

Muskingum Valley Park District Rules & Regulations

Pursuant to Chapter 1545.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Muskingum Valley Park District Board of Commissioners publishes the following Rules and Regulations.

Section 1. Definitions

- 1.1. Park District shall mean the Muskingum Valley Park District.
- 1.2 Park shall mean any land or water area owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Park District.
- 1.3 Board shall mean the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District.
- 1.4 Director shall mean the Director of the Park District who serves as the chief executive officer of the Muskingum Valley Park District.
- 1.5 Police officer shall mean a Park District employee qualified to enforce the rules and regulations of the Park District pursuant to section 1545.13 of the Ohio Revised Code, and every other law enforcement officer of the State of Ohio or any political subdivision thereof, including, but not limited to, state highway patrol, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, constables, and Division of Wildlife wildlife officers.
- 1.6 Person shall mean any individual, company, partnership, corporation, or association, or any combination of individuals, or any employee, agent, or officer thereof.
- 1.7 Waters shall mean any lake, pond, reservoir, stream, channel, lagoon, or other body of water, or any part thereof, whether natural or artificial, located in or adjoining a park.
- 1.8 Animal or animals shall mean mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, arthropods, mollusks, and annelids.
- 1.9 Motor vehicle shall mean any vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power including a motorized bicycle, motorcycle, or motor scooter.
- 1.10 Trail shall mean footpath, bike path, horse path, and all other passageways maintained by the Park District, and which are not specifically reserved for motor vehicle traffic.
- 1.11 Vehicle shall mean everything on wheels or treads.
- 1.12 Watercraft shall mean any vessel designed for navigation on water, including, but not limited to, any rowboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, or motorboat.
- 1.13 Motorboat shall mean any watercraft propelled by any mechanical device, electric motor, or internal combustion engine.
- 1.14 Bicycle shall mean every device, propelled solely by human power, upon which any persons may ride, having two tandem wheels.

Section 2. Removal or Destruction of Property

2.1 No person shall cause physical harm to, or remove any property or equipment owned, leased, managed, or otherwise controlled by the Park District.

2.2 No person shall deface, destroy, or remove any tree, flower, shrub, or other vegetation or fruit or seed thereof, or any rock, mineral, fossil, or any archaeological feature. Collecting is by permit only for research or non-commercial purposes.

2.3 No person in a park shall climb or rappel any rock escarpment, tree, or other natural feature.

Section 3. Deposit of Material

3.1 No person, without specific written consent of the Director, shall bring into, leave behind, dump, place, or drop in any park area or roadway any trash, debris, refuse, bottle, can or any other form of refuse or material of any kind except the refuse, ashes, garbage, and other material of a picnic, camp, or other permitted activity provided that such material shall be deposited in receptacles or pits provided for such purposes.

3.2 No person shall dump, release, or spill any hazardous, noxious, or deleterious material or chemical into the air, or land of any park, or adjacent to any park, or into any stream, river, creek, ditch or drain that flows into, through, or adjacent to any park which may render such park lands or water harmful or adverse to the public health, or to animal, vegetative, or aquatic life, or which may prevent, limit, or interfere with the use of such lands or waters for domestic, industrial, or agricultural purposes, or which may lessen to an unreasonable degree the use and enjoyment of such lands or waters for recreational or other park uses.

Section 4. Protection of Animals

4.1 No person within the confines of the parks shall remove, hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, or in any other way molest any wild birds or animals found within, or adjacent to, the confines of the parks or molest any bird nest or take the eggs from, or fledglings, of any birds, except by special permit from the Director.

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

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

4.4 No person shall release or abandon any animal, domestic, wild, or exotic, within or adjacent to park lands or waters without a written permit from the Director.

4.5 No person shall bring, permit, have, or keep in any park any dog, cat, household pet, or other animal destructive to birds and other wildlife, except that dogs or cats are permitted if they are controlled at all times on a leash not more than eight feet long. No pets or other animals shall be allowed to become obnoxious or disturbing to the other users of park facilities. No person, while in or on a moving motor vehicle, shall lead or permit to be led, any leashed pet or animal. Pets are not permitted in play equipment areas or in buildings in a park unless required for personal assistance due to disability.

