



MADISON  
COUNTY  
PARK  
DISTRICT

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## **Madison County Park District's Mission**

### **Enabling Legislation**

The Madison County Park District was established in accordance with legislation adopted by the General Assembly in 1917. The enabling legislation for the Park District is found in the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 1545. Section 1545.11 states "The Board of Park Commissioners may acquire land either within or without the Park District for conversion into forest reserves and for the conservation of the natural resources of the state, including, streams, lakes, submerged land and swamp lands, and to those ends may create parks, parkways, forest reservations and other reservations and forests, develop, protect and promote the use of the same in such manner as the board deems conducive to the general welfare."

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Madison County Park District is to preserve and protect unique natural habitats and historical landmarks for Madison County residents through acquisition, easements, and leases. The Park District works with local governments, park districts, private organizations and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to ensure the best assets of our natural environment are protected for future generations.

While other park agencies in our county are dedicated to providing facilities for active recreation, the Park District is committed to protecting natural areas for the benefit of the public. It is our goal to manage these lands in such a way that people can make wise use of them without disturbing their unique qualities. The Park District plays an important role in meeting the open space recreational needs of our county through dedication to passive recreation.

Madison County Parks are generally of the forest preserve type, emphasizing careful preservation of natural features, woodlands, wet woods, prairie areas, meadows, wetlands, riparian corridors, lakes and streams, geological features, wildlife, and linear corridors. The Park District will develop a land stewardship program to maintain, preserve and protect these habitats, insuring that this natural diversity will be available for future generations to study and enjoy.

Based on this philosophy, these parks do not provide for intensive types of recreation, such as team sports, swimming pools, etc. It is felt that these activities should not be the responsibility of the natural area parks, but rather of the municipal or neighborhood parks. In accordance with this philosophy, recreational facilities in the Park District are limited to open-space activities of a low-density, low-impact character, such as picnicking, hiking, fishing and bicycling.

## **Objectives**

- To acquire natural area parks and provide passive recreational opportunities to the public.
- To establish and implement a land acquisition plan which will ensure that the ever-growing needs of the citizenry and future generations are met.
- To ensure that the Park District is providing a high quality educational experience for the public.
- To create a better understanding of the Park District and the role it plays in enhancing the quality of life.
- To enhance the overall image of the Park District in the county.

## **PARK REGULATIONS**

As authorized by chapter 1545.09 of the Ohio Revised Code

### **1.0 Defacement, Destruction, Removal or Disturbance of Property, Equipment and Archaeological or Natural Features**

#### **1.1 Vandalism, Defacement, Destruction, or Removal**

No person shall cause serious physical harm to, or remove any property or equipment owned, leased, or managed by the Madison County Park District.

#### **1.2 Defacement, Destruction or Removal of Any Natural or Historic Feature**

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 by permit only for research and non-commercial purposes.

#### **1.3 Defacement of Surface**

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

### **2.0 Littering, Dumping Garbage, Sewage, and Noxious Material**

#### **2.1 Littering**

No person without the 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 in any other place than receptacles provided for that purpose.

#### **2.2 Pollution**

No person or corporation shall dump, release, or spill any hazardous material or chemical into the air or land of any park or adjacent to any park or into any stream, river or creek that flows into, through, or adjacent to any park.

### **2.3 Sewage and Noxious Materials**

No person or corporation shall bring into any park for the purpose of storing, dumping or discarding any form of sewage or noxious substance within or adjacent to any park, except in pits provided for such purpose with special permit from the director.

### **2.4 Household garbage**

No person shall bring into, leave behind or dump any material of any kind in the parks except the refuse, ashes, or garbage of a picnic, camp or other permitted activity; such material shall be deposited in receptacles or pits provided for that purpose.

### **2.5 Facility Uncleanliness**

No person shall utilize any reservable structures, facility or area administered by the park and upon vacating said structure, facility or area, cause it to be left in an unsanitary or unclean condition.

## **3.0 Firearms, Fireworks, Explosives, and Archery Equipment**

### **3.1 Firearms**

No person, except law enforcement officers, shall carry, discharge or possess any firearm of any description, air or gas gun, or any other missile or projectile throwing device or the ammunition thereof within the park without the express written consent of the Director.

### **3.2 Archery Equipment**

No person shall release an arrow or have in their possession an arrow, a bow, crossbow, or longbow within the parks other than in areas so designated for that purpose by the Director.

### **3.3 Fireworks and Explosives**

No person shall possess, use, or discharge any type of firework, or explosives within the parks without the expressed written consent of the Director.

### **3.5 Tear Gas Devices, Stink Bombs, Smoke Generator**

No person with purpose to interfere with the use or enjoyment of a park, shall employ or cause to discharge any tear gas device, stink bomb, smoke generator or other devices releasing a substance which is harmful or offensive to persons, plants or wildlife, or which tends to cause public alarm.

