

PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS – COUNTY CODE ARTICLE 14

§ 14-1-101. Definitions.

In this article, the following words have the meanings indicated.

- (1) "Bicycle" means a bicycle as defined in the Transportation Article, § 11-104, of the State Code.
 - (2) "Department" means the Department of Recreation and Parks.
 - (3) "Director" means the Director of Recreation and Parks or the Director's designee.
 - (4) "Park" means a park, reservation, playground, recreation center, or other lot in the County owned, operated, or established by the County and devoted to recreation or a similar purpose.
 - (5) "Play vehicle" means a play vehicle as defined in the Transportation Article, § 21-101, of the State Code.
- (1985 Code, Art. 19, § 1-101)

§ 14-1-102. Rules and regulations.

- (a) **Adoption.** To provide for the safe and enjoyable use by citizens of parks and recreation areas owned or leased by the County or operated in a degree by the Department and to provide for safe and enjoyable participation in athletic and recreational activities supervised by the Department, the Director may adopt rules and regulations on the following subjects:
 - (1) use by the public of County-owned or leased parks and recreation areas;
 - (2) public participation, player conduct, eligibility, and the playing of organized athletics under the Department's jurisdiction; and
 - (3) other subjects that will permit the efficient implementation, administration, and operation of athletic programs and recreational uses.
 - (b) **Submission of proposed rule or regulation.** Before the adoption of a rule or regulation, the Director shall submit the proposed rule or regulation to the Recreation Advisory Board for review. After review, the Board shall advise the Director of its recommendations with respect to the rule or regulation.
 - (c) **Publication.** Except as provided in subsection (d), after adoption of a rule or regulation that applies to each park in the County but before the rule or regulation becomes effective, the Director shall cause a copy of the rule or regulation to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County at least once a week for two consecutive weeks, shall send copies of the rule or regulation to the Police Department and the Chief Clerk of the District Court for Anne Arundel County, and whenever possible shall give other publicity to the rule, regulation, order, or directive to bring it to the attention of the public.
 - (d) **Immediate effective dates.** On a determination of immediate need, the Director may adopt rules and regulations that will become effective immediately.
 - (e) **Public records.** The Director shall keep a record of the rules, regulations, orders, and directives issued, and the record shall be open to public inspection at reasonable times. A copy of rules and regulations shall be made available to the public on request and be conspicuously posted in each park whenever practical.
 - (f) **Violation of rules or regulations.** A person may not violate a rule or regulation adopted by the Director in accordance with this section.
- (1985 Code, Art. 19, § 1-102)

§ 14-1-103. Operating hours.

- (a) **Generally.** Parks generally shall be open to the public between sunrise and sunset of each day unless different hours are established by the Director and the hours are posted at the affected parks.

(b) **Closing parks to the public.** A park or section of a park may be declared closed to the public by the Director whenever the Director determines that the closing is necessary because of park conditions, weather, or for another reason that is in the public interest.

(c) **Trespass in closed parks.** A person other than an authorized County employee may not be in a park or a section of a park while it is closed to the public.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 1-103)

§ 14-1-104. Fees.

With the advice of the Recreation Advisory Board, the Director may establish fees for participation in recreation programs.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 1-104)

§ 14-2-101. Alcoholic beverages.

A person may not drink or possess alcoholic beverages in a park unless as part of a group having permission for exclusive use of the park.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-101)

§ 14-2-102. Camping.

(a) **Permit.** A person may not camp in a park in other than a designated area and without a permit issued by the Director.

(b) **Sanitation.** Campers shall keep camping areas clean. Garbage, refuse, and rubbish shall be placed in receptacles provided for that purpose.

(c) **Installation of permanent facilities prohibited.** A person may not install permanent camping facilities or dig or level the ground at a campsite in a park.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-102)

§ 14-2-103. Deprivation of use and enjoyment.

A person may not deprive others of reasonable use and enjoyment of a park by indulging in riotous, boisterous, threatening, or indecent conduct or abusive, threatening, profane, or indecent language.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-103)

§ 14-2-104. Destruction of property.

(a) **Applicability.** This subsection does not apply to construction projects or maintenance performed on park land or structures.

