

Parks and Public Property Ordinance

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the use of public parks and property of Laketon Township and to provide for enforcement of park rules and regulations.

Section 2: Short Title

This Ordinance will be known and referred to as the Laketon Township Parks and Public Property Ordinance.

Section 3: Definitions

ANatural Resource@ means any sand, soil, water, rock, stone, tree, shrub, or plants, downed timber, other natural material.

APark@ and APublic Property@ mean any park, reservation, playground, beach, recreation center, or any other area in Laketon Township, which is owned or used by the Township, and devoted to active or passive recreation. The terms may be used interchangeably and shall include the Township Hall property located at 2735 West Giles Road.

APark Property@ means any building, bridge, table, bench, fireplace, fence, railing, paving or paving material, waterline, public utility, signs, notices, or placards, monument, stake, post, boundary marker, structures, equipment, or facilities whether temporary or permanent located in a Park.

ARule@ and ARegulation@ mean any rule or regulation relating to the Parks or Public Property within Laketon Township which is adopted by resolution of the Laketon Township Board.

APerson@ means any natural person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind.

ATownship Supervisor@ means the Laketon Township Supervisor or any Laketon Township employee or Park attendant authorized to act on his or her behalf.

Section 4: Compliance with Rules, Regulations, and Directives

All persons in, on, or about any Park or Public Property must comply with any posted regulation, sign, or park rule. Any person who fails to comply may be refused admittance to such Park or Public Property. Failure to leave as requested will constitute a trespass.

Section 5: Closing

No person may be in or upon any Park when the Park is closed without specific written consent of the Township. Park hours may be set by rules and regulations and may vary from Park to

Park. In the absence of rules and regulations governing Park hours the Park will be closed from dusk until 8:30 a.m. Additionally, the Township Supervisor may close the Parks or any part of the Parks as deemed necessary.

Section 6: Specifically Prohibited Acts

The following acts are prohibited in Parks and on Public Property:

- 1) Marking, defacing, disfiguring, injuring, and tampering with Park Property.
- 2) Failing to cooperate in maintaining restrooms and washrooms in a neat and sanitary condition.
- 3) Loitering in or around a restroom, washroom, pool house or changing room. People must use a restroom, washroom, pool house or changing room designated for their sex. This provision does not apply to children under the age of 6 who are accompanied by a parent, sibling, guardian or custodial adult.
- 4) Smoking in any building or structure or within 30 feet of any building or structure.
- 5) Removal, disturbing, damaging, impairing, injuring or digging any natural resource or engaging in any act which may impair the natural beauty or usefulness of the area.
- 6) Climbing, sitting, walking, or standing upon any tree, monument, vase, fountain, railing, fence, or any other Park Property not designated or customarily used for such purposes.
- 7) Erecting a structure of any kind whether permanent or temporary unless approved by the Township.
- 8) Hitching or tying any horse or other animal to any tree or plant.
- 9) Feeding, hunting, harming, frightening, killing, trapping, chasing, teasing, shooting, or throwing objects at any wild animal, reptile, or bird.
- 10) Polluting any waters, including throwing, discharging, or otherwise placing any substance, matter, or object which may result in the pollution in the waters of any fountain, pond, lake, stream, bay, or other body of water in or adjacent to any Park.
- 11) Dumping, depositing, or leaving any rubbish, waste material, garbage, refuse, trash or cigarette butts in any Park, unless placed in the proper receptacles. If a proper receptacle is unavailable, all material must be carried away from the Park by the person responsible for its presence, and properly disposed of elsewhere. No rubbish, waste material, garbage, refuse or trash may be brought onto Park or Public Property for disposal, except designated areas.
- 12) Swimming, bathing, or wading in any waters in or adjacent to the Park unless swimming is expressly allowed by posted Park rules and in compliance with any posted or published Park rules. No person may swim, wade or bath between sunset and sunrise.

