

## **GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT**

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

#### **Authority**

Geauga Park District was created on August 21, 1961 by action of the Geauga County Probate Court in accordance with provisions of Section 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Park District is a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio and as such is not subservient to any local form of government such as county or township.

#### **Mission**

The mission of Geauga Park District is to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide the opportunity for people to enjoy and appreciate those resources.

#### **Purpose**

Geauga Park District was established under authority of Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code, and created for the purpose of conserving natural resources. In keeping with the stated mission of the Park District, the parks are usually large undeveloped tracts devoted to conserving the forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, streams, plants and wildlife of the county. Only a small percentage of the area is physically developed and then only when this is not in conflict with the objectives of preservation and conservation.

RESOLUTION 12-07  
JUNE 14, 2007

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT, REPEALING RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND AUTHORIZING THE REQUIRED PUBLICATION.

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations of the Geauga Park District were last revised in 2006 and this Board has authorized the preparation of revised rules and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Geauga Park District:

Section 1. The rules and regulations of Geauga Park District, which are of a general and permanent nature are hereby revised, rearranged and consolidated into the Rules and Regulations of Geauga Park District and are hereby approved, adopted and enacted as the Rules and Regulations of Geauga Park District. A copy of the Rules and Regulations shall be certified as correct by the Executive Director, attached to this resolution as a part hereof, and filed with the permanent resolutions of this Board.

Section 2. All provisions of these Rules and Regulations included herein shall be in full force and effect commencing on and after 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on June 14, 2007, and all rules and regulations or parts thereof, established prior to that date, which are inconsistent with any provision of the Rules and Regulations are hereby repealed as of June 14, 2007.

Section 3. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed, in the manner and as provided in Section 731.23, Ohio Revised Code, to cause to be published in the manner required by that Section the new matter contained in these Rules and Regulations and to give notice of the approval, adoption and enactment of the Rules and Regulations.

Section 4. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

Section 5. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Board, provided that the Rules and Regulations approved, adopted and enacted by this resolution shall become effective from and after 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on June 14, 2007.

Moved and approved on this fourteenth day of June, 2007.

Robert McCullough, President  
Board of Park Commissioners

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the Resolution which was duly adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Geauga Park District on this fourteenth day of June, 2007.

Thomas Curtin, Executive Director  
Gauga Park District

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Authority, Mission, Purpose.....	1
Resolution.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Definitions.....	4
1.0 Open Hours.....	4-5
2.0 Domestic Animals, Wild Animals.....	5
3.0 Horseback/Bicycle Riding.....	5-6
4.0 Cultural and Natural Features, Collecting.....	6
5.0 Fires, Firewood, Embers, Smoking.....	6
6.0 Littering and Facility Cleanliness.....	6
7.0 Damage to Park District Property.....	7
8.0 Vendor and Contributions Solicitation.....	7
9.0 Permit Activities, Threats to Public Safety and Natural Areas..	7
10.0 Camps, Camping, Lodging or Sleeping Without Permission..	8
11.0 Compliance with Orders of Park District Rangers, Firearms, and Primitive Weapons.....	8-9
12.0 Hunting, Trapping and Fishing.....	9-10
13.0 Disorderly Conduct.....	10-11
14.0 Indecent Conduct and Exposure.....	11
15.0 Intoxicants and Drug Abuse.....	11-12
16.0 Trespassing.....	12
17.0 Boating and Water Safety.....	12-13
18.0 Snowmobiles and A.T.V.'s.....	13
19.0 Engine Powered Miniature Models and Toys.....	13
20.0 Operation of Vehicles.....	13-15
Publication.....	16

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Geauga Park District**

#### Definitions

For purposes of the Rules and Regulations, the following definitions apply:

- Person - persons and corporations
- Executive Director – the Executive Director of Geauga Park District or an authorized employee acting on his/her behalf.
- Ranger – an official appointed under Section 1545.13 Ohio Revised Code to exercise police powers. Rangers are peace officers of the State of Ohio.
- “within the Park” or “park” – all parks, reservations, preserves and other lands owned by, managed by, under the control of or administered by Geauga Park District.
- Restricted/Conservation area – those areas owned by, managed by, under the control of or administered by Geauga Park District.
- Picnic area – a picnic shelter and the tables immediately surrounding it that have been designated as such because of their ecological sensitivity.
- A vehicle includes but is not limited to all motorized vehicles, and the same rules for vehicles shall apply to bicycles of all types, rollerblades, scooters, motorized wheel chairs, and skate boards.

