

HUNTERDON COUNTY PARK SYSTEM RULES AND REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

Section 1. Definitions of Terms

Whenever used in any of these rules and regulations, the following respective terms, unless otherwise expressly defined, shall mean as follows:

- a. "Hunterdon County Parks" or "Parks", "Parkways", "Park Areas", "Golf Course", "Reservation", "Preservation": all the real property acquired by or under the jurisdiction and care of the Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners; or which may be hereafter acquired by the Board or come under its jurisdiction.
- b. "Borough", "City", "Town", "Township", or "Village", respectively any borough, city, town, township or village within which any portion of said park system situated.
- c. "Board": The Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners.
- d. "Dusk": sunset.
- e. "Rule" or "Regulation": any rule and regulation adopted by the Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:32-7.12, posted and published by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.
- f. "Owner": any person, firm, association, co-partnership or corporation owning, operating or having the exclusive use of a vehicle, under a lease or otherwise.
- g. "Parking Place" or "Parking Space": any part of any drive or space designed as a place for the standing of vehicles.
- h. "Ranger": any person employed by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation empowered with the authority to enforce the rules and regulations promulgated herein.
- i. "Bridle Path" or "Horse Trail": any path maintained for persons riding on horseback.
- j. "Walk" or "Trail": any path maintained for pedestrians or non-motorized cyclists.
- k. "Person": any natural person, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, firm or co-partnership.
- l. "Permit": any written authorization issued by or under the authority of the Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners, permitting the performance of a specified act or acts.
- m. "Vehicle": any motorized vehicle or any vehicle propelled by muscular power.

- n. "Off Road Vehicle": any powered vehicle designed for cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain which would include, but not limited to, such vehicles as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), dirt bikes, snowmobiles, amphibious and air cushion vehicles; other than those vehicles utilized for fire, emergency or law enforcement purposes and any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners.
- o. "Weapon": any weapon shall include, but is not limited to, firearms, paint guns, toy cannons, bows and arrows, air guns and sling shots.
- p. "NJ DEP": New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

ARTICLE II

CONSTRUCTION OF TERMS

Section 1. - Construction of Terms

Any term contained in these Rules and Regulations shall be construed as follows:

- a. Any term in the singular shall include the plural
- b. Any term in the masculine shall include the feminine and neuter
- c. The prohibition of any act shall extend to and include an attempt to commit such an act and the causing and / or the procuring, directly or indirectly, of such act.

ARTICLE III

TERRITORIAL SCOPE

Section 1. - Territorial Scope

The provision of these Rules and Regulations shall be effective within, upon and in, the air space above, all property that is presently, or shall be in the future, under the jurisdiction, custody or control of the Board and shall regulate the use thereof by all persons.

ARTICLE IV

PERMITS

Section 1. - Permits

- a. A written permit issued by the Board for any activity shall authorize the activity only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof.
- b. Any violation by its holder or his or her agents or employees of any terms or condition thereof, shall constitute grounds for its revocation by the Board, or by its authorized representative, whose action shall be final.
- c. In case of the revocation of any Park permit, all moneys paid for or on account thereof shall, at the option of the Board, be forfeited to and be retained by the Board. The holder of such permit, together with his agents and employees who violated such terms and conditions, shall be jointly and severally liable to the Board for all damages and loss suffered by it in excess of the money so forfeited and retained. Neither such forfeiture and retention by the Board of the whole or part of such moneys, nor the recovery or collection thereby of such damages, or both, shall in any manner relieve such person or persons from liability to punishment for any violation of these regulations.
- d. These Rule and Regulations shall be deemed a part of each permit issued.
- e. All permits that are granted must be produced upon demand of any duly authorized Representative of the Board.

ARTICLE V

PROHIBITED ACTS

Section 1. Municipal, State and Federal laws

No person shall commit any act that is prohibited by municipal, state, or federal laws including, but not limited to, regulations of the NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Section 2. Advertising

No person shall advertise within the Park system without the written authorization of the Board.

Section 3. Solicitation

No person, business, group or organization shall solicit for business, alms or contributions for any purpose without written authorization of the Board.

Section 4. Animals

No person without a permit shall cause or permit any animal to be released or be in park areas except as by these Rules and Regulations.

Section 5 Reserved

Section 6. Poisons

No person shall bring in or have in park areas any poison or poisonous substance, without the written authorization of the Board.

Section 7. After hours use

a. No person shall be permitted in park areas except during the hours of operation without written authorization of the Board.

b. Hours of operations:

Park areas will be opened at sunrise and closed at sunset as determined by the United States Weather Bureau for the Flemington area OR as posted:

Section 8. Merchandise Sale

No person shall sell or offer for sale any object or merchandise or any other thing, whether corporeal or incorporeal, except pursuant to a permit issued by the Board.

Section 9. Alcohol

Prohibition of Alcoholic Beverages

No person shall consume or possess alcoholic beverages anywhere within the Hunterdon County Park System, except that an alcoholic beverage that is either beer or wine may be consumed within designated areas with a special permit or by written permission from the Board.