### **3.6 Carrying Dangerous Weapons**

No person except law enforcement officers shall have or carry any knives, dagger, or other edged weapons, metal knuckles, slingshot, blow gun, or other dangerous weapons, on or about his person while in the parks.

### **3.7 Improper Transportation of a Dangerous Weapon In a Motor Vehicle**

No person shall transport or have in a motor vehicle a firearm of any description, or any other dangerous weapon accessible to the operator or any passenger without leaving the motor vehicle.

## **4.0 Indecent Conduct and Exposure**

### **4.1 Indecent Conduct and Exposure**

No person shall appear in the parks in a state of nudity, or commit, perform or engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene or indecent act or behavior and no person shall make any indecent exposure of his or her person.

### **4.2 Loitering**

No person or persons shall loiter in or about restroom facilities or vehicles while in the parks.

### **4.3 Solicitation**

No person shall solicit sexual act or solicit or ask anyone to commit, perform or engage in any lewd, lascivious, or indecent acts or behavior.

#### **4.4 Obscene Materials**

No person shall bring into a park, display or leave behind any photograph, publication, or apparatus of a lewd, lascivious, obscene, indecent or pornographic nature.

#### **5.0 Disorderly Conduct**

##### **5.1 Unlawful Assemblage**

It is unlawful for persons to collect in bodies or crowds in numbers exceeding fifteen (15) people within the confines of a nature reserve, preserve or sanctuary without an activity use permit, nor shall people collect in bodies or crowds for unlawful purpose or in riotous assemblage or with intent to annoy, harass, or inflict property damage or bodily injury upon another person, persons or any park properties within park properties.

##### **5.2 Solicit Unlawful Sales**

No person shall beg, hawk, peddle, or solicit within the parks.

##### **5.3 Assault, Menacing and Hazing**

No person or persons shall willfully assault or commit bodily injury upon another while in the parks, or otherwise menace, harass, or haze any person or persons to be engaged in or abet or aid in any fight quarrel or other disturbance.

##### **5.4 Use of Intoxicants and Games of Chance**

No person shall play at games of chance, drink, sell, possess, or offer for sale any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage or be under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverages within the parks.

##### **5.4a Possession of Intoxicants**

No person shall possess any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage within the parks.



## **5.5 Use of Illegal Drugs, Opiate, Hallucinogens and Related Paraphernalia**

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 within the parks.

### **5.5a Possession of Illegal Drugs, Opiates, Hallucinogens and Related Paraphernalia**

No person shall possess any type of illegal drugs, opiates, hallucinogens or related paraphernalia within the parks.

## **5.6 Abusive Language**

No person shall use obscene, profane, or abusive language while in the parks.

## **5.7 Endangering**

No person or corporation shall either with willful or wanton disregard for safety, endanger the life of another person in any way, or cause the injury or threaten the personal safety of any person or persons within or adjacent to any parks.

## **6.0 Posting, Displaying Signs**

### **6.1 Posting and Displaying Signs**

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

## **7.0 Compliance**

### **7.1 Failure to Obey Orders of Rangers**

No person shall fail to comply or refuse to comply with any reasonable order relating to the regulations, directions, safety, control of traffic, or to any other order, lawfully given by any law enforcement officer or any other official in the execution of their office.

## **8.0 Camps and Camping**

### **8.1 Camping and lodging Without Permission**

No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging or sleeping place within a park without a specific written permit from the Director or his designated agent.

### **8.2 Leaving Personal Possessions**

No person shall leave personal possessions in any park area for more than two (2) hours unattended except by written permit from the Director.

## **9.0 Fires**

### **9.1 Unlawful Fires**

No person shall start a fire in the parks 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 discretion, prohibit fires for limited periods at any location.

## **10.0 Hours of Closing**

### **10.1 Sunset to Sunrise Curfew**

No person shall be permitted to remain within the parks between sunset and sunrise, prevailing local time, except in an emergency or with special permission of the Director or his designated agent.

### **10.2 Special Curfew During Open Hours**

The Director or his designated agent may temporarily close or curtail activities or use upon any lands or waters, or any portions thereof, when it has been deemed necessary to be in the best interest of public safety, conduct, health, or order.

### **10.3 Removal of Vehicle After Curfew at Owner's Expense**

Any vehicle left within the confines of a park between the hours of closing and opening shall be subject to removal at the owner's expense.

