

# Park Rules and Regulations

## GOVERNING USE OF COMMISSION PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES

Effective July 1, 2025

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## ***Chapter I: Purpose, Authority, and Other Matters***

### **Section 1. Purpose**

The Commission has a responsibility to establish rules and regulations to provide for the safe and peaceful use of Commission property and parks by the public; for the cultural, educational and recreational benefit and enjoyment of the public; and for the sustainable protection and preservation of the property, facilities, and natural resources entrusted to Commission stewardship.

### **Section 2. Authority**

These Regulations are promulgated pursuant to the Laws of Maryland, including MD. Code, Land Use, §§ 17-101(d), 17-207, 17-208, 17-209, 17-210, 17-302(b)(4), 20-204, 25-804, and 25-807(c), each as amended from time to time.

### **Section 3. Park Directives**

(A) Subject to the limitations provided below, the Commission authorizes a Director to issue Park Directives appropriate for the purposes enumerated in these Regulations.

(B) A Director must issue and publish all Park Directives in writing and in a manner that is accessible to the public. The promulgation of a new Park Directive, or a change to or rescission of an existing Park Directive, must adhere to the following procedures:

- (1) At least ten (10) days before a regularly scheduled public meeting of a Planning Board or the full Commission, as appropriate based on the Park Directive's applicability, the Director must submit the proposed Park Directive to be published on the meeting's public agenda. Publication on the agenda is for public notice only, and no further action of the Planning Board or Commission is required, unless the Board or Commission votes to consider the Park Directive as described in subsections (E) or (F) below.
- (2) If the Planning Board or the full Commission takes no action on the proposed Park Directive or votes to allow the Director to move forward under subsections (E) or (F), the Director must promulgate the Park Directive by causing it, or pertinent provisions thereof, to be: (a) published and maintained

on the appropriate Commission website or websites; and (b) transmitted to the Park Police and the Executive Director, Secretary- Treasurer, and General Counsel of the Commission. Signs shall be posted at major recreational facilities directing patrons to the website(s) where the rules are published.

(C) The adoption or modification of a Park Directive is effective on and after the later of:

- (1) the date specified therein as its effective date; or (2) the first date it has been both published and posted as provided above in Subsection (B). A Park Directive shall continue in full force and effect until a termination date specified therein or, if no such termination date is specified, indefinitely until it is modified or rescinded.

(D) A Director shall not issue any Park Directive that conflicts with these Regulations, or with any Commission Practice or other rule, regulation or policy of general applicability adopted by resolution, or other binding corporate action of the Commission.

(E) Subject to the following procedures, the Montgomery or Prince George's County Planning Board may consider and act upon a proposed or effective Park Directive applicable only in that Planning Board's county:

- (1) A Planning Board member may move in open session to consider a proposed or effective Park Directive. If the motion is seconded, and if a majority of board members meeting in open session vote in favor of the motion, the Planning Board chair must schedule a discussion of the Park Directive on the board's agenda when practicable for consideration.
- (2) If a Planning Board votes to consider a proposed Park Directive, the Park Directive will not become effective unless the board votes to order the Director to promulgate it. If a Planning Board votes to consider a Park Directive already in effect, that Park Directive remains operative and in effect unless the Board votes to order the Director to modify or rescind it.
- (3) Upon a favorable vote to consider a Park Directive proposed or in effect, the chair shall include notice of the pending board discussion for at least ten (10) days to offer the opportunity for members of the public to provide

comment, except that, in the event of an exigency or other due cause as determined by the chair, the board consideration and any subsequent vote may be taken with less notice.

- (4) After considering the Park Directive and any public comments, the Planning Board may, by a vote of a majority of members meeting in open session, order the applicable Director to promulgate, modify, or rescind the Park Directive.

(F) The full Commission may consider and act upon a Park Directive applicable in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties by following the procedures listed in subsection (E) above.

#### **Section 4. Effective Date**

These Regulations will be effective at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2025 and remain in effect until such time as they may be modified or revoked as provided by law.

## ***Chapter II: Definitions and Construction***

### **Section 1. Definitions**

Terms capitalized in these Regulations are given the meanings prescribed in this Section.

(A) **Authorized Person:** A Director or another person who is authorized by the Director to take an action or make a determination on the Director's behalf as enabled or required by these Regulations.

(B) **Bicycle:** A self-propelled vehicle comprised of two wheels held in a frame, one behind the other, that is operated by pedals and steered by handlebars that are attached to the front wheel, not including any Electric Bicycle, motorized, or other similar electronically assisted vehicle.

(C) **Commercial Activity:** Any activity on Park Property, whether for profit or not, that solicits, promotes, or effectuates a transaction for value with Commission patrons or visitors, or that otherwise employs Park Property, patrons, or visitors for a commercial purpose, including,

- (1) selling, vending, or peddling of any sort (food, beverages, merchandise, amusements, services, etc.);
- (2) advertising or promoting merchandise, services, memberships, events, amusements, etcetera (by distributing handbills, displaying signs, or otherwise);
- (3) instructing or demonstrating anything for hire (classes for athletics, sports, dancing, tutoring, etcetera);
- (4) holding any event open for admission to the general public in exchange for money or anything of value; and,
- (5) producing commercial photography, videography, or films.

(D) **Commission:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

(E) **Department:** The Montgomery County Department of Parks and the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation (or a successor department).

**(F) Director:** A person

- (1) appointed pursuant to the Md. Code, Land Use Section 20-204, respectively as the
  - (a) Director of the Commission's Montgomery County Department of Parks (or successor department thereto); or
  - (b) Director of the Commission's Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation (or successor department thereto); or
- (2) authorized to discharge a Director's responsibilities during their extended absence or incapacitation.

**(G) Electric Bicycle:** A type of bicycle that

- (1) is designed to be operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor;
- (2) is equipped with fully operable pedals; and
- (3) has a motor with a rating of 500 watts or less.



