bridle paths or roads.
- M. 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 special parking locations provided for the handicapped within or adjacent to the Park. Motor vehicles using handicapped parking areas must display a handicapped placard in the window, or a handicapped license plate.

Section 10: Vendors, Contributions or Solicitation

- A. No person shall sell or solicit for sale any article, privilege or service within the Park unless they are properly licensed and possess a special permit.
- B. No person shall solicit contributions for any purpose, whether public or private, within the Park unless they possess a special permit.
- C. No person shall beg or solicit any person for any purpose in the Park.

Section 11: Signs

- A. No person shall place any advertisement, poster, sign, letter, handbill or placard of any description within any Park.

Section 12: Grazing

- A. No person except an employee or agent of the Board shall herd, graze, drive, or permit to run at large within the Park any cattle, horse, mule, donkey, goat, swine, sheep, or other farm animal, or any poultry or other fowl.

Section 13: Domestic Animals, Wild Animals

- A. No person who is the owner or handler of any dog shall fail to keep such animal on a leash composed of rope or similar material sufficient in strength to restrain the dog to which it is attached and no longer than six (6) feet in length unless the dog is:
 - 1. a service animal used for medical reasons accompanied by its owner; or
 - 2. a police K-9 supervised by emergency personnel; or
 - 3. within the confines of a designated off leash Dog Park.
- B. All dogs, whether on or off leash, must be under control at all times while in the Park.
- C. No person who brings a dog into the Park shall fail to remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any excrement (feces) deposited within the Park.
- D. No person shall bring into, have, or keep in the Park, any cat, exotic pet, livestock, or other animal destructive of bird life, other wildlife, or flora.
- E. No person shall have or maintain any animal within the Park that excites fear or disturbs the quiet or enjoyment of other persons.
- F. No person shall feed or release any fish, bird or other wild animal in the Park.
- G. No person shall mistreat any animal within the confines of the Park.
- H. No person shall ride a horse along any bridle trail without due respect for other riders, vehicles, or pedestrians, or so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person while in lawful use of the Park. At all points, where bridle trails cross roads, drives, or parkways, riders shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles or pedestrians. Horse excrement should be removed or moved away from dual use bridle/walking trails, parking lots or roadways.

Section 14: Curfew

- A. No unauthorized person shall be permitted, except in designated areas, to remain, stop, or Park within the confines of the Park between sunset and sunrise. Any vehicle left within the Park after closing without permission shall be removed from the Park at the owner's expense.

Section 15: Compliance with Orders of Police Officers

- A. No person shall fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order relating to the regulation, direction or control of traffic, or to any other lawful order given by any peace officer, or willfully resist, obstruct or abuse any peace officer or other official in the execution of his or her office.

Section 16: Alcoholic Beverages, Intoxicants, Drugs

- A. No person shall possess, consume, sell, make a gift of, or offer for sale any alcoholic beverage or intoxicating liquor within or adjacent to any area of the Park except within a designated area where alcoholic beverages or intoxicating liquors may be possessed and consumed if said beverage was purchased from an employee or agent of the Board in compliance with state law.
- B. No person shall possess, or consume any alcoholic beverage or intoxicating liquor within a rented shelter or facility unless it has been designated for that purpose.
- C. No person under the age of 21 shall possess or consume any alcoholic beverage or intoxicating liquor within any Park.
- D. No person under the influence of intoxicating or hallucinatory substances or products, as defined by the State of Ohio Revised Code and the Federal law pertaining to narcotics, shall enter or remain within the Park, nor shall any person within or adjacent to the Park possess, use, administer, receive, make available to himself, or any person, or animal, any intoxicating or hallucinatory substances or products, as defined by the State of Ohio Revised Code and the Federal law pertaining to narcotics.
- E. No person under the age of 18 shall possess or use any tobacco product within the Park.

Section 17: Prohibited Games, Toys, and Sports

- A. No person shall play, practice, or use horseshoes, golf, yard darts, inflatables, bounce houses or any other game/activity possible of causing serious injury to participants or other Park visitors in an area not designated and posted for such purposes.
- B. No person shall use a skateboard, bicycle, scooter, or similar device in a manner that causes damage or wear to Park amenities not specifically designated for such use, nor shall any person apply wax or similar substance to any surface within the Park.
- C. No person shall use or operate a toy or model airplane, helicopter, boat, car, unmanned aerial vehicle (drone), rocket or truck which is powered or operated through the use of electricity, an internal combustion engine, or compressed air in the Park unless that person is doing so within an area designated for such a purpose.

Section 18: Reserved Facilities or Areas

- A. No person shall use shelters or other areas officially posted as “reserved” for others. Those holding reservations will receive a permit upon acceptance of their application and fee.
- B. No person shall remove or alter any officially posted “reserved” sign within the Park.

Section 19: Aviation

- A. No person other than an emergency medical responder or a law enforcement officer in pursuit of his or her official duties shall voluntarily bring, land, or cause to descend or alight upon or adjacent to the Park and/or waters owned, controlled by the Board, any airplane, helicopter, balloon, parachute or other apparatus for aviation.

Section 20: Park Access

- A. No person shall make entrance to or exit from the Park except by the established ways.
- B. No person shall cut, remove, damage, or alter in any way a Park boundary fence or sign.
- C. Whenever, and for the proper management of parklands, or for the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, the Executive Director determines that certain Parks or Park areas, or certain public activities therein, should be closed to the general public, they may be designated as closed. No person shall enter, remain, stop, or park within any area designated as closed or conduct any activity. The Executive Director shall report any closing in duration of five or more days to the Board at the next regular meeting.