



Rules & Regulations

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF
COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION AREAS
AS ADOPTED BY THE MERCER COUNTY PARK
COMMISSION, DECEMBER 7, 2016.**

**THESE RULES AND REGULATION ARE
PROMULGATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40:37-95.21.**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mercer County Park Commission that the following Rules and Regulations are hereby adopted for the protection, regulation and control of parks, roads, driveways, sidewalks, paths, lakes, pools, fountains, trees, flowers, shrubs, statuary, buildings and other things contained within and upon property controlled by the Mercer County Park Commission.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MERCER COUNTY PARK
COMMISSION PARKS ARE OPEN SUNRISE TO SUNSET,
365 DAYS A YEAR.**

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

No person shall possess or consume alcoholic beverages, drugs, or narcotics in any County Park or Recreation Area. Nor shall any person be permitted within a County Park or Recreation Area under the influence of intoxicating beverages, drugs, or narcotics. The Park Commission may designate special use areas or special events where alcoholic beverages may be consumed.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERTAINING TO
DESIGNATED PICNIC AREAS**

Alcoholic beverage consumption is limited to

moderate amounts of beer and wine only during a meal. Beer must be in cans or kegs and wine is allowed in boxes only. Glass containers (of any kind) are strictly prohibited in the picnic areas. No one under the legal drinking age in New Jersey shall be permitted to possess or consume alcoholic beverages on park grounds under this permit. Consumption is restricted to designated picnic areas only. One individual must be responsible for compliance with rules pertaining to the consumption of beer and wine.

The permit holder is assumed to be the compliance person for alcohol and is responsible for compliance with rules pertaining to the consumption of beer and wine. The permit holder will oversee the individual consumption of alcohol and will indemnify and hold harmless the MCPC for any consequences due to alcohol consumption.

GROUP USE, MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS

No group of fifty (50) or more persons shall use a County Park or Recreation Area without first having obtained a group use permit no later than seven (7) days before the proposed date of use. Adult supervision of children's groups is required at all times. Permits are required for a number of activities throughout the Park.

Open grove areas are for small family picnics with no more than 25 people (including children) and do not require a permit. Groups that wish to picnic in a reserved area will be required to obtain a permit. There will be no alcohol permits issued for picnics using the open grove areas.

RULES & REGULATIONS CONT.



No person shall hold any concert or public entertainment of any kind within a County Park or Recreation Area without first having obtained written permission in advance from the Park Commission.

No person shall use loud speakers, public address systems or amplifiers within a County Park or Recreation Area without first having obtained written permission in advance from the Park Commission.

PETS, HORSES

No person shall permit a dog, cat or other furred animal in their possession to run at large within a County Park or Recreation Area besides designated dog park areas. All owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dog(s) and disposing of the waste properly. A dog, cat or other furred animal must be in the custody or under control of its owner and restrained by a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length. It shall be unlawful for any person to use an animal or bird for hunting purposes on Park Commission property.

No person shall ride, drive, lead or keep a horse, or other animal within a County Park or Recreation Area, except on such roads, trails or areas, and subject to such regulations as the Park Commission may from time to time especially designate. No horse or other animal shall be hitched to any tree or shrub in any manner.

REFUSE, POLLUTION

No person shall leave bottles, broken glass, ashes, waste paper, rubbish or other foreign

matter within a County Park or Recreation Area, except in a properly provided receptacle designated for that purpose.

No person shall throw or place any foreign or waste substance in any lake, river or lagoon within or bordering upon land of a County Park or Recreation Area.

No person shall throw, cast, lay or drop, discharge into, or allow to remain in the water of a County Park or Recreation Area, or of any tributary brook, stream or storm sewer or drain flowing into said waters any substance, matter or thing, which may or shall result in the pollution of said waters.

PLANTS, NATURAL FEATURES

No person shall remove or pick flowers, foliage, berries or fruit, or cut, break, dig up, or in any way mutilate or injure any tree, shrub, plant, fern, grass, turf, railing, seat, fence, structure or any other object within a County Park or Recreation Area.

No person shall bring into or upon a County Park or Recreation Area any tree, shrub, or plant or any newly plucked branch or portion of a tree, shrub or plant.

No person shall dig up or remove any dirt, stone, rock or other substance whatsoever, make any excavation, quarry sand, stone or lay or set off any blast, or cause or assist in doing any of the said things within a County Park or Recreation Area.

RULES & REGULATIONS CONT.



No person shall dump or dispose of any live or dead domestic or wild animal at or within County Park property.