(H) **Electronic Personal Assistive Mobility Device** : A pedestrian device that (1) has two (2) non-tandem wheels; (2) is self-balancing; (3) is powered by an electric propulsion system; (4) has a maximum speed capability of fifteen (15) miles per hour; and (5) is designed to transport one person.

(I) **Electric Scooter**: a type of scooter that

- (1) is designed to be operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor;
- (2) has two or three wheels, and
- (3) has a motor with a rating of 500 watts or less.

(J) **Encroach**: To unlawfully intrude, enter upon, or interfere with Commission land or property; to trespass on Commission land or property.

(K) **Facility**: Any structural or other improvement to Park Property. Facilities include office buildings, ball fields, pavilions, and other improvements to property that are not necessarily enclosed.

(L) **Indecent Exposure**: The willful exposure of private parts, including genitals, buttocks, or female's breasts, in a public place and in the presence of others.

(M) **Organized Sport** Any athletic contest or event that includes uniformed players and an assemblage of more than thirty-five (35) people that may include contestants, officials, or spectators.

(N) **Park Directive**: A policy, rule, procedure, mandate, or similar directive promulgated by a Director pursuant to Chapter I, Section 3 of these Regulations: (1) as applicable with respect to one or more specified Park Properties, Facilities, or Park Programs; and (2) for a purpose authorized by these Regulations.

(O) **Park Police**: The police officers appointed by the Commission pursuant to Md. Code, Land Use Section 17-301.

(P) **Park Program:** Any activity, program, or event utilizing Park Property that is sponsored by the Commission and open to public attendance or participation.

(Q) **Park Property:** Any land or water, devoted to park or recreation uses and owned, operated, or established otherwise by the Commission, and all vegetation or natural substances, and including any Parkway, Facility, and other buildings, fixtures, monuments, structures, and their contents located on such land or water.

(R) **Parkway:** Sligo Creek Parkway, Beach Drive, or Little Falls Parkway.

(S) **Permit:** A document issued by a Director or an Authorized Person affirmatively granting permission for its holder to undertake a specified act or activity otherwise prohibited by these Regulations, or for which these Regulations require a Permit as a condition of such act or activity. For the purpose of these Regulations, a Permit may include a contract, license or lease, Facility rental, Park Program or event, or a similar agreement made by the Commission in the ordinary course and which reasonably includes a grant of permission for the act or activity taken.

(T) **Regulations:** These Park Rules and Regulations adopted by the Commission as of April 16, 2025.

(U) **Scooter:** a self-propelled vehicle consisting of a footboard mounted on two wheels that is operated by resting one foot on the footboard and pushing the other foot against the ground and steered by a long handle that is attached to the front wheel, not including electric scooter, motorized, or other similar electronically assisted vehicle.

(V) **Smoke or Smoking:** Any use of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or similar device that is designed to ignite a solid material (including tobacco, cloves, marijuana, and similar materials of any nature) and deliver the resultant smoke for ingestion as an inhalant. Smoking does not include Vaping.

(W) **Vaping:** Using e-cigarettes, vaping, and other devices that utilize electronic technologies to vaporize a liquid or sublimate a solid material to produce a gaseous discharge or vapor for ingestion as an inhalant. Vaping does not include Smoking.

## **Section 2. Rules of Construction**

(A) When used in these Regulations, the terms “include” or “including” are used by way of example or illustration only, and not in any case for the purpose of limitation.

(B) When used in these Regulations, the singular form shall include the plural, the masculine shall include the feminine and neuter, and the feminine shall include the masculine and neuter.

## ***Chapter III: Regulation of Public Use***

### **Section 1. Preamble**

The Commission celebrates diversity and welcomes the general public to use Park Property, Facilities, and Park Programs without regard to any person’s race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, citizenship, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. The Commission may implement administrative policies, practices, and procedures complementary to the Commission’s abiding value of providing equal access and equitable opportunities for everyone to enjoy the property and experiences entrusted to Commission stewardship.

### **Section 2. Hours of Operation and Unauthorized Presence**

(A) Park Property and Facilities are open daily to the public from sunrise to sunset, except:

- (1) A Park Directive may provide alternate hours of operation for a Park Property or Facility, including alternate hours deemed appropriate for any trail or trail segments that facilitate Bicycle and pedestrian commuting, urban parks, athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts with lighting, and other facilities or areas as appropriate.
- (2) A Park Program on Park Property or in Facilities may operate during extended hours.
- (3) A Permit may authorize alternate hours of operation or the extended use of a Park Property or Facility.
- (4) Parkways remain open twenty-four (24) hours a day, unless posted

otherwise.

- (5) Paved trails on Park Property remain open twenty-four (24) hours a day for transient Bicycle or pedestrian traffic only, unless posted otherwise.
- (6) An Authorized Person may establish a temporary holiday schedule for a Park Property or Facility.
- (7) Operating hours are subject to applicable terms, conditions, and rules limiting access, use or participation, including the payment of applicable fees or similar charges for admission.

(B) The Park Police or other Authorized Person may open or close any Park Property, Facility or Parkway in the event of any exigent circumstance, emergency, inclement weather, or other appropriate official purpose. Such opening or closing will be posted in advance when possible for public notice.

- (C)
  - (1) No person shall enter, or be present within, a Park Property or Facility when closed to the public or when a “No Trespassing” sign is posted. Violation of the foregoing may subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties.
  - (2) No person shall enter, or be present within, a business office or other area that is closed to public access. Violation of the foregoing may subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties.

### **Section 3. Regulation of Certain Assemblies**

(A) Any group of people that assembles to constitute or participate in a parade, procession, special event, organized sport, demonstration, picket line, rally, or similar event on Park Property is required to procure a Permit authorizing such assembly, except as provided below in Subsection (B).