- 13) Dressing or undressing on any Park Property except in bathing houses, restrooms, or structures provided for that purpose.
- 14) Possessing or drinking alcoholic beverages in a Park or on Public Property, except at specifically designated and approved events.
- 15) Entering or remaining in a Park or on Public Property while in a state of intoxication or while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- 16) Bringing, possessing, or causing to explode any firework, explosive, or flammable material except as allowed by law.
- 17) Loitering on the seats, benches or other areas not specifically designated for such behavior.
- 18) Engaging in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language or behavior which tends to breach the peace.
- 19) Violating any Park rule, regulation or ordinance of Laketon Township.

Section 7: Boating

Boating is only allowed in designated areas. It is unlawful to bring into or operate any boat, raft, or other water craft, whether motor powered or not, upon any waters, except at places designated for boating. Such activity must be in accordance with applicable regulations as are now or may hereafter be adopted.

Section 8: Fishing

Fishing is prohibited from shore except in areas designated for fishing.

Section 9: Hunting

No person may hunt, trap, kill or pursue any wildlife in any Park. Shooting into park areas from beyond the Park Property is prohibited.

Section 10: Picnicking

No person may picnic in any area other than those areas designated for picnicking. Attendants have the authority to regulate the activities in such areas when necessary to prevent congestion and to secure the maximum use for the comfort and convenience of all.

Unless reserved with the rental of a pavilion, use of individual grills is based on first come first serve. No person may use any portion of a picnic area to the exclusion of others, nor may any person use such area and facilities for an unreasonable time.

Section 11: Camping

No person may camp in any Park or on Public Property without the prior written approval of the Township Board.

Section 12: Recreation

No person may take part in or abet the playing of any games involving thrown or propelled objects, balls, stones, arrows, javelins, or model airplanes except in areas set aside for such recreation. The playing of rough or dangerous games is prohibited.

Section 13: Animals

No person may ride a horse or other animal except in designated areas. Where permitted, the animal must be thoroughly broken, properly restrained, ridden with due care, and must not be allowed to graze or go unattended.

No person may have under their control, allow, bring, cause to be present any animal except in areas expressly permitted by sign or township rule. Animals must not be permitted to run at large. All animals must be restrained at all times on adequate leashes no greater than ten feet in length. Cleaning up after animals is required.

Section 14: Fires

No person may build or attempt to build a fire except in designated areas and in compliance with rules and regulations. No person may drop, throw, or otherwise scatter lighted or flammable material within a Park or Public Property.

Section 15: Group Activity

Whenever a group, association, or organization desires to use the Park facilities a representative from the group must first obtain a permit from the Township Board. The Township Board will grant the permit if it appears that the group will not interfere with the general use of the Park by individual members of the community and if the group meets all other conditions contained in the application. The application may contain a requirement for an indemnity bond to protect Laketon Township from any liability of any kind or character and to protect Laketon Township's property from damage.

The Township Supervisor will have the authority to revoke a permit on a finding of violation of any rule or ordinance or upon good cause.

Section 16: Vehicles

All owners and operators of motor vehicles on Park Property must comply with all provisions of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code including provisions regulating registration and licensing

requirements. Vehicles may only be operated on roadways or designated recreation vehicle trails. The speed limit in all Parks and on Public Property is 15 mile per hour unless the area is otherwise posted. Bicycles are confined to roads unless areas are otherwise posted or permitted as designated for that purpose.

No person may park a vehicle in any area other than designated parking areas. All parking must be in accordance with posted directions. Operators of vehicles must comply with the directions of parking attendants when present.

Section 17: Severability

The various parts of this Ordinance (sentences, paragraphs, sections, subsections, phrases, and clauses) are hereby declared severable. If any of them are judged unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the ordinance will not be affected.

Section 18: Violation

Any violation of the provisions of this Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction.

Section 19: Effective Date; Conflicts

This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its publication. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance, including Parks Ordinance #14, are hereby repealed.

The above Ordinance was offered for adoption by Township Board Member Zaagman and was seconded by Township Board Member Archer , the vote being as follows:

YEAS: Archer, Arter, Zaagman, Achterhoff

NAYS: None

ABSENT/ABSTAIN: Kane

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby declare that the above is a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the Laketon Township Board at a Regular meeting held on June 20, 2013, at the Laketon Township Hall, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Dated: June 21, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

By Christina Achterhoff, Laketon Township Clerk

Adopted: June 20, 2013

Published: June 27, 2013

Effective: July 27, 2013