All other terms have the same meaning as in the Ohio Revised Code.

#### 1.0 OPEN HOURS

1.1 Persons may be present within the Park only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., unless otherwise posted in special areas and/or exempted in writing by the Executive Director for educational or scientific research purposes, authorized camping or accompanied by an employee of Geauga Park District during an organized program. Lands designated as restricted/conservation areas are closed at all times except for persons exempted in writing by the Executive Director or accompanied by an employee of Geauga Park District during an organized program.

1.2 The Executive Director or designated employee may close

any facility or area of Geauga Park District if necessary for the health, safety or welfare of persons or property or for the protection of natural resources. No person shall be present in an area that has been closed.

1.3 Vehicles left in the park unattended after posted closed hours are subject to tow and citation.

## 2.0 DOMESTIC ANIMALS, WILD ANIMALS

2.1 It shall be unlawful for any person who is the owner or handler of any animal to fail to keep such animal on a physical leash not to exceed eight (8) feet in length and to keep such animal under control at all times while in the park.

2.2 No person shall have or maintain any animal within the Park that excites fear or disturbs the quiet or enjoyment of other persons.

2.3 No person shall release any animal, wild or domestic within the Park. No person shall feed wild animals in the park except park staff or those acting under the direction of park staff.

2.4 Any person with a permitted animal in the Park shall remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any excrement deposited by the animal in any area of the Park other than a bridle trail.

2.5 No person shall mistreat any animal within the confines of the Park. Hunting, trapping, and fishing may be permitted on park property in adherence with section 12.0.

## 3.0 HORSEBACK / BICYCLE RIDING

3.1 No person shall ride a horse or bicycle within the Park except on designated bridle or bicycle trails or along a roadway, obeying applicable vehicle rules.

3.2 No person riding upon any motorcycle, motorized bicycle, bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle upon roadway within the Park. No operator shall knowingly permit any person riding upon any motorcycle, motorized bicycle, bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle to attach the same or himself to any vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway, within the Park. This section does not apply to the towing of a disabled vehicle.

3.3 All horseback riders shall yield the right of way to pedestrians and vehicles at all points where bridle trails cross or riders share roads, drives or hiking trails.

3.4 No person shall leave a horse unattended within the Park other than at a designated hitching rail or horse shelter.

3.5 No person shall ride a horse within the Park during closed hours.

#### 4.0 CULTURAL AND NATURAL FEATURES, COLLECTING

4.1 No person shall destroy, disturb, deface or remove any natural, archaeological or cultural feature from any area within the Park.

4.2 No person shall collect any animal including birds, invertebrates (including mollusks), non-game fish, amphibians and reptiles or plant material in any area of the Park without written permission of the Executive Director, except leaves that have dropped from trees may be collected for educational purposes and game fish may be taken as designated in Section 12 "Hunting, Trapping and Fishing."

#### 5.0 FIRES, FIREWOOD, EMBERS, SMOKING

5.1 No person shall cut any tree or gather firewood within the Park.

5.2 No person shall kindle, build, maintain or use a fire other than in places provided or designated for such purposes.

5.3 No person shall discard, leave or dispose of any matches, cigarettes, cigars, embers, fires, briquettes, coals or other burning objects which have not been entirely extinguished.

5.4 No person shall smoke in any area of the Park where smoking is prohibited.

#### 6.0 LITTERING AND FACILITY CLEANLINESS

6.1 No person shall bring into, leave behind, throw away or dump material of any kind in the Park except the refuse, ashes, garbage and other material resulting from a park picnic, camp or other permitted activity, provided such material is deposited in receptacles provided for such purposes. No material shall be left or deposited on or adjacent to the Park so as to pollute the land, waters, waterways, or air; or otherwise interferes with proper use and enjoyment of the Park District.

6.2 No person shall utilize any structure, facility, or area of the Park causing it to be left in an unsanitary or unclean manner or condition.

7.0 DAMAGE TO PARK DISTRICT PROPERTY

7.1 No person shall in any manner willfully mark, deface or damage in any way, displace, remove, or tamper with Park District structures, equipment, facilities or appurtenances.

7.2 No person shall place any advertisement, poster, sign, letter, handbill or placard of any description upon any building, vehicle, tree, post, fence, billboard, information board or other structure, or within any park except directional signs for activities within the Park.

8.0 VENDOR AND CONTRIBUTIONS SOLICITATION

8.1 No person shall sell or solicit for sale any article, privilege or service within the Park unless they are properly licensed and only during park sponsored activities by persons with an agreement between themselves and the Park.

