



*ThreeRivers*

PARK DISTRICT


## ORDINANCE



Laws  
protecting park guests and resources

**Three Rivers Park District** was established in 1957 as an independent special park district. It is governed by a seven-member Board of Park Commissioners, with five Commissioners elected from Suburban Hennepin County, and two Commissioners appointed by the Hennepin County Board. Three Rivers Park District manages nearly 27,000 acres of park reserves, regional parks, special-use facilities, and regional trail corridors.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.



the **mission** of  
Three Rivers Park District is to  
promote environmental stewardship  
through recreation and education  
in a natural resources-based park system

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Three Rivers Park District  
3000 Xenium Lane North,  
Plymouth, MN 55441-1299

[www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org](http://www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org)

<b>Information/Assistance</b> .....	763.559.9000
<b>Text Telephone (TTY)</b> .....	763.559.6719
<b>Public Safety Administration</b> .....	763.694.7730
Park Police Dispatch .....	763.525.6210
Emergency.....	911
<b>Natural Resources Management</b> .....	763.694.7840

## ADMINISTRATIVE FINES:

\$65 for administrative offenses otherwise classified as a petty misdemeanor.

\$95 for administrative offenses otherwise classified as a misdemeanor.

Failure to pay an administrative offense within the designated time frame allowed by the Park District, will result in an offense being reclassified a petty misdemeanor or misdemeanor and processed through the appropriate county judicial system where the offense occurred.

# Table of Contents

## CHAPTER I: PURPOSE/AUTHORITY/DEFINITIONS

Section 1 - Purpose.....	7
Section 2 - Authority .....	7
Section 3 - Definitions .....	8
Section 4 - Specification of Offenses .....	13

## CHAPTER II: REGULATION OF PUBLIC USE

Section 1 - Park Hours .....	14
Section 2 - Permits.....	14
Section 3 - Failure to Pay Use Fee/Display Permit .....	15
Section 4 - Theft.....	15

## CHAPTER III: REGULATION OF GENERAL CONDUCT/ PERSONAL BEHAVIOR

Section 1 - Drug and Alcohol Use .....	15
Section 2 - Smoking and Tobacco Use .....	16
Section 3 - Gambling.....	17
Section 4 - Public Nuisance/Personal Safety.....	17
Section 5 - Child Safety .....	18
Section 6 - Property of Others .....	18
Section 7 - Littering .....	18
Section 8 - Possession/Use of Firearms/ Dangerous Weapons/Fireworks .....	19
Section 9 - Interference with Employee Performance of Duty.....	19

## CHAPTER IV: REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO GENERAL PARKLAND OPERATION

Section 1 - Commercial Use/Solicitation/ Advertising/Photography .....	20
Section 2 - Pets in Parks.....	20

Section 3 - Noise/Amplification of Sound .....	21
Section 4 - Fires .....	22
Section 5 - Aviation .....	23
Section 6 - Assembly: Meetings, Speeches, Demonstrations, Religious Services, Parades.....	23
Section 7 - Amusement Contraptions.....	23
Section 8 - Engine-Powered Models and Toys .....	23
Section 9 - Unlawful Occupancy.....	24

## CHAPTER V: PROTECTION OF PROPERTY, STRUCTURES, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1 - Disturbance of Natural Features.....	24
Section 2 - Wildlife .....	25
Section 3 - Discharge of Weapons/Firearms.....	25
Section 4 - Destruction/Defacement of Park Property/Signs.....	25
Section 5 - Release of Harmful or Foreign Substances .....	26
Section 6 - Interference of Park Property .....	26

## CHAPTER VI: REGULATION OF RECREATION ACTIVITY

Section 1 - Camping .....	27
Section 2 - Picnicking.....	27
Section 3 - Swimming.....	28
Section 4 - Boating .....	29
Section 5 - Fishing .....	29
Section 6 - Horseback Riding.....	30
Section 7 - Bicycling.....	30
Section 8 - Snowmobiling.....	31
Section 9 - Cross-Country Skiing .....	32
Section 10 - Other Winter Activities .....	32
Section 11 - Other Special Activity Use.....	32
Section 12 - Roller-skating/In-line Skating .....	33
Section 13 - Hiking .....	33

## CHAPTER VII: REGULATION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES, TRAFFIC, AND PARKING

Section 1 - Motorized Recreation Vehicles .....	34
Section 2 - Vehicle Operation .....	34
Section 3 - Parking Vehicles .....	35
Section 4 - Maintenance of Personal Vehicles .....	35

## CHAPTER VIII: ENFORCEMENT

Section 1 - Park Police/Park Service Officer Authority .....	36
Section 2 - Notice .....	36
Section 3 - Fines and Penalties .....	37
Section 4 - Additional Rules and Regulations.....	37
Section 5 - Impoundment of Pets .....	38
Section 6 - Permit Revocation .....	38
Section 7 - Employee Performance of Duty.....	38
Section 8 - Protection of Public Safety Horses.....	38
Section 9 - Powers and Duties of Chief Financial Officer.....	38

## CHAPTER IX: MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1 - Conflict.....	39
Section 2 - Enactment .....	39
Section 3 - Captions and Headings .....	39
Section 4 - Severability .....	39
Section 5 - Amendments .....	39

CHAPTER X: EFFECTIVE DATE.....	40
SUBJECT INDEX.....	41

# **CHAPTER I: PURPOSE/AUTHORITY/DEFINITIONS**

## **Section 1—Purpose**

The Park District deems it reasonable, necessary, and desirable to provide an Ordinance specifying rules and regulations in order to provide for the safe and peaceful public use of Park District areas and facilities; for the educational and recreational benefit and enjoyment of the public; for the protection and preservation of the property, facilities, and natural resources of the Park District; and for the safety and general welfare of the public.