Section 10. Reserved

Section 11. Amplified Speakers

No person shall use any loud speaker, public address system and/or amplifiers as well as any stereo, record player, compact disc, portable radio, band or musical instrument that is played in such a manner that may create a nuisance.

Section 12. Signage - Posted instructions

a. No person shall disobey any sign or posted instructions erected by the Board.

b. No person shall erect or post any sign without authorization of the Board.

Section 13. Attire

No person shall appear nude in any park areas or facilities, dress or undress, except in areas that may be designated by the Board.

Section 14. Rock Climbing

No person shall climb on or repel from any cliff, rock face, or boulder, with, or without the use of specialized equipment.

ARTICLE VI

REGULATED ACTIVITY

Section 1. Aviation

No Person shall launch, land or operate any aviation apparatus within the Park System without written authorization of the Board.

Section 2. Bathing

No person shall bathe, wade or swim in any park waters, except at such times and in such places as the Board may designate.

Section 3. Boating

- a. No person shall use, operate, launch, or land, on park areas, a boat, canoe, inflated float or raft in any park waters except in designated areas or by written permit.
- b. Where boating is permitted, life preservers must be worn at all times while in the boat.

Section 4. Skating, Skiing, Bicycling and Sledding

- a. No person shall, sled, or cross-country ski except on those areas designated by the Board.
- b. No person shall downhill ski or snowboard in any park.
- c. No person shall ice skate, ice fish or participate in any other on-ice activities, except at such times and upon such places as designated by the Board.

Section 5. Models

No person shall engage in the use of gas or battery powered model aviation devices, combustion powered model rockets, model boats or model motor vehicles, whether radio controlled or not, except in areas that are designated by the Board.

Section 6. Horses

No person shall ride a horse except as such times, and only in horse trails and areas, designated by the Board.

Section 7. Dogs

Dogs must be restrained with a leash not exceeding six feet in length and in areas designated by the Board.

Section 8. Camping

No person shall camp or set up a campsite except at such times, and upon such places, as designated by the Board and with a permit.

Section 9. Fires

- a. No person shall build any fires or discard any burning materials such as, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, charcoal, or other burning object, except in designated areas provided for such purposes. Fires must be continually monitored until extinguished and must not be left unattended.
- b. Portable Propane Grills (ppg) are permitted in designated camping, and reservable locations. PPG must be continually monitored until extinguished and must not be left unattended.

Section 10. Groups

- a. No group of fifteen (15) or more persons shall use an area or facility without first having obtained permission by permit in advance from the Board.
- b. Adult supervision of children's groups is required at all times.
- c. No person shall call or hold a public meeting or give any concert or entertainment of any kind or erect any structure, stand, tent, or platform, utilize any loudspeaker, public address system or amplifier except by the specific authority of the Board.
- d. When a permit has been issued, only those persons designated by the permit may use the park areas assigned.

ARTICLE VII

PROHIBITED ACTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

Section 1. Damage to Property

No person shall make an excavation on, destroy, paint, damage, fill in, deface, cut, remove or tamper with any property, organic or inorganic, within the Hunterdon County Park System without written authorization of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII

PROHIBITED ACTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1. Wildlife

- a. No person shall kill, throw objects at, wound, harass, trap, hunt, remove, pursue or have in their possession any animal, reptile, bird or nest or remove the eggs or young of any of the above without written authorization of the Board.
- b. No person shall hunt on any park land except those persons who have been issued a permit in accordance with procedures as establish by the Board.
- c. No person shall fish in any of the park waters, unless in possession of the required New Jersey license except in those cases or on those occasions when the NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife does not require a fishing license.
- d. No person shall feed any animal or waterfowl, any food or other substance except as permitted by the Board.

Section 2. Vegetation

No person shall excavate, pick, take, destroy, deface, remove, fill in, cut or create any disturbance to vegetation without specific permission by the Board.

Section 3. Pollution of Waters

No person shall, within or without park areas discharge into the waters of the parks or any tributary river, brook, stream, storm sewer or drain flowing into park waters any substance which may result in the pollution of the park waters.

Section 4 Metal Detecting

No person shall metal detect on Hunterdon County Park property. Except by those areas designated by the Board.

Section 5. Dumping

No person shall dump any material, organic or inorganic, anywhere within the Park System including depositing into any dumpster, garbage can, or recycling can any waste which is generated outside of the Park System.

ARTICLE IX

PROHIBITED ACTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE

Section 1. Obstruction of Duty

No one shall disobey an order, direction, or command of a Ranger or other authorized representative of the Board in the discharge of his or her duty or shall interfere with, harass, obstruct, hinder, or prevent the Ranger or other authorized representative in performing his or her duty.

Section 2. Interference with Visitors

No one shall harass, obstruct, hinder or interfere with any other person or group within the Park System.

Section 3. Unsafe Acts

No person shall act or attempt to act in any unsafe manner which may result in bodily injury or create a hazardous situation. The following is a non-exhaustive list of acts which the County has determined to be “unsafe” on County park property.

