

PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

REVISED 2026



 *Centerville-Washington*
PARK DISTRICT

Dear Park Visitors:

Welcome to the Centerville-Washington Park District! We hope you visit the parks often and enjoy the many benefits available in the great outdoors!

In order to protect the parks and ensure visitor safety, the Board of Park Commissioners has adopted the following Rules and Regulations. It should be noted that all State of Ohio criminal and traffic laws are also enforced within the parks, and carry full penalty under Ohio Law.

We hope you will take a few minutes to familiarize yourselves with these rules and regulations, so that you can share this information with others. Together, we can make the parks the best they can be.

If you witness anything that presents a threat to the parks, wildlife, or visitors, please call the Park District or local law enforcement agency immediately. We appreciate your help in keeping the parks safe and enjoyable for all people.

Kristen Marks
Director

Centerville-Washington Park District	(937) 433-5155
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	(937) 225-4357
Centerville Police Department	(937) 433-7661
Emergency Response	911

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Can we feed the wild animals?

Do not feed the wildlife. Wild animals need a natural diet, and should not become dependent upon people for food. Chapter III, Section 3.a.

Can I take something home with me?

Please leave the parks as you find them – for the next visitor to enjoy. We ask that nothing be removed from the parks. Chapter III, Section 2.a.

If I catch a wild animal on my property can I release it in a park?

No. Moving animals from one area to another can introduce disease such as rabies or distemper to a new area. State law prohibits moving some animals from one place to another. Chapter III, Section 4.d.

Is it OK to dump yard waste in the parks?

Grass clippings, brush, etc. may not be dumped on public parkland. Backyard composting is the best solution. If you see dumping of any kind in the parks, please call us immediately. Check with your local trash hauler for information on how to dispose of your yard waste. Chapter III, Section 4.a.

Are bicycles allowed on nature trails?

For safety reasons, nature trails are for foot traffic only. Vehicles of all kinds (including bicycles) are prohibited in order to protect visitors, trails, and vegetation. Paved multi-use trails are available in some parks for vehicles such as bicycles, scooters, skates, etc. or power driven devices used as a mobility device. Chapter II, Section 7.h.

Can I practice golf in the parks?

No. Balls left behind are “ankle-twisters” for other visitors, and balls hit by mowing equipment are very dangerous projectiles. Chapter II, Section 10

Is alcohol permitted?

All alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all park areas except by permit issued by the Park District. Chapter IV, Section 3

Are pets permitted in the parks?

Yes, pets are invited to enjoy the parks, but must always be on a leash unless within a designated, fenced off-leash dog exercise area. Pet owners must clean up pet waste as a courtesy to other park visitors. Chapter II, Section 11

**If you have other questions or need additional information, please call the
Centerville-Washington Park District, (937) 433-5155. Thank you.**

CHAPTER I – DEFINITIONS

1. **Park District** means the Centerville-Washington Park District, also known as the Washington Township Park District.
2. **Park** means any land or water area owned, leased, managed, 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, or any other person designated by the Board or the Director to conduct activities and enforce park rules and regulations within a park.
5. **Police officer** shall mean a Park District employee qualified to enforce the regulations of the Park District, police officer of the City of Centerville, deputy of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, police officer hired under contract, and every other law enforcement officer of the State of Ohio or of any political subdivision thereof, including, but not limited to, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, constables and State Wildlife Officers who are qualified to enforce the Regulations of the Park District.
6. **Person** shall mean any individual, company, partnership, corporation, any business entity, trust, or association, or any combination of individuals, or any employee, agent or officer thereof.
7. **Park waters** shall mean any lake, pond, reservoir, stream, wetland, channel, lagoon, or other body of water, or any part thereof, whether natural or artificial, located in a park.
8. **Fireworks** shall mean any combustible or explosive compositions, or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation.
9. **Fish or fishing** shall mean to take or attempt to take fish by any method.
10. **Hunt** means to pursue, shoot, kill, trap, follow after on the trail of, lie in wait for, shoot at or wound any animal while employing any device commonly used to kill or wound animals whether such acts result in such killing or wounding or not.

- 11. Animal or animals** shall mean mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, arthropods, mollusks, and annelids.
- 12. Vehicle** shall mean everything on wheels or on treads.
- 13. Motor vehicle** shall mean any vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power, including a motorized bicycle, motorcycle, snowmobile, or motor scooter except for a motorized device used for a mobility issue.