## **Section 2—Authority**

The Three Rivers Park District Board, under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 398, in performing its primary duty of the acquisition, development, and maintenance of large parks, wildlife sanctuaries, forests, and other reservations and providing the means for public access to historic sites, lakes, rivers, streams, and other natural phenomena, is granted full power and authority to acquire and establish parks and to operate, maintain, protect and improve a park system and conduct a recreational program. As an aid to the accomplishment of this duty, the Board is granted the authority to enact Ordinances and to declare that the violation thereof shall be a penal offense.

### Section 3—Definitions

- a. **“Amusement contraption”** means any contrivance, device, gadget, machine, or structure designed to test the skill or strength of the user or to provide the user with any sort of ride, lift, swing, or fall experience including, but not limited to, ball-throwing contest device, pinball type devices, animal ride device, dunk tank, ball and hammer device, trampoline device, and the like.
- b. **“Area”** or **“areas”** means a specified place within a park.
- c. **“Beer”** is any beverage made from malt by fermentation and containing not less than one-half of one percent alcohol by volume.
- d. **“Board”** means members of the Board of Commissioners of Three Rivers Park District.
- e. **“Controlled substance”** means any drug, substance, or immediate precursor in Schedules 1 through 5 of Minnesota Statutes Section 152.02.
- f. **“Employee”** means any Park District volunteer, full or part-time regular or seasonal worker hired by Three Rivers Park District.
- g. **“Glue”** means any substance that releases vapors and which is used by a person for the purpose of inducing symptoms of intoxication, elation, excitement, confusion, dizziness, paralysis, irrational behavior, or in any manner changing, distorting, or disturbing the balance or coordination of a person’s audio, visual, or mental processes.
- h. **“Hiking”** means traveling on foot, i.e., walking, running, or with an assistive mobility device.



- i. **"Horse"** includes a horse, mule, donkey, llama, alpaca, or other ungulate or ruminant that is used to transport people, equipment, or materials.
- j. **"Indoor Area"** means all space between a floor and a ceiling that is bounded by walls, doorways, or windows, whether open or closed, covering more than 50 percent of the combined surface area of the vertical planes (wall space) constituting the perimeter of the area, whether temporary or permanent. A (standard) window screen or like building component is not considered a wall.
- k. **"L10 Level"** is the noise level expressed in dBA, which is exceeded 10 percent of the time for a one-hour survey, as measured by test procedures approved by Park District officials.
- l. **"L50 Level"** is the noise level expressed in dBA, exceeded 50 percent of the time for a one-hour period, as measured by test procedures approved by Park District officials.
- m. **"Laser"** means any device which emits a coherent, monochromatic beam of light.
- n. **"Malt Liquor"** Any beer, ale, or other beverage made from malt by fermentation and containing not less than one-half of one percent alcohol by volume.
- o. **"Metal Detecting"** To use an electronic or mechanical device to locate metals or other artifacts that are underground or under water.
- p. **"Misdemeanor"** means crime for which a sentence of not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$1,000 or both may be imposed.
- q. **"Motor vehicle"** means every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a roadway except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

- r. **“Motorized recreation vehicle”** means any self-propelled, off-road, or all-terrain vehicle including, but not limited to, snowmobile, mini-bike, amphibious vehicle, motorcycle, go-cart, trail bike, dune buggy, or all-terrain cycle.
- s. **“Natural resources”** means all flora and fauna within the Park District and the physical factors upon which they depend, including air, water, soil, and minerals.
- t. **“Park”** means any land, water area, or trail corridor and all facilities thereon, under the jurisdiction, control or ownership of the Park District.
- u. **“Park District”** means Three Rivers Park District, established pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 398.
- v. **“Park Police”** means those Park District employees vested with the legal authority to enforce laws and Ordinances.
- w. **“Park Service Officer”** means any regular, seasonal, or intermittent employee vested with the legal authority to enforce the Park District Ordinance.
- x. **“Permit/Special Use Permit”** means written permission obtained from the Park District to carry out certain activities.
- y. **“Person”** or **“persons”** means individuals, firms, corporations, societies, or any group or gathering whatsoever.
- z. **“Pest”** means any plant, animal or microorganism that is determined to be undesirable because it conflicts with park management objectives, creates an annoyance to park guests, or has the potential to create a health hazard.
- aa. **“Pesticide”** means a chemical or biological substance intended to prevent or destroy a pest, and/or a substance to be used as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant. Repellents are not considered pesticides.

- bb. **"Pet"** means a domestic dog or cat that is accompanied by a competent person in the immediate vicinity of the animal and who is responsible for the animal.
- cc. **"Petty misdemeanor"** means petty offense which does not constitute a crime and for which a sentence of a fine of not more than \$300 may be imposed.
- dd. **"Pollutant"** means any substance, solid, liquid, or gas which could cause contamination of air, land, or water so as to create or cause a nuisance or render it unclean or noxious or impure, so as to be actually or potentially harmful or detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or that of wildlife or vegetation.
- ee. **"Possession"**:
  - Physical Possession*: having a controlled substance on one's person with knowledge of the nature of the substance.
  - Constructive Possession*: having once possessed a controlled substance, continuing to exercise dominion and control over the substance up to the time of arrest, or aiding and abetting another in possessing a controlled substance.
- ff. **"Property"** means any land, waters, facilities, or possessions of the Park District.
- gg. **"Responsible Person"** means the parent, guardian or person having lawful custody and control of a juvenile.
- hh. **"Roller skater"** is any person riding or propelling oneself by human power or gravity on wheeled devices that are worn on a person's feet or stood upon by a person. Such devices specifically include, but are not limited to, roller skates, in-line skates, rollerskis, skateboards, and scooters.