4.6 No person shall herd, graze, drive, or permit to run at large within a park any cattle, horse, mule, donkey, goat, swine, sheep, or other animal, or any poultry or other fowl.

4.7 The Park District shall have the right to impound or destroy any feral or diseased animal found in a park.

Section 5. Personal Conduct

5.1 No person or group of persons in or adjacent to a park shall assemble in or adjacent to a park for any unlawful purpose or in riotous assemblage or with intent to annoy, harass, or inflict property damage or bodily injury upon another person or persons or inflict damage to a park.

5.2 No person shall solicit or procure participants for, engage in, or promote any game which is played for money or other things of value within a park.

5.3 No person in a park shall loiter in the vicinity of a restroom.

5.4 No person or group of persons shall loiter in or near any facility or structure, or loiter in or near a motor vehicle or vehicles, on or about a motorcycle or cycles, or on or about bicycles while within or adjacent to park lands.

5.5 No person, except police officers, shall have in his/her possession any firearm, switchblade, hunting knife, dagger, or other bladed instrument, metal knuckles, blowgun, slingshot, or other dangerous weapon while in a park.

5.6 No person in any park shall solicit or attempt to solicit another to engage in an act of sexual perversion or solicit or request another to commit, perform, or engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene, or indecent act or behavior.

5.7 No person shall appear in the parks in a state of nudity or make any indecent exposure of his or her person or violate Ohio Revised Code 2907.09.

5.8 No person shall drink, sell, possess, or offer for sale any alcoholic beverage, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage within a park. For the purpose of this section, the term "alcoholic beverage" shall mean beer and/or intoxicating liquor as defined in Section 4301.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.

5.9 No person shall use or possess, smoke, drink, have injected into one's self, or otherwise use or possess any type of illegal drug, opiate, hallucinogen, or related paraphernalia with a park.

5.10 No person shall use obscene, profane, or abusive language while in a park.

5.11 No person shall beg, hawk, peddle, or solicit for money, privilege, or service within a park.

5.12 No individual or organization shall conduct, sponsor, or promote public meeting, speech, parade, concert, theatre, athletic event, or other public activity in a park without a written permit from the Director.

5.13 No person shall smoke in any building or vehicle under the care or management of the Park District.

Section 6. Signs

6.1 No person shall post, distribute, display, or place any sign, advertisement, circular notice, statement or display any banner, emblem, or design within the parks without a written permit from the Director.

Section 7. Fires

7.1 No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park except for small fires for cooking purposes in park grills, or privately owned grills, or fires in designated places or areas. The Director may at his/her discretion prohibit fires for limited periods at any location for any purpose when necessary for the protection of park property.

7.2 All fires shall be put out by the person, or persons starting or using the same before leaving the immediate vicinity of the fire. The dumping of hot ashes or fire from portable picnic grills onto the grass or plants is prohibited. No person in a park shall collect wood for any purpose.

Section 8. Camping

8.1 No person in a park shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging or sleeping place without a written permit from the Director.

Section 9. Horses

9.1 Horseback riding is prohibited in all parks and on all trails except in areas or on trails designated for this use.

9.2 No person in a park shall ride a horse in such a manner as to endanger the rider, the horse, or any other person or any property. Horseback riders in a park shall yield right-of-way to pedestrians and motorists at points where bridle paths intersect foot trails, roads, drives, and parkways.

9.3 No person in a park shall leave a horse unattended other than for the purpose of stabling at a designated stable.

9.4 No person in a park shall over-ride, cruelly mistreat, mutilate, or torture a horse.

9.5 Horseback riding is prohibited on any horse trail when that trail has been declared closed because of weather, ground conditions, or other reason.

Section 10. Fireworks and Explosives

10.1 No person in a park shall possess, ignite, or discharge any fireworks or explosives, or smoke generator except with written permission of the Director.

