

# LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS

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- 35.0 THE DIRECTOR MAY AUTHORIZE BY PERMIT THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

## RESOLUTION NO. 2020-08

**Resolution to approve, adopt, and enact revised Rules and Regulations of the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District; repealing resolutions in conflict herewith; and authorizing the required publication.**

The LORAIN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT, by and through the BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS, resolves that in accordance with authority granted in Section 1545.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, and further under the authority granted in Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code, the use of the parks, reservations, parkways, boulevards, grounds, recreation areas, nature preserves, buildings, shelters and other lands and waters, structures and areas owned, leased, administered, or controlled by the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District shall be under and subject to the rules and regulations as set forth and adopted herein. The Director/ Secretary and such authorized and duly appointed employees of the Park District shall be charged with the obligation and duty to enforce such rules and regulations as herein adopted.

Further, any person violating any rules or regulations of the Park District shall be charged with a misdemeanor offense, and upon conviction shall be assessed penalties for misdemeanors in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code 1545.99. Provided, however, nothing contained herein shall prevent violators from being charged or penalized under other provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, municipal ordinances or other applicable laws, rules or regulations.

The following terms as used in the rules and regulations herein shall mean:

**"Board"** means the Board of Park Commissioners of the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District, or its designated representative.

**"Designee"** means any employee of the Park District assigned specific tasks or delegated authority by the Board in the absence of the Director.

**"Director"** means the Executive Director of the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District.

**"Park", "Park District", or "Metro Parks"** means any and all real land and waters owned, controlled, or administered by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District, or its designated representative; or by the Board of Representatives of the North Coast Regional Council of Park Districts, or its designated representative.

**"Person" or "Persons"** include individual persons and corporations, businesses, trusts, estates, partnerships and associations, except employees or agents of the Metro Parks acting in their official capacity and association.

**"Posted"** means and requires that the Park shall display appropriate regulations and operational policies at a location and in such a manner that they are reasonably accessible to Park visitors during regular hours of operation.

**"Property"** means real and personal property.

**"Ranger"** means a Law Enforcement Officer of the Park District or other authorized law enforcement officer.

**"Special function"** means any function so designated and defined by the Director.

**"Special function designated area"** means any area so defined or limited by the Director.

Singular includes plural and plural includes the singular. Words of one gender include the other gender. Words in the present tense include the future tense. "And" may be read as "or", and "or" may be read as "and" if the sense requires it.

When the section defining an offense does not specify any degree of culpability, then culpability is not required for a person to be guilty of the offense.

Said rules and regulations are as follows:

## 1.0 COMPLIANCE WITH RULES, SIGNS AND ORDERS

**1.1** All visitors to a park are subject to and bound by the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Commissioners. Failure to comply with those rules may result in the issuance of a citation(s), expulsion from park grounds, or arrest, and such other action as deemed necessary by Park District employees.

**1.2** Park employees are authorized to issue reasonable orders or directives to park visitors when in the employee's opinion, an activity being conducted by the visitor constitutes a hazard, endangers the personal safety of the participants or other park visitors, causes threat of damage to park facilities or natural resources, or endangers the good order in the park.

**1.3** No person shall ignore, disobey, fail or refuse to comply with any request, direction, or lawful order given by a ranger or law enforcement officer acting under authority of law. No person shall willfully hamper, impede, resist, obstruct, or interfere with a park ranger or any other official (including Park District volunteers) in the execution of his office or duties.

**1.4** No person shall commit a nuisance or obstruction, harass, or use abusive or insulting language toward any employee or volunteer of the Park District.

**1.5** No person shall interfere with, unreasonably disrupt, delay, or in any manner hinder any employee or volunteer engaged in the performance of his duties.

ORC 2921.31, 32 Obstructing

## 2.0 PERMITS

**2.1** No person shall sponsor, promote, conduct or participate in any special activity, meeting, parade, concert, show, exhibit, bazaar, sporting event, musical performance, wedding ceremony, wedding reception, assembly, rally, picketing, children's day camp, camp drills, public meeting, demonstration, speech or addresses, marches, political meeting, or other organized activity unless first applying for and obtaining a permit and submitting any necessary fees or charges. At the discretion of the Director, usage fees may be waived or reduced. Fees paid for the use of a facility may be refunded in accordance with established refund policy.

**2.2** No person shall fail to comply with the terms and conditions of issuance of such a permit.

**2.3** No person shall fail to present a proper receipt, registration or permit upon request by any law enforcement officer, park manager or designee for verification.

**2.4** No person shall refuse to leave an area that they hold a permit for if ordered to do so by a Park District employee.

**2.5** No event or activity sponsored or promoted by a person or organization shall be permitted if the Director or designee finds and determines it will constitute hazards and dangers to the personal safety of the participants or other park visitors, cause serious threat of damage to park facility, endanger peace and good order in the parks, interfere with the regular and normal use of the facilities and activities by park visitors, is inconsistent with the appropriate use of the park as defined herein or by policy or directives.

**2.6** No person, group, sponsor, organization or business shall fail to provide appropriate or required insurance coverage as a condition of their permit.

**2.7** No person shall by act or speech, willfully or unreasonably hinder, interrupt, or interfere with any duly permitted activity, or unreasonably or willfully intrude upon any person or persons who have a permit.

**2.8** No person, group, sponsor, organization or business shall fail to pay any fee or registration amount accessed by the Park District.

## 3.0 HOURS OF OPERATION AND CLOSING

**3.1** No person shall enter, remain, stop, or park within the confines of the park before the posted opening hours, or after sunset or posted closing hours, unless participating in an authorized park program.

