

CHAPTER 98 REGULATIONS FOR CITY PARKS AND PARK LANDS

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§ 98.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide for the regulated use of and the protection of life and property in or on City parks.

§ 98.02 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Chapter the following words and phrases shall have the meaning given to them.

- (1) *City Park and Park Lands*. Any land owned by the City of Cambridge and designated as a park by the City Council.
- (2) *Liquor*. A beverage capable of inducing intoxication, including but not limited to 3.2 beer, wine and wine coolers.
- (3) *Motorized vehicle*. Any motor vehicle, whether designed for, used or capable of use for travel, lodging, sport, amusement or recreation, whether or not eligible to be licensed for use upon streets or highways, including, but not limited to, automobiles, buses, trucks, tractor trailers, tractors, motorbikes, motor scooters, mini-bikes, trail bikes, motorcycles, go-karts, hovercrafts, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off road vehicles, mini-trucks or dune buggies.
- (4) *Person*. An individual, firm, partnership, corporation or association of persons.

§ 98.03 PARK REGULATIONS

- (1) *Equipment*. No person shall willfully mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with, displace or remove any building, bridge, table, bench, waste receptacle, fireplace, railing, paving or paved material, waterline or other public utility or part or appurtenance thereof, sign, notice or placard (whether temporary or permanent), monument, stake, post or other boundary marker, or other structure, equipment, park property or park appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal.
- (2) *Rest Room Facilities*. No person shall fail to cooperate in maintaining rest rooms, wash rooms and other sanitation facilities in a neat, orderly and sanitary condition. No person over the age of five years shall use the rest rooms and washrooms designed and designated for members of the opposite sex.
- (3) *Public Waters*. No person shall throw, discharge, or otherwise place or cause to be placed in the water of any fountain, pond, lake, stream, bay or other body of water in or adjacent to any park or in any tributary, stream, storm sewer or drain flowing into such water, any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid; nor shall any person bring in or dump, deposit or leave any bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, waste, garbage, or refuse or any other

trash, in any park or portion thereof, or in any waters in or contiguous to any park. All such garbage, refuse or trash shall be placed in the proper receptacles; where proper receptacles are not provided, all such garbage, refuse or trash shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere.

- (4) *Alcoholic Beverages.* No person shall bring into any park nor possess, display, consume or use intoxicating liquor in any park unless prior written approval has been issued by the City Administrator or the City Administrator's designee. During special events held by the city or an event the city participates in, alcoholic beverages may be purchased from a mobile food vendor participating in the event and the beverage may be consumed during the special event in the designated compact/contiguous area only. (Ord. No. 784, 4/1/24)
- (5) *Fires.* Fires are prohibited in City parks except in a metal grill. No person shall leave before the fire has been completely extinguished, and all garbage, trash, and refuse have been placed in the receptacles provided. Where no receptacles have been provided, all garbage, trash and refuse shall be carried away from the park area and shall be properly disposed of elsewhere.
- (6) *Public Sales.* No person shall within any park or property, expose or offer for sale, rent or hire any article or thing unless they have obtained prior written approval to do so from the City Administrator. No person shall announce, advertise, or call the public attention to any article or service for sale or hire in any way.
- (7) *Posters; Advertisements.* No person shall post, glue, tack or otherwise post any sign, placard, advertisement, or inscription whatsoever in park lands, or on any public lands, highways or roads adjacent to park lands, unless prior written approval is received from the City Administrator or the City Administrator's designee.
- (8) *Golfing.* No person shall play the game of golf or engage in putting, practice swinging or the striking of any golf balls in any City park.
- (9) *Camping.* Overnight camping is prohibited in City parks without first obtaining the written permission of the City Administrator or the City Administrator's designee.
- (10) *Pets.* Pets are allowed in City parks provided they are on a leash and their waste is disposed of properly. Pets are allowed off of the leash only in those areas designated by the City as an animal or dog park. Pets are only allowed in the spectator areas of athletic complexes and not on any fields unless they are a service animal. All animals that show aggression or are disruptive must immediately leave the park they are currently using.
- (11) *Group Activity.* No group, association, or organization desiring to use park facilities for a particular purpose including, but not limited to, picnics, parties, or theatrical or entertainment performances, may do so without first obtaining written approval for such use from the City Administrator. The City Administrator shall grant the application if in the Administrator's judgment the use for which the permit is sought will not interfere with the health, safety, welfare and morals and use of the park by the general public and if the applicant meets all other conditions contained in the application form. The Administrator may require an indemnity bond,