(B) A group consisting of thirty-five (35) or fewer people that assembles for an activity described above in Subsection (A) is not required to procure a Permit if all of the following requirements and conditions are met:

- (1) The group must congregate outdoors in an area of the Park Property or Facility open to the general public, and at time when that area is open to the general public without any fee or charge for admission.

- (2) The group must not engage in a Commercial Activity or any other activity for which a Permit is required by these Regulations.
- (3) The group may congregate only where it is safe (e.g., without obstructing the flow of vehicle, Bicycle, or pedestrian traffic), and only where the likelihood of damage to any Park Property or Facility is remote (e.g., without risk of damage to fitness equipment, sod, or protective coverings), each as determined in the discretion of the Park Police or other Authorized Person.
- (4) The group must not use or assert use of any Park Property or Facility (or any area therein) to the exclusion of others, if the Commission ordinarily requires a Permit for exclusive use of such area (e.g., a pavilion, athletic field, or camping area).
- (5) The group must not occupy a space or area that conflicts with, encroaches upon, obstructs, disrupts or otherwise interferes with the conduct of Commission business, or the use, quiet and peaceable enjoyment of a Park Property, Facility, or Park Program by others lawfully present in that space or area (including any such interference with the lawful use pursuant to this Subsection by another group that congregated first in the same area or its vicinity).
- (6) The group must not affix signs, banners, or placards of any sort to a Park Property or Facility by any means whatsoever, including by placing stakes into the ground, unless it obtains a Permit.
- (7) Refer to Chapter IV. Section 12 concerning use of equipment to amplify sound.

#### **Section 4. Permits**

(A) A Permit is required for any of the following purposes or circumstances:

- (1) To reserve the use of a Park Property or Facility to the exclusion of others, including athletic courts or fields, recreation buildings, camping and group picnic areas, designated picnic shelters, and any other such facility as designated by Park Directive.
- (2) To authorize the use of a Park Property or Facility for Organized Sport.
- (3) To authorize the use of a Park Property or Facility for any Commercial Activity.

- (4) 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.
- (5) To authorize bus parking.
- (6) To authorize the grading, excavation, or disturbance of land for archeological or geological purposes, which must be conducted or overseen by a qualified professional as determined by an Authorized Person.
- (7) To authorize any staging, storing, and or construction activity on Park Property.
- (8) To authorize the removal or felling of trees or other vegetation on Park Property.
- (9) Refer to Chapter IV. Section 12 concerning use of equipment to amplify sound, lighting equipment, or other means of producing ambient lighting on Park Property after dark.
- (10) To authorize the assembly of any group for which a Permit is required by Section 3 of this Chapter.
- (11) To authorize any event, use, or activity for which a Permit is required by these Regulations.
- (12) To conduct scientific research.

(B) Applying for a Permit

- (1) Permit application forms may be obtained on the applicable Department's website, Permit offices, or at other designated locations.
- (2) The Commission may require payment of a fee or deposit with the submission of a Permit application.
- (3) The Commission may require any supplemental information it deems necessary or appropriate to exercise due diligence in evaluating any Permit application, including, but not limited to, permits required by other government agencies to engage in particular activities.

(C) Evaluation of Permit Application

An Authorized Person may consider the following factors when evaluating a Permit application:

- (1) Whether the requested Facility or activity area within Park Property is: (i) available on the date and time requested or another mutually accepted date and time; (ii) safe and appropriate for the specific event or use proposed in the application; and (iii) able to accommodate the proposed use without a likelihood of conflicts, disruptions, or incompatible experiences with other uses or activities in the Park Property or Facility.
- (2) Whether the use or event proposed: (i) is consistent with maintaining the open, unspoiled, natural condition of the applicable Park Property; (ii) would create any unsafe condition in the area within or immediately surrounding the applicable Park Property or Facility; or (iii) would otherwise create or lead to a violation of any local, state or federal law.
- (3) Whether any extraordinary security requirements or parking, vehicular and pedestrian traffic control, or similar measures would be necessary or appropriate to keep good public order or mitigate public safety risks that may arise during the use proposed.
- (4) Whether any measures would be necessary or appropriate to maintain adequate sanitation, provide adequate drinking water, and otherwise protect the public health during the use proposed.
- (5) Whether the Permit applicant or any other party affiliated with, controlled by, or legally responsible to the Permit applicant has: (i) provided to the Commission any information in connection with the pending or any previous Permit application that was false or materially misleading; (ii) failed to comply on a prior occasion with the terms or conditions of any Permit issued by the Commission or another park or recreation agency without legal excuse; or (iii) on a prior occasion violated without legal excuse any applicable Commission rule or regulation.
- (6) Whether the applicant has the financial capacity and other capabilities necessary to (i) adequately maintain the public health, safety, and welfare during the proposed use or event; and (ii) satisfy the cost of any general liability claims or property damage arising in connection with the applicant's proposed use or event.
- (7) Whether the proposed use otherwise comports with the essential operations of

the Commission and the general public health, safety, and welfare.

(D) Issuance or Denial of Permit Application

- (1) Within a reasonable length of time following receipt of a completed Permit application, all required fees and deposits, and all information requested by an Authorized Person, the Authorized Person shall either issue the Permit or provide the applicant with a written statement indicating the reasons for denying the Permit.
- (2) An Authorized Person may issue a Permit subject to any reasonable terms or conditions, including (i) any terms or conditions deemed appropriate to manage or adequately control a situation or factor described above in Subsection (C); or (ii) the terms or conditions described below in Subsection (E).
- (3) A Permit may be issued for a single time use, seasonally, or on an indefinite basis as appropriate for the Park Property, Facility or applicable portion thereof.
- (4) A written decision signed by the Director, or designee, to deny a Permit shall constitute a final decision of the Commission.