**3.2** No person shall be permitted to enter, remain, stop or park without written permission within any park when the Director or his designee has closed that area. An area can be closed by signage, fence, barricade or by other means, when and if determined by the Director or park official to be hazardous for the public use because of weather, water, fire, construction, or other situation involving public health, safety or welfare, or to ensure the safety and good order of the park or facilitate the management and protection of natural resources within the park.

**3.3** Vehicles that are parked or left unattended in a park before the posted opening hours or after the hours of closing as described in this section are subject to removal at the owner's expense.

**3.4** No person shall operate a watercraft within any park after dusk or when an area is closed.

**3.5** "Dusk" for the purpose of this rule, shall be the time of sunset, as published in the U.S. Naval Observatory Time Charts for the eastern Ohio area local time for that day of operation.

ORC 2911.21 Criminal Trespass

## 4.0 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

**4.1** No person shall possess, sell, offer for sale or consume any intoxicating liquor, wine, beer or alcoholic beverage while on park-owned or controlled property, except where a liquor license exists or in specific designated areas authorized by park management and issuance of a written permit.

**4.2** No person shall bring onto Park District property or into its facilities any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage other than those sold by the licensed concessionaires.

ORC 2917.11B Disorderly Conduct due to Intoxication

ORC 4301.62 Open Container

ORC 4301.64 Consuming in Motor Vehicle

ORC 4301.632, 69E Under Age

ORC 4511.19 OMVI

## 5.0 DEFACEMENT, DESTRUCTION, REMOVAL, OR DISTURBANCE OF PARK PROPERTY

**5.1** No person shall injure, alter, mark upon, tamper with, deface, destroy, disturb, or remove any property of another, of the park, buildings, signs, markers, barricades, vehicles, equipment, or other property found therein, nor shall any person cut, damage, destroy, disturb, remove or attempt to remove any sand, gravel, woodchips, mulch, fungus, mushroom, deer sheds, rock, historic or prehistoric artifact, mineral, vegetation crop such as tree, shrub, flower or its fruit or seed.

ORC 2909.07 Criminal Mischief

ORC 2909.06 Criminal Damaging

ORC 2913 Theft

**5.2** No person shall cut down, destroy, girdle or injure a vine, bush, shrub, sapling, tree or crop within the confines and boundaries of a park.

**5.3** No person shall mark with paint or any other substance or place any obstruction in or upon a roadway, parking lot or trail within the confines and boundaries of a park without proper authority.

**5.4** No person shall, with the use of a vehicle or all-terrain vehicle, use or cause the use of that vehicle to be such that the operation results in noise above 80 decibels, smoke, or the marking upon or damage to any park. In addition to the penalty provided herein, whoever violates Section 5 shall be liable for the damages or injuries as direct or proximate cause of such violation.

**5.5** Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation.

## 6.0 RELEASING OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS PROHIBITED

**6.1** No person shall abandon, release or cause to be released onto or into any park, any plant or cultured seed of any type, or any wild or domestic pet or animal, bird, fish or reptile. No person shall release into the air, water, or onto the ground at any Park District Reservation any man-made or natural material or product, including but not limited to rubber, latex or mylar balloons (regardless of any purported biodegradable characteristics), ribbons, candles, confetti, artificial wreaths and flowers, lanterns, or any type of seed, plant, insect, reptile, bird, animal, or similar materials that may create a nuisance or produce a deleterious effect to the parks.

**6.2** No person shall bring into or onto any Park District property any regulated or potentially harmful species or material as determined by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or other recognized authority relating to plant and animal science and conservation.

### **7.0 LITTER, DUMPING, IMPORTING REFUSE (LITTER)**

**7.1** No person shall, regardless of intent, throw, drop, discard, place or deposit litter, trash, rubbish, garbage, debris, grass clippings, brush, leaves or any other form of refuse in or on any park-owned or controlled lands or waters except in a receptacle designed for that purpose.

#### **7.2 Importing Trash**

No person shall import, leave behind, or dump any material of any kind in a receptacle or upon any area administered by the park unless that person has been directed to do so by the park official or has been issued a permit to do so. This does not apply to normal refuse generated as the result of a picnic within the park unless the area is designated as a "carry-in, carry-out".

#### **7.3 Burning Materials**

No person shall dispose of or discard any lighted match, cigar, or cigarette, nor deposit any burning material or hot ashes on any vegetation or in refuse receptacles within or adjacent to the Park District.

#### **7.4 Stream Litter**

No person shall, either within or adjacent to any park district owned or controlled property, place, deposit, or permit to be placed or deposited into the air, river, brook, stream, ditch or drain that flows into or through park lands, any noxious or deleterious material which may render park waters or land harmful or inimical to public health, or to animal, vegetation, aquatic life, or which may prevent, limit or interfere with the use of such waters for domestic, industrial or agricultural purposes, or which may lessen to an unreasonable degree the use and enjoyment of such waters for park use. No bottles, cans, refuse or foreign material of any description shall be deposited or thrown in any of the streams, waterways, ponds or lakes in any of the parks.

### **7.5 Air Pollution**

No person, occupant, owner or person in charge, by himself, his agent, or employee, shall cause, suffer, or allow burning of garbage, waste material, trash refuse, vehicle or any part thereof, or other combustible within or adjacent to the Park District so as to cause smoke, odor, sparks, dust, dirt, or other residue to come upon, pass through, or over the Park which would cause air pollution, nuisance, or danger.