- ii. **"Smoking"** means inhaling or exhaling smoke from any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted tobacco or plant product. Smoking also includes carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation.
- jj. **"Superintendent"** means the person appointed by the Board to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Park District.
- kk. **"Theft"** Whoever does any of the following commits theft: intentionally and without claim of right takes, uses, transfers, conceals or retains possession of movable property of another without the other's consent and with intent to deprive the owner permanently of possession of the property.
- ll. **"Tobacco Use"** means smoke, chew, or otherwise ingest tobacco or a tobacco product.
- mm. **"Watercraft"** means any contrivance used or designed for navigation on water.
- nn. **"Weapon"** means any device including, but not limited to, firearms, bows, slings, paintball guns, and spring guns from which a shot or a projectile of any type is discharged or propelled by means of an explosive, gas, compressed air, elastic, or other means.
- oo. **"Wildlife"** means any living creature, not human, wild by nature, including, but not limited to, mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, insects, reptiles, crustaceans, and mollusks.
- pp. **"Wine"** means a vinous beverage containing not more than 14 percent alcohol by volume.

## Section 4—Specification of Offenses

### a. **Administrative Offenses**

Administrative offenses are actions or inactions prohibited by this Ordinance which have a monetary penalty for violations.

### b. **Petty Misdemeanors**

Petty misdemeanor offenses are actions or inactions prohibited by state statute and carry the designated penalties set forth by the respective County Court System. The following violations of the Ordinance, if not cited as an administrative offense, shall be deemed petty misdemeanors:

- Chapter II Section 1 – Park Hours
- Chapter II Section 2 – Permits
- Chapter II Section 3 – Failure to Pay Use Fee/Display Permit
- Chapter IV Section 2 – Pets in Parks
- Chapter VI Section 1 – Camping
- Chapter VI Section 2 – Picnicking
- Chapter VI Section 3 – Swimming
- Chapter VI Section 6 – Horseback Riding
- Chapter VI Section 7 – Bicycling
- Chapter VI Section 9 – Cross-Country Skiing
- Chapter VI Section 10 – Other Winter Activities
- Chapter VI Section 11 – Other Special Activity Use
- Chapter VI Section 12 – Roller-Skating/In-line Skating
- Chapter VI Section 13 – Hiking
- Chapter VII Section 3 – Parking Vehicles

### c. **Misdemeanors**

All remaining violations of the Ordinance, if not cited as an administrative offense, shall be deemed misdemeanor offenses unless circumstances warrant a more serious offense.

## **CHAPTER II—REGULATION OF PUBLIC USE**

### **Section 1—Park Hours (Petty Misdemeanor)**

- a. Parks shall be open to the public from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain in a park at any other time without a use permit, except when the park area or facility is otherwise designated by the Board, or the park area or facility is being used as part of an authorized Park District program.
- b. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to close any park or portion thereof at any time for the protection of park property or the public health, safety, or welfare.
- c. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly, or through negligent supervision, permit a juvenile to be in any park or park facility 30 minutes or more after the facility is closed.

### **Section 2—Permits (Petty Misdemeanor)**

- a. Permits shall be required for the exclusive or special use of all or portions of park areas, buildings, or trails or for the use of park areas and facilities when they are otherwise closed to the public. Permit applications must be received at least 48 hours in advance of date of activity.
- b. Permits shall be required for an entertainment, tournament, exhibition, or any other special use which can reasonably be expected to have fifty (50) or more persons involved or potentially have a detrimental effect on park property or other park users.
- c. It shall be unlawful for a person to violate any provision of a permit.

### **Section 3—Failure to Pay Use Fee/Display Permit (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to use or park in those areas where a permit is required without paying for and/or appropriately displaying a valid permit, as required by the Board.

### **Section 4 – Theft (Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful to intentionally and without right of ownership or consent take, use, transfer, retain or possess items of another.

## **CHAPTER III: REGULATION OF GENERAL CONDUCT/PERSONAL BEHAVIOR**

### **Section I—Drug and Alcohol Use**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Use, possess, or sell any alcoholic beverage in violation of state statutes.
- b. Serve, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverage, except beer and wine, in areas designated by the Board, unless otherwise authorized by special permit.
- c. Consume or display any alcoholic beverage at sites where the Park District or its agent is a licensed vendor of alcoholic beverages, unless purchased at that site or authorized by special permit.
- d. Possess or bring beer or wine into a park in kegs, barrels, or other bulk tap quantities, unless authorized by special permit.

- e. Use, manufacture, possess, constructively possess, sell, give away, barter, exchange, distribute, or otherwise transfer any controlled substance, except on a lawful prescription by a person licensed by law to prescribe and administer controlled substances.
- f. Inhale, breathe, or drink, or be or become intoxicated by reason of inhaling, breathing or drinking any substance defined as “glue.”
- g. Sell, barter, furnish, or give alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age.
- h. Purchase or attempt to purchase any alcoholic beverage, if under the age of 21.
- i. Induce a person under the age of 21 years to purchase or procure any alcoholic beverage.

## **Section 2—Smoking and Tobacco Use**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Smoke or use any tobacco product in or within 25 feet of any indoor area.
- b. Smoke or use any tobacco product inside the designated perimeter of any creative play area, beach, swim pond, or water play area.
- c. Smoke or use any tobacco product anywhere in Gale Woods Educational Farm, The Landing, Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement, Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area, or Elm Creek winter recreation area except when part of a permitted group that has rented an indoor area, within these facilities, provided that no smoking may occur or tobacco products may be used in or within 25 feet of any indoor area.