CHAPTER II – REGULATORY

Section 1 – Hours

- a. Each park shall be open to the public from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset every day except that at specified times, selected areas shall remain open for evening programs and activities authorized by a park permit. The Director or his or her designee shall be authorized to close a park or any part thereof if it is determined that public safety or other emergency requires such closing, or if the closing is determined to be in the best interest of the Park District.
- b. No person shall enter into or remain in an area of a park at a time when such area is not open to the public.

Section 2 – Facilities

No person shall use park facilities other than for the purposes designated by the Park District. The Director may, from time to time, establish supplemental guidelines based on the intended use and classification of each facility in a park and for obtaining permits pursuant to these regulations. Such guidelines shall be based on a due regard for the purpose for which the facility is established; the safety of those using the facility, including park employees and the public; the safety and maintenance of Park District property; the need for and the availability of supervisory personnel; and the maximum number of people who can safely use the facility at one time. The Director shall maintain use policies for Park District facilities including, but not limited to, dog parks, spraygrounds, group shelters, skate parks, athletic fields, courts, ranges, and indoor facilities.

Section 3 – Park Use Permits

- a. To assure good order and the reasonable use of the area and facilities for which a permit is granted, the Park District may grant a permit on an exclusive basis for a particular place and time. Subject to the foregoing, and except as hereinafter provided, all Park District facilities may be used by members of the general public, without permit, for recreational purposes not inconsistent with the Park District Rules and Regulations, the nature of the facility, and the safety of the public and of Park District property.
- b. Notice of denial of an application for permit shall clearly set forth the grounds upon which the permit was denied and, where feasible, shall contain a proposal by the Park District for measures by which the applicant may timely cure any defects in the application for permit or otherwise procure a permit. Where an application or permit has been denied because a fully executed prior application for the same time and place has been received, and a permit has been or will be granted to the prior applicant authorizing uses or activities which do not reasonably permit multiple occupancy of the particular area, the Park District shall propose an alternative place, if available for the same time, or an alternative time, if available for the same place.
- c. To the extent permitted by law, the Park District may deny an application for permit if the applicant or the person on whose behalf the application for permit was made has on prior occasions made material misrepresentations regarding the nature or scope of an event or activity previously permitted or has violated the terms of prior permits issued to or on behalf of the applicant. The Park District may also deny an application for permit on any of the following grounds:
 - (1) The application for permit (including any required attachments and submissions) is not fully completed and executed;
 - (2) The applicant has not tendered the required user fee, indemnification agreement, insurance certificate, or security deposit within the times prescribed by the Park District;
 - (3) The application for permit contains a material falsehood or misrepresentation;
 - (4) The applicant is legally incompetent to contract or to sue and be sued;
 - (5) The applicant or the person on whose behalf the application for permit was made has on prior occasions damaged Park District property and has not paid in full for such damage, or has other outstanding and unpaid debts to the Park District;

- (6) A fully executed prior application for permit for the same time and place has been received, and a permit has been or will be granted to a prior applicant authorizing uses or activities which do not reasonably permit multiple occupancy of the particular park or part hereof;
- (7) The use or activity intended by the applicant would conflict with previously planned programs organized and conducted by the Park District and previously scheduled for the same time and place;
- (8) The use or activity intended by the applicant would present an unreasonable danger to the health or safety of the applicant, or other users of the park, of Park District employees or of the public;
- (9) The use or activity intended by the applicant is prohibited by law, by these rules and regulations of the Park District, or by the regulations of the Director; or
- (10) Due to excessive light, noise, odor, traffic or other impacts not confined to the Park District facility, the use or activity intended by the applicant would cause unreasonable disturbance or disruption to neighbors of the Park District facility.

d. Any amendment or revision of an application or permit shall, for purposes of determining the priority of the application for permit, relate back to the original filing thereof; but the time in which the Park District shall grant or deny the application for permit and serve notice of such granting or denial shall be computed from the date of the amendment or revision.