ORC 3767.32 Litter Prohibited

ORC 1531.29 Refuse Disposal Prohibited

ORC 4511.82 Littering from a Motor Vehicle

ORC 4513.31 Securing of Loads

ORC 1547.49 Littering from a Boat

ORC 3767.14 Prohibition Against Throwing Refuse, Oil, or Filth into Lakes, Streams, or Drains

ORC 3767.16 Prohibition Against Deposit of Dead Animals or Offal Upon Land and Water

ORC 3767.18 Prohibition Against Defiling Spring or Well

ORC 3767.29 Abandoned Refrigerators

### **8.0 WEAPONS, FIREARMS, FIREWORKS, EXPLOSIVES, BOWS, AND ARROWS**

**8.1** Weapons and Firearms. The unlawful possession, use or discharge of deadly weapons and firearms, as defined by [Section 2923.11 of the Ohio Revised Code](#), is prohibited within the Park.

Concealed Weapons. Persons possessing a valid license to carry or have a firearm under the Ohio Revised Code may carry a concealed firearm within the Park except inside any building of the Park District that is not primarily used as a shelter, restroom, parking facility for motor vehicles, or rest facility, and is subject to any other restrictions imposed by law. Discharge of Weapons. No person shall discharge firearms of any description, air or gas gun, BB or pellet gun, black powder gun, stun gun, taser, paintball gun, smoke bomb, martial arts weapon, billy club, sling shot, boomerang, or any missile-throwing device within park property. Persons engaged in hunting, however, may discharge firearms in authorized hunting areas on park land for hunting purposes provided that said persons have fully and completely complied with all of the requirements established for hunting on park lands. Firearms or weapons may be permitted for the purpose of educational or cultural programs through the issuance of a special permit by the Director.

#### **8.2 Fireworks and Explosives**

No person shall possess, set off, discharge or ignite any fireworks or explosive, visible or audible substances or other pyrotechnics within the Park District except for licensed exhibitors or fireworks with written permit.

### **8.3 Bows and Arrows**

No person shall release an arrow from a bow, crossbow or longbow within the park except in areas designated as archery ranges, or by written permit.

ORC 3734.65 Discharge Prohibited – Fireworks

ORC 2923 Firearms Section

ORC 3773 Firearms Section

### **9.0 PEDDLING, SOLICITING GIFTS, DONATIONS, COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES**

**9.1** No person shall fundraise, canvass, beg, hawk, peddle, distribute literature, solicit for gift or donation, sell, offer for sale, solicit orders for sale, any article, thing, wares, merchandise of value, privilege, or service on Park District property unless applied for and have been issued express written permission of the Director. All vendors will operate with all necessary and valid concession vendor permits.

**9.2** No person shall take or cause to be taken any still or motion pictures or sketches, or paintings for commercial advertising without express written permission from the Director.

**9.3** No person shall manage, operate, or engage in gambling of any kind, or have any machine or other device upon the act of which money is staked, bet, awarded, won or lost. Any such machine or device shall be subject to seizure and confiscation.

**9.4** No person shall bring in, set up, construct, manage or operate any amusement contraption without prior written approval, or the necessary insurance or permits required by the Ohio Department of Agriculture or other regulatory agency.

### **10.0 PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES IN DESIGNATED AREAS**

No person shall engage or participate in any special activity, meeting, parade, public assembly, rally, picketing, demonstration, speech or address, march, political meeting, or other organized activity for which a permit is required unless such activity occurs within a designated area as determined by the Director.

### **11.0 ADVERTISING AND SIGNS**

#### **11.1 Posting, Display, Signs**

No person shall expose, distribute, post, place any sign, poster, advertisement circular, handbill, notice, emblem or design within the Park, nor paint, mark, write, or print in any manner upon any property within the Parks without first obtaining a written permit, except reasonable, freestanding directional signs of the day of an event, provided such signs are removed at the conclusion of the event. Signs and decorations shall not be affixed to trees, gates or other park property unless approved by the manager. Persons may attach decorations or signs to a shelter for the purpose of identifying group location using only masking tape or other non-marring adhesive. Decorations shall be removed prior to vacating the shelter.



**11.2** No person, organization or business shall use the Park District name, logo, emblem, trademark or any Park District symbol or signs without first obtaining written permission from the Director.

## **12.0 INDECENT CONDUCT, EXPOSURE, AND SOLICITATION**

No person shall appear in a park in a state of nudity, or perform or engage in masturbation, sexual contact or conduct, or simulated sexual conduct, or engage in conduct which to an ordinary observer would appear to be sexual conduct or masturbation, nor make any indecent exposure of his or her person, or

- (A) Solicit another to engage in sexual contact, or
- (B) Solicit another to engage in sexual conduct, or
- (C) Solicit another to commit, perform, or engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene, or indecent act or behavior.

**ORC 2907.04 Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor**

**ORC 2907.07 Importuning**

**ORC 2907.09 Public Indecency**

**ORC 2907.24 Soliciting**

**ORC 2907.24.1 Loitering to Engage in Solicitation**

## **13.0 DISORDERLY BEHAVIOR**

No Person Shall:

**13.1** Smoke a tobacco or vapor product in or within 50 feet of any public building or structure, during any public event, refuse to immediately extinguish any lighted cigarette, cigar or similar item when asked to by any park employee, volunteer or representative, or smoke a tobacco or vapor product if prohibited under local ordinance.

