

Chapter 16

Parks and Recreation

Part 1

Rules for Parks, Recreation Areas, Open Space Areas and Public Property

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Part 1**Rules for Parks, Recreation Areas, Open Space Areas and Public Property****§16-101. Unlawful Activities.**

No person in a public building, park, recreation or open space area owned or controlled by Northampton Township shall:

A. Willfully mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with or displace or remove any buildings; bridges; tables; benches; fireplaces; railings, pavings or paving materials; waterlines or other public utilities or parts or appurtenances thereof; signs, notices or placards, whether temporary or permanent; monuments, stakes, posts or other boundary markers or other structures or equipment; facilities; or park property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal.

B. Damage, cut, carve, transplant or remove any tree or plant or injure the bark or pick flowers or seed of any tree or plant, dig in or otherwise disturb grass areas or in any other way injure the natural beauty or usefulness of any park or recreation area.

C. Throw, discharge or otherwise place or cause to be placed in the waters of any fountain, pond, lake, stream or other body of water in or adjacent to any park or any tributary stream, storm sewer or drain flowing into such water any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which will or may result in the pollution of said waters.

D. Bring in or dump in, deposit or leave any bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, waste, garbage or refuse or other trash. No such refuse or trash shall be placed in any waters in or contiguous to any park or left anywhere on the grounds thereof, but shall be placed in the proper receptacles where these are provided. Where receptacles are not provided, all such rubbish or waste shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for its presence and shall be properly disposed of elsewhere.

E. Drive any vehicle on any area except the paved park roads or parking areas or such areas as may, on occasion, be specifically designated as temporary areas by the Board of Supervisors.

F. Park a vehicle in other than an established or designated parking area and such shall be in accordance with posted directions or with the instruction of any park attendant who may be present.

G. Allow a vehicle to stand or be parked overnight in established parking areas or elsewhere in the park area.

H. Swim or bathe in any waters or waterways.

I. Bring into or operate any boat, raft or other water craft, whether motor-powered or not, upon any waters in the park area except a toy boat less than 18 inches in length.

J. Fish in any waters except in waters designated by the Park and Recreation Board for that use and under such regulations and restrictions as have or may be prescribed by the Park and Recreation Board.

K. Picnic or lunch in a place other than those places designated for that purpose.

L. Take part in or abet the playing of any games involving thrown or otherwise propelled objects, such as balls, stones, arrows, javelins, horseshoes, quoits or model airplanes, except in those areas set apart for such forms of recreation. Games such as football, baseball, golf and lacrosse are prohibited except on the fields and courts or areas provided expressly therefor.

M. Ride a horse in any Township park or recreation area except on a designated bridle path.

N. Bring alcoholic beverages and drink the same on or in public property or buildings. No person shall be permitted on or in public property or public buildings in an intoxicated condition. [*Ord. 226*]

O. Bring a controlled substance and/or contraband, as defined in the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act of Pennsylvania, Act No. 64, 35 P.S. §780-101 *et seq.*, and the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act, Act No. 63, 71 P.S. §1690.101 *et seq.*, possess and/or use the same at any time nor shall any person be under the influence of a controlled substance.

P. Bring a dog or other domestic animal into public park and recreation areas unless on a leash not to exceed 8 feet.

Q. Go onto the ice on any of the waters except such areas designated as skating fields, and provided that a safety signal is displayed by the Park and Recreation Board.

R. Become disorderly with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm or recklessly create a risk thereof by engaging in fighting or threatening or, in violent or tumultuous behavior, make unreasonable noise, use obscene language, make an obscene gesture or create a hazardous or physically offensive condition by an act which serves no legitimate purpose of the actor.

S. Start any fires, except in a designated receptacle, failing to guard such fires at all times.

T. Hunt, trap, gamble or be in the possession of any implement used for such activity.

U. Operate an unregistered motor vehicle or a snowmobile on Township recreation and open space areas.

V. Road test a motor vehicle or use grounds for driving instruction.

W. Enter a rest room designated for the opposite sex.

X. Wash, repair or service a motor vehicle.

(*Ord. 203, 8/10/1983, as amended by Ord. 226, 6/12/1985*)

§16-102. Hours of Operation.

1. Parks and Recreation Areas.

A. Except for unusual and unforeseen emergencies, parks or recreational areas shall be open to the public every day of the year during the designated hours of the park or recreational area, and the opening and closing hours of each individual park or recreational area shall be posted therein for public information

and shall be determined from time to time by the Park and Recreation Board.

B. Any section or part of any park may be declared closed to the public by the Park and Recreation Director or by the Park and Recreation Board at any time and for any interval of time in order to convenience repairs or restoration of the area in question or to conduct Recreation Department activities or for public health or safety reasons.

2. *Public Buildings.*

A. *Police Building.* The Police Building shall be open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

B. *All Other Public Buildings.* With the exception of public holidays as declared by the Board of Supervisors at their organizational meeting and unusual and unforeseen occasions, at which time notice shall be posted at the entrance of each building, all other public buildings shall be open to the general public during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(*Ord. 203, 8/10/1983*)

§16-103. Use of Public Rooms and Buildings.

Public rooms and buildings are available for use to individuals or organizations of Northampton Township for civic, cultural or educational purposes. The use of said rooms and/or buildings shall be governed by the rules and regulations for the use of public rooms and buildings as promulgated by the Board of Supervisors by resolution on April 8, 1980, and as may be amended in the future.

(*Ord. 203, 8/10/1983*)

§16-104. Soliciting Prohibited.

1. There shall be no soliciting of any kind, including the sale or vending of food, on parklands or at Township recreational programs except by permit issued by the Township.

2. Use of any park facility or section of a park facility for commercial or profit making activities without a special permit issued by the Township is prohibited.

(*Ord. 203, 8/10/1983; as added by Ord. 561, 4/25/2012*)

§16-105. Enforcement.

The provisions of this Part shall be enforced by the Northampton Township Police Department.

(*Ord. 203, 8/10/1983*)

§16-106. Violations and Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this

Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.
(*Ord. 203*, 8/10/1983, as amended by *Ord. 285*, 2/2/1989; and by *Ord. 561*, 4/25/2012)