

LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT  
RULES AND REGULATIONS

These Rules and Regulations are intended to assure the public that Lackawanna County Parks will operate and maintain recreation facilities in a clean, attractive and safe condition for the use and enjoyment of all park visitors and are open to all members of the public without discrimination. These rules and regulations shall apply to all parks owned, operated, and maintained by Lackawanna County. These rules apply to McDade Park, Merli-Sarnoski Park, Aylesworth Park, Covington Park, the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, and the Anthracite Heritage Museum.

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**SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS**

1. "Camping" shall mean erecting a tent or shelter or arranging bedding, or both, or parking a recreational vehicle or other vehicle for the purpose or remaining overnight.
2. "Director" shall mean the Director of Parks and Recreation Department, or his/her designee.
3. "Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation" shall mean the area included within the boundaries incorporated by the Lackawanna County Commissioners for the purpose of taxing property within said boundaries for maintenance and operation of the service area parks and pool/beach.
4. "Motor Vehicle" means any self-propelled device capable of being moved upon a road, and in, upon, or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn, and includes, but is not limited to, automobiles, trucks, tractors, motorcycles, motor scooters, (jeeps or similar type) four-wheel drive vehicles, and snowmobiles, whether or not they can legally be operated upon the public highways.
5. "Park" means and includes all Lackawanna County parks, parkways, trails, pools, beaches, athletic field, play structures, play and recreation grounds or other properties within park boundaries, owned or operated by Lackawanna County and under the management and control of the Parks and Recreation Department.
6. "Permit" Any group or organization desiring to use park facilities for a specific purpose, shall obtain a Special Events permit before engaging in such activity, which use permit shall be issued by the Director, or his/her designee.
7. "Person" shall mean all individuals, firms, partnerships, corporations, clubs, and all associations or combinations of persons whenever acting for themselves or by an agent, servant or employee.
8. "Special Event" shall mean a group recreation activity in a Lackawanna County Park, sponsored or organized by an individual or organization that requires reserving park areas, planning, facilities, staffing or other services beyond the level normally provided at a Lackawanna County Park to ensure public welfare and safety, and facility or environmental protection.
9. "Trail" means any path or track designated for use by pedestrians, bicycles and which is not of sufficient width, nor designated to permit its use by standard passenger automobiles, other right-of-way specifically designated and posted for non-vehicular use.

10. "ATV" or "All Terrain Vehicles" means a motorized off-highway vehicle with three or more inflatable tires.

## **SECTION 2. OPERATING HOURS**

Lackawanna County Parks shall establish for each park, according to existing conditions, times and periods when it will be opened or closed to the public. Such times and periods shall be posted at the entrance to the park and at the park office. No person shall enter to be present in a park or facility before the posted time for opening or after the posted time for closing without written permission from the Director.

1. **RESTRICTED AREAS.** Any person, except an authorized Lackawanna County Parks employee, or other persons authorized by law, shall be prohibited from entering or going upon any area which has been designated and posted by Lackawanna County Parks as a "no admittance" or "closed to use" or "no trespassing" area.
2. No overnight parking is permitted in Lackawanna County Parks (without written permission from the Director).
3. Children under ten shall not be allowed in any Park unless they are accompanied by an adult.

## **SECTION 3 PEACE AND QUIET**

This section is to ensure the public can use the parks without undue disturbance and to ensure neighbors are not unnecessarily disturbed.

1. No person shall use profane or abusive language, or conduct oneself in a disorderly manner on Lackawanna County Park property.
2. No person shall use a powered public address system, amplified music speaker system, sound-emitting electronic equipment including electrical speakers, radio, phonographs, television, or other such equipment, at a volume which emits sound beyond the immediate individual that may disturb other park users without the written permission of the Director. Portable radios and music players are permitted, provided they shall not be operated at a volume or in any manner which unreasonably disturbs the peace of others.
4. People who desire to use loudspeakers, amplified music or public address systems in Lackawanna County Parks shall make a written request to the Director in advance of the proposed use.

5. Engine-driven equipment, electric generators and compressors may be operated within park boundaries with written permission from the Director.

**SECTION 4. REGULATIONS OF TRAFFIC**

- A. No person may stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle on Park property:
  1. within an intersection;
  2. on a bridge;
  3. any place an official sign prohibits, or regulates, stopping, standing, parking, or the manner of parking in general;
  4. on the traveled portion of a roadway or public driveway;
  5. on, or obstructing the entrance to, any bicycle path, hiker path, or access road;
  6. so as to obstruct another vehicle or traffic;
  7. so as to occupy more than one parking space or park across painted parking lines;
  8. during those hours when the Park is not open to the public;
  9. on any grass area, other than during special events, such as car shows, or so as to injury any tree, shrub, plant or vegetation;
  10. in parking spaces which are designated for use by persons with disabilities unless such vehicles display a special registration plate, a removable windshield placard, or a temporary removable windshield placard allowing such parking which is issued by Motor Vehicle Administration of Pennsylvania or similar by another state.
- B. No person can operate an All Terrain Vehicle on park property.
- C. No person may operate a snow mobile on park property.

