



CITY OF
GRAND
RAPIDS

Parks Rules and Ordinances

**Parks and Recreation
Department**

PARKS AND RECREATION ORDINANCE

SECTION 3.1 PURPOSE, INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

The provisions of this chapter shall be held to be the minimum requirements adopted for the promotion of the public health, safety and general welfare of the people of Grand Rapids. Among other purposes, these provisions are intended to authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, under the supervision and control of the City Manager, to promulgate rules and regulations relative to the use of areas and facilities which are declared recreational areas in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and other areas or facilities as may be designated by the City Commission to be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation, subject to the approval of the City Commission.

SECTION 3.2 ENFORCEMENT

The responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, including the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the authority granted in this Chapter, shall be vested in the City Manager, to the Director of Parks and Recreation, and their duly authorized subordinates, assistants or agents. Should the title of the position of Director of Parks and Recreation be changed, the authority and duties provided for in this chapter shall, without further action, be granted to the person whose duties and responsibilities include the management of the City's parks and recreation areas.

SECTION 3.3 JURISDICTION AND DEFINITIONS

The Department of Parks and Recreation and, as provided for herein, the Director of Parks and Recreation shall have jurisdiction over all areas and their facilities which are declared recreational areas in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as adopted by the Planning Commission, and certified to the City Commission, and such other areas and/or facilities as may be designated by the City Commission. Wherever the title of a City officer, official or employee is used in this chapter, that title shall include not only the person holding the position named but also the authorized subordinates and representatives of the person in the position named.

SECTION 3.4 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Director of Parks and Recreation is hereby authorized and directed, under the supervision and control of the City Manager, to adopt rules and regulations to carry out to the purpose of this chapter, to protect the public health, safety and welfare and to improve the fair, safe and efficient use of park and recreation facilities by the public. Copies of the rules and regulations adopted shall be kept on file at the office of the City Clerk and the office of the Director of Parks and Recreation for distribution to the public. Any change or alteration in the existing rules and regulations and any new rule or regulation shall be submitted to the City Commission for approval. No such rule or regulation shall become effective until approved by the City Commission.

SECTION 3.5

MODIFICATION OR WAIVER OF STRICT ENFORCEMENT

The Director of Parks and Recreation is authorized to waive or modify enforcement of the strict letter of any rule or regulation promulgated by the Director where practical difficulties in carrying out the strict letter of such a rule or regulation would result in hardship to a particular person or persons, or to the public. Such waiver or modification, however, must be of character which will not impair the purposes and intent of this chapter. Any such modification or waiver shall be at the discretion of the Director, subject to the supervision and control of the City Manager.

SECTION 3.6

APPEAL FROM ORDER

If any person is aggrieved by any order or decision by the Director of Parks and Recreation, that person may, within ten (10) days after receipt of such order or decision, appeal in writing to the City Manager. The City Manager may make such decision as the City Manager deems in the public interest within the scope and intent of this chapter and such rules and regulations, and such decision shall be final unless an appeal in writing is filed within ten (10) days thereafter with the City Commission at the office of the City Clerk. The City Commission may take such action on such appeal as it deems just, and may vary the terms of such rules and regulations as it determines is in the public interest.

SECTION 3.7

CONFLICT WITH SPECIFIC ORDINANCES FOR SPECIAL AREAS.

In the case of any conflict between this chapter or any of the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to it and the provisions of any ordinance or rule adopted to apply to a specific area, the provisions of the specific ordinance or rule shall apply.

SECTION 3.8

PARK, POOL AND FACILITY HOURS

The public parks of the City of Grand Rapids shall generally be open to the public between sunrise and sunset of each and every day except as to those parks designated by the Director of Parks and Recreation to be open during other hours to be determined by the Director. It shall be unlawful for any person, except those persons authorized by the Director of Parks and Recreation, to enter, be in or remain within the public parks after sunset on one day or before sunrise on the following day except where other hours are authorized by the Director of Parks and Recreation. Notwithstanding the open hours provided for in this section, the Director may, to carry out the purposes of this chapter, to protect the public health, safety and welfare and to improve the fair, safe and efficient use of park and recreation facilities by the public, close parks or portions of parks to public use. The Parks and Recreation Director shall establish hours during which the swimming pools and other specialized recreational facilities and areas are open and such facilities shall not be used except during those open hours.