**13.2** Utter any profane, obscene, offensive or abusive language or ethnic slur, make unreasonable noise, display or gesture while within a park, or insult, taunt or challenge another person under circumstances in which such conduct is likely to provoke a violent response or;

**13.3** Engage in conduct that to an ordinary observer would likely be offensive or to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or engage in conduct or create a condition which presents a risk of physical harm to oneself or another, or to the property of another; or

**13.4** Play any game(s) of chance for monetary or material gain within the confines of any park; or

**13.5** Play or operate any public address device, radio, stereo, tape player, television, musical instrument or other sound-producing device at a volume that can be heard by others and may offend, disturb or cause alarm to others not in control of the equipment.

**13.6** Operate or play any toy sirens, drums, loud speakers, bells, horns or other signal or warning devices and other noise-making devices; or engage in noisy, boisterous, disorderly or loud behavior which impairs the tranquil atmosphere of the park, or in any manner disturbs the peace and good order of others, or impairs the enjoyment of park visitors.

**13.7** No person operating a vehicle within the Park shall sound the vehicle's horn or other warning device except in an emergency.

**ORC 2917.11 Disorderly Conduct Persisting**

**ORC 2917.11B Disorderly Conduct by Intoxication**

## **14.0 DOGS, CATS AND OTHER ANIMALS**

**14.1** Except for assistance dogs or other animal assistants used by persons with disabilities, no person shall bring any dog, cat, household pet or other animal destructive to wildlife in any part of the park that is not designated for such use. Where permitted, dogs must have a valid registration tag and be controlled at all times on a hand-held leash not more than six (6) feet long.

**14.2** Pets are not permitted in or on play equipment and designated swimming areas, adjacent beaches, or posted gardens.

**14.3** No owner or custodian shall fail to immediately clean up, remove and place into a rubbish receptacle in a sanitary manner any excrement left by his or her pet.

**14.4** No person shall wash any pet at a water fountain, pump or other water source.

**14.5** No person shall bring into any park any pet unless he/she has proof of current rabies inoculation for the animal and a collar and tag with registration number attached to the animal.

**14.6** No person shall leave a domestic dog, cat, or other pet unattended.

**14.7** No person shall lead, or permit to be led, any leashed pet or animal while in or on a moving motor vehicle or motorized bicycle.

**14.8** No person shall mistreat any animal within the confines of any park.

**14.9** No pet or other animal shall be allowed to disturb or become obnoxious or a nuisance to other users of the park by frequent and habitual barking, howling or yelping, or creating unreasonable loud or disturbing noises of such a character, intensity and duration as to disturb the peace, quiet and good order of the park.

**14.10** No person shall feed or cause to be fed any bird, waterfowl, deer or other animal unless authorized by the Director to do so for wildlife management education or other lawful purpose.

## **15.0 SWIMMING/USE OF AQUATIC SPORTING EQUIPMENT**

### **15.1 Swimming Prohibited**

No person shall at any time swim, wade, bathe or enter into any pond or reservoir within the Park District,

### **15.2 Fee**

No person shall fail to pay the posted fee upon entering into an aquatics center.

## **15.3 Aquatic Sporting Equipment**

Boats, surfboards, water skies, scuba diving and similar aquatic equipment and flotation equipment such as inner tube ring, buoy, raft, air mattress, or similar novelty device of inflatable air cell construction or any plastic foam flotation device is prohibited on any waters except as posted.

## **15.4 Objects Prohibited**

Pets, glass bottles, and metal cans or containers are prohibited on beaches adjacent to or in designated swimming areas. Picnicking (i.e., bringing in any type of grill, table or tent) is prohibited on beaches unless authorized by a Park District employee.

## **15.5 Posted Rules**

All aquatic center and beach users shall abide by the rules and regulations posted at the aquatic center and beach, and any directions given by a lifeguard or other park staff.

## **16.0 SLEDDING, SKIING, AND SKATING**

**16.1** No person shall sled ride, ski or ice skate within the park except in posted areas designated for that use and only during permitted hours and subject to posted operational rules.

**16.2** All sled riders shall abide by posted sledding hill rules.

**16.3** No person shall ride or use any type of skateboard or scooter in any park, except scooters shall be permitted on paved, flat surfaces allowing for safety concerns. Roller skates and in-line skates will be permitted. Shoe skates and "Heelys" are prohibited in all buildings or structures.

## **17.0 TRAFFIC**

Except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in this section, the Board hereby adopts the definitions contained in the Ohio Revised Code.

### **17.1 Parking**

No person shall operate, stop, store, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with the provisions of this parking code, or while obeying the directions of a ranger or a traffic control device in any part of the following places:

- (A) On a sidewalk
- (B) Within an intersection
- (C) Within ten (10) feet of a fire hydrant
- (D) On a crosswalk
- (E) Within one foot of another vehicle
- (F) At any place where signs prohibit parking, stopping, or standing are posted or where the curbing or street is painted yellow, or at any place in excess of the maximum time limited by signs.
- (G) Upon sod or gravel not specifically designated as a parking area.
- (H) In any parking space that is reserved for use by vehicles that are issued and are properly displaying a handicapped placard or registration plate.
- (I) At any location that has been gated, barricaded or posted as closed by the Director/Secretary, his designee, or a park ranger.
- (J) On any trail.

(K) Where such spaces are marked, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle in such a manner as to occupy more than one space.

(L) Block another parked vehicle or restrict or impede the normal flow of traffic.

ORC 4511.68

### 17.2 Tractor/Trailer

Except where authorized, no agricultural tractor, commercial tractor, commercial car, semi-tractor or vehicle designed for the transportation of goods and materials, loaded or empty, as defined in ORC 4501.01 (C), (D), (J) or (P) shall be operated by any person over any road or driven within any park.