FIRES, FIREWORKS

No person shall build, light or maintain a fire within a County Park or Recreation Area, except in a camp stove, or a fireplace as provided, maintained, or designated for such purpose by the Park Commission, excepting, however, that oil or gasoline camp stoves may be used in established camp sites or picnic areas, with written permission from the Park Commission.

No person shall discharge or set off within a County Park or Recreation Area any firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets or other fireworks.

HUNTING, FISHING

No person shall discharge any weapon, firearms or paintball within or into a County Park or Recreation Area. No person shall have in his possession, either personally or in his vehicle while in any County Park or Recreation Area, any Firearm, Long Bow or Cross Bow. Law enforcement officers carrying out the functions of their office are exempt from the above.

Specific wildlife management programs may be implemented in County Parks in cooperation with the USDA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife and under the direction of MCPC. Only authorized persons shall manage wildlife on County Park property.

No person shall harass, injure, or kill any animal, or disturb its habitat within a County Park or

Recreation Area. Fishing is permitted in portions of a County Park or Recreation Area subject to New Jersey State Fish and Game Laws, County, Municipal and Park Commission laws, rules and regulations.

No person shall engage in the art of falconry while in a County Park or Recreation area without permission of the Mercer County Park Commission and all necessary permits.

RESTRICTED USES AND AREAS

No person shall enter upon any area of a County Park or Recreation Area which is designated by sign as prohibited.

No person shall coast with hand sleds, bobs, skis, carts, or other vehicles on wheels or runners within a County Park or Recreation Area, except in areas designated and posted for this purpose by the Park Commission.

No person shall throw, cast, kick or strike any baseball, golf ball, football or basketball or any object within a County Park or Recreation Area except in areas designated and posted for this purpose by the Park Commission. The use of playing fields shall be by written permit only.

No person shall bathe in any pond, stream or other body of water within or bordering a County Park or Recreation Area, unless it has been designated and posted for this purpose by the Park Commission.

No person shall use private boats or canoes on any streams, lakes, or body of water within or bordering a County Park or Recreation Area



unless it has been designated and posted for this purpose by the Park Commission. The public boat ramps are free of charge and open 365 days sunrise to sunset as long as there is no ice on the lake. No gas powered engines permitted. Sail boats must not have a mast larger than 22' from water line. All inflatables must have two or more chambers and carry the coast guard seal of approval. All children under the age of 14 must wear life jackets at all times on the water. Everyone in the boat must have a PFD. No windsurfer, kite or paddle boards on the lake. Swimming is prohibited in any body of water without expressed written consent by the Mercer County Park Commission.

All persons shall not leave designated trails and paths without expressed written permission from the Mercer County Park Commission.

No person shall walk, stand, skate, fish or boat on any County Lake that has been frozen with ice except in areas designated and posted for this purpose by the Park Commission.

No person shall use a metal detector for any purpose on any County Park or Recreation Area without authorized written permission from the Park Commission.

No person shall operate a radio controlled aircraft; including a drone, without written permission from the Park Commission.

No person shall smoke around any County Park Playgrounds or Recreation Areas where children are present.

COMMERCIAL USES

No person shall engage in the business of soliciting, selling or peddling any food or beverages for human consumption, or to distribute circulars or to hawk, peddle or vend any goods, ware or merchandise within a County Park or Recreation Area, without expressed written consent by the Park Commission.

No person shall distribute, place, cut, carve, paint, mark, paste or fasten on any tree, fence, wall, building, monument or other object within a County Park or Recreation Area any bill, advertisement or inscription.

VEHICLES, PARKING

No person shall use any portion of a County Park or Recreation Area for purpose of right-of-way, except drives, parking areas, roadways, paths, walks, and trails established for such purpose by the Park Commission. Footpaths, or walks established for pedestrian travel shall not be used for vehicular travel.

No person shall drive or propel, or cause to be driven or propelled, along or over any road within a County Park or Recreation Area, any vehicle at a rate of speed greater than the speed limits as established by the Park Commission and indicated by speed limit signs posted along the right-of-way.

No person shall drive or propel, or cause to be driven or propelled, along or over any road, parkway, drive or parking area within a County Park or Recreation Area any motor vehicle in a reckless manner or in a manner to endanger the



life, limb or property of pedestrians, or the drivers of occupants of other vehicles, or any other person within a County Park or Recreation Area. The motor vehicle operator and the motor vehicle operated within a County Park or Recreation Area shall be in compliance with New Jersey State Motor Vehicle License and Safety Laws.