in form and substance satisfactory to the City Attorney, holding the City harmless from liability of any kind or character and protecting the City in case of property damage. The bond shall be filed with the City Clerk.

- (12) *Flowers, Trees and Shrubs.* It is unlawful to willfully and without authority cut, pluck, or otherwise injure any flowers, shrubs or trees growing in or around any public park, or on other public lands.
- (13) *Park Hours.* Except as otherwise provided here, parks shall be closed between the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) p.m. and five o'clock (5:00) a.m. of the following day. No person shall be in, remain in, or leave or park any vehicle in any park, parkway or drive during such hours. Groups, associations, or organizations wishing to meet in a park area past the time designated by the Council must obtain prior written approval from the City Administrator or the City Administrator's designee. The City Administrator shall grant the application if, in the Administrator's judgment, the use for which the permit is sought will not interfere with the health, safety, welfare and morals of the general public and if the applicant meets all other Cambridge City Codes and conditions required by the Administrator contained in the application form. The application form may contain a requirement for an indemnity bond, in form and substance satisfactory to the City Attorney, holding the City harmless from liability of any kind or character and protecting the City in case of property damage. The bond shall be filed with the City.
- (14) *Park Closing.* The Chief of Police may close any public park, parkway or drive at any time, and for such period as the Chief deems necessary, in order to protect or restore order or terminate or prevent breaches of the peace and order of the City. No person having been informed of such an order closing any such area shall remain in the area longer than is necessary to leave the closed area.
- (15) *Hunting.* No person shall rob, injure or destroy any bird or animal nest within the limits of any park, nor shall any person aim or discharge any air gun, sling shot, arrow or other weapon, or throw any stone or other projectile, at any bird or animal within any park, nor in any manner capture, kill or harm in any way any bird or animal therein.
- (16) *Trapping.* No person shall set, lay, prepare or have in his possession any trap, snare, artificial light, net, bird line, ferret or any contrivance whatever, for the purpose of trapping, catching, taking, or killing any bird or animal within any park or parkway.
- (17) *Firearms and Fireworks.* Except as otherwise permitted by law in this Code, no person shall within the limits of any park or parkway, fire or discharge any cannon, fowling piece, pistol, revolver, paintball gun, airsoft gun, or firearm of whatever description or fire, explode or set off any firecracker, or any other thing containing powder or other combustible or explosive material.
- (18) *Motorized Vehicles.* No motorized vehicles or machines of any kind or character, except those operated by and for the City or other competent governmental authority, shall drive on or across park lands, the ice skating rinks, whether on lakes or flooded, nor shall such vehicle or machine park on these areas, without first obtaining a permit from the City Council or its designated

officials, paying the fees fixed from time to time by Council resolution.

- (19) *Swimming.* Persons who swim in a City park that has a lake, river or stream shall do so at their own risk as lifeguards are not provided in any City park.
- (20) *Glass Beverage Containers.* No person shall bring a glass beverage container into any City park, nor use, possess or deposit the same therein, including deposit in a trash container.
- (21) *Litter.* No person shall litter any City park or any lake, pond or water course within or draining into a City park with any form of trash or waste material. Such trash or waste material shall be deposited in the proper receptacles when provided; where receptacles are not provided, all trash or waste material shall be carried away from the area by the person responsible for its presence.
- (22) *Penalties.* Any person violating any provision of this Chapter, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.