Section 11. Traffic

11.1 All motor vehicles and operators shall comply with the requirements of all sections of the Ohio Revised Code pertaining to motor vehicles and operators while on park lands.

11.2 No person shall use any portion of a park for purposes of way except drives, roadways, walks and trails established for such purposes. Trails established as horse trails, foot trails, bicycle trails, or multipurpose trails shall not be used for motor vehicular traffic.

11.3 No person shall drive upon or along a park road or drive which has been closed or posted with appropriate signs or barricades. No person in a park shall drive around, cause to be moved, or damage any barricade, so placed to temporarily or permanently close a road to sign traffic.

11.4 No person shall operate within the parks any go kart, all terrain vehicle, motorized bike, swamp buggy, motor vehicle normally considered a race car, or any other type of motor vehicle which is not customarily registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles of the State of Ohio.

11.5 No person shall operate or cause to operate any type of self propelled vehicle, motorized vehicle, or any vehicle which is moved by animal or human power over on upon any footpath, bridle path, or turf area that is not specifically designated for such activities.

11.6 No person shall drive or propel or cause to be driven or propelled along or over any road or drive within the parks any vehicle in excess of the posted limit or at any greater speed than will permit him/her to bring it to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

11.7 No person shall park or store any motor vehicle, bicycle, wagon, trailer, or other vehicle within any traveled roadway within the park or upon any sod, gravel, or other surface not specifically designated for parking. Parking shall be permitted in designated areas only. Park maintenance, emergency, and law enforcement vehicles are exempted from this rule.

11.8 No person shall leave a vehicle in a park during the hours when a park is closed. Any vehicle left within the confines of a park between the posted closing and opening shall be subject to removal at the owner's expense.

11.9 No person shall knowingly accelerate a motor vehicle in a park causing the tires to spin, mark, squeal and/or deface the park roadway surface or turf.

11.10 No person shall test, repair, wash, or wax any vehicle or mechanical device within the parks.

11.11 No person shall fail to yield to an emergency vehicle engaged in a law enforcement or rescue capacity.

11.12 No person shall operate any type of vehicle on any roadway, trail, path, or transportation corridor in a park in an unsafe or reckless manner.

11.13 No person while operating a motor vehicle, bicycle, or riding a horse in a park shall fail to yield to pedestrians.

11.14 No person shall operate a motor vehicle in a park that fails to meet the standards of Section 4513 of the Ohio Revised Code.

11.15 No person in a park shall drive a vehicle on a road or path in a direction other than that indicated by traffic signs.

11.16 No person in a park shall drive a truck, tractor, or other vehicle which is at that time used for the transportation of good or materials over any park road without a permit from the Director.

11.17 No person in a park shall operate a motor vehicle when such motor vehicle is in excess of the 10 ton gross load limit without a permit from the Director.

11.18 Vehicles in parks in violation of these Rules and Regulations shall be removed or caused to be removed by police officers to a location, in or outside the park, where the same may be kept until owners or their authorized representatives obtain an order from the Director or his agents releasing such vehicles to the owners thereof or their authorized representatives.

11.19 No person who is not handicapped or operating a motor vehicle to transport a handicapped person shall stop, stand, or park any motor vehicle at specially designated locations provided by the handicapped.

11.20 No person shall operate a vehicle along or over any road or drive within the park in a reckless manner or without due regard for the safety and rights of pedestrians and drivers and occupants of other vehicles, so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person lawfully using said park roads or drives.

11.21 No person shall operate a motorcycle or motorbike over or upon any roadway within a park without having a muffler in good working order, a fender covering each tire, and in the nighttime, having a headlight emitting a white light and a tail light emitting red light.

11.22 No person shall drive or move within the park any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in an unsafe condition so as to endanger any person. This includes the provisions of Sections 4513.01 to 4513.65 inclusive of the Ohio Revised Code and Section 4513.99, Paragraph A.

11.23 No person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall operate, cause or permit such motor vehicle to be operated within the park unless such vehicle displays the distinctive number and registration marks of license plates, legally issued for the current year, securely fastened to the vehicle.