- a. Possession or use of any explosives;
- b. Possessions or use of any poisonous substances;
- c. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages without a special permit;
- d. Possession or discharge of any weapon;
- e. Climbing on or repelling from any cliff, rock face or boulder;
- f. Possession or use of narcotics or other controlled dangerous substances;
- g. Operation of all-terrain (ATV's), dirt bikes, and snow mobiles;
- h. Operation of any aviation apparatus without written authorization from the Board;
- i. Bathing, wading or swimming in any park waters or undesignated park waters;
- j. Using, operating, launching or landing a boat, canoe, inflated float or raft in any undesignated park waters;
- k. Failure to utilize life preservers in park waters while in a boat, canoe, inflated float or raft;
- l. Coasting, sledding or skiing in undesignated park areas;
- m. Roller skating, roller blading, bicycling, tricycling, or skate boarding in undesignated areas;
- n. Ice skating, ice fishing, or other on-ice activities in undesignated areas;
- o. Use of gas or battery powered model aviation devices, combustion powered model rockets, model boats or model motor vehicles in undesignated area;
- p. Horseback Riding in undesignated areas;
- q. Walking unleashed dogs in undesignated areas;

- r. Building fires or discarding burning materials in undesignated areas;
- s. Failure to monitor or extinguish unattended fires.
- t. Bow Fishing

ARTICLE X

VEHICLES

Section 1. Motor Vehicle Act and Traffic Laws

All the provisions of the New Jersey State Motor Vehicle Act and Traffic Laws shall apply in the parks and shall be strictly enforced with also such further restrictions set forth in these rules and regulations.

Section 2. Unauthorized Areas

No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to be driven or otherwise moved off of a roadway or designated parking area except by designated access drive or except as otherwise provided in these rules and regulations.

Section 3. Parking

- a. No person shall park any vehicle anywhere outside of designated parking spaces.
- b. No person shall park any vehicle in any park area closing hours.
- c. No vehicle shall be parked in a parking space which is not designed or designated for the vehicle's type, including, but not limited to, horse trailer, semi-trailer, mobile homes, commercial, box trucks, or any vehicle larger than the parking space.
- d. No person shall have a vehicle parked or standing which
 1. impedes or obstruct the normal flow of traffic
 2. block entrances or exits, loading zones, dumpsters, oil or gas fills
 3. are parked upon any grass area, fire zone or pedestrian walkway
 4. are parked within the park after closing hours
 5. presents a safety traffic hazard

These vehicles may be removed by towing. The cost of towing and storage shall be borne by the owner and shall be paid before regaining possession of the vehicles.

Section 4. Off-Road Vehicles

No person shall drive or operate any off-road vehicle or snowmobile anywhere within the Hunterdon County Park System except at such times and places as may be designated by the Board.

Section 5. Restricted Traffic

No vehicle shall be driven upon or through any area or roadway which has been designated as closed or restricted to use.

Section 6. Obstruction of traffic

No person shall intentionally and without reasonable cause impede or obstruct any vehicle within park areas.

ARTICLE XI

ENFORCEMENT

Section 1. - Enforcement

The rules and regulations of the County shall be enforced by duly authorized Rangers or representatives of the County under the provision of N.J.S.A. 40:32-2 through 40:32-7.13. Any person who enters into a County Park for any purpose whatsoever has a duty and is presumed to be aware of the provisions of these rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities and properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

ARTICLE XII

EFFECT OF PREVIOUS REGULATIONS

Section 1. – Effect of Previous Regulations

All previous versions of these regulations are hereby superseded by this present version of the regulations. However, the present version of the regulations does not apply, affect or impair any act done, offense committed, right accrued or acquired or liability, penalty, forfeiture, or punishment incurred prior to the time of this present version of the regulations taking effect. Such act done, offense committed, right accrued or acquired or liability, penalty, forfeiture, or punishment incurred may be enjoined, asserted, enforced, prosecuted or inflicted as fully and to the same extent as if the present version of the regulations have not been adopted and shall be governed for disposition purposes by the previous versions of these regulations, which are continued in effect for that purpose.

ARTICLE XIII

PENALTIES

Section 1. - Penalties

Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or other amount in the discretion of the court or other adjudicative body or may be sentenced to imprisonment in the County jail for the term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, provided that this section shall not supersede any applicable penalty provision for specific offenses, which may be set forth in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1, et seq., or in any other applicable state or federal law.

ARTICLE XIV

VALIDITY

Section 1. - Validity

These Regulations shall take effect after final adoption, and publication according to the law shall be made in at least two (2) newspapers circulating in the County of Hunterdon once a week for two (2) weeks, commencing not later than April 4, 2023. If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or regulations is adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remainder of the Regulations shall not thereby be invalidated but shall continue in full force and effect.

These rules and regulations were revised on April 4, 2023 in accordance with a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, Re-adoption of the Rules and Regulations dated May 24, 2005 with Amendments for the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation, dated April 4, 2023.