(E) Permit Terms, Conditions, and Special Rules

- (1) Each Permit issued will be subject to the following terms and conditions:
  - (a) The Permit holder must make timely payment of all applicable fees and deposits.
  - (b) Any person participating in a permitted use or event must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.
  - (c) Any person participating in a permitted use or event must comply with these Regulations and applicable Park Directives, unless, and only to the extent, otherwise provided or authorized by that Permit.
  - (d) Any person participating in a permitted use or event must comply with all terms and conditions included with the Permit.
  - (e) The Permit holder must maintain physical possession of the Permit onsite during the permitted use or event and must display the Permit upon request by Commission personnel.



- (f) The Permit holder assumes liability for all claims for damage, injury, or loss to any persons or property arising in connection with the Permit holder's use or event, including any such claims attributable to a third-party invitee who participates in the Permit holder's use or event.
  - (g) No person participating in a permitted use or event may (i) in any way obstruct, delay, or interfere with the free movements of any other person; (ii) seek to coerce or physically disturb any other person; (iii) hamper or impede the conduct of any authorized business or activity on Park Property; or (iv) conduct any activities in a misleading or fraudulent manner.
- (2) As a condition of issuing a Permit, the Commission may reasonably require the applicant to
- (a) pay a reasonable fee or deposit in advance to defray or cover in full the Commission's estimated cost to facilitate the use or event proposed;
  - (b) procure, at the applicant's sole expense, one or more policies of insurance (i) naming the Commission as an additional insured, (ii) issued by underwriters acceptable to the Commission, and (iii) providing coverage for general liability or property damage at policy limits determined within the Commission's discretion; and
  - (c) procure, at the applicant's sole expense, one or more bonds issued by a surety acceptable to the Commission as necessary to guaranty the applicant's compliance with, and timely performance of, various obligations required as terms and conditions of the issuance of a Permit.
- (3) A Permit authorizes the Permit holder to use the specified Facility or a site within Park Property to the exclusion of others for the limited purposes specified in the Permit, and only for the dates and times specified therein. During the effective period of a Permit, a Permit holder may limit the use of the site or facility more strictly than the limits imposed by these Regulations or applicable Park Directive, provided that any further limitation is lawful.
- (4) The holder of an expired Permit and any other person who does not hold a Permit authorizing the use of a specified Facility or a site within Park

Property must vacate that site or Facility promptly upon the arrival of a Permit holder who is so entitled.

- (5) The Park Police or an Authorized Person may impose temporary rules to control vehicle parking and pedestrian access related to a permitted event, including ceremonial gatherings, rallies, demonstrations, and pageants.

(F) Revocation

- (1) If the Commission granted a permit based on incomplete or inaccurate information that was provided by an applicant and the Commission subsequently discovers information that would have caused the permit not to be issued, the Commission may immediately revoke the permit.
- (2) Any violation of a rule, term, or condition of a Permit may result in immediate revocation of the Permit, loss of all privileges or authorization otherwise arising under the Permit, and forfeiture of any deposits and fees paid in connection with the Permit.

## ***Chapter IV: Prohibited Activities and Conduct***

### **Section 1. Preamble**

The Commission is committed to providing the residents of Montgomery County and Prince George's County with exceptional park and recreational experiences to enjoy in a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment. Visitors to any Park Property and participants in any Park Program must behave in a manner that is respectful of others and preserves the public investment in assets entrusted to Commission stewardship. Certain activities and conduct described further in this Chapter is accordingly prohibited, and any violation of these Regulations may result in civil or criminal penalties. These Regulations and this Chapter apply in addition to, and not in limitation of, any local, state, or federal law that concurrently prescribes or prohibits the activity or conduct of a person present on Park Property.

### **Section 2. General Provisions**

- (A) No person shall enter or be present in any Park Property or Facility when or where it

is closed to public access, except as authorized by Permit or other invitation by an Authorized Person.

(B) No Permit holder or other person participating in a permitted use or event on Park Property shall violate any terms or conditions of the Permit, including the terms, conditions, and special rules listed in Chapter III Section 4(E).

(C) No person shall fail to promptly comply with a command or direction given by the Park Police or other Authorized Person to implement or enforce a provision of these Regulations, an applicable Park Directive, or the terms and conditions of a Permit.

### **Section 3. Alcohol, Controlled Substances, and Smoking**

(A) No person shall possess, use, or distribute beverages containing alcohol on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

(B) No person shall possess, use, or distribute illegal drugs or any controlled dangerous substance on Park Property if possession thereof is subject to criminal or civil prohibition.

(C) No person shall Smoke

- (1) inside an enclosed Commission Facility
- (2) in any Commission vehicle, or
- (3) outside on Park Property

(D) No person shall use a Vaping device

- (1) inside an enclosed Commission Facility,
- (2) in any Commission vehicle, or
- (3) outside on Park Property.

(E) No person shall use chewing tobacco or any other smokeless tobacco product

- (1) inside an enclosed Commission Facility,
- (2) in any Commission vehicle, or
- (3) outside on Park Property.

#### **Section 4. Indecent Conduct and Harassment**

(A) No person shall urinate or defecate on Park Property other than in restrooms or designated sanitary facilities.

(B) No person shall engage in the act of sexual intercourse or another sexual act of any nature, perform any indecent or obscene act, or engage in indecent exposure or appear in the nude on Park Property.

(C) No person shall verbally threaten or harass another on Park Property, whether the threat or harassment is of a sexual nature or not.

#### **Section 5. Assembly, Obstruction, and Interference**

(A) No person shall participate in an assembly or group for which a Permit is required by Chapter III Section 3, unless the required Permit is issued.

(B) Notwithstanding whether a Permit is issued for an assembly or group, no person participating therein shall

- (1) occupy a space or area that conflicts with, encroaches upon, obstructs, disrupts, or otherwise interferes with the conduct of Commission business or the use, quiet and peaceable enjoyment of a Park Property, Facility, or Park Program by others lawfully present in that space or area, including for the purpose of ingress, egress, pedestrian access, or traffic flow;
- (2) affix signs, banners, or placards of any sort to any Park Property or Facility by any means whatsoever, including by placing stakes into the ground, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive; or
- (3) utilize equipment to amplify sound or produce ambient lighting after dark.

