

**ROWAN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
REGULATIONS  
REVISED August 2024**

**Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of Rowan County that the following regulations shall govern the use and operations of Rowan County Parks and Recreation Centers**

**ROWAN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION REGULATIONS**

**DEFINITIONS**

**Regulation No. 1: DEFINITION OF TERMS.** Whenever used in any Rowan County Park or Recreation Center Regulation, the following respective terms, unless otherwise therein expressly defined, shall mean and include each of the meanings herein respectively set forth.

- a) **“Park”:** The term park or parks, unless specifically limited, shall be deemed to include all designated parks, parkways, sites, and other recreational areas under the jurisdiction of the Rowan County Parks & Recreation Commission.
- b) **“Department”:** The Department of Rowan County Parks & Recreation
- c) **“Regulation”:** Any regulation duly adopted by the Rowan County Parks & Recreation Commission and posted as a Rowan County Parks & Recreation Regulation
- d) **“Owner”:** Any person, firm, association, co-partnership or corporation, owning, leasing, operating, or having the exclusive use of a vehicle, animal, or any other property under a lease or otherwise.
- e) **“Bridle Path or Trail”:** Any path or trail maintained for pedestrians.
- f) **“Foot Path or Trail”:** Any path or trail maintained for pedestrians.
- g) **“Permits”:** Any written license issued by or under authority of the Department, permitting the performance of a specified act or acts.
- h) **“Person”:** Any natural person, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, firm or co-partnership.
- i) **“Bathing Area”:** Any water area designated by the Department as a bathing area.

j) **“Unnecessary Stopping”:** Bringing a vehicle to a complete stop at a point other than in a parking place, or other than in conformity with traffic regulations and other than because of a defect in said vehicle.

## **CONSTRUCTION AND SCOPE OF REGULATIONS**

**Regulation No. 2:** **CONSTRUCTION.** In the interpretation of Rowan County Parks Regulations, their provisions shall be construed as follows: (1) Any terms in the singular shall include the plural: (2) any term in the masculine shall include the feminine and the neuter: (3) Any requirement or prohibition of any act shall, respectively, extend to and include the causing or procuring, directly or indirectly, of such act: (4) No provision hereof shall make unlawful any act necessarily performed by an officer or employee of the Department in line of duty or work as such, or by any person, their agents or employees, in the proper and necessary execution of the terms of any agreement with the Department: (5) Any act otherwise prohibited by law or local ordinance, shall be lawful if performed under, by virtue of and strictly within the provision of a permit so to do, and to the extent authorized thereby; and (6) These regulations are in addition to and supplement the State Vehicle and Traffic Laws which are in force in all parks and which are incorporated herein and made a part hereof.

**Regulation No. 3:** **TERRITORIAL SCOPE.** All Rowan County Parks Regulations shall be effective within and upon all County Parks, sites and other recreational areas in the County Parks and shall regulate the use thereof by all persons.

## **PERMITS**

**Regulation No. 4:** **PERMITS.** A permit to do any act shall authorize the same only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. Any constitute grounds for its revocation by the Department, or by its authorized representative, whose action therein shall be final. In case of revocation of any permit, all moneys paid for or on account thereof shall, at the option of the Department, be forfeited to and be retained by it; and the holder of such permit, together with his agents and employees who violated such terms and conditions, shall be jointly and severally liable to the Department by neither such forfeiture and retention by the Department of the whole or any part of such moneys nor the recovery or collection, thereby of such damages, or both, shall in any manner relieve such person or person from liability to punishment for any violation of any provision of any Rowan County Parks Regulation.

## **PRESERVATION OF THE PARK**

**Regulation No. 5: FLOWERS, PLANTS, MINERALS, ETC.** No person shall remove, destroy, cut down, scar, mutilate, injure, take, or gather in any manner any tree, flower, fern, shrub, rock or other plant or mineral in any park.

**Regulation No. 6: BUILDINGS, SIGNS, STRUCTURES, ETC.** No person shall in any manner injure, deface, disturb, destroy, or disfigure any part of any park, nor any building, sign, equipment, or other property found therein.

## **BATHING, SWIMMING, WATER RECREATION**

**Regulation No. 7: BATHING/SWIMMING, WATER RECREATION WHERE PERMITTED.** No Person shall bathe, wade or swim in any water in any park except at such times and in such places as the department may designate. To observe and follow all posted rules and regulations in designated areas.

**Regulation No. 8: DRESSING AND UNDRESSING.** Proper bathing attire is required. If in question, Park Security/Management will determine suitable decency. No person shall dress or undress in any place in any park, except in such bathhouses or restrooms as may be maintained by the Department.

**Regulation No. 9: PROTECTION OF BATHING AND SPLASH PAD AREAS.** No person shall throw, cast, lay or deposit any glass, or any part thereof, or any metallic substance on any bathing area in or adjoining any park.

## **TRASH AND GARBAGE**

**Regulation No. 10: DISPOSAL OF TRASH, GARBAGE, ETC.** No person shall deposit in any part of any park any garbage, sewerage, trash, waste, litter, obnoxious material, except in containers designated for such purposes.