Section 4 – Individual and Group Use

No person shall, without a permit:

- a. Conduct, sponsor or promote any meeting, speech, picnic or other public activity involving more than 100 individuals;
- b. Conduct any exhibit, music or dramatic performance, wedding, fair, circus, concert, festival, parade, play, radio or television broadcast, other than a news transmission;
- c. Exhibit or display any motion picture, television program, light or laser light display, or similar event; or film a media broadcast (other than a news transmission) or motion picture;
- d. Station or erect any building, tent, play equipment, mechanical ride, canopy, stand, bandstand, stage, tower, scaffold, sound stage, platform, rostrum or other structure (except beach umbrellas and similar items to provide personal shade);

- e. Station or use any electrical or electronic device or equipment that would require outdoor auxiliary power, such as a generator;
- f. Bring, land or cause to ascend or descend or alight within the Park District property, any airplane, helicopter, flying machine, hot air balloon, parachute or other apparatus for aviation, except that battery powered radio controlled models are permitted as per Section 12;
- g. Conduct any sporting event (i.e., a pre-arranged activity involving organized teams or clubs, spectators or the like). Casual pick-up style games do not require a permit;
- h. Conduct a religious or political event (i.e., a pre-arranged activity, ceremony, speech, parade, rally or the like);
- i. Circulate or distribute any leaflets, handbills, notices, pamphlets, surveys, books, documents or papers of any kind.

Section 5 – Fires

- a. No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park except in a Park District provided charcoal grill or designated campfire circle, or privately owned charcoal or gas fired grill.
- b. No person shall start or maintain a fire in an area designated for campfires without a permit issued by the Park District.
- c. All fires shall be put out by the person, or persons starting or using the same before leaving the immediate vicinity of the fire.
- d. No evidence of a fire shall be permitted to remain in any park except in a permitted grill, area designated for campfires, or container designated for such use.
- e. No person shall carry in firewood to a park to avoid possible introduction of destructive insects.
- f. No person shall collect wood found in a park without a firewood collection permit issued by the Park District.
- g. No person shall burn wood found in a park, except for wood provided by the Park District and burned in a designated area.
- h. The dumping of hot ashes or fire from portable picnic grills onto the grass, plants, trash cans or waterways is prohibited.

h. The Director may prohibit or restrict fires for limited periods at any location or for any purpose when necessary for the protection of park property.

Section 6 – Horses

a. No person shall ride or allow a horse in a park without a permit issued by the Park District.

b. If a permit has been issued for horseback riding, no person shall ride or permit a horse in a park in such a manner as to endanger the rider, the horse or any other person or any property.

Section 7 – Vehicles

a. Use of Motor Vehicles. No person shall operate any motor vehicle in any area of a park other than an established roadway or parking area, or in areas temporarily designated for such use.

b. Prohibited Motorized Devices on Paths & Trails. No person shall operate any motorized vehicle or motorized device, including but not limited to electric bicycles, electric scooters, mopeds, motorized skateboards, hoverboards, or similar devices, on paved pathways, multi-use trails, or natural surface trails.

Exceptions:

- This prohibition does not apply to mobility devices used by individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- This prohibition does not apply to Class 1 & 2 e-bikes with adjustable seats and working pedals that are riding on the Iron Horse Trail, a regional paved path.
- Law enforcement and authorized Park District personnel are permitted to use motorized equipment for official duties.

c. Non-Motorized Devices Permitted. Non-motorized devices such as bicycles, traditional scooters, skates, skateboards, strollers, and wagons are permitted on paved pathways.

- Bicycles and other non-motorized devices are not permitted on natural surface trails, i.e. hiking trails.

- Law Enforcement Officers may use bicycles on natural trails in the execution of their duties.

d. Reckless Operation. No person shall operate any type of vehicle in a reckless manner or without due regard for the safety and rights of pedestrians and other park users.

e. Speed. No person shall operate a vehicle at a speed greater than will permit them to stop within the assured clear distance ahead, and in no case greater than the posted speed limit.

f. Parking. Except in emergencies, no person shall park any motor vehicle, bicycle, or other vehicle:

- (1) within a traveled roadway or any location where parking is prohibited, or
- (2) on any sod, gravel, or other surface not designated for parking.

g. After-Hours Parking. No person shall park or leave a vehicle in a park when that area is closed to the public, except by Park District permit.

h. ADA Parking. No person shall stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle in designated ADA-accessible spaces unless transporting a person with a disability, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4511.69.

i. Lights Required at Night. No person shall operate a vehicle in a park after dark without lighted head and tail lamps.

j. Passing on Trails. Any person overtaking another on a paved path shall give an audible signal before passing, slow down, and shall not pass in a manner that endangers or alarms another path user.

Section 8 – Water Areas

a. No person shall fish in park waters in violation of any sign or signs prohibiting fishing.

b. No person shall fish in park waters in a manner, or at a time, prohibited by Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 1533 as now in effect or as hereafter amended. The use of traps, spears or gigs, or bows and arrows for fishing, or leaving hooks unattended is prohibited.

c. All fishing in park waters shall be catch and release only, except during Park District supervised events where permission has been granted.