8.2 No person shall solicit contributions for any purpose, whether public or private, within the Park, except that the Park District or The Geauga Park District Foundation may solicit contributions.

8.3 No person shall beg or solicit any person for any purpose in Park grounds or other Park lands.

9.0 PERMIT ACTIVITIES, THREATS TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND NATURAL AREAS

9.1 No person shall conduct any otherwise unauthorized activities without first obtaining a written permit from the Executive Director. The Executive Director may issue permits for otherwise unauthorized activities if he or she determines such activities are in the best interest of the Park District and if the activities are not prohibited by State or Federal law.

9.2 No person or organization shall overtax any Park facility, whether by activity or by the number of participants or attendees, if such activity could result in a threat to the public's peace, health, safety or welfare or in the destruction or damage to Park property.

9.3 No person, group or organization shall overtax any of the Park's natural areas or preserves in a manner that could result in the destruction or damage of any natural features from unauthorized off trail activities.

9.4 No person shall rappel or rock climb within the park.

10.0 CAMPS, CAMPING, LODGING OR SLEEPING WITHOUT PERMISSION

10.1 No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging or sleeping place except in the designated campground areas of the Park and by first obtaining a written permit from the Executive Director.

10.2 No person under 18 years of age shall be permitted to camp in the designated campgrounds of the Park unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or with an authorized youth organization with adult supervision, or with special permit from the Executive Director and written permission from the parents or guardian.

10.3 Any person who is not a guest of a camping person or party is prohibited on the camp site of another. Guests of a camping person or party are permitted in the campsite between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. only.

11.0 COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERS OF PARK DISTRICT RANGERS – FIREARMS AND PRIMITIVE WEAPONS

11.1 No person shall fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order relating to the regulation, direction or control of traffic, or to any other lawful order given by any peace officer, or willfully resist, obstruct or abuse any peace officer or other official in the execution of his or her office.

11.2 No person, except Rangers, other law enforcement officers, the persons identified in Paragraph 11.3(b) and those persons in compliance with state law regarding concealed weapons, shall possess or conceal any weapon or dangerous ordinance while in the Park.

11.3 (a) No person shall release an arrow, or possess a longbow, compound bow, crossbow, slingshot, pellet gun, BB gun, blow gun or possess or discharge any primitive black powder firearm, modern firearm, other weapon, explosive device, or fireworks in any area of the Park.

(b) A person(s) may possess and discharge weapons as permitted below on Park property if:

- (1) such person(s) is hunting and/or trapping within an area designated for such activity by the Executive Director or designee,
- (2) such person(s) possesses a valid Park permit for



hunting and/or trapping issued by the Executive Director or designee or is authorized to hunt under a properly executed hunting lease with the Park District, and

(3) such person(s) possesses all Ohio licenses, permits, and stamps as required under Ohio Division of Wildlife regulations. Only weapons permitted under Ohio Division of Wildlife regulations may be possessed and used on Park property and are subject to specifications according to Board of Park Commissioners authority.

## 12.0 HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING

12.1 No person shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, rob or molest any nest or in any other way molest any bird or animal within the park.

(Exception to Reg. 12.1) Persons may hunt and/or trap on park property if they possess a park permit for hunting and/or trapping issued by the Executive Director or designee. The person(s) must possess a valid Ohio hunting/trapping license and abide by all rules and regulations as set forth by Ohio Division of Wildlife in the publication Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations. Hunting and/or trapping on lands leased to the Park District is permitted if specified in a lease agreement. It will be the responsibility of person(s) hunting and/or trapping to adhere to additional restrictions imposed by Geauga Park District as outlined on park issued permits.

12.2 The Executive Director may cause such Park District waters as he or she deems advisable to be closed to fishing, and shall so post them. In all other Park District waters, fishing shall be permitted subject to the statutes of the State of Ohio and posted regulations of the Park District, except that the use of hooks left unattended, fish traps, spears or gigs, bows and arrows for fishing, the harvesting of mollusks and seining are all prohibited. Fishing shall not be permitted during the hours the Park is closed, except fishing after hours will be permitted at Eldon Russell Park along the Cuyahoga River as long as the person or persons are actively fishing and do not leave the fishing site unattended.

12.3 No person except those exempted by provisions of Section 1533 of the Ohio Revised Code, shall take or catch any fish or engage in fishing of any kind in any waters located within the Park District without a valid State of Ohio Fishing License.

12.4 While on Park Property no persons shall hunt, discharge a firearm or any other weapon at any wildlife species within 200 feet of any road, structure, path, and/or parking lot; or on, across, or from any roadway.