**SECTION 5 ROLLERBLADING, ROLLERSKATING AND SKATEBOARDING**

Rollerblades, rollerskates and skateboards are allowed in designated areas only. They are not allowed in playgrounds, tennis courts, sidewalks, basketball courts or pavilions, or where otherwise posted. Any person using rollerblades, rollerskates or skateboards shall obey all park signs regarding use of same and shall not operate them in a reckless manner.

**SECTION 6 CAMPING**

Camping in the Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation managed properties is not allowed without written permission of the Director.

**SECTION 7      PETS**

1. All dogs or other pets or domestic animals must be in control of the owner at all times while in a Lackawanna County Park.
2. In any Lackawanna County Park, dogs, pets, or domestic animals, except for guide dogs, are not permitted on any athletic playing field, children's playground area, swimming pool area, or in any public building unless so posted.
3. Owners or handlers are responsible for cleaning up their animals' waste deposits left on Lackawanna County Park property.
4. Owners and handlers are required to have in their possession the equipment necessary to remove their animals' fecal matter when accompanied by said animal on Lackawanna County Park property.
5. Owners and handlers must abide by any County or local Ordinance, concerning the custody and control of dogs and domestic animals at all Lackawanna County owned Park facilities.

**SECTION 8      SOLICITATION**

1. No person shall engage in commercial solicitation, or sell, rent or peddle any goods, wares, merchandise, liquids, or edibles for human consumption in any Lackawanna County Park, except by concession or written permission granted by the Director.
2. Posting signs, posters, advertising, decoration, notices or anything similar may not be affixed to any tree, shrub, fence, railing, post, or structure within any Lackawanna County Park, without prior written permission from the Director.

**SECTION 9      VANDALISM**

1. No person shall remove, destroy, injure, mutilate or deface any park properties, trees, planting, equipment or facilities or enter or break into any locked restroom or any other park building or structures, This prohibition applies to all aspects of the natural or landscaped environment.
2. No person shall climb any tree or walk, stand or sit upon monuments, vases, fountains, railings, fences, or upon any other property not designated or customarily used for such purposes.

**SECTION 10      FIRES**

1. No person shall build any fire in any park except in areas designated for such purposes. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the use of barbecues or other portable stoves in such place and manner as not to create a hazard.

**SECTION 11 FIREARMS AND/OR WEAPONS**

No person shall discharge or propel across, in, or into any park area, a firearm, bow and arrow, spear, spear gun, sling shot, BB gun, air or gas weapon, or any device capable of injury or killing any person or animal, or damaging or destroying any public or private property. Hunting is prohibited in Lackawanna County Parks.

**SECTION 12 FIREWORKS**

No person shall possess, discharge, set off, or cause to be discharged, in or into any park area, firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets, fireworks, explosives, or substances harmful to the life or safety of persons or property. This shall also include those devices denominated as 'safe and sane" fireworks.

**SECTION 13 RUBBISH AND SANITATION**

No person shall, in any park:

1. Leave, deposit, drop or scatter bottle, broken glass, ashes, waste paper, cans, or other receptacle designated for such purposes.
2. Deposit any household or commercial garbage, refuse, waste or rubbish, which is brought as such from any private property, in any park garbage can or other receptacle designed for such purpose.
3. Drain or dump refuse or waste from any trailer, camper, automobile, or other vehicle.
4. Clean or wash any automobile or other vehicle.
5. Pollute, or in any contaminate by dumping or otherwise depositing any waste or refuse of any nature, kind, or description, including human or animal waste, so it may enter into any stream, river, lake or other body of water running in, through or adjacent to any park.

**SECTION 14 GAMES**

Playing games in a manner and/or location that subject people or personal property, park resources or facilities to risk, injury, or damage is prohibited. Facilities shall only be used for their designated purpose.

**SECTION 15 SWIMMING**

Rules for swimming while using the pool or beach are posted in swimming area.

**SECTION 16 FISHING AREA**

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission have posted notices regarding special regulations at McDade Park. Only children 12 years of age and younger and individuals with disabilities are permitted.

**SECTION 17 PARK SCHEDULING**

1. Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation begin taking reservations for the pavilions on the first working day of January. Pavilions are available through reservations only on a first come first serve basis. Sports facilities are also available on a first come first serve basis.
2. There will be a fee schedule for the rental of any pavilions, recreational facilities, ballfields, or athletic facilities promulgated by the Director of Parks and Recreation. The Director may waive fees in his sole discretion where appropriate.

**SECTION 18 ALCOHOL/TOBACCO, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

1. Possession, use or distribution of alcohol (except by special permit), illegal drugs or controlled dangerous substances on park property is strictly prohibited. Special permits shall be given under the sole discretion of the Director of Parks and Recreation, and shall be limited to fundraising events by non-profit organizations
2. Smoking or the possession of lighted smoking materials in any form, including but not limited to the possession of lighted cigarettes, cigars, pipes or other tobacco products is prohibited in all County parks.

**SECTION 19 RULES AND REGULATIONS PROMULGATION**

Additional Rules and Regulations may be promulgated in accordance with the appropriate County Ordinances applicable thereto.

**SECTION 20 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

Any person violating any federal, state, county or local law or ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished in accordance with the applicable penalty provisions of the law or ordinance. Nothing in these regulations is intended to pre-exempt any federal, state or local law or ordinance.

**SECTION 21      LIABILITY**

Any person who uses any County Park in any way does so at his or her own risk.