**17.3 Park Ranger May Remove Unattended Vehicle that Obstructs the Park or Traffic** When a ranger finds a vehicle unattended upon any street, bridge, causeway, or in a tunnel where the vehicle constitutes an obstruction such as a hazard to traffic, when a vehicle displays illegal license plates, is damaged or wrecked so as to be inoperable, when used in the commission of a felony, is stolen or operated without consent of the owner or without a lawful license, the ranger may cause such vehicle to be removed to the nearest authorized garage or other place of safety at the owner's expense. The Park District shall not be responsible for any fee, charge, or damage arising from such removal. Authorized garages and other storage places are posted on the Park District's website.

ORC 4511.66-69 Parking/  
Unattended  
ORC 4513.60-65 Abandoned  
Vehicles

### 17.4 Maintenance of Vehicles

No person shall perform any non-emergency maintenance or repairs on any vehicle in any park or use any motor vehicle out of repair, loaded or operated as to cause or create disturbing and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling, thumping, rumbling or other noise.

### 17.5 U-Turns

No vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade, if the vehicle cannot be seen within 500 feet by the driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction or where posted "No U-Turn".

### 17.6 Traffic Control Devices

No pedestrian or driver of a vehicle or bicycle shall disobey any traffic control sign or device unless otherwise, at that time, directed by a Ranger.

ORC 4511.12 Obeying Traffic Control  
Devices

### 17.7 Racing

No person shall participate in street racing upon any park-owned land or roadway.

ORC 4511.20 Reckless Operation  
ORC 4511.25.1 Drag Racing

### 17.8 Disregard of Safety

No person shall operate a vehicle in a reckless manner or in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of other persons, pedestrians, or property on park-owned or operated lands.

ORC 4511.20 Reckless Operation  
ORC 4511.202 Reasonable Control

### 17.9 Left of Center / Right of Marked Lanes

Upon all roads and drives of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or when otherwise directed by a traffic control device, ranger, or other official within the park.

ORC 4511.25 Lane of Travel  
ORC 4511.29 Left of Center

### 17.10 Speed

No person shall operate, propel, drive or cause to be driven or be propelled along any road or drive within the park any vehicle at a speed greater than those posted, reasonable and proper for the safe operation of the vehicle or the traffic conditions found to exist at any intersection, special hazard such as playground, picnic area, trail crossing, parking lots, narrow or winding roads, weather or road conditions and pedestrian, equestrian or bicycle traffic or other place upon any part of the roads or drives under the supervision of the Park District. In the absence of a posted speed limit the speed shall not exceed 20 miles per hour.

ORC 4511.21 Speed  
ORC 4511.21B Excessive Speed

### 17.11 Assured Clear Distance

The operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon and the condition of the street that will permit him to bring it to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

ORC 4511.21 A

### 17.12 Endangerment

(A) No person shall solicit a ride, employment, business or contributions from a driver or occupant of any vehicle.

(B) No person shall hang onto, or knowingly permit anyone to hang onto, or ride on the outside of any motor vehicle, any bicycle, coaster, roller skates or sled while it is moving upon a roadway or trail within the park.

### 17.13 Roadways

(A) No person shall use any portion of the park for purpose of way except drives, roadways, paths, walks, and trails established for such purpose.

(B) Paths established as bridle paths, foot paths or bicycle paths shall not be used for motor vehicles. Park and emergency vehicles excepted.

(C) No person shall make entrance / exit to a park except by the established points of entry.

(D) No person shall drive upon or along any park road or drive which has been closed by means of being posted closed with barricades or gates. The Director/Secretary or his designee shall have the authority to order roads, drives, parks or facilities closed for construction, reconstruction, repair, investigation, weather conditions, or an unsafe condition.

ORC 4511.202 Failure to Control

### 17.14 Unsecured Load

No vehicle shall be driven or moved within the Park District unless such vehicle is so constructed, loaded or covered as to prevent any of its load from dropping, shifting, leaking or otherwise escaping there from or as to track or drop stones, gravel, agricultural by-products or other similar material on any Park District property or road.

ORC 4513 Load

### 17.15 Unsafe Vehicle

(A) No person shall drive, move or knowingly permit to be driven or moved within the park, a vehicle in an unsafe condition that could endanger any person.

(B) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any of the roadways in a manner that the vehicle is so rapidly accelerated or started from a stop position or so stopped that the exhaust system emits a loud, cracking or challenging noise unusual to its normal operation or the rubber tires of such vehicle squeal, leave tire marks on the roadway or spray gravel top dressing from the roadway.

### 17.16 Incorporation of State Traffic Laws

These rules are in addition to and supplement to state traffic laws that are in force and made a part hereof.

ORC 4511, 4513

## 18.0 GOLFING

### 18.1 Golfing Requirements

Every player must have individual golf playing equipment. No one shall be allowed on a golf course without first paying the posted fee except Park District employees and caddies registered with the golf course concession.

### 18.2 Golf Rules

All players shall abide by golf etiquette and the rules and regulations posted at the golf course.

### 18.3 Practice Golf

No person shall hit a golf ball or practice golf except in areas where designated.

### 18.4 Hours

No person shall be permitted on a golf course when course is not open for play.

## 19.0 PLAY EQUIPMENT

### 19.1 Play Equipment Requirements

Playing of horseshoes, golf, organized team sports, electric airplanes or other games with play equipment shall, for the safety and welfare of all other persons using the parks, be confined to the areas set aside and designated for such purposes.

## 19.2 Use of Play Equipment

Play equipment installed by the Park District shall be used by only those within the appropriate age or weight for which the play equipment was designed or recommended. This includes playground equipment, water slides, and other appurtenances.