**Regulation No. 11: POLLUTION OF WATERS.** No person shall place in streams, lakes, or other waters of the park or in any storm sewer or drain flowing into said waters, any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid which may or shall result in the pollution of said waters.

**Regulation No. 12: BALLOON RELEASES.** No balloon releases will be allowed under any circumstances.

## **TRAFFIC AND PARKING**

**Regulation No. 13: VEHICLES, WHERE PROHIBITED.** No person shall drive a vehicle in any park within or upon a safety zone, walk, bridle path, fire truck trail, service road or any part of any park not designated or customarily used for such purpose.

**Regulation No. 14: PARKING.** No owner or driver shall cause or permit a vehicle to stand anywhere in any park outside of designated parking spaces, except a reasonable time in a drive to receive or discharge passengers.

**Regulation No. 15: OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC.** No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to obstruct traffic by unnecessary stopping.

**Regulation No. 16: SPEED LIMIT.** Posted speed limit will be enforced.

**Regulation No. 17: EXCESSIVE LOADS.** No Person shall operate an excessively loaded vehicle anywhere in any park. The determination as whether a load is excessive will be made by the Park Staff/Security and will be based upon the load and the condition of the road.

## **DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS**

**Regulation No. 18: ANIMALS AT LARGE.** No person shall cause or permit any animal owned by them, in their custody, or under their control, except a dog restrained by a visible leash not exceeding six feet in length, to enter any park, and each such animal found at large may be seized and disposed of as provided by the law or ordinance covering disposal of stray animals on highways or public property then in effect at the place when such stray animals may be seized. Animals shall not be allowed in bathing area under any circumstances. Animals and their handlers will be asked to leave the park if aggressive behavior is observed. Special approval when there is an event by park staff will be considered for all other animals. Animals will not be allowed on attractions or inside buildings unless the animal is a "Service Animal" that's individually trained to perform tasks or do work for the benefit of a person with a disability. Park staff has the right to ask whether an animal is a "service animal" and what task the animal is specifically trained to perform. Park staff may refuse access to attractions and inside buildings for "emotional support animals".

## **BOATING**

**Regulation No. 19: BOATING.** Boating of any kind in a water area is prohibited except such boating as is necessary to keep such areas properly protected and policed. No person shall use privately owned boats or canoes on any park waters without staff approval.

## **CAMPING**

**Regulation No. 20: CAMPING.** No camp shall be maintained in any park except under approved registrations, and at such places and for such periods as may be designated.

## **SPORTS AND GAMES**

**Regulation No. 21: SPORTS AND GAMES AND ATHLETIC CONTESTS** shall be allowed except in such places as may be designated therefore.

**Regulation No. 22: HORSES** are prohibited at all parks except for Ellis Park's Equestrian Event Center. No person shall use, ride, or drive a horse except to, from, or along a bridle path or other designated area.

## **HUNTING AND FISHING**

**Regulation No. 23: HUNTING.** No person within the confines of any park, shall hunt, pursue, trap, shoot, injure, kill, or molest in any way any bird or animals, nor shall any person have any wild bird or animal in their possession within any park.

**Regulation No. 24: FISHING.** No person shall fish in any waters of any park except under permit and at such times and at such places as may be designated by the Department and all State fishing laws and regulations must be complied with.

## **FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, FIREST, ETC.**

**Regulation No. 25: FIREARMS.** Concealed weapons are allowed pursuant to NCGS 14-54B. No person except employees or officers of the County Parks shall carry or possess paintball/pellet/air guns within any park.

**Regulation No. 26: EXPLOSIVES/FIREWORKS.** No person shall bring into or have in any park any explosive/fireworks or explosive substance.

**Regulation No. 27: FIRES, BURNING OBJECTS, ETC.** No person shall kindle, build, maintain, or use a fire other than in places provided or designated for such purposes except by special permit. Any fire shall be continuously under the care and direction of a competent person over sixteen years of age from the time it is kindled until it is extinguished. No person within the confines of any park shall throw away or discard any lighted match, or other burning object. Any lighted match or other burning object must be entirely extinguished before being thrown away or discarded.

**Regulation No. 28: SMOKING.** No person shall smoke in any structure or place in any park where smoking is prohibited. Tobacco, including vapes and e-cigarettes, is prohibited in all County parks.

## **DISORDERLY CONDUCT, PUBLIC NUISANCE, ETC.**

**Regulation No. 29: DISORDERLY CONDUCT PROHIBITED.** No person shall disobey a lawful order of a Rowan County Park Staff/Security/Rowan County Sheriff's Department; nor commit a nuisance; no use abusive profane, or insulting language; nor unreasonably disturb or annoy others; be under the influence of intoxicants; do any act tending to or amounting to a breach of the peace nor conduct himself/herself in any disorderly manner whatsoever.

**Regulation No. 30: GAMBLING.** Gambling in any park is prohibited and no person shall bring into the park or have in his possession while there, any implement or device commonly used, or intended for gambling purposes.