(b) **Prohibitions.** A person may not:

- (1) tamper with, mar, deface, remove, or destroy an official sign;
- (2) damage, use without authority, or remove an installation, fixture, equipment, or vehicle in or from the park;
- (3) cut, pull up, burn, carve, or in any manner mutilate, misuse, or damage any tree, shrub, plant, grass, or flower on park grounds; or
- (4) intentionally destroy, injure, deface, remove, or disturb soil, rocks, or mineral formations unless incidental to a permitted activity.

(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-104)

§ 14-2-105. Fires.

(a) **Prohibitions.** A person may not:

- (1) build a fire in a park except in a fireplace or other facility constructed for a fire; or
- (2) use a charcoal grill or a gasoline or gas stove without written permission from the Director.

(b) **Additional regulations relating to fire hazards.** Smoking or the building of fires may be prohibited in parks or limited by the Director whenever in the Director's judgment a potential fire hazard exists.

(c) **Liability for damages.** A person who builds a fire in a park except in a fireplace or other facility constructed for a fire is responsible for damage and expense caused by carelessness.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-105)

§ 14-2-106. Fireworks, firearms, explosives.

A person may not discharge fireworks, firearms, or explosives in a park without written permission from the Director and the other necessary permits.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-106)

§ 14-2-107. Horses.

A person may not ride, walk, or otherwise have a horse on park grounds except on bridle paths designated for that purpose by the Director.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-107)

§ 14-2-108. Litter.

A person may not dump refuse, garbage, or rubbish anywhere on park grounds except in designated receptacles, or bring garbage, refuse, or rubbish into a park and deposit it in park trash receptacles.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-108)

§ 14-2-109. Meetings.

(a) **Restriction.** A person may not hold a meeting in a park if the meeting will deprive the public of the reasonable use and enjoyment of the park or interfere with the public's right of free passage in the park.

(b) **Written permission required.** A person may not hold an organized gathering of 40 or more individuals in a park without written permission from the Director.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-109)

§ 14-2-110. Model airplanes, rockets, and the like.

A person may not launch or fly a power model airplane, rocket, or similar device from a park area without written permission from the Director.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-110)

§ 14-2-111. Picnics.

A person may not picnic in a park in other than a designated area without written permission from the Director.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-111)

§ 14-2-112. Profit-making activities.

A person may not utilize a tennis court, basketball court, athletic field, or other activity area in a park for conducting private instruction or lessons for which a fee is charged unless the program is conducted or sponsored by the Department.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-112)

§ 14-2-113. Selling.

A person may not sell anything in a park without written permission from the Director.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-113)

§ 14-2-114. Sound amplification equipment.

A person may not use sound amplification equipment in a park without written permission from the Director.
(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-114)

§ 14-2-115. Traffic.

(a) **Speed limit.** A person may not operate a motor vehicle, bicycle, minibike, play vehicle, or unicycle in a park at a speed in excess of 10 miles per hour unless permitted by posted official notice. The Director shall conspicuously post speed limits in all parks.

(b) **Trucks and commercial vehicles.** A person may not operate a truck or commercial vehicle, other than one owned or operated by the County or used by a person, team, or organization to transport persons participating in athletic or recreational activities in a park, on park premises without written permission from the Director.

(c) **Operation and obstructions generally.** A person may not obstruct a park entrance with a motor vehicle, bicycle, minibike, play vehicle, or unicycle. A person may not operate or stop a motor vehicle, bicycle, minibike, play vehicle, or unicycle in a park area, except on a paved road, without written permission from the Director.

(d) **Overnight parking.** A person may not park a motor vehicle in a park overnight. This subsection does not apply to County-owned, County-operated, or official vehicles.

(e) **Designated parking.** A person shall park a motor vehicle in a park only in designated parking areas.

(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-115)

State Code reference – Transportation Article, § 25-102(a)(5).

§ 14-2-116. Vehicle repairs.

Except in an emergency, a person may not lubricate, repair, or perform mechanical work on a vehicle in a park.

(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-116)

§ 14-2-117. Wild animals.

A person may not capture, confine, injure, destroy, or interfere with a wild animal in a park.

(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-117)

§ 14-3-101. Enforcement.

In addition to other enforcement measures allowed by this Code, the Director, for a period of time determined by the Director, may declare a person who violates any provision of this article to be ineligible to participate in County athletic programs or may ban the violator from County owned, leased, or operated facilities.

(1985 Code, Art. 19, § 2-301)