#### **Section 6. Interference with Official Duties**

(A) No person shall obstruct, hinder, or unreasonably interfere with any Commission employee acting in the course of their official duties.

(B) No person shall obstruct, hinder, or unreasonably interfere with a first responder in the performance of their official duties.

(C) No person shall obstruct, hinder, or unreasonably interfere with a person engaging in activities pursuant to a valid Permit.

### **Section 7. Destruction of Park Property**

No person shall deface, destroy, injure, misuse, or remove any Park Property.

### **Section 8. Littering, Dumping, and Storage**

(A) No person shall litter on Park Property, and all refuse and recyclable materials that originate during a person's presence on Park Property must be placed in designated trash or recycling receptacles.

(B) No person shall deposit any refuse or recyclable materials in a designated trash or recycling receptacle located on Park Property, unless the trash or recyclable materials are generated as such during the person's lawful presence on that Park Property.

(C) No person shall dump, abandon, discard, release, or spill any refuse, bulk trash, liquid or gaseous material, or similar objects or substances on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit, or unless an appropriate receptacle is provided expressly for public use and authorized by posted signage.

(D) No tangible property or material of any kind may be stored or otherwise maintained on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

### **Section 9. Posting Notices**

No person shall attach or post any notice, sign, or any similar objects on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

**Section 10. Erecting Structures and Enclosures**

No person shall erect any structure, including a tent or shade canopy, or construct any enclosure on Park Property, whether temporary or permanent in nature, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive. Unlawful Encroachment on Park Property is further regulated in Chapter VII.

**Section 11. Commercial Activities**

No person shall solicit or otherwise undertake any Commercial Activity on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

**Section 12. Amplified Sound and Noise**

No person shall operate any device to amplify sound or otherwise create excessive noise so as to disturb the peace and public enjoyment of Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive for a particular place or location.

**Section 13. Motorized Vehicle Service**

No person shall service, repair, clean, or wax any vehicle on Park Property.

**Section 14. Fireworks and Explosives**

No person shall possess or discharge any fireworks or other explosive materials or devices on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

**Section 15. Weapons**

(A) No person shall carry, possess, or discharge a bow and arrow, dart, firearm, ammunition for a firearm, knife with a blade longer than three (3) inches, or any other dangerous weapon on Park Property except where authorized in designated areas by Permit, Park Directive, or other official written permission issued by the Commission. This provision applies to individuals who possess a State of Maryland wear and carry permit.

(B) This provision does not apply to:

- (1) active duty law enforcement officers or

(2) retired law enforcement officers who are:

- (a) in good standing with their former law enforcement agency,
- (b) carrying the relevant badge or credential indicating that they are a retired law enforcement officer in good standing,
- (c) legally authorized to carry a firearm,
- (d) carrying a valid permit to wear, carry or transport a firearm, and
- (e) carrying or possessing the firearm so that it is concealed from view under or within an article of the person's clothing.

#### **Section 16. Gambling**

No person shall engage in gaming or gambling for money or any other thing of value on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive for charitable purposes.

#### **Section 17. Use of Magnets, Metal Detectors, and Digging**

(A) No person shall dig into the surface of Park Property except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

(B) No person shall use a metal detector or magnet on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

#### **Section 18. Animals and Wildlife**

(A) No person shall possess an animal on Park Property without holding it at all times on a physical leash, that is attached to the animal by collar or harness, except in designated areas.

(B) No person who brings an animal onto Park Property shall fail to immediately clean up and remove the animal's feces or other waste from the Park Property or dispose of the waste in a trashcan and/or receptacle designated for that purpose.

(C) No person shall allow an animal to graze on Park Property, except as provided by Permit or Park Directive.

(D) No person shall abandon or release any animal, whether domestic or wild, anywhere on or about Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or by Park Directive.

Domestic animals that are lost, escaped, or abandoned on Park Property may be impounded and shall be treated in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws.

(E) No person shall bring or possess a domestic animal, except for a service animal, on Park Property in any area where such animals are prohibited as indicated by a sign posted by the Commission.

(F) No person shall catch, capture, touch, feed, injure, destroy, or interfere in any way with any wildlife on Park Property, except as otherwise provided by Chapter V Section 8 (Fishing) and Section 11 (Hunting/Trapping).

#### **Section 19. Trees, Plants and Minerals**

(A) No person shall remove, injure, destroy, or interfere in any way with any trees, plants, or minerals on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

(B) No person shall plant or harvest vegetation or cause the planting or harvesting of vegetation on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

(C) No person shall remove, cut, saw, or otherwise attempt to remove in any manner any live or dead trees, limbs, branches, roots, or any other part of a tree on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit, Park Directive, or official written permission by the Commission.

#### **Section 20. Archaeological and Cultural Artifacts, Fossils**

No person shall remove fossils, archaeological, or cultural artifacts from Park Property, including projectile points, historic bottles, historic coins, and war relics, except as authorized by Permit.



## **Section 21. Intended Use of Park Property**

No person shall misuse or abuse any Park Property by using it in any manner other than as appropriate according to its intended design or in another manner in which the Commission normally employs that Park Property in the ordinary course, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

## **Section 22. Burial and Cremains**

(A) No person shall bury any human or animal body on Park Property.

(B) The scattering of human or animal ashes on Commission property is allowed without a permit, under the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized,
- (2) The scattering of ashes must be performed at least 100 feet from other patrons as well as any trail, road, developed Facility, or body of water, and
- (3) The ashes must be scattered over an area large enough so that they will not accumulate in one place, and
- (4) No marker, urn, or container of any kind may be left to mark the location.

(C) The scattering of ashes from the air is prohibited.

(D) The scattering of ashes in a body of water is prohibited.

(E) The use of a commercial, for profit, venture to distribute cremated remains is prohibited.