SECTION 3.9

EXCLUDE AND EXPEL

The City Manager, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and,

as provided in this chapter, all of their authorized subordinates and representatives, are granted the authority and power to exclude and expel any person or persons from any public park, playground, boulevard, pool or recreation area when such person or persons violate any of the provisions or requirements of the City Code of the City of Grand Rapids, the laws of the State of Michigan or the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant to the authority granted in this chapter. Any such order of exclusion or expulsion that extends for a period of ten (10) days or less may be given verbally. In the event that such order of exclusion or expulsion extends for any period exceeding ten (10) days, the person authorized to issue the order shall issue the order in writing stating the reasons therefor and notifying the violator that he or she has the opportunity of a hearing before the Director of Parks and Recreation or a neutral hearing officer designated by the Director if a written request therefor is filed with the Director of Parks and Recreation within seven (7) days of the date of issuance of the order of exclusion or expulsion. Any hearing held pursuant to such a request shall be held promptly after receipt of the request. Based upon the findings made as a result of the hearing, the Director of Parks and Recreation or the designated neutral hearing officer may sustain, overrule or modify the order of exclusion or expulsion and shall state the reasons for such holding in writing. Any person to whom an order of expulsion or exclusion is given for a period of ten (10) days or less may also request such a hearing whether the order is verbal or written. Any order of expulsion or exclusion remains in full force and effect during the period that is being appealed unless suspended by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

SECTION 3.10 VIOLATION OF ORDERS OF EXCLUSION OR EXPULSION

No person shall fail, neglect or refuse to comply with such an order of expulsion or exclusion.

SECTION 3.11 PERMITS REQUIRED

No person shall conduct or participate in any business activity, bazaar, sale, swap meet, barter activity or other activity of a commercial nature except pursuant to a permit issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation. No group political meetings or functions, religious meetings, public speeches, concerts, or other similar activities shall be held within a public park except pursuant to a permit issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation. A permit for such activities shall be issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his/her designee with reasonable restrictions only with the regard to the time, place and manner of activity to be conducted.

SECTION 3.12 HUNTING AND TRAPPING

No person shall hunt or trap or attempt to hunt or trap any animal or bird in any City Park or area under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department. This provision shall not apply to City employees or to other persons authorized in writing by the Director of Parks and Recreation to hunt or trap animals or birds in the interest of public safety.

SECTION 3.13 BOATING

Boating is permitted in the lagoons at Riverside Park, but no person may operate, control or occupy a power boat in these lagoons. No person shall launch a power boat from park property except at designated launching sites for such use on the Grand River. No person shall fail to comply with federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to the use of boats in inland waters. Model boats, jet skis, wave runners and similar personal watercraft are prohibited on park ponds, lakes and lagoons, except by permit issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his or her designee.

SECTION 3.14 FIRES

No person shall start, accelerate, furnish fuel to or approach an open fire in any public park. The burning of wood, charcoal, coke or other accepted fuels for the preparing of food in a grill shall not be a violation of this Section as long as the food preparation is conducted in a safe and sanitary manner.

SECTION 3.15 DOMESTIC ANIMALS

No person shall permit or allow any domestic animal to be at large or unrestrained or to run at large within any public park or other grounds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation. No dog shall be permitted in any City Park or playground unless on a leash not over 8 ft. long. Owners of domestic animals shall remove their animal's fecal discharge from park property.

SECTION 3.16 GOLF

No person shall golf on park grounds or other grounds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation not established for that purpose except in conjunction with a Parks and Recreation Department sponsored or approved program.

SECTION 3.17 METAL DETECTORS

No person shall operate a metal detector in any park or area of a park except by permit issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his or her designee.

SECTION 3.18 SKATEBOARDS, BICYCLES, IN-LINE SKATES, OTHER RECREATIONAL CONVEYANCES

The Director of Parks and Recreation or his or her representative have the authority to close parks, areas of parks or other areas under control of the Director of Parks and Recreation to skateboards, bicycles, in-line skates or other wheeled or unwheeled conveyances when visitor safety or the protection of natural or man-made features are at conflict with possession or use of such skateboards, bicycles, in-line skates or other conveyances. No person shall operate any skateboard, bicycle, in-line skates or other wheeled or unwheeled conveyance on any unpaved surface, in any area in which such use is prohibited by signs or after having been directed by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his or her representative not to operate such conveyances in a specific area.