### **Section 3—Gambling**

It shall be unlawful for any person to gamble or participate in any game of chance for a consideration of items of value.

### **Section 4—Public Nuisance/Personal Safety**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Engage in fighting or exhibit threatening, violent, disorderly, or indecent behavior.
- b. Make unreasonable coarse utterance, gesture, or display.
- c. Address abusive language tending to incite a breach of the peace or to be inimical to peace and good order to any person present.
- d. Otherwise create a hazardous or physically offensive condition to any person present.
- e. Engage in any course of conduct, or participate in any activity in any park, after he or she is advised by park police or other park employee or agent having authority to regulate or manage the area, that such conduct or participation is unreasonably and unnecessarily hazardous to the personal safety of said person or another person, or impairs or limits the lawful use and enjoyment of the facility or area by other persons.
- f. Throw items from, jump from, hang from, climb upon, or engage in any other unsafe or disruptive behavior on any bridge within the Park District or its waterways.
- g. Intentionally expose his or her own genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or female breast below the top of the areola, with less than a fully opaque covering while on park property, if 10 years of age or older.
- h. Knowingly or intentionally urinate or defecate in a public place or setting.

## **Section 5—Child Safety**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Permit a child age 10 or under to be in a creative play area unless under the supervision of a responsible person.
- b. Permit a child age 10 or under to swim or wade at beaches or swim ponds within a park, unless under the supervision of a responsible person. Swimming is not permitted in other areas.
- c. Permit a child age 10 or under to be in a winter recreation area unless under the supervision of a responsible person.

## **Section 6—Property of Others**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Intentionally disturb, harass, or interfere with a park visitor's property.
- b. Leave or store personal property in undesignated areas on Park District property without a permit.

## **Section 7—Littering**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Deposit, scatter, drop, or abandon in a park bottles, cans, broken glass, hot coals, ashes, sewage, waste, or other material, except in receptacles provided for such purposes.
- b. Place household, yard, or construction waste generated outside Park District property into garbage receptacles provided by the District.

## **Section 8—Possession and Use of Firearms/ Dangerous Weapons/Fireworks**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Possess, hold, store, keep, or carry within the Park District, its lands, facilities or buildings, fire or discharge, or cause to be fired or discharged across, in or into any portion of the Park District, its lands, facilities, or buildings any pistol, BB gun, rifle, or other firearm, spear, bow and arrow, crossbow, slingshot, air or gas weapon, paintball gun, or any other dangerous weapon or projectile, except for purposes designated by the Board in areas and at times designated by the Board. Persons who possess a valid Minnesota permit, or a valid permit from another state which is recognized in Minnesota; may carry, hold, keep, store, or possess a pistol within the Park District lands, facilities, and buildings to the extent permitted by Minnesota law. Employees or volunteers when acting in the course and scope of their employment or duties are prohibited from carrying, holding, keeping, storing, or possessing a pistol within Park District lands, facilities, and buildings. Licensed Peace Officers are exempt from the provisions of this subdivision.
- b. Possess, set off, or attempt to set off or ignite any firecracker, fireworks, smoke bombs, rockets, black powder guns, or other pyrotechnics without authorization from the Board.
- c. Use a laser in such a manner as to cause another person to experience flash blindness, after-image, or glare.

## **Section 9—Interference with Employee Performance of Duty**

It shall be unlawful for any person to impersonate any employee of the Park District or interfere with, harass, or hinder any employee in the discharge of his/her duties.

## **CHAPTER IV: REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO GENERAL PARKLAND OPERATION**

### **Section 1—Commercial Use/Solicitation/Advertising/Photography**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Solicit, sell, or otherwise peddle any goods, wares, merchandise, services, liquids, or edibles in a park except by authorized concession or written permission granted by the Board.
- b. Operate a still, motion picture, video, or other camera for commercial purposes in a park without a permit (news coverage or media journalism is not considered a commercial purpose; therefore, a permit is not required).
- c. Expose, distribute, or place any sign, advertisement, notice, poster, or display in a park without authorization from the Superintendent or designee.

### **Section 2—Pets in Parks (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Permit a pet, except trained service dogs, to assist persons with disabilities, to be in a park except in areas that may be designated by the Board, including campgrounds, trails, pet exercise, and training areas.
- b. Bring a pet into an authorized area of a park unless caged or kept on a non-retractable leash not to exceed 6 feet and under the handler's control, unless in a pet exercise or training area designated by the Board.
- c. Permit a pet under his/her responsibility to disturb, harass, or interfere with any park visitor, a park visitor's property or park employee.

- d. Tether any animal to a tree, plant, building, or park equipment.
- e. Have custody or control of any dog or domestic pet in a park without possessing an appropriate device for cleaning up pet feces and disposing of the feces in a sanitary manner.
- f. Operate a dog sled, skijoring device, or any other sled/ski equipment pulled by a pet or other animal except on designated trails at dates and times designated by special-use permit.
- g. Use dog off-leash areas without having a valid permit in their possession and without having appropriately displayed a valid permit on their vehicle if parked in designated dog off-leash area parking lot.