(F) An ash scattering ceremony with more than thirty-five (35) people requires a permit pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.

## ***Chapter V: Regulation of Certain Recreational Activities***

### **Section 1. Aeronautical Activities**

(A) Piloted Aircraft. No person shall operate, fly, or launch any airplane, helicopter, gyrocopter, helium or hot-air balloon, hang glider, parachute, ultra-light plane, or similar

craft or aerial vehicle that requires an onboard pilot from Park Property, except

- (1) as authorized by Permit; or
- (2) as authorized expressly for College Park Airport (i) by applicable state and federal aviation laws and regulations; and (ii) subject to applicable Park Directives.

(B) Remote Controlled and Similar Devices. No person shall possess, operate, fly, control, or launch any model aircraft, model helicopter, model rocket, powered projectile, drone, autonomous aerial vehicle, or similar airborne device remotely from or above Park Property, except in a manner that is consistent with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations and

- (1) as authorized by Permit, and only if conducted in a manner that is not hazardous to Commission personnel or the general public; or
- (2) as authorized expressly in designated areas, subject to applicable Park Directives, and only if conducted in a manner that is not hazardous to Commission personnel or the general public.

(C) Prohibited Devices. Certain powered or unpowered flying devices, including manja or other types of kites or projectiles deemed to be hazardous to Commission personnel or the general public, may be prohibited by Park Directive.

## **Section 2. Amusement Activities and Play Equipment**

(A) The temporary construction and/or use of amusement activities and/or play equipment (including a moon bounce, carousel, dunk tank, ball crawl, and pony ride) on Park Property is permissible only as authorized by Permit or Park Directive, and subject to inspection when deemed necessary.

(B) People who engage in amusement activities or utilize play equipment shall remove any equipment that they temporarily bring onto or construct on Park Property and any garbage and/or debris that is created as a result of the amusement activity or use of play equipment.

### **Section 3. Athletic Fields**

Notwithstanding a Permit previously issued, an Authorized Person or official (i.e. referee, umpire) may cancel, suspend, or restrict the use of an athletic field if wet grounds or other unsuitable conditions may result in injury to individuals using the field and/or damage to the grounds or related areas.

### **Section 4. Bicycling**

(A) All bicyclists and their passengers operating on Park Property must adhere at all times to applicable state and local laws.

(B) Unless otherwise posted, bicycling is permitted on roads on Park Property, including Parkways.

(C) Unless otherwise posted, bicycling is permitted on official paved and natural surface trails on Park Property, subject to the following requirements:

- (1) Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and horseback riders at any trail crossing and must otherwise exercise due care to avoid colliding with any other trail users.
- (2) Bicyclists must not operate at a speed exceeding the lesser of
  - (a) a posted trail speed limit; or
  - (b) a speed that is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions or as directed by Park Police or other Authorized Person.
- (3) Bicyclists must keep right, except as necessary to pass, and must alert other trail users before passing.
- (4) Bicyclists operating on trails must
  - (a) obey any sign, signal, or other traffic control device at intersecting roadways; and
  - (b) yield to vehicular traffic if required by state law.

(D) A trail on Park Property where operating a Bicycle is allowed is deemed a “Public Bicycle Area” within the meaning of Md. Code, Transp. Section 21-101(o), as amended from time to time.

(E) No person shall operate a Bicycle on any surface:

- (1) that is not a trail or roadway area authorized under this Section, or
- (2) in any Facility or other area that is not designed for bicycling or intended to withstand Bicycle use without damage, including building interiors, tennis courts, basketball courts, athletic fields, landscaped areas, and other park structures.

(F) Bicyclists riding on Park Property before dawn or after dusk pursuant to these rules must use a front bicycle lamp that emits a white light and rear end illumination as described by Md. Code, Transp. Section 21-1207(a), as amended from time to time.

### **Section 5. Boating**

(A) No person shall operate or launch a boat or other watercraft on any lake, stream, pond, river bank, or other Park Property except as authorized by Permit.

(B) Operators and occupants of permitted watercraft must comply with all applicable Park Directives and local, state, and federal law governing the use and operation of such watercraft.

### **Section 6. Camping**

No person shall camp on Park Property except as authorized in designated areas by Permit or Park Directive, and subject to payment of applicable fees.

### **Section 7. Fires**

(A) Fires are permissible only in (1) fireplaces or grills designated by the Commission for this purpose; and (2) personal grilling equipment or camp stoves in areas designated for picnics or camping.

(B) Before leaving a site after a fire, a person who makes the fire must

- (1) soak any hot coals with water thoroughly until they are cold; and
- (2) dispose of the wet coals in steel receptacles labeled "COALS ONLY," if available, or, if not available, remove the wet coals from Park Property.

(C) Making fires may be further limited or prohibited by Park Directive.

### **Section 8. Fishing**

Unless otherwise posted, fishing is permissible on Park Property subject to compliance with the angler's licensing and other requirements set forth in Md. Code, Nat. Res. Title 4, as amended from time to time, or in any other applicable local, state, or federal law.

### **Section 9. Golf**

Playing or practicing golf is permissible only on established golf courses or driving ranges, or other golf practice areas designated by Park Directive.

### **Section 10. Horseback Riding**

Horses are permitted only in designated or established areas and trails.

### **Section 11. Hunting/Trapping**

(A) Subject to applicable local, state, and federal laws, no person shall hunt on Park Property except as authorized by

- (1) Permit;
- (2) Park Directive; or
- (3) official written permission by the Commission

(B) No person shall trap wildlife on Park Property except as authorized by Permit, which shall only be issued for a scientific or animal control purpose.

### **Section 12. Picnicking**

Certain picnic areas do not require a Permit or Park Directive for use, while others may only be used by Permit or Park Directive, which are designated by signs accordingly.

For picnic areas that may only be used by Permit or Park Directive, maximum occupancy is limited pursuant to such Permit or Park Directive.