SECTION 3.19

SOUND AMPLIFICATION

No person shall use sound amplification devices or equipment in any park, areas of parks or other areas under control of the Director of Parks and Recreation in such a manner as to disturb the quiet enjoyment of the park or other area by other users, except with a permit issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his or her representative. Any sound amplification which exceeds the limits provided for in the City Code is prohibited.

SECTION 3.20

PARK ROADS, GROUNDS AND PARKING LOTS

No person shall ride or drive any animal or vehicle in any public park or playground except on proper roadways, avenues and drives set aside for such use. No person shall ride or drive any animal or vehicle at a speed exceeding ten miles an hour, or, where posted, such speed as may be designated. No person shall use any park parking lot for any activity other than the operation or parking of a vehicle or to cross the parking lot on foot. Permits allowing exceptions to the requirements of this Section may be issued for special events by permit issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his or her representative.

SECTION 3.21

SWIMMING IN OR POLLUTION OF POOLS AND AQUATIC AREAS

No person shall throw, deposit or convey any substance into any basin, pool, lake, lagoon, watercourse or fountain in any park or other area under the jurisdiction of the Director of Parks and Recreation. No person shall enter, swim in or wade in any basin, pool, lake, lagoon, watercourse or fountain in any park or other area under the jurisdiction of the Director of Parks and Recreation except in facilities specifically set apart for that purpose.

SECTION 3.22

BALLOON RELEASES AND HOT AIR BALLOONS

No person shall release any helium filled balloon in any public park or area under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Director of Parks and Recreation may designate locations and conditions relating to occupied hot air balloon launches in the parks. Hot air balloons may be launched in these approved areas in compliance with the Director's specified conditions without a permit. No person shall launch a hot air balloon in any other area or under conditions other than those specified by the Director except pursuant to a written permit issued by the Director. The Director of Parks and Recreation shall make available to the public, at the offices of the Department, the Director's specified locations and conditions relating to occupied hot air balloon launches in the parks without a permit.

SECTION 3.23

SNOWMOBILING

No person shall operate or permit the operation of a snowmobile in any City Park or area under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department except that the Department of Parks and Recreation may use snowmobiles for maintenance and security purposes.

SECTION 3.24 ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS/PERMITS

No person shall consume, possess, or bring into any City Park or other area under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department any beer, wine, liquor, malt or any other alcoholic beverage whatsoever. The Director of Parks and Recreation may designate locations where beer and wine may be allowed by permit with terms and conditions. No person shall consume, possess, or bring into any City Park or other area under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department where a permit is required any beer, wine, liquor, malt or any other alcoholic beverage unless a permit has been issued by the Director. The Director of Parks and Recreation may refuse to issue a beer and wine permit if, in the reasonable exercise of her or his discretion and judgment, when it would be inappropriate or inadvisable to permit the consumption of alcohol as requested because of concurrent events, or past problems under similar circumstances or for under such circumstances as will, in the Director's judgment, present an immediate or imminent threat to the public health, safety or welfare.

SECTION 3.25 CAMPING OR OVERNIGHT USE OF PARKS

No person shall camp, conduct or participate in an overnight outing or any similar activities in a City Park or other area under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department. The use of tents, trailers, motor homes is not permitted in City Parks. Activities otherwise prohibited by this Section may be conducted pursuant to a permit issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

SECTION 3.26 GAMBLING AND RAFFLES

No person shall participate in, conduct or be present at any gambling or game of chance of any kind in a City Park or other area under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department except as provided for in this Section. This Section does not preclude any raffle or any other gambling activity for which a license or permit has been issued by the State of Michigan which is conducted by an organization permitted by state law to conduct such an activity. In order for this exclusion to apply, the following conditions must be met.

1. Any necessary licenses must be obtained from the State of Michigan.
2. The organization conducting the activity must comply with all federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations as they pertain to the activity.
3. Written permission must be obtained from the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. The activity must be held in conjunction with an event which has been authorized by the City.
5. It must not be necessary to purchase a ticket in order to gain entrance to the event.

SECTION 3.27 SIGNS AND NOTICES

The Director of Parks and Recreation is authorized to place or erect, and the public is required to obey, any and all signs or

notices which are designed to regulate and supervise activities in parks or other areas under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department.