- d. No person shall engage in activities on frozen park waters, including but not limited to ice fishing, skating or walking on ice.
- e. No person shall swim in park waters in the parks.
- f. No person shall operate, float or attempt to float a canoe, kayak, rubber craft, sailboat, rowboat, motorboat, or other passenger watercraft of any kind in park waters except with a permit issued by the Park District.

Section 9 – Camping

No person shall camp in any park except with a permit issued by the Park District.

Section 10 – Golfing

No person shall play or practice golf in any park except with a permit issued by the Park District.

Section 11 – Pets

No person shall bring, permit, have or keep in the park any dog, cat, household pet or other animal destructive to birds and other wildlife, except that domesticated animals are permitted if they are controlled at all times on a visible leash not more than eight feet long or service animals or dogs within approved off-leash dog exercise area. No pets or animals shall be allowed to become obnoxious or disturbing to the other users of park facilities. The owner of such a pet or animal shall be responsible at all times for the observance of this regulation whether or not the pet or animal is under the control of the owner or another. Pets are not permitted in the park area in which there is play equipment, sprayground, or skate park, or inside fenced baseball diamonds or tennis courts. Owners are responsible for picking up their pet's waste and depositing in a waste receptacle.

Section 12 – Remote-Controlled Drones, Planes and other Toys and Devices

The use of battery-powered radio-controlled (RC) devices is permitted only when their use does not compromise the safety of or interfere with activities of other visitors to the park. Operation of RC models must comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules. No person shall operate any type of combustible engine powered model airplane, drone, rocket, boat, ship, car, truck or other device within any area of a park without a permit issued by the Park District.

CHAPTER III – PROTECTION OF THE PARK

Section 1 – Removal or Destruction of Property

- a. No person shall remove any property, or part thereof, which is owned, leased, managed, or otherwise controlled by the Park District, from its location in a park.
- b. No person shall write upon, cut, mutilate, deface or damage in any manner any building, equipment, or other property, or part thereof which is owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Park District.

Section 2 – Removal or Destruction of Natural Resources

- a. No person shall dig, move, or carry away any rock, stone, sod, sand, earth, tree, wood, shrub, plant, flower or nut or other seed in a park, except with a permit issued by the Park District.
- b. No person shall trample upon, injure, destroy, break, cut, chop or deface in any manner any stone, tree, shrub, plant or flower in a park, except during Park District supervised events where permission has been granted.

Section 3 – Protection of Animals

- a. No person within the confines of a park shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, remove, feed or in any other way abuse, molest, injure, pursue or destroy any wildlife in the park, except fishing shall be permitted as provided by Chapter II, Section 8, Paragraphs a, b and c.
- b. No person shall move, injure or destroy any nest or eggs or any wildlife habitation in a park.

Section 4 – Deposit of Materials and Release of Animals

- a. No person shall deposit or discard in or adjacent to a park any paper, garbage, fireplace or stove ashes, refuse, or other noxious or waste material, other than in receptacles provided for the disposal of such materials.
- b. No person shall bring into a park any garbage, ashes, refuse, grass clippings, yard debris, or other noxious or waste materials, organic or non-organic, and deposit or discard the same in or adjacent to a park.
- c. No person shall, while in a park, discharge, throw, drop, or cause to flow, into park waters any noxious or deleterious substance, either solid or liquid, which renders such waters harmful or inimical to the public health or animal life.

d. No person shall bring onto Park District property a non-domestic animal or release or abandon any animal, domestic or wild.

Section 5 – Erecting and Attaching Signs

No person shall erect any sign in a park or attach any sign to property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Park District, nor shall any person display any placard, notice, advertisement, circular, banner, or statement of any kind in a park other than on a vehicle. This section shall not apply to any signs erected by the Park District or any sign, placard, advertisement, circular, banner, or statement of any kind erected, attached or displayed pursuant to the authorization of a permit issued by the Park District.

CHAPTER IV – CONDUCT OF VISITORS

Section 1 – Personal Conduct

- a. No person in or adjacent to a park shall conduct themselves by word or by act, in a riotous, disorderly, boisterous, threatening, or other manner so as to disturb the peace and good order in a park.
- b. No person in a park shall use insulting, abusive, threatening, profane, or indecent language.

