

RESOLUTION AMENDING WORCESTER COUNTY PARKS REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, Subsection CG 4-404(c) of the County Government Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland authorizes the County Commissioners of Worcester County to adopt additional rules, regulations, hours of operation, limitations of uses or other standards with regard to the use of County-owned property, in addition to the requirements of said section; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland adopted Park Regulations on May 17, 2005 by the passage of Resolution No. 05-16 which apply in all parks and facilities overseen by the Worcester County Recreation & Parks Department to ensure the continued use and enjoyment of County Parks by the residents and visitors of Worcester County; and

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the staff of the Worcester County Department of Recreation & Parks, the County Commissioners have determined that it is in the best interests of the health and safety of the citizens who utilize Worcester County's Recreation and Park facilities to adopt a Tobacco-Free Policy for these facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland that the Park Regulations for all parks and facilities in Worcester County overseen by the Worcester County Recreation & Parks Department as referenced in Resolution No. 05-16 are hereby repealed and re-enacted to read as follows:

**Worcester County Recreation & Parks Department
Park Regulations**

Applicability

All parks and facilities overseen by the Worcester County Recreation & Parks Department ("Department") including, but not limited to: Greys Creek Nature Park, Bishopville Park, Whaleyville Park, Showell Park, Isle of Wight Nature Park, Herring Creek Nature Park, Homer Gudelsky Park, Northern Worcester Athletic Complex, Newark Park, John Walter Smith Park, Worcester County Recreation Center, Stockton Park, Girdletree Park, Newtown Park, Public Landing Beach and Warrior Courts.

Regulations

1. Hours of Operation – No unauthorized person or vehicle may enter or remain in a park or portion thereof from sunset to sunrise or at any time prohibited by posted hours of operation unless participating in a County approved program, tournament or field rental, or posted otherwise.
2. Closing of Parks – The Department may close or reserve any park, portion thereof, or park amenity when deemed necessary for public safety and health, for protection of the parks' grounds, for fire hazards, for

construction and maintenance, for park operations, for parks environment protection, or for scheduled Recreation & Parks programs, events or tournaments.

3. Closed Parks – It is prohibited to enter upon or into any county-owned land or facility at any time when the land or facility is closed to the general public unless specifically authorized by the County Commissioners.
4. Alcoholic Beverages – Possession of alcoholic beverages in parks is prohibited.
5. Under the Influence – No person under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs will be permitted in any County park.
6. Tobacco-Free Policy – A person may not use any form of tobacco, as hereinafter defined, in a restroom, at a spectator area, concession area, or playground in any Worcester County park or recreation facility. Furthermore, a person may not use any form of tobacco, as hereinafter defined, while on Worcester County Park property, within 100 yards of an organized activity at a Worcester County park. “Tobacco” includes but is not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, spit tobacco, vapes or any other form of tobacco usage.
7. Use – Park property and recreation and park programs are open to use for all members of the public, regardless of race, sex, national origin, color or creed. The Department reserves the right to designate spaces for specific uses and or intended purposes such as softball only, soccer only, etc. Use of County owned sporting equipment or property (such as sporting goals, nets, etc.) are limited to County programs, tournaments, or field rentals.
8. Interference with County Recreational Activities – It is prohibited for any person to interfere with, disrupt or disturb any recreational activity duly authorized by the Worcester County Recreation & Parks Department, whether such interference, disruption or disturbance is caused by the action of the individual, inaction of the individual or by words, gestures or other means.
9. Rules and Regulations Regarding – The County Commissioners may, by resolution, adopt additional rules, regulations, hours of operation, limitation of uses or other standards regarding the use of county-owned property. Such rules or regulations may not contravene the purposes of this section but shall be in addition to the requirements of this section.
10. Advertising – A person may not erect or post any sign, notice or literature in a park or facility nor use any loudspeaker or public address system without first obtaining permission from the Department.
11. Camping – It is prohibited to camp on, tent on, sleep on or inhabit any roadside of any county road or along any county roadside, within the right-of-way of the road or in any county recreational park or in, on or adjacent to any county landing or any other county-owned property unless specifically authorized by law or resolution of the County Commissioners.
12. Weapons & Firearms – No person, other than a law enforcement officer or otherwise authorized officer, shall carry, possess or discharge a firearm or weapon of any kind on park property.
13. Fires – No person shall build or cause to be built or set any fire except within established barbecue grills. No person shall leave any fire, and all such fires shall be thoroughly extinguished prior to leaving the site.