**Regulation No. 31: INTOXICATING LIQUORS OR BEVERAGES.** The sale, possession and/or consumption of any alcoholic beverage on property owned, leased, or occupied by the county is prohibited.

**Regulation No. 32: REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS.** Registered sex offenders prohibited from entering Rowan County Parks, recreation area, fairgrounds and public libraries. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definition shall apply. (1) Registered sex offender - An individual who is registered by a state or federal agency as a sex offender and whose name is published on any state or federal registered sex offender listing. Including, but not limited to, the sex offender registry established in Chapter 14, Article 27.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes. (2) Rowan County parks, recreation areas, fairgrounds, public libraries. Any county owned, leased, operated or maintained land which is designated by the County of Rowan as a park, recreation facility, fairground, or library and any parks, recreation facilities, fairgrounds, or libraries in the unincorporated areas of Rowan County and designated by resolution by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners with support and approval of the Rowan County Sheriff. (b) No registered sex offender shall enter into or upon any Rowan County parks, recreation area, fairgrounds, or public libraries operated by County of Rowan. Each entry into such areas, regardless of the time period between such entries, shall constitute a separate offense under this section. An exception is provided when such facility, if used as a polling place for an election, the registered sex offender may enter for the limited purpose of voting if he/she qualifies to do so at the polling place. (c) This section shall be forced by the Rowan County Sheriff's Department or other law enforcement agency with jurisdiction pursuant to any mutual aid agreement then in place providing for such enforcement responsibility. (d) Anyone who is found in violation of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per offense and/or thirty (30) days in jail as set forth in G. S. 14-4, or as such statute may be amended from time to time. (e) The county manager or his designee shall post this regulation at the main entrance of each park, recreation area, fairground, and public library within thirty (30) days of passage of this section.

## **COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, ADVERTISING, MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS, ETC.**

**Regulation No. 33: COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES.** No person shall, in any park, without a permit, sell or offer for sale, hire, lease or let out, any object or merchandise, property, privilege, service or any other thing, or engage in any business or erect any building, booth, tent, stall or any other structure whatsoever. No person to whom property of any park has been entrusted for personal use shall hire, lease, let out, and sell, the same to any other person. Special considerations will be reviewed by the Rowan County Parks and Recreation Commission on an as needed basis.

**Regulation No. 34: PHOTOGRAPHY.** No person shall, without prior approval, take photographs or video within the limits of any park for the purpose of selling the photographs or videos.

**Regulation No. 35: COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.** No person shall operate a commercial vehicle designed or used for the transportation of passengers or property within any park without prior approval.

**Regulation No. 36: ADVERTISING.** No sign, notice, or advertisements of any nature shall be erected or posted at any place within any park without permission in writing from the Park Staff.

**Regulation No. 37: MEETINGS AND EXHIBITIONS.** No person/group shall conduct meetings or exhibitions in any park, nor solicit contributions for any purpose. Prior approval by Park Staff required.

## **AVIATION**

**Regulation No. 38: AVIATION.** No person/group shall voluntarily bring land or cause to decent or alight within or upon any park, any airplane, drone, flying machine, balloon, parachute, or other apparatus for aviation except with prior approval. Voluntarily in this connection shall mean anything other than a forced landing.

**Regulation No. 39: EXCESSIVE NOISE.** Unacceptable noise will not be tolerated as determined by Park Staff.

**Regulation No. 40: GENERATOR REGULATION.** No gas powered generators/inverters can be used in the park, unless otherwise given permission during special events.

**Regulation No. 41: REMOTE CONTROL AIRPLAINES/HELICOPTERS/BOATS/CARS/MODEL ROCKETS.** All said event or individuals must have approval and have a current Aero Modelers Association liability insurance. No remote-control boats are allowed on lakes unless with Park Staff approval. Remote

control boats, model rockets, and remote-control cars are prohibited unless with Park Staff approval.

**Regulation No. 42: BATTERY OPERATED CARS/TOYS.** Battery operated cars/toys are not allowed unless prior approval from Park Staff.

**Regulation No. 43: ROLLER BLADES, ROLLER SKATES, SKATEBOARDS, GO CARTS, GOLF CARTS, PUSH OR POWERED SCOOTERS** are not permitted unless in an approved area and allowed or permitted.

**Regulation No. 44: Bicycles.** Under the age of 16 must wear state approved head gear. No riding bicycles after dark.

**Regulation No. 45: CORPORATE EVENT.** Must have minimum of one-million-dollar insurance naming Rowan County additional insure for said date. Coverage for rides, games, inflatables, rental equipment, any addition activity.

**Regulation No 46: MINORS.** No parent, guardian or custodian of any minor shall permit or allow him/her to do any action prohibited by any Rowan County Park and Recreation Center Regulation.

#### **HOURS**

**Regulation No 47: CLOSING AND OPENING HOURS.** No person except employees or officers of the Department shall be allowed within the park between the hours of 10 P.M. and 6 A.M. except under permit.