11.24 No person shall drive a motor vehicle within a park unless such person has been licensed as an operator or chauffeur, or cause or permit a minor under eighteen years of age to drive a motor vehicle within a park unless such minor has first obtained a license or permit to drive a motor vehicle.

11.25 No person shall leave a park or fail to contact the park district in the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in damage to park property or equipment.

Section 12. Bikeways, Transportation Trails, and Greenways

12.1 Open hours for bikeways, transportation routes, and greenways shall be established by the Board and posted at facility entrances.

12.2 Use of trails may include but are not limited to bicycles, horses, walkers, hikers, joggers, wheelchair users, nonmotorized scooters, snow skis, skates, and skateboards. Only human powered vehicles shall be permitted. Stunt maneuvers and operation in a manner unsafe for the operator or other trail users is prohibited. Horse use is permitted on designated equestrian trails only.

12.3 No person shall fail to obey any posted signs or signals. Pedestrians have the right of way; cross traffic has right of way at intersections.

12.4 No motorized vehicles are permitted. Use of motorized wheelchairs is permitted by persons requiring such devices to be mobile. Emergency, law enforcement, and maintenance vehicles are exempted from this rule.

12.5 The speed limit on all bikeways, transportation trails, and greenways shall be 15 miles per hour.

12.6 Any person passing another person traveling in the same direction along the trail shall announce his/her intention before passing. No person shall pass another in a manner which endangers himself/herself or other trail users.

12.7 Camping or sleeping along the trails is not permitted except where so designated with a permit from the Director.

12.8 Staging areas are along the trails to provide parking and facilities for trail users. Overnight parking is by permit only. Loitering in or about vehicles and restrooms is prohibited.

12.9 Law enforcement, emergency, and maintenance vehicles have the right of way on all portions of the trail. Trail users must yield to emergency traffic. Blocking safe passage of law enforcement, emergency, and maintenance vehicles is prohibited.

12.10 All vehicles using the trail shall be equipped so as not to endanger the operator, other trail users, or private property owners. Trail users operating vehicles after sunset and before sunrise shall have a vehicle equipped with front headlight and rear reflector to provide safe passage for operator and other trail users.

12.11 No person shall knowingly operate an unsafe vehicle on any bikeway, transportation trail, or greenway.

12.12 No person shall operate any vehicle or act in such a manner so as to endanger himself/herself, other trail users, or private property owners.

12.13 Lands adjacent to bikeways, transportation trails, and greenways are private property except public parks and public staging areas. No person shall trespass from a trail onto private property.

12.14 No person will adversely affect or interfere with an adjacent landowner's right or privacy.

12.15 All trail users are subject to all applicable sections of the Ohio Revised Code, Muskingum Valley Park District Rules & Regulations, state law, and local ordinances. Bicycle operators shall comply with the requirements of all sections of the Ohio Revised Code pertaining to motor vehicles, operators, and bicycles while using park roads.

Section 13. Waterways

13.1 Swimming and bathing are prohibited in park waters.

13.2 Fishing in park waters shall be permitted in designated areas and subject to the laws of the State of Ohio. The Director may close park waters to fishing and the closing will be posted accordingly. In all park waters the use of hooks left unattended, traps, spears, gigs, or bows and arrows for fishing are prohibited. Fishing shall not be permitted during the hours in which the park is posted closed.

13.3 Wading in park waters is prohibited except with written permission of the Director.

13.4 The use of life rafts, inner tubes, and other objects intended to support persons is prohibited.

13.5 Boats, surfboards, water skis, scuba diving gear, and similar aquatic equipment are prohibited except in areas so designated for such activities by the Director.

13.6 Dogs, cats, and other household pets are prohibited in all park waters.

13.7 No person shall operate any watercraft with a motor on any waters of a park unless posted. Park maintenance, emergency and law enforcement watercraft are exempt from this rule.

13.8 No person shall float or attempt to float or operate or attempt to operate any unlicensed or unlicensable watercraft or flotation device in waters of any park.