#### **10.4 Nature Sanctuaries Closed to Public**

All of, or a portion of any park may be closed to the public, when it has been determined that all of, or a portion of a park is especially environmentally sensitive to human presence that it is determined to be threatened, or that a species of animal or plant is determined to be threatened or endangered such that human presence will interfere or hinder its growth, or that park, or portion thereof, is in a state of regrowth. That park, or a portion thereof will be closed to the public. That park, or a portion thereof will be known as a nature sanctuary and entry will be made only by those persons with a specific written permit from the Director, and Rangers in the execution of their office.

#### **10.5 Bikeways, Transportation Corridors, and Near Parks**

Open hours, for acceptable uses, for bikeways, transportation corridors, and linear parks shall be established by the Board and posted at facility entrances.

#### **11.0 Hunting, Fishing and Molesting Wildlife**

##### **11.1 Hunting, Trapping, or Molesting Wildlife**

No person within the confines of the parks shall 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, or fledglings, of any birds, except by special permit in designated areas.

##### **11.2 Frog Giggling**

No person within the confines of a park shall engage in frog giggling.

##### **11.3 Fishing**

Fishing shall be permitted subject to the laws of the State of Ohio in park waters. The Director or his designated agent may close park waters to fishing, and shall so post them. 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 closed.

### **11.5 Adjacent Lands**

No person shall discharge any firearm, arrow, or projectile toward park land so as to alarm or injure wildlife or persons in the parks. No person shall chase or drive wildlife from the confines of the park for any purpose. No person shall set, or place any trap along the park property which will entrap wildlife entering or leaving the park.

### **11.6 Feeding of Animals**

No person, other than park personnel engaged in official duties, may feed any wild bird or other animals found within the confines of the park.

## **12.0 Dogs, Cats, and Other Household Pets**

### **12.1 Household Pets**

No person shall have or keep in a park any dog, cat, household pet or other animal destructive to birds and other wildlife. Dogs and cats are permitted only in picnic areas, parking areas and roadways and they are to be controlled at all times on a leash not more than six (6) feet long. Field training and exercise of dogs is permitted in designated areas and in consideration of other park users.

### **12.2 Abandoning Domestic Animals Within the Confines of a Park**

No person shall leave behind, or otherwise abandon any domestic animals within or adjacent to any park.

### **12.3 Releasing Wild or Exotic Animals Without Permission**

No person shall release any wild or exotic animal within the confines of a park without a specific written permit from the Director or his designated agent.

### **13.0 Horseback Riding**

#### **13.1 Horseback Riding in Non-Designated Areas**

Horseback riding is prohibited in all parks and on all trails unless specifically designated as an equestrian trail.

### **14.0 Swimming and Wading Prohibited**

#### **14.1 Swimming Prohibited**

Swimming is prohibited except at areas designated for that purpose by the Director.

#### **14.2 Wading Restrictions**

No person shall wade in any waters of the parks with the exception of boating and fishing activities.

### **15.0 Powered Models, Toys, and Noise Making Devices**

#### **15.1 Powered Models**

Engine powered devices such as model airplanes, boats, cars, are prohibited in non-designated areas. Model boats and cars may be operated in consideration of other park visitors.

#### **15.2 Radios, Stereos, Tape Players, Etc.**

Radios, stereos, tape players, etc., will not be operated in the parks at volume that can be heard by other than the said equipments owner. Toy sirens and other noise making devices are not permitted in the parks.

### **16.0 Go-Karts, All Terrain Vehicles and Other Non-Registered Motor Vehicles**

#### **16.1 Operation of Non-Registered Vehicles Prohibited**

No person shall operate within the parks any go-kart, all terrain vehicles, 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.

## **17.0 Traffic And Motor Vehicle Regulations**

### **17.1 Purpose Of Way**

No person shall use any portion of the parks for purposes of way except drives, roadways, paths or bicycle paths shall not be used for any other Traffic.

### **17.2 Purposes Of Way: Motorized, Animal Drawn Or Human Propelled Vehicles On Trails, Paths Or Walks Established As Hiking Trails Prohibited**

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 or upon any footpath, bridle path or turf area that is not specifically designated for such activities.

### **17.3 Speed Limit**

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 at a greater rate of speed than fifteen (15) miles per hour or at a greater speed than will permit him to bring to a stop within the assured clear distance, nor shall any person operate a vehicle at a greater speed as posted on roads adjacent to a park.

### **17.4 Parking**

No person shall park or store any motor car, motor vehicle, bicycle, wagon, trailer or other vehicle within any traveled roadway in the parks 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.

### **17.5 Testing, Washing Or Repairing Vehicles**

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

#### **17.6 Failure To Yield To Emergency Vehicles**

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

#### **17.7 Unsafe Operation Of Vehicle**

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

#### **17.5 Failure To Yield To Pedestrians**

No person while operating a motor vehicle, bicycle or riding a horse shall fail to yield to a pedestrian.