12.5 No one, on property owned or controlled by the Park District, shall purposely prevent or attempt to prevent any person from hunting, trapping or fishing for wild animals as authorized by the Executive Director by any of the following means:

(a) Placing oneself in a location, in which he/she knows or should know that his/her presence may affect the behavior of the animal being hunted, trapped or fished.

(b) Creating a visual, aural, olfactory or physical stimulus intended to affect the behavior of the wild animal being hunted, trapped or fished.

(c) Affecting the condition or location of personal property intended for the use of the hunting, trapping or fishing activity.

(d) Creating noise or loud sounds to interfere with the hunting, trapping or fishing.

12.6 In any park, or any portion of any park, where the Executive Director has authorized individuals to hunt, no other persons shall be permitted within such park, or portion of such park, other than Park District employees and such authorized individuals for so long as the hunting is authorized.

### 13.0 DISORDERLY CONDUCT

13.1 No person shall recklessly cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to another within the Park by doing any of the following:

(a) Engaging in fighting, in threatening harm to persons or property, or in violent or turbulent behavior.

(b) Making unreasonable noise or offensively coarse utterance, gesture or display, or communicate unwarranted and abusive language to any person;

(c) Insulting, taunting or challenging another under circumstances in which such conduct is likely to provoke a violent response;

(d) Hindering or preventing the movement of persons on a public road, right-of-way, trail, bridge, or upon public or private property so as to interfere with the rights of others, and by any act which serves

no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender;

(e) Creating a condition which is visually and/or physically offensive to persons, or which presents a risk of physical harm to persons or property, by any act which serves no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender.

13.2 No person shall loiter in or near a motor vehicle or vehicles, on or about a motorcycle or cycles, or on or about a bicycle or bicycles within the Park.

#### 14.0 INDECENT CONDUCT AND EXPOSURE

14.1 No person shall recklessly do any of the following under which his or her conduct is likely to be viewed as an affront to others:

- (a) Expose his or her private parts or engage in masturbation;
- (b) Engage in sexual conduct;
- (c) Engage in conduct, which to an ordinary observer would appear to be sexual conduct or masturbation.

14.2 No person shall solicit or attempt to solicit another to engage in an act of sex perversion or solicit or ask anyone to commit, perform or engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene, or indecent act or behavior within the Park.

14.3 No loitering is permitted in or near toilet buildings within the Park and no person shall enter or be in any toilet room set apart for the opposite sex except park maintenance employees or Rangers or Law enforcement officers on duty. "Loitering" includes the following activities: lingering, hanging around, delaying, sauntering, and moving slowly about, where such conduct is not due to physical defects or conditions.

#### 15.0 INTOXICANTS AND DRUG ABUSE

15.1 No person shall possess, consume or offer for sale any alcoholic beverage or intoxicating liquor within the Park, except that persons at least 21 years of age may possess or consume an alcoholic beverage or intoxicating liquor only in designated picnic areas.

15.2 No person shall knowingly obtain, possess or use a controlled substance.

15.3 No person shall consume or have in his/her possession an open container of an alcoholic beverage or intoxicating liquor in or on a

vehicle, or those “vehicles” under the definition of vehicle, on boats, horseback or in any type of horse drawn vehicle within the Park.

#### 16.0 TRESPASSING

16.1 No person without privilege to do so shall knowingly enter or remain on the land or premises of another, the use of which is lawfully restricted to certain persons, purposes, modes or hours when the offender knows he/she is in violation of any such restriction or is reckless in that regard.

16.2 No person shall recklessly enter or remain on the land of another or premises of another as to which notice against unauthorized access or presence is given by actual communication to the offender, or in a manner prescribed by law, or by posting in a manner reasonably calculated to come to the attention of potential intruders, or by fencing or other enclosure manifestly designed to restrict access.

16.3 No person or property owner shall construct or place any structure on Park District property without written permission of the Executive Director, nor construct or maintain any trail onto Park District property.

#### 17.0 BOATING AND WATER SAFETY

17.1 No person shall operate any type of boat, except on waterways designated for boating, or in the presence of park employees at park sponsored activities.

17.2 No person shall swim or wade in any Park District waters.

17.3 No person shall permit a child less than 10 years of age to ride in or occupy any watercraft without wearing a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.

17.4 No person shall operate, or permit to be operated, a watercraft on waters within the Park District unless equipped with Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each occupant.