### **Section 3—Noise/Amplification of Sound**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Install, use, operate, or permit the use or operation within the Park District of any of the following devices:
  - 1. Loudspeaker or sound-amplifying equipment without authorization by permit.
  - 2. Radios, tape players, phonographs, television sets, musical instruments, or other machines or devices for the production or reproduction of sound in such a manner as to be disturbing or a nuisance to reasonable persons of normal sensitivity within the area of audibility.
- b. Yell, shout, whistle, sing, or make any unpleasant and unnecessary noises to disturb the peace and quiet within any park or cause discomfort or annoyance to reasonable park visitors of normal sensitivity, except for special programs at dates and times as authorized by permit.
- c. Cause any noise which exceeds the limit, as established herein, when measured at or within the Park District's property line, except as authorized by the Board.

PARK USE AREA	DAY 7 a.m.-10 p.m.		NIGHT 10 p.m.-7 a.m.	
	L10	L50	L10	L50
Campgrounds, Nature Centers, Natural Areas	60	55	50	50
Active Recreation Use Areas	70	65	70	65
Special Use Facilities as Designated by the Board	80	75	80	75

The standards which shall be considered in determining whether a violation of the provisions of this section exists shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) level of the noise; (2) intensity of the noise; (3) whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual; (4) level and intensity of the background noise, if any; (5) type of area within which the noise emanates; (6) the intensity of human use of the area during the time at which the noise emanates; (7) time of the day or night the noise occurs; (8) duration of the noise; and (9) whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent or constant.

#### **Section 4—Fires**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- Start a fire in a park, except in a designated area, and then only in fire rings, portable stoves or grills, except by permit.
- Leave a fire unattended or fail to fully extinguish a fire.
- Scatter or leave unattended lighted matches, ashes, burning tobacco, paper, or other combustible material.

## **Section 5—Aviation**

It shall be unlawful to use Park District property for a starting or landing field for aircraft, hot air balloons, parachutes, hang gliders, or other flying apparatus without a permit.

## **Section 6—Assembly: Meetings, Speeches, Demonstrations, Religious Services, Parades**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Conduct public meetings, assemblies, worship services, parades, or demonstrations involving fifty (50) or more people without a permit which has been secured at least 48 hours in advance of date of activity.
- b. Conduct public meetings, assemblies, worship services, entertainment, parades, or demonstrations that unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of the park by other park users, damage park property, block entrances or exits of structures, interfere with the safe use of park facilities, tend to cause a disturbance, or fail to abide by other Ordinance regulations.

## **Section 7—Amusement Contraptions**

It shall be unlawful to bring in, set up, construct, manage, or operate any amusement or entertainment contraption, device, or gadget without a permit.

## **Section 8—Engine-Powered Models and Toys**

It shall be unlawful for any person to start, fly, or use any fuel-powered model aircraft, model boat, or rocket, or like-powered toy or model without a permit.

## Section 9—Unlawful Occupancy

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Enter in any way any building, installation or area that may be under construction, locked, or closed for public use.
- b. Enter in any way or be upon any building, installation, or area after the posted closing time or before the posted opening time, or contrary to posted notice in any park.
- c. Enter in any way any building, installation, or area after receiving a permit revocation or unlawful-occupancy notification during the time period specified.

## CHAPTER V: PROTECTION OF PROPERTY, STRUCTURES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### Section 1—Disturbance of Natural Features

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Intentionally remove, alter, injure, eat, or destroy any tree, other plant, rock, soil, or mineral without a permit.
- b. Dig trenches, holes, or other excavations in a park without a permit.
- c. Introduce any plant, animal, or other agent within a park without a permit.
- d. Harvest/grow/cultivate a controlled substance.
- e. Cut or gather wood.
- f. (Misdemeanor) Engage in metal detecting.
- g. (Misdemeanor) Transport, possess, or burn firewood in Three Rivers Park District unless the firewood is purchased from the Park District; or Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approved firewood vendor within 100 miles of the Park District facility.



## **Section 2—Wildlife**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Kill, trap, hunt, pursue, or in any manner disturb or cause to be disturbed, any species of wildlife, except as permitted by the Board in designated areas and with a Three Rivers Park District hunting permit.
- b. Remove any animal, living or dead, from a park without a permit; any animal so removed or taken contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance or laws of the State of Minnesota shall be considered contraband and subject to seizure and confiscation.
- c. Release or abandon any animal within a park without a permit.
- d. Feed any wildlife or feral animals in a park.

## **Section 3—Discharge of Weapons/Firearms**

See Chapter III, Section 8

## **Section 4—Destruction/Defacement of Park Property/Signs**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Intentionally deface, vandalize, or otherwise cause destruction to park property.
- b. Intentionally deface, destroy, cover, damage, or remove any placard, notice or sign, or parts thereof, whether permanent or temporary, posted, or exhibited by the Park District.
- c. Have in their possession any aerosol paint can without a special use permit.

## **Section 5—Release of Harmful or Foreign Substances**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Place any debris or other pollutant in or upon any Park District lands or any body of water in or adjacent to a park or any tributary, stream, storm sewer, or drain flowing into such waters.
- b. Discharge waste water or any other wastes in a park, except into designated containers, drains or dumping stations.
- c. Release a pesticide in or upon any Park District lands except as permitted by the Board.

## **Section 6—Interference of Park Property**

It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or permit physical encroachment upon Park District property including, but not limited to actions such as mowing of grasses, and/or placement of personal property, debris, materials, buildings, sheds, other structures, or signs on Park District lands.

## **CHAPTER VI: REGULATION OF RECREATION ACTIVITY**

### **Section 1—Camping (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Camp in a park except in areas provided and designated for that purpose.
- b. Camp without a permit from the Park District.
- c. Occupy campsites in a park contrary to a permit or otherwise violate provisions of a permit.
- d. Camp overnight in a park if under 18 years of age unless accompanied by a parent or adult having lawful custody of a juvenile, or authorized by special-use permit.