Picnic areas that do not require a Permit or Park Directive for use are available on a first come first served basis, as designated by signage. While use of these areas do not require a Permit or Park Directive, patrons are required to abide by group size limitations, which are posted.

### **Section 13. Roller Skating and Similar Activities**

Roller skating, inline skating, rollerblading, self-propelled scooters, skateboarding and operating other self-propelled locomotive devices or equipment are permissible except:

- (A) in areas where prohibited by Park Directive and/or signage accordingly; or
- (B) on any surface, or in any Facility or other area that is not designed for, or intended to withstand, use of such devices or equipment without damage, including building interiors, athletic fields, playground equipment, landscaped areas, and other park improvements.

### **Section 14. Motorized Devices**

(A) No person shall operate a motorized scooter, motorized or electrically assisted bicycle, Electric Bicycle, hover-board, or similar motorized personal locomotive device except:

- (1) as authorized by Permit; or
- (2) in areas where expressly designated by Park Directive and posted accordingly.

(B) The prohibition in this Section shall not apply to motorized wheelchairs and other equipment or devices necessary to accommodate a disability or impairment of personal mobility.

### **Section 15. Swimming, Wading, and Water Sports**

Swimming, wading, and other water sports in streams, ponds, lakes, and rivers is permissible unless otherwise posted.

### **Section 16. Winter Activities**

(A) Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are permissible in areas suitable under the circumstances unless prohibited by Park Directive or otherwise posted.

(B) Ice skating, sledding, skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, tobogganing, tubing, or any other winter sports are prohibited unless authorized by Permit or Park Directive and

posted accordingly.

## ***Chapter VI: Regulation of Traffic and Parking***

### **Section 1. Preamble**

(A) To assure the public safety on Park Property, an operator of a vehicle must comply with applicable laws and regulations that pertain to such operation, including these Regulations and the Maryland Vehicle Law (MD Code, Transportation, §§11-101 through 27-115).

(B) Notwithstanding a law, regulation, or posted traffic instruction, an operator of a vehicle on Park Property must comply with the direction or instruction given by the Park Police or other Authorized Person.

### **Section 2. Permissible Roadways**

No person shall, on Park Property,

- (a) operate any vehicle on a roadway or street to which public access is prohibited, or
- (b) operate any motorized vehicle in an area that is not designated as a roadway or street for vehicular traffic.

### **Section 3. Speed Limit**

No person shall operate any vehicle on Park Property at a speed exceeding

- (1) twenty-five (25) miles per hour, if there is no posted speed limit; or
- (2) the posted speed limit; and
- (3) a speed that is:
  - (i) reasonable and prudent under existing conditions; or
  - (ii) as directed by an Authorized Person.

#### **Section 4. Vehicle Weight Limit and Certain Activities**

(A) No person shall operate or park any vehicle (including a truck, bus or similar commercial vehicle) having a gross vehicle weight exceeding 10,000 pounds on Park Property or a Parkway, except

- (1) an emergency vehicle operated by any local, state or federal public safety agency;
- (2) a licensed tow truck assisting a vehicle disabled on Park Property;
- (3) a licensed commercial bus or school bus collecting or discharging passengers for the purpose of use and enjoyment of Park Property;
- (4) as authorized by Permit or Park Directive; or
- (5) as authorized specially for an occurrence or event by permission granted by the Park Police or an Authorized Person.

(B) The operation of any food or merchandise truck, trailer, cart, gaming, amusement vehicle, or any other similar concession, while on Park Property is prohibited unless authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

#### **Section 5. Parking Regulations**

(A) Vehicle parking on Park Property is allowed only during operating hours and only for the use and convenience of Commission employees, patrons, and visitors unless otherwise posted or authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

(B) No person shall park any vehicle on Park Property at any time or for any purpose other than the lawful use and enjoyment of Park Property.

(C) No person shall stop, stand, idle, or park a vehicle on Park Property:

- (1) in front of a public or private driveway;\*
- (2) on a sidewalk;\*
- (3) at an intersection, or within thirty-five (35) feet of an intersection;\*
- (4) in a crosswalk, or within twenty (20) feet of a crosswalk;\*
- (5) between a safety zone and the adjacent curb, or within thirty (30) feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless otherwise indicated by a posted sign, marking, or officer;\*



- (6) alongside any obstruction;\*
- (7) on a bridge or other elevated structure;\*
- (8) contrary to an official sign that prohibits, or regulates, stopping, standing, parking, or the manner of parking in general;\*
- (9) on the travel-portion of a roadway or public driveway;
- (10) on or within twenty (20) feet of any bicycle path, hiker path, bridle path, or access road or entrance thereto;
- (11) so as to obstruct another vehicle or traffic;
- (12) so as to occupy more than one parking space or to park across painted parking lines;
- (13) when the property is not open to the public;
- (14) on any grassy area, tree, shrub, plant, or vegetation, unless specifically allowed by the Commission;
- (15) other than that designated for vehicular parking;
- (16) within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant; or \*
- (17) within thirty (30) feet on the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control device located at the side of a roadway.\*

*\* Violations of these provisions may be subject to additional penalties pursuant to Md. Code, Transp. Art. Section 27-101.*

(D) A person who stops or parks any vehicle on any roadway on Park Property must:

- (1) remove the vehicle from the traveled lane or traveled portion of such roadway;
- (2) stop or park the vehicle in the same direction as authorized traffic movement;  
and
- (3) position the vehicle with both sides of the wheels parallel to, and no more than twelve (12) inches from the curb, or the boundary of the roadway.

(E) No person shall park a vehicle or otherwise obstruct any space, curb cut, ramp, passenger loading zone or similar traffic accommodation designated for individuals with disabilities only, except as otherwise provided below in Subsection (D)(2).

