SUBJECT: Renewal of Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Prohibition in Designated Parks

AUTHORITY: M-NCPPC Park Rules and Regulations, Chapter I, Section 3


EFFECTIVE: June 1, 2022 EXPIRATION: May 31, 2023

Pursuant to Chapter I, Section 3, of the M-NCPPC Park Rules & Regulations (2017) (the “Parks Rules”), the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Parks (“Montgomery Parks”) issues the following Park Directive:

1. Pursuant to the Parks Rules, Chapter III, Section 4.A(4), a permit is required to authorize the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on Park Property or in a Facility in a place where it is not authorized by Park Directive. Furthermore, pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 3.A. no Person shall possess, use or distribute beverages containing alcohol on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

2. For the purposes of this Park Directive, alcoholic beverages are defined as beer, wine, mixed drinks, and/or spirits. Furthermore, the Park Directive allows park visitors to possess and consume alcoholic beverages in designated spaces located within the park, provided park visitors are at least 21 years of age and responsibly consuming alcohol in accordance with all applicable laws.

3. On September 24, 2020, Park Directive MC-20-001 went into effect and temporarily suspended the current prohibition on alcohol until May 31, 2021. The foregoing Park Directive also allowed for an extension of the temporary suspension of alcohol for an additional 12 months and the Directive was extended from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022 (MC-20-001 and MC20-002 attached as Exhibit A).

4. As Montgomery County continues its COVID-19 phased reopening plan, Montgomery Parks continues to support the restaurant industry by encouraging park visitors to order delivery or take-out and enjoy a “Picnic in the Park.” The “Picnic in the Park” initiative launched on Friday, August 7, 2020, and is currently being piloted in nine parks:
   (a) Jessup Blair Local Park
   (b) Acorn Urban Park
   (c) Germantown Town Center Urban Park
   (d) Norwood Local Park
   (e) Olney Manor Recreational Park
   (f) Takoma Urban Park
(g) Wall Local Park  
(h) Wheaton Local Park  
(i) Wheaton Regional Park  

5. The renewal of this Park Directive will extend the temporary suspension of alcohol for an additional 12 months and also expand the “Picnic in the Park” initiative to designated areas in the following parks:  
   (a) Carroll Knolls Local Park  
   (b) Ellsworth Urban Park  
   (c) Elm Street Urban Park  
   (d) Flower Avenue Urban Park  

6. Except as described in this Park Directive (i) all other terms of the Park Directive Nos. MC-20-001 and -002; and (ii) parks associated with the “Picnic in the Parks” initiative, as listed above, all other restrictions on the possession and consumption of alcohol on Montgomery Parks Property remain in effect.

Authorized and approved as provided under the Park Rules adopted on May 26, 2022 by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission:

SIGNATURE:  
__________________________________________
Michael F. Riley, Director  
Montgomery Parks  

DATE  
05/26/2022, 2022  

This Park Directive was published with the agenda of the Montgomery County Planning Board for its regular meeting held on May 23, 2022. Initials and Date:  
05/26/2022

This renewal of Park Directive MC-20-003 was published on the website of Montgomery Parks on May 26, 2022.