## 19.3 Inflatable Bounce Houses Prohibited

Any type of inflatable bounce houses or other similar inflatable equipment is prohibited from being used at any park or park facility

## 20.0 CAMPING

### 20.1 Camping Prohibited

No person shall establish, conduct or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging or sleeping place within the park without a permit, and the payment of any application fee.

### 20.2 Camping Rules

Permit holders will abide by the camping rules or restrictions set by the Director/ Secretary or his designee as required by conditions of area use.

## 21.0 ALL-PURPOSE, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, E-BIKES

### 21.1 Prohibited

No person shall operate a snowmobile or other self-propelled vehicle steered by skis, runners, or caterpillar treads which is designed to travel in snow or ice-covered surfaces as defined in section 4519.01(A) of the Ohio Revised Code upon any park-owned or administered property.

### 21.2 Motorized Vehicles

No person shall operate a motorized vehicle that is steered by wheels or caterpillar treads or operates on a cushion of air, vehicles commonly known as "all-purpose vehicles", all-terrain vehicles, all-season vehicles, mini-bikes, trail bikes, any vehicle principally used in playing golf, any motor vehicle or aircraft required to be registered under Chapter 4503 or Chapter 4561 of the Ohio Revised Code and any vehicle excepted from definition as a motor vehicle by Division (B) of Section 4501.1 of the Ohio Revised Code on any property owned or administered by the Park District except by permit.

### 21.3 E-Bikes

Only Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are permitted on Park District property and only on such trails and paths as designated by the Park District. Such designated trails and paths can be found on the Park District website.

### Permitted Uses; Restrictions

E-bike riders must comply with all regulations set forth in Chapter 4511 of the Ohio Revised Code, and, without limitation, the following:

(A) Any e-bike operating within the Park District after January 1, 2020 must display a permanent label affixed by the manufacturer identifying the classification of the e-bike.

(B) Only Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes may be operated on paved pathways within permitted Reservations of the Park District. Park District Reservations which strictly prohibit the use and operation of all e-bikes, regardless of classification, are Sandy Ridge Reservation and Schoepfle Gardens. Further, the Park District may designate additional areas where e-bike use and operation are restricted or prohibited due to temporary or unforeseen circumstances. Such restrictions shall be posted accordingly.

(C) No person shall operate a Class 3 e-bike on any pathway within Park District reservations, nor on or within bike trails set aside for the use of bicycles or a shared-use path.

(D) No person shall operate any e-bike on any single lane or natural-surface trail, or on a pathway that is intended to be used primarily for mountain biking, hiking, equestrian use, or other similar uses. Such trails are exclusively for non-motorized use.

### Penalties

Whoever violates this policy is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Provided however, if within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pled guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, and then violates this policy, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, and then violates this policy, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. Violations of this policy are strict liability offenses and strict liability is a culpable mental state for purposes of 2901.20 of the Revised Code.

## 22.0 RAPPELLING, ROCK CLIMBING, THROWING OBJECTS

(A) Rappelling, Rock Climbing: No person shall participate or assist in any type of rock, cliff or ice climbing, rope climbing, rappelling or ascending on any park property.

(B) Rappelling, Climbing Equipment: No person, except Park District employees, shall use equipment or devices, including climbing spikes, ropes, harnesses, ladders, scaffolding for climbing trees, cliffs or rocks.

### 22.1 Throwing Objects

No person shall throw, toss, propel, or cause, directly or indirectly, the throwing, tossing, dropping or propelling of any object over or off any precipice, bridge, observation tower, or other similar structure or natural formation.

## 23.0 USE OF PARK STRUCTURES, AREAS

No person shall utilize any structure, facility or area administered by the Park District and upon vacating said structure, facility or area, cause it be left in a state of clutter or disarray, unsanitary or unclean, inclusive or but not limited to food scraps, animal droppings, or materials commonly used for decorating. Upon reserving any facility, structure, or area, that person shall accept liability for any breakage, destruction, or removal of park property by any member of their group as a condition of receiving the applicable permit.

23.1 Picnic shelters and tables that are not reserved by permit are available on a first-come, first-served basis and may not be held for longer than one hour prior to arrival of the group. Metro Park employees may remove material supplies or decorating left unattended.

23.2 No person shall operate a generator within the park without the expressed permission of the Park Manager or Executive Director.

## 24.0 HORSE RIDING

### 24.1 Permitted Areas

Except in designated areas, no person shall ride or bring into the park, any horse, mule or pony. No person shall use, drive or operate a wagon, carriage or sled within the parks except by permit on approved trails.

### 24.2 Right-of-Way

While riding a horse or any domestic animal along any bridle trail, the rider shall yield the right-of-way at all points where bridle trails cross roads, drives, paths or parkways to vehicles or pedestrians.

### 24.3 Safety

No person shall ride a horse or other domestic animal within a park without due regard for the safety, respect and well-being of vehicles, other riders, pedestrians, other equestrian riders and horses, and/or park property. No person shall hitch or tie any horse or other animal to any tree, bush, shrub or building.

### 24.4 Trails

Except in designated areas, riders shall stay on designated bridle trails at all times.

### 24.5 Horse and Other Animal Treatment

No person shall leave any horse unattended within the Park District except in cases of emergencies or exigent circumstances.

### 24.6 Open Hours

No person shall ride a horse within the park except during posted hours of operation at that park.