### **Section 2—Picnicking (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Assume exclusive use of a reservation picnic site without a permit.
- b. Use a reservation picnic area without a permit if the area is reserved by a permitted group.
- c. Conduct picnic activity at reservation picnic sites contrary to a permit, or otherwise violate provisions of a permit.
- d. Set up temporary shelters, tents, tarps, canopies larger than 10' x 10', and other such devices without authorization by permit.

### Section 3—Swimming (Petty Misdemeanor)

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Wade or swim within a park except at beaches designated for such use and only at such times when an authorized lifeguard is on duty unless otherwise explicitly signed and designated by the Board.
- b. Intentionally expose his or her own genitals, pubic area, buttocks or female breast below the top of the areola, with less than a fully opaque covering while wading, swimming, or using any beach in a park, if 10 years of age or older.
- c. Take glass bottles or glass containers of any kind into designated beach areas.
- d. Use within a designated swimming-beach area any inner tube, life raft, or non-Coast Guard Approved personal flotation device, type 1, 2, 3.
- e. Use an inflatable or buoyant object/toy outside a designated area within a swimming beach.
- f. Use a flotation device in a swimming beach unless it is a Coast Guard Approved type 1, 2, 3 personal flotation device and used within the designated section of the swimming area or unless accompanied by a responsible adult within arm's reach.
- g. Use any type of flotation or buoyant device/object when restricted by a lifeguard on duty.
- h. Utilize any upland swim pond without securing a pass issued for that purpose.

## Section 4—Boating

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Launch or land any watercraft upon any waters within a park except at designated locations and times.
- b. Leave any watercraft unattended except in designated areas.
- c. Operate any watercraft in a designated swimming area or other prohibited area.
- d. Operate a watercraft in a park in violation of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 361, "Waters & Watercraft Safety."
- e. Tow a person on water skis, surfboard, kneeboard, inner tube, or personal watercraft in a designated swimming area, boat launching area or other authorized area, or enter a designated swimming area on such device.
- f. Operate any watercraft in violation of rules and regulations controlling surface water use as established by the Board.
- g. Operate a watercraft in such a manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass, or unnecessarily interfere with any person or property.
- h. Leave a boat or trailer parked beyond the posted time limit.

## Section 5—Fishing

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Fish in a park in violation of any provision of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 101.
- b. Fish in a prohibited area.
- c. Leave any structure, shelter, or ice house upon a frozen body of water in a park after 11:00 p.m., except in such areas and at such times as may be designated by the Board.

## **Section 6—Horseback Riding (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Ride, lead, or allow a horse within a park, except in designated areas or trails at designated hours, and without payment of required fee or special use permit.
- b. Ride a horse in a reckless manner so as to create a nuisance or to endanger the safety or property of any park visitor.
- c. Tether a horse to a tree, other plant, building, or park equipment.
- d. Allow a horse to graze or browse except at designated horse camp areas or as authorized by a special use permit.

## **Section 7—Bicycling (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Operate any type of bicycle including mountain bicycle, except on paved trails, roadways, and designated mountain-bike trails at dates and times authorized by the Board.
- b. Operate any type of bicycle except as close to the right-hand side of the authorized trail or roadway as conditions permit, or to cross to the left of a solid yellow centerline.
- c. Operate a bicycle in violation of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169, "Highway Traffic Violation."
- d. Ride or operate a bicycle except in a prudent and careful manner, or at a speed faster than is reasonable and safe with regard to the safety of the operator and other persons in the immediate area.
- e. Park a bicycle at any Park District beach or play area except at a bicycle rack if such rack is provided.

## Section 8—Snowmobiling

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Operate a snowmobile in a park except on designated trails and then only on the right-hand side of the trail.
- b. Operate a snowmobile in a park contrary to rules and regulations issued by the Board.
- c. Operate a snowmobile in a park in excess of posted speed limits, when present, or at a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under current conditions, or in a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage thereto.
- d. Operate a snowmobile in violation of Minnesota Statutes, Section 84.81-84.90, "Snowmobile Laws," and Chapter Five: Natural Resources 51-59, "Snowmobile Rules and Regulations" (all rules and regulations therein pertaining to "public land and water" shall apply on Park District property).
- e. Tow another person or thing, except through the use of a rigid tow bar attached to the rear of the snowmobile, except in emergencies.
- f. Operate a snowmobile in violation of any posted trail sign.

### **Section 9—Cross-Country Skiing (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Cross-country ski in any park except in designated areas at designated times when weather conditions permit.
- b. Conduct a race, meet, or ski-team practice with over 12 participants on Park District ski trails without a special permit.
- c. Cross-country ski in a park in violation of Minnesota Statutes, 1983 Supplement, Section 85 - Cross-Country Ski License.
- d. Cross-country ski on park trails contrary to rules and regulations issued by the Board or in violation of any posted trail sign.
- e. Cross-country ski in any designated cross-country ski area without appropriately displaying a valid Three Rivers Park District ski pass unless exempted by the Board of Commissioners or by special permit.

### **Section 10—Other Winter Activities (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Ice skate, sled, coast, snowshoe, or ski in a park except at designated times and places.
- b. Enter an area marked by signs indicating thin ice.

### **Section 11—Other Special Activity Use (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to participate in or conduct any activity, except those uses for which a park area or facility has been planned or promoted by the Park District, without a permit.



