

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.

Carol Kennard, CPRP
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 ducks and geese?

Please don't! Wild animals need a *natural* diet, and some foods like bread and crackers are a real health hazard for waterfowl. We don't want wildlife dependent upon people for food.

Please do not feed the animals!

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.

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.

Is it OK to dump yard waste in the parks?

Please don't! Grass clippings, brush, etc. should 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.

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 non-motorized vehicles such as bicycles, scooters, skates, etc.

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.

Is beer permitted?

All alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all park areas.

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.

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 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 Division of Wildlife game protectors who are qualified to enforce the Regulations of the Park District.
6. **Person** shall mean any individual, company, partnership, corporation 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** means 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, or motor scooter.

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 as designated by the Director. The Director 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 in the best interest of the park.
- 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

The use of park facilities shall be as determined and designated by the Director. No person shall use park facilities other than for the purposes designated by the Director. The Director may restrict or prohibit certain uses of park facilities when there is a reasonable chance that any such use might result in damage to park property and/or might endanger park visitors. The Director shall maintain use policies for Park District facilities including, but not limited to, dog parks, spraygrounds, group shelters, tennis courts, athletic fields, and Grant Park Nature Nook.

Section 3 – Scheduling

Where the use of facilities requires scheduling, the reserving and scheduling shall be authorized by the Director.

Section 4 – Fires

- a. No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park except in a grill, fireplace, or special area designated by the Director for campfires.
- b. No person shall start or maintain a fire in a grill, fireplace, or special area without the written permission of the Director.
- c. No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park and leave the vicinity of the fire without fully extinguishing the fire.

- d. No evidence of a fire shall be permitted to remain in any park except in a fireplace, special area, or container designated by the Director.
- e. No person shall carry in firewood to a park to avoid possible introduction of destructive insects.
- f. No person shall burn wood found in a park, except for wood provided by the Park District and burned in a designated area.
- g. The Director may prohibit or restrict fires when necessary for the protection of park property.

Section 5 – Horses

- a. No person shall ride or permit a horse in a park other than in areas or on bridle paths designated by the Director to be for horseback riding.
- b. No person shall ride or permit a horse in a park in such a manner as to endanger the rider, or any other person or any property.

Section 6 – Vehicles

- a. Driving Restrictions. No person shall operate any motor vehicle in any area of a park other than an established roadway or parking area, except as authorized by the Director. Only non-motorized vehicles (bicycles, scooters, skates, skateboards, strollers, wagons, etc.) are permitted on paved pathways and multi-use trails.
- b. Reckless Operation. No person shall operate any type of vehicle in a park without due regard for the safety of persons or property.
- c. Speed. No person shall operate a vehicle in a park in excess of 15 mph.
- d. Parking. No person shall park any vehicle in a park except in places designated by the Director for such purpose.
- e. After Hours Parking. No person shall park or leave a vehicle in an area of a park at a time when such area is not open to the public.
- f. Night Operation. No person shall drive or take any vehicle within a park at night unless head and tail lights are lighted.
- g. Bicycles. No person shall ride a bicycle on nature trails designated for foot traffic only.

Section 7 – Water Areas

- a. No person shall fish in park waters in an area where a posted sign prohibits such activity.
- b. No person shall fish in park waters without a valid license if such license is required by the State of Ohio.
- c. No person shall swim in or ice skate on park waters except in areas designated by the Director for such purpose.
- d. 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.

Section 8 – Camping

No person shall camp in any park without the written permission of the Director.

Section 9 – Skiing and Sledding

No person shall ski or sled in an area of a park where a posted sign prohibits such activity.

Section 10 – Golfing

No person shall play or practice golf in any park except in areas designated by the Director.

Section 11 – Pets

No person shall bring, permit, have or keep in the park any household pet unless controlled at all times on a visible leash not more than eight feet long or 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.

Section 12 – Remote-Controlled Toys and Models

No person shall operate any type of combustible engine powered model airplane, rocket, boat, ship, car or truck within any area of a park without the written permission of the Director. The use of battery powered radio controlled models is permitted only when their use does not compromise the safety of or interfere with activities of other visitors to the park.

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, 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.
- 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.

Section 3 – Protection of Animals

- a. No person shall hunt, trap, remove, feed or in any other way abuse, molest, injure, pursue or destroy an animal in a park, except fishing shall be permitted as provided by Chapter II, Section 7.
- b. No person shall move, injure or destroy any bird nest or eggs or any animal 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 release any animal in a park or other property controlled by the Park District.

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 with the permission of the Director.

CHAPTER IV – CONDUCT OF VISITORS

Section 1 – Loitering Near Restrooms

No person shall loiter, delay, or stand idly around in the vicinity of a restroom located in a park and no person shall enter facilities in a park provided for the exclusive use of the opposite sex.

Section 2 – Intoxicating Liquors, Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Substances

No person shall possess, 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.

Section 3 – Smoking

No person shall smoke in park facilities where it is prohibited pursuant to section 3794.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4 – Firearms, Weapons and Tools

- a. No person, except peace officers and those authorized to carry concealed weapons pursuant to Section 2923.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, shall carry on or about his person, firearms of any description, bows and arrows, air or gas guns, paint-pellet guns, missiles, sling shots, or other missile-throwing devices in a park without written permission from the Director.

- b. No person shall shoot or discharge in a park, or into a park, firearms of any description, bows and arrows, air or gas guns, paint-pellet guns, missiles, sling shots, or other missile-throwing devices.
- c. No person shall carry on or about his person in any park an ax, hatchet, saw, or knife with a blade length that is longer than three (3) inches.

Section 5 – Fireworks

No person shall bring into a park, or have in his possession, or discharge, ignite or explode in a park, any fireworks.

Section 6 – Commercial Activities

- a. No person shall sell or offer for sale any article, privilege or service in a park unless such sale or offer is pursuant to a contract with the Park District.
- b. No person shall distribute any literature in a park or property which is owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Park District, without the written permission of the Director.
- c. No person shall beg, peddle or solicit in a park.

Section 7 – Sound Amplification

No person shall operate or play a radio, television, musical instrument, or sound amplification system that is audible more than fifty feet from the device in a park without the written permission of the Director.

CHAPTER V – PENALTIES

Section 1 – Ejection

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.

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 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 18th day of January, 2007, 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.