## 25.0 AIRCRAFT, BALLOONS, PARACHUTES, ETC.

No person shall voluntarily bring, land or cause to ascend or descend, or alight upon or adjacent to park lands, any airplane, drone/UAS (unmanned aircraft system), flying machine, balloon, glider, kite, parachute or other apparatus for aviation, without a permit and payment of a fee, if any, as may be required by the Director. All such drones/UAS must be in full compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration rules and regulations, which rules and regulations are adopted herewith as applicable.

## 26.0 TOYS / METAL DETECTORS

### 26.1 Prohibited

No engine-powered, radio-controlled, self-propelled, free-sailing miniature model and toy airplanes, boats, cars, rockets, sirens or other noise-making devices are permitted to be started, operated, flown or used within the confines of the park, without permit or within park areas designated for such use.



**26.2** No person shall bring in or use any device or instrument used to detect metallic objects without prior written permission, except metal detectors may be used on sand beaches and dry riverbeds only.

## **27.0 BOATING**

### **27.1 Prohibited**

**(A)** Except at Wellington Reservation or where posted, no person shall drive or propel or cause to be driven or propelled any watercraft upon, along, or over any lake, pond, impounded waters either frozen or unfrozen, within or adjacent to the park.

**(B)** No watercraft shall be operated on any river, pond or reservoir in a reckless manner, or in a manner to endanger the life, limb or property of boaters or swimmers, or any other person within or adjacent to the park water area, including fishermen, if any, engaged in the lawful use thereof.

**(C)** No watercraft shall be operated upon any lakes, rivers, ponds or other bodies of water owned by or under the control of the Park District that do not meet safety standards or carry safety equipment as described and required by the provisions of [Ohio Revised Code 1547.01 to 1547.99](#), relating to watercraft and regulations of the Division of the State of Ohio. The provisions of [Sections 1547.01 to 1547.99 of the Ohio Revised Code](#) relating to watercraft and regulations of the Division of Watercraft of the State of Ohio adopted pursuant thereto shall be effective and enforced in the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District.

**Note:** During construction, the Park District may close or restrict access to lakes, ponds, rivers or reservoirs for safety reasons.

### **27.2 Launching**

Except canoes or kayaks that can be carried to the river without damage to sod or vegetation, no person shall bring into, launch or attempt to launch, or "put in" or remove any watercraft or flotation device on Park District property except at designated sites.

### **27.3 Trailers**

Boat trailers shall be parked in designated areas and exit as indicated.

### **27.4 After Hours**

No watercraft shall be operated within the boundary of the Park District after the park closing hours.

### **ORC 1547 Watercraft**

## **28.0 TRAILS**

### **28.1 Off-Trail Use Prohibited**

No person shall be permitted off the posted trails established by the Park District without permit. Persons shall remain on the official, designated or improved trail while in the Park unless involved in a park program involving off-trail activity.

**(A)** Use of trails may include bicycles, walking, hiking, jogging, wheelchairs, horseback riding, snow skis and roller skates.

**(B)** Trail use shall only be as designated or posted. Designation may be letters, symbols or figures.

**(C)** No person shall fail to obey any posted lane marking devices or operational policies. Pedestrians have the right-of-way; cross traffic has the right-of-way at intersections. Any person passing another person traveling in the same direction along the trail shall announce their intention before passing. No person shall pass another trail user in a manner that endangers the life, limb or property of any person while in the lawful use of roads, trails, or paths or causes inconvenience or alarms him or herself or other trail or park users.

**(D)** No person shall exceed the posted speed limit or travel at speeds greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

**(E)** No person shall operate any type of self-propelled vehicle or any vehicle moved by animal or human power upon any foot or unimproved trail unless by permit.

**(F)** No person shall be on any trail, bikeway or land administered by the Park District after closing or designated closed.

**(G)** Users of mountain bike trails must wear helmets and eye protection and follow all other safety rules.

**(H)** No person shall ride bicycles on any path or trail more than two (2) abreast or on any roadway or road used by the public for regular motor vehicle access in any other manner than single file. Passing shall always be single-file.

**(I)** No person shall carry another person on the handlebars, frame or fender or so ride on a bicycle except on a suitable seat attached to such bicycle for such purpose or travel in a weaving or zigzag course.

**(J)** No person shall ride or knowingly permit any person to ride upon any bicycle, scooter, roller skates, skateboard, sled or toy vehicle to attach the same to himself or to any vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway or trail.

**(K)** Every bicycle shall be equipped with an adequate brake and bell or other device capable of giving an audible sound from a distance of at least 100 feet except shall not be equipped with a siren or whistle when used on a roadway or trail.

**(L)** No person shall use or operate a motorized vehicle or motorized bicycle on a multi-use trail, bridle path, footpath, all-purpose or bicycle path trail except park employees or emergency service personnel in the performance of their duties.

Electric personal assistive mobility devices are permitted. Motorized wheelchairs are permitted by persons requiring such devices in order to be mobile.

[ORC 4511.52 Bicycle Traffic Law](#)

[ORC 4511.71 Paths for Bicycles](#)

## **29.0 FIRES**

**29.1** No person shall start, kindle, build, maintain, or use a fire other than in park grills or in a place specifically designated for such purposes and such fires shall be small and for culinary purposes only.

**29.2** Any fire, ember or burning briquettes shall be continuously under the care and direction of a competent adult from the time it is kindled until it is extinguished. All fires shall be put out by the person or persons starting or using the fire before leaving the immediate vicinity of the fire.

**29.3** No person shall throw away, dump or discard any match, cigarette, cigar, ember or hot ashes or briquettes or other burning object that has not been entirely extinguished before being thrown away or discarded in receptacles or areas provided. Dumping hot ashes or fire onto the grass, plants, wooded area, any stream, pond or water is prohibited. Fuel other than wood or charcoal shall not be used in park grills.