13.9 Licensed watercraft operated by human power or wind power may be operated in areas so designated by the Director.

13.10 No person shall operate any watercraft in waters of the park without a Coast Guard approved flotation device.

13.11 No person shall operate any watercraft on park waters in such a manner as to endanger the operator or any other person or any property.

13.12 No person under sixteen years of age shall operate any watercraft upon park waters unless such person is under the direct visual and audible supervision during such operation of a person over the age of eighteen.

13.13 No person shall launch a watercraft except in areas specifically designated for that purpose. Rigging of sailboats or making repairs to watercraft on launching ramps in such a manner as to impede the use of ramps by others is prohibited.

13.14 Boat trailers must be parked in designated areas.

13.15 All other users are subject to all applicable sections of the Ohio Revised Code, Muskingum Valley Park District Rules and Regulations, state and federal laws, and local ordinances.

Section 14. Snowmobiling, Sledding, Skiing, and Ice Skating

14.1 No person shall operate a self-propelled vehicle that is designated to travel over snow or ice covered surfaces within the parks.

14.2 No person shall sled, ski, or ice skate within any park except in areas designated for such activities by the Director.

Section 15. Firearms

15.1 No person, except law enforcement officers, shall carry, discharge, or possess any firearm of any description, air or gas gun, bows and arrows, crossbows, or any other missile or projectile, ammunition thereof within a park without a written permit from the Director.

15.2 No person shall discharge any firearm, arrow, or projectile toward park lands so as to alarm or injure persons or wildlife in the confines of the park for any reason.

15.3 No person shall set or place any trap within or along park property which will entrap wildlife within the park or entering or leaving the park.

Section 16. Activities Prohibited

16.1 No person in or adjacent to a park shall operate or play a radio, TV, stereo, tape or CD player, musical instrument, or amplifying or sound equipment that can be heard by other than the said equipment operator without written permission from the Director. No speakers, amplifiers, or similar equipment shall be displayed outside of a vehicle.

16.2 Toy sirens and other noise making devices are not permitted in the parks.

16.3 No person in or adjacent to a park shall operate any engine powered devices such as model airplanes, boats, cars, sirens, or any other noise making devices, or launch a model rocket without written permission of the Director.

16.4 No person shall operate an all purpose vehicle as defined in Ohio Revised Code, Section 4519.01, air balloon, airplane, hang glider, or hover craft within park lands.

16.5 No person in a park shall carry on about his/her person a container capable of propelling paint by means of a gaseous charge.

16.6 No person shall practice or play golf in the parks.

16.7 No person shall construct or utilize any blind, stand, or observation post within the parks unless given written permission from the Director.

16.8 No person or persons shall willfully encroach upon lands owned or administered by the Muskingum Valley Park District.

Section 17. Employees and Exemptions

17.1 Act of employees of the Muskingum Valley Metro Park, to the extent necessary for the performance of their authorized duties, shall be exempt from the provisions of these Rules and Regulations.

17.2 The Director may from time to time designate a Muskingum Valley Park District employee, employees, or other person to exercise any authority permitted him/her under these Rules and Regulations.

Section 18. Compliance

18.1 No person shall fail to comply with any reasonable order relating to the regulations, direction, safety, control of traffic, or to any other order, lawfully given by any law enforcement officer or any Park District employee in the execution of their office or willfully resist, obstruct, or abuse any law enforcement officer or any other official in the execution of his/her office.

18.2 Pursuant to Section 1545.99 of the Ohio Revised Code, any person who violates any provision of the Rules and Regulations shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for a first offense; for each subsequent offense such person shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

18.3 Pursuant to Section 2929.31a of the Ohio Revised Code, any organization that violates any provision of these Rules and Regulations shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars and each violation shall be a separate offense.

18.4 Law enforcement officials may order any person violating any of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations to leave a park and no such person shall fail to obey such an order.

18.5 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.

18.6 These Rules and Regulations shall be enforced by a law enforcement officer as defined in Division (K) of Section 2901.01 of the Ohio Revised Code. All fines collected for any violation of the Rules and Regulations shall be paid into the general fund of the Muskingum Valley Park District.