## **Section 12—Roller-skating/In-line Skating**

### **(Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Roller-skate, including the activities of skateboarding, in-line skating, and rollerskiing, in a park except on paved areas unless posted otherwise.
- b. Roller-skate in a park except in a prudent and careful manner and at a speed that is reasonable and safe with regard to the safety of the operator and others in the immediate area.
- c. Roller-skate except as close to the right-hand side of the authorized trail or roadway as conditions permit or cross to the left of a solid yellow centerline.
- d. Roller-skate, including the activities of skateboarding, in-line skating, and rollerskiing, in a park building, stairway, railing, or other park structure.
- e. Cause damage to trails through the use of sharp-tipped ski poles or other damaging equipment.

## **Section 13—Hiking (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Hike in a park except in recreation and nature-center use areas, and on designated trails and roadways, unless authorized by special-use permit.
- b. Hike on designated packed or groomed cross-country ski trails after a two-inch or more snowfall.

## **CHAPTER VII: REGULATION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING**

### **Section 1—Motorized Recreation Vehicles**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized recreation vehicle within a park except in such areas and at such times as designated by the Board, or permitted to the extent necessary to accommodate reasonable and safe use of trail by persons with disabilities dependent upon motorized transport.

### **Section 2—Vehicle Operation**

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Operate a vehicle at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour or posted speed limits.
- b. Operate any vehicle except in designated locations.
- c. Operate a vehicle within a park in violation of posted regulations, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169, county or municipal traffic codes, or orders or directions of traffic officers, or park employees authorized to direct traffic.
- d. Operate a vehicle in a careless or reckless manner.
- e. Operate a vehicle which emits excessive or unusual noise, noxious fumes, dense smoke, or other pollutants.
- f. Fail to yield right of way to pedestrians and other trail users.
- g. Operate a vehicle on any lake designated by the Park District as a non-motorized lake.

### **Section 3—Parking Vehicles (Petty Misdemeanor)**

It shall be unlawful to:

- a. Park or leave a vehicle standing except in a designated area and then only in a manner so as not to restrict normal traffic flow.
- b. Leave a vehicle standing after posted closing hours without a valid camping permit or other permit.
- c. Park in a space designated for handicapped parking without a handicapped vehicle license or permit.
- d. Park or leave a vehicle without a boat trailer in a boat-trailer parking space, unless displaying permit authorizing use of parking space or vehicle transporting a watercraft unit.
- e. Park a vehicle with a boat-trailer except in designated boat trailer parking areas, or as permitted in campgrounds.
- f. Park or leave a vehicle in an area designated for drop-off only.
- g. Park a boat trailer in a boat-trailer parking space without a vehicle.
- h. Launch more than one personal watercraft per boat-trailer parking space occupied or designated.
- i. Leave a vehicle unattended with keys in the ignition.
- j. Park on the grass or sides of campground roads. Vehicles in campsites must be parked on the gravel pads or designated campground parking areas.

### **Section 4—Maintenance of Personal Vehicles**

It shall be unlawful for any person to wash, polish, grease, change oil, or perform other maintenance on any vehicle on Park District property except in emergencies.

## **CHAPTER VIII: ENFORCEMENT**

### **Section 1—Park Police/Park Service Officer Authority**

- a. Park Police shall, in connection with their duties imposed by law, diligently enforce the provisions of this Ordinance and may issue citations, arrest, arrest with warrant, and eject from parks persons acting in violation of this Ordinance.
- b. Park Police shall have the authority to seize, confiscate and impound any substance, plant, animal, vehicle or other article which, upon probable cause, they find to be used or possessed in violation of this Ordinance.
- c. Park Service Officers (PSOs) shall, in connection with their duties as prescribed by the Park District, diligently enforce the provisions of the Ordinance and, except as limited by the Superintendent, issue citations and warnings to persons acting in violation of this Ordinance.
- d. Public Safety Officers have the discretion to cite a violation as an appropriate administrative offense, petty misdemeanor, misdemeanor, or felony charge as circumstances warrant.

### **Section 2—Notice**

- a. Any member of the Public Safety Department and/or any other person employed by the Park District with authority to enforce this Ordinance shall, upon determining that there has been a violation of the Ordinance, notify the violator or person responsible for the violation, or in the case of a vehicular violation by attaching to said vehicle notice of the violation, said notice setting forth the nature, date, time of the violation, the name of the official issuing the notice and the amount of the scheduled penalty.

- b. Once such notice is given, the person responsible for the violation shall, within 14 days of the time of issuance of the notice, pay in full satisfaction the amount of the specified penalty. The penalty may be paid in person, by phone, or by mail and payment shall be admission of the violation.
- c. If a violator fails to pay the penalty imposed by this article within the established payment period, the matter may be processed as an Ordinance violation through the County Court System via the issuance of the appropriate citation.

### **Section 3—Fines and Penalties**

- a. Penalties shall be imposed for violation of the scheduled administrative offenses according to a schedule duly established and adopted from time to time by the Park District Board of Commissioners. Petty misdemeanors shall have a fine of \$65; misdemeanors shall have a fine of \$95.
- b. Criminal violations of this Ordinance shall be subject to the scheduled penalty, not to exceed \$300 for each offense designated as a petty misdemeanor and \$1,000 for each offense designated as a misdemeanor.
- c. All penalties collected shall be paid over to the Park District Finance Department to be entered into the general fund. The Chief Financial Officer or their designee may receive cash, credit card, debit card, or negotiable instruments in payment of penalties as a conditional payment.

### **Section 4—Additional Rules and Regulations**

The Board shall have the right to issue rules and regulations relative to this Ordinance.

## **Section 5—Impoundment of Pets**

The Park District shall have the authority to impound pets found in violation of this Ordinance and shall collect an impoundment fee plus the per diem fee.