17.5 Watercraft powered by an electric motor is permitted on waterways designated for boating.

17.6 No person shall operate or ride in any watercraft on waters under the control of Geauga Park District unless they are in compliance with the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code Watercraft Regulations (Chapters 1547 and 1548).

17.7 No person, except authorized park staff, at any time shall operate a watercraft at a speed that will create a wake; even when there are no other visitors, fishermen or other vessels in the immediate area.

17.8 No person, except authorized park staff, while boating on Park District waterways shall possess a supply of gasoline fuel onboard their watercraft.

17.9 No person shall operate a watercraft on Park District waterways with a gasoline motor affixed to the vessel regardless of the fact that there may or may not be fuel on board.

#### 18.0 SNOWMOBILES AND A.T.V.'S

18.1 No person shall operate within the Park any type of all terrain vehicle (A.T.V.), snowmobile, dirt bike, go-cart, motorized bicycle or similar device.

#### 19.0 ENGINE POWERED MINIATURE MODELS AND TOYS

19.1 No person shall operate or permit to be operated, any type of combustion engine, battery and/or electric powered miniature model, toy airplane, rocket, model ship, car or truck within any area of the Park.

#### 20.0 OPERATION OF VEHICLES

20.1 No person shall operate a motor vehicle in any portion of the Park except on drives, roadways and parking lots established for such purposes or as directed by Park District officials for purposes of event parking.

20.2 No person shall operate a motor vehicle or non-motor vehicle, including bicycles, in any area of the Park not specifically designed and established for vehicle traffic.

20.3 No person shall operate a vehicle upon or along any Park road, drive, path or trail which has been closed and posted with appropriate signs or barricades.

20.4 No person shall operate a vehicle upon the streets, roads, drives or multi-purpose path within the Park at a speed greater than twenty-five (25) miles per hour or at a speed greater than will permit him or her to bring the vehicle to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead, except that in any picnic area or playground area, or upon any

causeway, no person shall operate a vehicle at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour.

20.5 No person shall operate a vehicle within the Park in a reckless manner or in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

20.6 No vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade, if such vehicle cannot be seen within five hundred (500) feet by the driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction.

20.7 No person operating a vehicle shall start, back or change from a direct course upon a roadway until such person has given a clear and discernible signal before exercising such movement and having first ascertained that such movement can be made with safety.

20.8 The operator of a vehicle shall stop at all posted stop signs and shall yield the right of way to all other vehicles at such signs.

20.9 No person operating a vehicle shall fail to yield the right of way at an intersection at which one or more drives meet but do not cross. The operator of a vehicle traveling on the dead end road or drive shall stop and yield the right of way to any vehicle traveling on the road or drive which crosses the intersection within the Park.

20.10 No person shall operate a vehicle upon any road, drive or trail within any part of the Park during the period from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise unless the vehicle is properly equipped as required by the Ohio Revised Code requirements for lights and illuminating devices, and equipment for bicycles (Sections 4511.56 and 4513.03 through 4513.37).

20.11 No person shall operate any vehicle with an internal combustion engine unless such vehicle is equipped with a muffler in good working condition.

20.12 No person shall drive or move any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in an unsafe condition so as to endanger any person within the Park. This includes the provisions of Sections 4513.01 to 4513.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.

20.13 No person shall use or shine spotlights, or unnecessarily or continuously shine automobile headlights onto Park land, except under the direction of a Park Ranger or Park employee, or except where necessary for the preservation of life or property.

20.14 No person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle or motorcycle, shall operate, cause or permit such motor vehicle to be operated, unless the vehicle display license plates legally issued for the current year are securely fastened to the vehicle.

20.15 No person shall accelerate the engine of a vehicle in such a way that by doing so causes the wheels of such vehicle to spin and deface the surface of roadways, drives, parking areas, lawns or any natural areas.

20.16 No person shall ride on the outside of any motor vehicle that is not designed for purposes of carrying passengers on the outside.

20.17 No person shall park any motor vehicle, horse drawn vehicle, wagon, or any other type of vehicle within any traveled roadway in the Park or at any location where posted signs prohibit parking or upon any grass or gravel area or other surface that is not a parking area except in an emergency situation or when directed to do so by a person authorized to direct traffic.

20.18 No person shall operate a bicycle within the Park unless they are in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code rules for bicycles (Section 4511.53) and equipment of bicycles (Section 4511.56).

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Notice published as required by the Ohio Revised Code in Geauga County Maple Leaf, June 28, 2007.

Available for public inspection or copy at the Park Office, Geauga Park District, 9160 Robinson Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024, or on the web at [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org).