Section 2 – Loitering

No person or group of persons shall loiter, delay, or stand idly in or near any building, restroom, or structures; nor loiter in or near a motor vehicle or vehicles.

Section 3 – Intoxicating Liquors, Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Substances

Other than provisions stated in Park District policy, no person shall possess, display the presence of, sell, offer for sale, use, or be under the influence of any intoxicating liquor, alcoholic beverage, or controlled substance as defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 3719.41 or harmful intoxicant while in a park.

Sale and/or serving of alcoholic beverages in parks may be allowed as part of District-sponsored programs and events. The District may contract or partner with organizations that hold necessary State and local liquor permits.

Organizations must comply with all applicable state and local ordinances.

The District Director will create and maintain a procedure for determining if and when serving alcoholic beverages is appropriate; and, for verifying the qualifications of the beverage supplier.

Section 4 – Smoking

No person shall smoke in parks where it is prohibited pursuant to section 3794.02 of the Ohio Revised Code or as designated by the Park District. Smoking is prohibited in all indoor facilities.

Section 5 – Firearms, Fireworks, Weapons

- a. Firearms and Weapons. No person shall discharge any air gun, shotgun, revolver, pistol, firearm, switch blade, hunting knife, dagger, metal knuckles, slingshot, or other dangerous weapon on or within Park District property. This section does not apply when firearms are used by law enforcement officers in the execution of their office.
- b. Fireworks and Explosives. No person, except law enforcement officers, shall possess or set off any fireworks or other explosive substances in and upon park grounds except by permit issued by the Park District.
- c. Hunting. No person shall hunt, shoot, or kill game within ½ mile of a township park unless the Board of Township Park Commissioners has granted permission to kill game not desired within the limits prohibited by this division pursuant to section 3773.06 of the Ohio Revised Code
- d. Bows and Arrows. No person shall release an arrow from a bow, crossbow, or longbow within the park other than in areas designated as an approved Archery Range area.
- e. Other Guns, Toys, or Weapons. No person shall throw, shoot or propel an arrow, missile, pellet, stone, paintball, metal or other similar substance in or on Park District property, or from any private property into or onto Park District property. Nor shall any person be involved in any action time role playing depicting violence with any said weapons on Park District property except by permit issued by the Park District.

Section 6 – Commercial Activities

- a. No person shall sell or offer for sale any article, thing, privilege or service in a park unless such sale or offer is pursuant to a contract with the Park District.

- b. No person shall post, distribute or place any sign, advertisement, circular, notice or statement, or display any banner, emblem or design, other than a permanent sign (painted or otherwise not readily removable) on a vehicle; or display, post or distribute any other writing containing commercial advertising matter within the parks, except when pursuant to a contract with the Park District.
- c. No person shall beg, peddle or solicit in a park.

Section 8 – Sound Amplification

Sound amplification, including but not limited to speakers and instruments must not interfere with the use and enjoyment of the park by any other person.

CHAPTER V – PENALTIES

Section 1 – Ejection

- a. Police officers, Park District officials and employees, Park District volunteers, and contracted representatives, such as instructors, umpires, and referees, are authorized to order any person violating any of the provisions of these Regulations to leave the park. No person shall fail to obey such an order.
- b. Any person repeatedly violating these Rules and Regulations may lose the privilege of entering a park for a period of time as designated by the Director.

Section 2 – Fines and Imprisonment

Pursuant to Section 511.23(F) and 511.99 of the Ohio Revised Code, any person who violates any provisions of these Regulations shall, for a first offense, be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00); for each subsequent offense, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than sixty (60) days and/or a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

Section 3 – Applicability of Ordinances and Statutes

These Regulations shall not be construed to preclude the applicability of any provision of the City of Centerville ordinances or the Ohio statutes unless such provision is inconsistent with the terms of these Regulations.

CHAPTER VI – EXCEPTION

Section 1 – Employees

Acts and conduct of police officers, officials and employees of the Park District, or contractors of the Park District, to the extent necessary for performance of their authorized duties, shall be exempt from the provisions of these Regulations.

CHAPTER VII – AUTHORITY

These revised Park Regulations were adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Centerville-Washington Park District on the 12th day of November, 2024, pursuant to Section 511.23(F) of the Ohio Revised Code for the preservation of good order within parks and for the protection and preservation of park visitors and the parks under its jurisdiction and control of property and natural life therein.



CONNECT WITH US:



Centerville-Washington PARK DISTRICT

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