14. Disturbing the Peace – No one may disturb the peace at any of the County parks.
15. Commercial Activities – Peddling, soliciting or conducting of any service, business, trade or occupation, including the taking of photographs and motion pictures for commercial use is prohibited except by permission from the Department. A person may not utilize park property or any portion thereof for conducting private instruction or lessons unless otherwise approved by the Recreation & Parks Department.
16. Aeronautical Activities – Powered model airplanes, rockets, or drones may not be flown over or launched from any park. Airplanes, helium hot air balloons larger than 12” in diameter, hang gliders, parachutes, ultra-light planes, or any other person-operated aircraft shall not be flown or launched from park property.
17. Automobiles – A person may not wash, repair or perform other work on any personal automobile on park property except in the case of emergency. No overnight parking of automobiles, tractor trailers, mobile homes, etc. Violators will be towed at owners’ expense.
18. Animals – Dogs are required to be on a leash at all times on County Park property. In all leash areas, the person in control of the dog on a leash shall remove all excrement deposited by the dog on property other than property of the owner or property of the person in control of the dog and dispose of such excrement in a legal and proper way.
19. Fishing – Fishing is permitted only in compliance with State law and posted rules.
20. Flora and Fauna – Unless authorized by law, a person may not catch, molest or kill any wildlife or disturb any nest, burrow or den of any animal or fowl. A person may not injure, remove or destroy any flora. Planting of vegetation and/or digging into the surface or park property are prohibited except by permission of the Department.
21. Gambling – Gambling, gaming, wheels of fortune or other games of chance are prohibited except by permission of the Department.
22. Hunting – Hunting or trapping is prohibited on park property except for animal control purposes or except as permitted by the Department.
23. Golf – The hitting of golf balls is prohibited on County Park property.
24. Metal Detectors – The use of metal detectors is prohibited on County Park property.
25. Littering – No person shall discard, deposit, dump, or allow to blow away refuse of any kind in or upon park property, except by placing such refuse in a container provided for such purpose. No household trash is to be discarded in a County Park.
26. Trees – No person may cut, saw, or injure any live or dead trees or part thereof with any type of equipment, power or otherwise, on park property, or remove any live or dead trees from park property, except by permission of the Department.

27. Swimming – Swimming is prohibited at County Parks, unless posted otherwise.
28. Trespassing – It is prohibited to enter upon or into any county-owned land or facility at any time when the land or facility is closed to the general public unless specifically authorized by the County Commissioners.
29. Traffic and Parking – No person shall operate any motorized vehicle on park property other than on a road or street to which public access has not been prohibited. No off-road vehicles such as all terrain four-wheels, unlicensed motorcycle, snowmobile or golf cart, etc. will be allowed on County Property. Violators will be prosecuted. Buses, trucks and commercial vehicles with commercial marking or tools of trade, with the exception of taxi cabs and tool trucks on service calls to disabled vehicles, shall not be operated on park property unless permission has first been obtained from the Department. User is responsible for informing participants of parking regulations.
30. Paths and Trails – Only pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles may use those paths and trails designated by the Department as footpaths, nature trails, or bicycle trails. Horses, horse-drawn vehicles and motor vehicles shall be prohibited.
31. Violations – Any person who violates any rules or regulations adopted by the County Commissioners pursuant hereto shall be guilty of a civil infraction.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

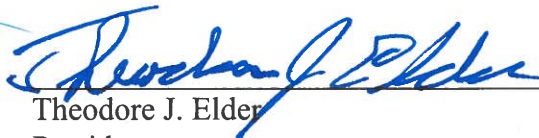
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of September, 2026.

Attest:

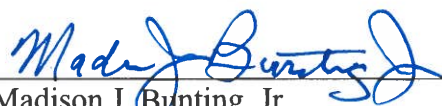
Worcester County Commissioners



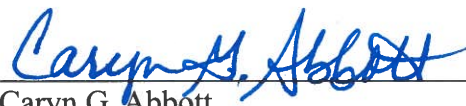
Weston S. Young
Chief Administrative Officer



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Madison J. Bunting, Jr.
Vice President



Caryn G. Abbott
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Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
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