No person shall park or store any motor car, motorcycle, bicycle, wagon or other vehicle within a County Park or Recreation Area, except in areas designated and posted for such purpose. Parking areas and thoroughfares are limited to use by park patrons only. No person shall set or place, or cause to be set or placed, any goods, wares or merchandise or property of any kind as to obstruct travel within a County Park or Recreation Area.

No person shall enter any part of County Park or Recreation Area or park roads with a vehicle, except in the service of or by permission of the Park Commission.

No person shall use park drives or parkways within a County Park or Recreation Area for the purpose of demonstrating any vehicle or for the purpose of instructing another to drive or operate any vehicle, or for learning to drive or operate any vehicle.

VEHICLES/DELIVERIES PERTAINING TO DESIGNATED PICNIC AREAS

Vehicles used for delivery of food and beverages must be moved to designated parking areas within 30 minutes of event starting time issued on permit.

DISORDERLY PERSONS

No person shall loiter beyond the Park posted times.

No person shall resist any agent or officer of the Park Commission in the discharge of his/her duty, or fail or refuse to obey any lawful command of any such agent or officer or in any way interfere with, or hinder, or prevent any such agent or officer from discharging his/her duty, or in any manner assist or give aid to any person in custody to escape from custody, or rescue or attempt to rescue any person when in such custody.

No person shall falsely represent or impersonate any agent or officer or pretend to be an agent or officer of the Park Commission.

No person shall resist or obstruct, or be abusive of, or address in a profane or obscene manner any agent or officer of the Park Commission.

No person shall be permitted to remain within a County Park or Recreation Area who does not abide by conditions adopted and posted by the Park Commission for the preservation of good order and the protection of property within a County Park or Recreation Area; and no person shall remain within a County Park or Recreation Area who does not abide by the instructions and directions of duly authorized officers or agents of the Park Commission in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person directed by an agent or officer of the Park Commission to leave a County Park or Recreation Area shall do so promptly and peaceably.



No person shall interfere with or in any manner hinder any agent or officer of the Park Commission while engaged in constructing, repairing or caring for any park property, or interfere with any improvements being made within or about a County Park or Recreation Area.

No person shall use threatening, abusive, boisterous, insulting or indecent language or gesture within a County Park, or Recreation Area, or facility or activity sponsored by the Park Commission, nor shall any oration, harangue, public demonstration, or any nuisance be made.

PENALTIES

Any person violating any of the provisions herein, shall upon conviction thereof, before a judge having jurisdiction, pay a penalty of not more than One Thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars at the discretion of the Judge.

The Park Commission reserves the right to impose any administrative restraints upon any person or persons that it determines have violated the rules and regulations of the Park Commission. Including but not limited to restriction on accessibility and use of the park facilities, programs and grounds.

INFLATABLES/BOUNCE HOUSES PERTAINING TO DESIGNATED PICNIC AREAS

Inflatables (aka bounce houses) are permitted in reserved picnic areas only and must be installed in accordance with proper installation guidelines. A Certificate of Liability Insurance in the amount of one million dollars liability naming the County of Mercer AND the Mercer County Park Commission as an additional insured is required from the rental company.

The Certificate of Liability Insurance must be emailed to lharvey@mercercounty.org five (5) days prior to the scheduled picnic. Inflatables containing water ARE NOT PERMITTED.

PICNIC AREA INSPECTIONS/COMPLIANCE

Mercer County Park Rangers may be on-site to inspect the picnic area at the beginning and the end of the event with the picnic permit holder. Please ensure that you have your picnic permit on hand.

Upon completion of the event, a Mercer County Park Ranger may again inspect the picnic area to determine if the grounds are left in the appropriate condition. Permit holders are responsible for any damage caused to the facility and/or its contents during their rental time. This applies to cleaning as well as physical damage. Permit holders will be invoiced for all labor and material costs to return picnic areas to their previous condition. Should MCPC staff be required for cleaning/damage repair after hours or on a weekend, those costs will be the responsibility of the permit holder.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Dial 911

PARK RANGERS ASSISTANCE

Call (609) 443-8956

Sunrise to Sunset, Seven days a week

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Call (609) 989-6111

Monday through Friday 4 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 24 hours a day

PERMITS/PICNICS

(609) 443-8560 ext.115

NOTE

Rules applying to special conditions or situations within an individual County Park, Recreation Area, facility or activity sponsored by the Park Commission may be supplemental to the above. When special rules apply, they will be posted in the affected areas.