PARKS AND RECREATION GENERAL RULES

RULE 1 DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Director of Parks and Recreation shall have supervision of the Public Parks of the City of Grand Rapids, subject to the direction and control of the City Manager, to the provisions of the City Code and to these Rules and Regulations as adopted and amended by the Grand Rapids City Commission. For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, Public Parks shall include all areas and facilities which are declared recreational areas in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and other areas and facilities as may be designated by the City Commission as under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation Department personnel and other persons, as provided for in the City Code, are authorized to enforce these Rules and Regulations and to maintain order in the Public Parks.

RULE 2 USE OF RECREATION AREAS BY ORGANIZED GROUPS

The Parks and Recreation Department shall schedule and allocate to individuals and groups and to use by the general public, such recreational facilities as softball diamonds, baseball, diamonds, tennis courts, basketball courts, court game areas, swimming pools and other areas and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Recreation Department shall schedule, and may conduct, sports, athletic and recreational activities including dances in the Parks and Recreation Department lodges and buildings when they fall within the scope of the Parks and Recreation Department's function.

RULE 3 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Insurance may be required from any person, persons, groups or organizations who make use of City parks, lodges, or other facilities or equipment, and whose use or activity, in the judgment of the Director of Parks and Recreation, will constitute or create a serious risk of public injury or property damage. Where required, a Certificate of Insurance evidencing the required insurance coverage shall be submitted to the City's Risk Manager for approval prior to the activity or event. The Certificate shall name the City of Grand Rapids as an additional insured, shall require ten days notice of cancellation, termination or alteration to the City, and shall be in such amounts for such times, and covering such persons as the Risk Manager shall require.

RULE 4 DESIGNATED PERMIT AREAS AND ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIREMENT

The Director of Parks and Recreation may designate areas or facilities within the parks which are reservable. These designated areas (lodges, picnic areas, shelters and other equipment or facilities) may be secured by obtaining a permit from the Depart-

ment of Parks and Recreation. A person or organization desiring the exclusive use of park facilities or equipment must execute an agreement with regard thereto, and pay the appropriate fee.

Reservations for lodges, picnic areas, picnic shelters and special event equipment must be made at least 10 working days prior to the proposed use. Fees associated with these reservations must be paid 3 weeks after the permit is signed by the Parks and Recreation Department and in no cases less than 10 working days prior to use.

RULE 5 RESERVATION RESTRICTIONS

The Department reserves the right not to accept any reservations for more than six months in advance or for more than four future occasions.

RULE 6 CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

The Parks and Recreation Department has a written policy on cancellations and refunds available upon request.

RULE 7 PRINCIPAL USE OF PARK FACILITIES

The principal use of park facilities is to be for non-profit making social, recreational and educational activities.

RULE 8 COMMERCIAL USE OF PARK FACILITIES

Commercial exhibits, commercial shows, and activities which intend to be profit making will be charged the commercial rental rate.

RULE 9 PREPARATION AND CLEANUP

In cases where preparations are necessary, such as setting tables covering floors and putting up decorations, the rental fee begins as soon as the doors to the lodges or structures are open for the use by the renter. The renter is solely responsible for cleaning up and putting the premises in the same condition as they were at the beginning of the time of use. All items such as table cloths, decorations, trash and other objects not present when the use of the premises commences must be removed by the renter before the doors are locked.

RULE 10 DECORATIONS

Decoration equipment may be brought into the lodge and installed provided that they are in compliance with all state laws and with the provisions of the City Code. Detailed description of the contemplated decorations and a list of the type of appurtenances or other appliances and the manner of their installation and use must be submitted to the Director of Parks and Recreation for approval prior to use or installation.

RULE 11 ADMISSION CHARGES

No admission charge for a profit making activity within public parks may be made without the express prior permission of the Director of Parks and Recreation, City Manager or City Commission, and except for admission charges made for activities conducted or sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The City Manager is authorized to set or amend fees for Parks and Recreation Department services as outlined in Commission Policy #1100-08. The City Commission will be provided annually with a comprehensive list of Parks and Recreation Department fees and charges.

OTHER CITY ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO PARK USE AND CONDUCT

SECTION 9.98 LITTER IN PARKS

No person shall throw or deposit litter in any park within the City except in public receptacles and in such a manner that the litter will be prevented from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any part of the park or upon any street or other public place. Where public receptacles are not provided, all such litter shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere as provided herein.

SECTION 9.132 OFFENSES AGAINST PERSONS

No person shall:

- Commit an assault or battery upon another person.
- Molest another person.
- Wilfully annoy another person.
- Recklessly endanger the life, health or well-being of any person.
- Wilfully obstruct free or uninterrupted passage in any street, on any sidewalk, in any public place or in any other place to which the public is admitted.