## **Section 6—Permit Revocation**

The Park District shall have the authority to revoke for good cause any permit. Any permit or reservation may be revoked upon violation by the permittee of any Ordinance, rule or regulation of the Park District.

## **Section 7—Employee Performance of Duty**

Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent employees or agents of the Park District from performing their assigned duties.

## **Section 8—Protection of Public Safety Horses**

It shall be unlawful to hit, kick, throw objects at, or otherwise harm or harass Three Rivers Park District Public Safety horses.

## **Section 9—Powers and Duties of Chief Financial Officer**

In addition to all other duties set forth in the Ordinance, the Chief Financial Officer may delegate and supervise the work of Park District employees implementing and administering this article. The Chief Financial Officer, or their designee, shall make and have custody of all records necessary and shall keep proper accounts of the proceeds received.

## **CHAPTER IX: MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Section 1—Conflict**

Existing Park District Ordinance and any rules and regulations in conflict with this Ordinance, or any parts thereof, are hereby repealed.

### **Section 2—Enactment**

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication by the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners.

### **Section 3—Captions and Headings**

The captions and headings used herein are for convenience of reference only and do not define or limit the contents of each paragraph.

### **Section 4—Severability**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be severable, and the invalidity or unenforceability of any provisions shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the other provisions hereof.

### **Section 5—Amendments**

This Ordinance may be amended from time to time by the Park District, and such amendment may be shown by either marking the section amended, attaching the amendment to this Ordinance, reprinting the Ordinance publication, or filling in the schedule of information.

## **CHAPTER X: EFFECTIVE DATE**

Passed and approved the 25th day of August 1985. Reprinted to reflect amendments approved through February 5, 2009. Amendments are effective upon publication.

*For further information or questions regarding this Ordinance, contact:*

Three Rivers Park District  
3000 Xenium Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 55441-1299

[www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org](http://www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org)

Information Assistance .....763.559.9000  
Text Telephone (TTY) .....763.559.6719  
Reservations & Special-Use Permits .....763.559.6700





## SUBJECT INDEX

- Abandon ..... 18, 25
- Advertising ..... 20
- Alcohol..... 8, 9, 12, 15, 16
- All-terrain vehicle ..... 10
- Amplifier ..... 21
- Amusement  
    contraptions ..... 8, 23
- Arrest ..... 11, 36
- Beaches ..... 16, 18, 28, 30
- Beer..... 8, 9, 15
- Bicycling ..... 13, 30
- Boating..... 29
- Bow and arrow..... 12, 19
- Camping ..... 13, 27, 35
- Canopies ..... 27
- Citations..... 36
- Collecting or removing  
    natural features ..... 24
- Cross-country  
    skiing..... 13, 32, 33
- Demonstrations..... 23
- Disturbance of wildlife..... 25
- Dogs..... 11, 20, 21
- Dog sled..... 21
- Drug/alcohol use ..... 8, 15
- Dumping. .... 26
- Feed animals ..... 25
- Fighting ..... 17
- Fines..... 3, 37
- Firearms..... 12, 19, 25
- Firecracker ..... 19
- Fireworks..... 19
- Fishing ..... 29
- Flotation device ..... 28
- Gambling ..... 17
- Guns ..... 12, 19
- Handicapped parking ..... 35
- Hang gliders ..... 23
- Hiking..... 8, 13, 33
- Horseback riding ..... 13, 30
- Hot air balloons ..... 23
- Hunt..... 25
- Ice house ..... 29
- Ice skate ..... 32
- In-line skate..... 11, 13, 33
- Inflatable objects..... 28
- Inner tube ..... 28, 29
- Kegs ..... 15
- Leash..... 20, 21
- Life jacket  
    (see flotation device) ... 28
- Life raft..... 28
- Littering..... 18
- Loudspeaker ..... 21

Malt Liquor.....	9	Religious services.....	23
Metal Detecting .....	9, 24	Responsible person ....	11, 18
Mini-bike.....	10	Roller-skating .....	13, 33
Misdemeanor .....	3, 9, 11, 13,	Rollerskiing.....	33
.....14, 15, 20, 24, 27, 28,		Scooters .....	11
.....30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37		Sell .....	15, 16, 20
Model aircraft. ....	23	Service dogs.....	20
Model boat .....	23	Skateboarding.....	33
Motorcycle .....	10	Skijoring .....	21
Mountain bike.....	30	Signs ..	20, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32
Noise.....	9, 21, 22, 34	Smoking.....	12, 16
Off-road.....	10	Snowmobiling .....	10, 31
Parades.....	23	Snowshoeing.....	32
Park hours .....	13, 14	Solicit .....	20
Park Police.....	6, 10, 17, 36	Speed limits.....	31, 34
Park Service Officer ....	10, 36	Swimming. ....	13, 18, 28, 29
Parking.....	13, 21, 35	Tarps .....	27
Penalties.....	13, 37	Television.....	21
Permits.....	10, 13-15, 18-27,	Temporary shelters.....	27
.....30, 32, 33, 35, 38, 40		Tents.....	27
Pesticides.....	10, 26	Theft .....	12, 15
Pests.....	10	Trap.....	25
Pets. ....	13, 20, 38	Vandalize.....	25
Petty misdemeanor ....	3, 11,	Wastes .....	18, 26
.....13, 14, 15, 20, 27, 28,		Wildlife.....	7, 11, 12, 25
.....30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37		Wine .....	12, 15
Photography.....	20	Worship services.....	23
Play areas .....	16, 18, 30		
Pollutant.....	11, 26, 34		
Poster .....	20		
Radio.....	21		

Printed March 2009