**29.4** No fire shall be built and no grill shall be used within ten (10) feet of any tree, building or beneath the branches of any tree or plant, or in any underbrush.

**29.5** No person shall place or maintain a portable stove or grill in a shelter or on picnic tables or other surfaces where damage from heat or fire may occur.

**29.6** The park manager or designee may limit the size of any fire and prescribe safety precautions to be taken, when fire hazard conditions exist. The manager may also prohibit fires for limited periods at any location when deemed other damage, destruction, scar or injury could result to structures, trees, plants or their foliage.

**29.7** Large cookers exceeding 5-gallon capacity or commercial-style rotisseries are prohibited in the Park District without a written permit issued by the Director or designee.

## **30.0 HUNTING, FISHING AND MOLESTING OF ANIMALS**

**30.1** No person or persons shall on Park District-owned property: hunt, attempt to hunt, pursue with animals, electric or mechanical devices, trap or in any other way molest, harm, harass, injure, poison, kill or disturb any den or nest, bird or animal, or take the eggs of any bird, any deer shed, invertebrate, mammal, reptile or amphibian, except when permitted by the Park District (i.e., hunting at Charlemont of rabbit and pheasant is permitted and will be regulated by the current year's hunting regulation as set forth by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources). These regulations and seasons may be restricted to a greater extent by the Board of Park Commissioners should the necessity become evident. It will be the responsibility of persons hunting to learn of any additional restrictions that have been imposed.

**30.2** No person shall hunt, shoot, shoot at or kill within 200 feet of any road, structure, path, parking lot, or on, across or from any roadway. These areas will be considered safety zones.

**30.3** No person shall use headlights or spotlights of any kind to illuminate wildlife within the confines of any park, unless that person is a member of a park-supervised program or is directed to do so by a park employee, except in cases where the purpose for doing so is to avoid injury to persons, property or wildlife.

**30.4** Waters may be closed to fishing as posted. Where fishing is permitted, it is subject to the statutes of the State of Ohio, except that the use of unattended hooks, traps, gigs, spears, or bows and arrows, fishing during hours the park is closed or in areas posted as such, is prohibited. Waters not controlled by state laws may be subject to special regulations.

**30.5** Ice fishing is prohibited on Park District waters. Entering on or upon any frozen water to ice skate, sled, slide or walk on for any purpose is prohibited.

**30.6** Trapping or removal of nuisance animals may be done by permit only.

**30.7** No person other than park personnel or volunteers engaged in official duties may feed any wild bird or other animal found within the confines of the park.

**30.8** No person shall drive or cause to be driven any cows, horses, sheep, goats, swine or other livestock to graze or browse on Park District lands without written permission of the Director.

**30.9** Unless specifically addressed, these rules and regulations are in addition to and supplement the State Wildlife Orders and Laws which are in force and which are made a part hereof.

ORC 2931.02      Cruelty  
ORC 1531, 1533      ODNR Wildlife

### **31.0 ENCROACHMENT**

**31.1** No person shall encroach upon lands owned by the Park District.

**31.2** No person shall trespass from Park District property onto private property.

**31.3** No person shall erect, construct, install or place any structure, building, shed, fence, machinery, equipment or apparatus of any type, or stockpile, store or place any organic or inorganic material on, below, over or across Park District owned or operated property.

**31.4** No person shall perform or cause any mowing, trimming, cutting or grooming of Park District land or perform similar maintenance for any purpose or in any like manner encroach onto Park Property.

ORC 2911.21      Criminal Trespass  
ORC 951            Running at Large

### **32.0 EJECTION(S) OF PERSONS FROM PARK PROPERTIES**

At the discretion of park management and law enforcement officers having jurisdiction, any person(s) who has violated a park rule(s) or the Ohio Revised Code may be ejected from all Park District properties and facilities on which the violation occurred.

Furthermore, ejection from park property or facility may be instituted in conjunction with or in place of written warnings or citations.

### **33.0 ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Personal property that has been left in a park may be removed by park personnel and stored. Upon proper description and identification, the owner may reclaim said property within 45 days and after paying any applicable storage fees. Items not claimed within 45 days shall be disposed of as determined by the Director.

### **34.0 SPECIAL FACILITY REGULATIONS**

**34.1** Certain park areas require additional regulations that are necessary for visitor safety and resource protection. Such regulations shall be posted at these special facilities.

### **35.0 THE DIRECTOR MAY AUTHORIZE BY PERMIT THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:**

- Advertising
- Aircraft / Balloons
- Alcohol
- Boating
- Bows / Arrows
- Closed Hours
- Fires
- Fireworks
- Off-Trail Activities
- Parking
- Powered Toys
- Rappelling / Rock Climbing
- Releasing Plants or Animals
- Soliciting
- Swimming / Aquatic Sports

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of Park Commissioners that all provisions of these rules and regulations shall be in full force and effective immediately upon passage of [Resolution 2020-08 on January 30, 2020](#) and all rules and regulations and parts thereof established prior to this date which are inconsistent with any provisions of these rules and regulations are hereby repealed as of the effective date of these rules and regulations. The approval, adoption and enactment of these rules and regulations shall not be construed to relieve any person from punishment or prosecution for an act committed in violation of any rule or regulation prior to the effective date; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to cause these rules and regulations to be published and to give notice of the approval, adoption, and enactment of these rules and regulations in the manner prescribed in [Section 731.21 of the Ohio Revised Code](#).