(F) Any person who parks a vehicle or otherwise uses a parking space or similar traffic accommodation designated for exclusive use by individuals with disabilities must possess a disability identification card or be in the process of transporting a person who possesses a disability identification card and must visibly display on their vehicle the special disability registration placard or license plate issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration or a comparable agency of another state, territory, or sovereign jurisdiction.\*

(G) No person shall park or idle a bus on Park Property except in an area designated for bus parking, as authorized by Permit or Park Directive, or with temporary permission granted by an Authorized Person.

## **Section 6. Impoundment of Illegally Parked or Abandoned Vehicles**

As provided by law, the Commission may:

(A) Remove and impound any vehicle illegally parked on Park Property at the owner's expense.

(B) Remove and impound any vehicle legally parked on Park Property that presents a safety hazard, at the owner's expense.

(C) Upon giving due notice to the vehicle owner and any other interested party entitled to notice by applicable law, the Commission may dispose of a vehicle on Park Property that remains unclaimed.

## ***Chapter VII: Encroaching on Park Property***

### **Section 1. Preamble**

As the steward of parkland, open spaces, and natural resources in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, the Commission must ensure that Park Property is protected for use by the public and preserved for the general health and welfare. The Commission generally prohibits encroachments because they may:

(A) affect water quality, forest health, recreational experiences, or complicate intended plans for park uses,

(B) restrict or limit the public use and enjoyment of lands and other resources maintained by the Commission for the benefit of all residents,

(C) pose a safety hazard to the public and give rise to claims from resultant injuries,

(D) damage the natural environment and undermine the Commission's stewardship role in protecting natural features,

(E) destabilize public lands and increase the risk of consequential damage to adjacent private lands, or

(F) result in taxpayer costs to restore degraded public lands.

### **Section 2. Encroachment Prohibited**

No person shall Encroach on Park Property.

### **Section 3. Examples of Encroachments**

Examples of acts that Encroach include:

(A) Erecting structures, fixtures, or structural elements (e.g., fences, gates, tree-houses, swing sets, decks, pools, sheds, and retaining walls) on Commission property, or altering Commission property in any way (e.g., pits, ditches, grading, tunnels, and channels).

- (B) Taking, planting, or disturbing vegetation (e.g., mowing, clearing, harvesting, grooming, applying pesticides, landscaping, gardening, and pruning).
- (C) Disposing of, or otherwise discarding, any material or objects (e.g., grass clippings, brush, yard waste, trash, debris, and recycling materials).
- (D) Storing personal property, equipment, or materials (e.g., boats, recreational or other vehicles, firewood, supplies, and tools).

#### **Section 4. Enforcement**

A person who Encroaches on Park Property is subject to citation for a civil infraction of these Regulations and/or other legal or equitable relief available in a court of competent jurisdiction.

### ***Chapter VIII: Violations and Miscellaneous Provisions***

#### **Section 1. Violations and Penalties**

(A) A violation of these Regulations may result in administrative action by the Commission, including,

- (1) a verbal or written warning;
- (2) notification of a parent, guardian, next of kin, or other legally responsible third party;
- (3) revocation or suspension of a Permit; and,
- (4) suspension of future admission to, or participation in, one or more Park Properties, Facilities, sponsored activities, or Park Programs.

(B) In addition to any administrative action taken, a violation of these Regulations may also result in any other action authorized at law or in equity, including,

- (1) civil/traffic citations for infractions with applicable fines or penalties as provided below in Subsection (C);
- (2) civil action seeking a court order to enjoin the violating person and compel or prohibit their future conduct or activities in relation to the Commission business;

- (3) a civil judgment for joint and several liability to pay the Commission for damages to Park Property, Facilities, and personal injuries caused alone or in concert with others; and
- (4) criminal prosecution, if applicable, as provided below in Subsection (D).

(C) Civil Penalties for Infractions

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, any violation of these Regulations is subject to civil citation and a fine not to exceed (a) \$50 for the first infraction, (b) \$100 for a second or subsequent infraction, or (c) such greater amount as may be authorized by Maryland law. Md. Code, Land Use Section 17-208.
- (2) A violation of these Regulations for smoking a cigarette, cigar, or other tobacco product on Park Property in an area that is not a Designated Smoking Area as provided in Chapter IV Section 3, is subject to civil citation and (a) a warning for a first infraction, (b) a fine of \$25 for a second or subsequent infraction, or (c) such greater amount of a fine as may be authorized by Maryland law. Md. Code, Land Use Section 17-207(b).
- (3) A violation of these Regulations for hunting or trapping on Park Property without authorization is a misdemeanor punishable by fines, restitution, license suspension, and imprisonment as provided under Maryland law. Md. Code, Land Use Sections 17-209(b)-(d) and 17-210; Nat. Res. Section 10-1101.1.

(D) In addition to any administrative or civil action, penalty, or liability taken or imposed for a violation of these Regulations, any person who commits a misdemeanor or felony on Park Property is subject to arrest, prosecution and, upon conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction, punishment as provided by applicable local, state, or federal laws.

A person aggrieved by any administrative action taken by the Commission as a result of a violation of these Regulations may make a request for the appropriate Director to review such action. The request must be made in writing delivered within five (5) business days

of the action under review, and the Director shall provide a written response to any timely request for such review.

## **Section 2. Employees Working**

These Regulations do not apply to Commission employees, volunteers, or independent contractors working reasonably within the scope of their employment duties or responsibilities to the extent they are assigned by an Authorized Person.

## **Section 3. Law Enforcement and First Responders**

These Regulations do not apply to members of law enforcement agencies, first responders or medical personnel working reasonably within the scope of their employment duties or responsibilities on Park Property.

## **Section 4. Certain Exception for Park Programs**

A person who acts with good cause and reasonably at the direction of an Authorized Person working as part of a Park Program shall be deemed to have not violated these Regulations for such acts.

## **Section 5. Severability**

If any provision of these Regulations, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or any other application of these Regulations which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and, for this purpose, these Regulations are severable.