#### **17.9 Operating A Motor Vehicle With Unsafe Or Hazardous Equipment, Lights Or Loads**

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

#### **17.10 Leaving The Scene Of The Accident Resulting In Damage To Park Property Or Equipment.**

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

#### **18.0 Snowmobiles, Sledding, Skiing, & Skating**

##### **18.1 Snowmobiles Permitted In Designated Areas Only**

No person shall operate a self-propelled vehicle that is designed to travel over snow or ice-covered surfaces within the parks other than in areas designated by the Director as "snowmobile" areas.

## **18.2 Sledding, Skating And Skiing**

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

## **19.0 Encroachment Of Park Land**

### **19.1 Encroachment**

No person or persons shall willingly encroach upon lands owned or administered by Madison County Board of Park Commissioners.

### **19.2 Quartering Or Grazing of Livestock**

Quartering or grazing of livestock within the parks is prohibited unless within special permission of the Director or his designated agent.

### **19.3 Golfing**

No person shall practice or play golf in the parks except in areas designated for such purpose by the Director.

### **19.4 Construction of Any Blind, Stand or Observation Post Prohibited**

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

## **20.0 Bikeways, Transportation Trails, and Linear Parks**

### **20.1 Modes of Transportation**

Use of trail may include but is not limited to bicycles, horse, walking, hiking, jogging, wheelchairs, scooters, snow skis, skates and skateboards. Human powered vehicles shall only be used for transportation - stunt maneuvers and operation in a manner unsafe for the operator or other trail users is prohibited. Horse use is restricted to the unpaved portion of the trail except on bridges, crossings or as otherwise posted.



## **20.2 Speed Limit on Bikeways, Transportation Trails and Linear Parks**

No person shall exceed the posted speed limit or the designated speed limit of 20 mph.

## **20.3 Signs, Signals and Crossings**

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.

## **20.4 Motorized Vehicles Prohibited**

No motorized vehicles are permitted on trail. 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.

## **20.5 Passing**

Any person passing another person traveling in the same direction along the trail shall announce their intentions before passing. No person shall pass another trail user in a manner which endangers himself or herself or other trail users.

## **20.6 Camping**

Camping or sleeping along the trail is not permitted except where so designated with a permit.

## **20.7 Staging Areas**

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

## **20.10 Law Enforcement, Emergency, and Maintenance Vehicles**

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.

### **20.11 Equipment Requirements**

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

### **20.12 Unsafe Equipment and Operation**

No person shall knowingly operate an unsafe vehicle on any bikeway, transportation trail or linear park. No person shall operate any vehicle or act in such a manner so as to endanger himself, other trail users or private property owners.

### **20.13 Encroachment On Adjacent Land**

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

### **20.14 Conduct**

No person will adversely effect or interfere with an adjacent landowners right to privacy.

### **20.15 Other Rules and Regulations**

All trail users are subject to all applicable sections of the Ohio Revised Code, Madison County Park District law, state law, and local ordinances.

## **21.0 Boating and Watercraft**

### **21.1 Boating**

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 a park.

### **21.1 Motors Prohibited**

No person shall operate any watercraft with an electric motor or internal combustion powered motor in any waters of a park.

### **21.3 Restricted Use**

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

### **21.4 Flotation Devices**

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

## **22.0 Lawn Games**

### **22.1 Lawn Darts**

The use of steel tipped lawn darts is prohibited in the park.

### **22.2 Horseshoe and Quoits**

Metal horseshoes and metal quoits shall be permitted only in areas designated for that purpose or in other areas designated by the park ranger.

## **23.0 Aircrafts**

Any aircrafts, airships, hot air balloons, ultralight aircraft, hang gliders, or any other structure or machine designed to travel through the air may not ascend or descend in the park except in an emergency or with prior written permission of the Director.

## **50.0 Violation of Park Rules - Penalties**

### **50.1 Violations**

Any person violating any of these rules and regulation shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Each violation shall be a separate offense. No person shall violate a rule adopted under this resolution. Whoever violates a rule adopted under this resolution

shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). If the offender has previously been convicted to a violation of any rule, the offender shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

### **50.2 Organizational Violations**

Any organization violating any these rules and regulations shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Each violation shall be a separate offense. No organization shall violate a rule adopted under this resolution. If an organization violates a rule adopted under this resolution, the organization shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) pursuant to ORC 2929.31 a.

### **50.3 Enforcement**

These rules shall be enforced by a law enforcement officer as defined in Division (K) of Section 2901.01 of the Revised Code. All fines collected for any violation of any rule or regulation adopted under this resolution shall be paid into the general fund of Madison County Board of County Commissioners or the general fund of the Madison County Park District, as appropriate.

### **50.4 Other Regulations**

All other statutes, codes, ordinances that are appropriate within this jurisdiction apply.