SECTION 9.133 PROPERTY OFFENSES

No person shall:

- Wilfully, wantonly or recklessly damage, destroy, alter or deface public property or the property of any other person.
- Take or remove or attempt to take or remove any property not his or her own.
- Meddle with, tamper with, interfere with, move, damage or disconnect any property not his or her own.
- Destroy, damage or in any manner alter or deface any drinking fountain or public toilet or restroom; or deposit or throw any substance in any water fountain for drinking; or in any manner pollute the water therein.
- Expectorate, urinate, defecate or perform any other act which creates hazardous or deleterious condition in any public place or upon the property of any other person. This subsection shall not apply to public restroom facilities.

SECTION 9.134 SUBSTANCE OFFENSES

No person shall:

- Be in a state of intoxication in a public place endangering directly the safety of another person or of property.
- Be in a state of intoxication in any public place in a manner that causes a public disturbance.
- Be under the influence in any public place of any drug, any other exhilarating or stupefying substance, or any combination of substances mentioned herein.

SECTION 9.135 OFFENSES AGAINST GOVERNMENT ORDER

No person shall wilfully fail to obey the command of any law enforcement officer, park patrol officer or other authorized representative of the Parks and Recreation Department to leave a public park, playground, boulevard, swimming pool or recreation area when ordered to do so by any of the aforementioned authorized persons.

SECTION 9.136 MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES

No person shall:

- Make an indecent exposure of his or her person.
- Fire or shoot any air gun, spring gun, bow and arrow, sling shot or other dangerous weapon or instrument in any street, avenue, alley, public place or in any place in such a manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property.

SECTION 9.137 BREACH OF THE PEACE OFFENSES

No person shall:

- Create or engage in any disturbance, fight or quarrel in a public place.
- Create or engage in any disturbance, fight or quarrel that causes or tends to cause a breach of the peace.
- Disturb the public peace and quiet by loud or boisterous conduct.
- Disturb without lawful authority any lawful assembly or meetings of persons.
- Engage in, participate in or attempt to engage or participate in a riot.
- Incite, cause or attempt to incite or cause a riot.
- Utter profane, obscene or injurious language directed at or in the presence of another person, which language causes or would tend to cause an immediate breach of the peace.

SECTION 9.187 FISHING PROHIBITED

No person shall catch, kill or attempt to catch any fish within, upon or adjacent to an area of the Grand River located between Sixth Street and I-96 having as its boundary on the north, the north line of Fourth Street extended easterly, and as its boundary on the south, a line sixty (60) feet south of the south face of the Fish Ladder

and thirty (30) feet from the east face of the Fish Ladder and adjacent spectator viewing area on the west bank of the Grand River. No person shall engage in fishing within any area of the City of Grand Rapids or in the Grand River where signs shall have been posted prohibiting fishing. Such signs shall be placed within one hundred (100) feet of the bank along such prohibited area. (Ord. No. 75-77, 8-19-75; Ord. No. 97-53, § 1, 11-18-97)

SECTION 9.188 LIFE PRESERVERS

Every person who shall be in or upon the Grand River for the purpose of fishing or attempting to catch fish during the hours between sunset in the evening and sunrise in the morning in any area of the City of Grand Rapids shall wear a life preserver of lifebelt or ring buoy or other device of this sort prescribed by the regulations of the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. (Ord. No. 75-98, 11-25-75)

SECTION 9.189 BOATS PROHIBITED AT SIXTH STREET BRIDGE TO FOURTH STREET DAM

No person shall enter the water of the Grand River in any boat, canoe or other craft on the waters thereof in the area between the Sixth Street Bridge and the Fourth Street Dam for the purpose of fishing or attempting to catch fish. (Ord. No. 75-98, 11-25-75)

SECTION 9.190 STANDING, WALKING OR CLIMBING UPON THE FOURTH STREET DAM PROHIBITED

No person shall stand, walk, or climb upon the Fourth Street Dam, or any appurtenance thereto, in the waters of the Grand River. (Ord. No. 79-68, 10-16-79)

SECTION 9.602 SKATEBOARDING PROHIBITED

It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate a skateboard on public property bordered by N - I-96; S - Cherry; E - Lafayette; W - US 131.



Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department

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Adopted by the City Commission, July 11, 1995