

CODE  
OF  
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT



Department of  
RECREATION AND PARKS

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### **Sec. 1-1. Definitions.**

For the purpose of these rules, the following terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning given herein:

- a. "Director" is the Director of Recreation and Parks of the City.
- b. "Park" is a City owned park, playground, beach, boating facility, recreation place or facility, open space or any other area, place, building or structure in the City owned or used by the City and devoted to active or passive recreation.
- c. "Person" may be extended to mean any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
- d. "Public" means City owned as opposed to privately owned.
- e. "City" is the City of Norwalk, Connecticut.
- f. "Committee" means Recreation and Parks Committee of the Common Council.
- g. "Council" means the Common Council of the City of Norwalk.
- h. "By-laws" are the rules and policies, regulating all parks, but in no way changing the restrictions placed upon the parks' use as specified in deed and Special Laws.

### **Sec. 1-2. Park Property.**

1. No person shall willfully mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with, or displace or move any building or structure or any part or parts thereof or the equipment or furnishings thereof, bridges, tables, benches, fireplaces, railings, paving or paving material, water lines, or other public utilities or parts or appurtenances thereof, signs, notices, stakes, posts, boundary markers, fences, or other structures or equipment, facilities or City or park property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal.
2. No person shall dig or remove sand, soil, rock, stones, trees, shrubs, plants, grass, down timber or other wood or materials or make any excavation by tool, equipment or other means or agency.
3. No person shall damage, cut, carve, transplant, or remove any grass, plant or tree or injure the bark thereof, or pick the flowers or seeds of any grass, plant or tree, nor shall any person attach any rope, wire or other contrivance to any tree or plant. No person shall dig in or otherwise injure or impair the natural beauty or usefulness of any area.
4. No person shall climb, walk, stand, or sit upon any tree, monument, fountain, railing, fence or any other equipment, furnishings, or structure in a park not designed or customarily used for such purposes.
5. Nothing herein shall prevent the Director or authorized agents from carrying out proper maintenance of park or constructing facilities and improvements as authorized by responsible City agencies.

### **Sec. 1-3. Wildlife.**

1. No person shall hunt, molest, harm, frighten, kill, trap, chase, tease, shoot, or throw missiles at any animal, reptile, or bird nor shall he remove, collect, or have in his possession the young of any wild animal or the eggs or nest of any reptile or bird.

2. No person shall give or offer, or attempt to give any animal, reptile or bird, any poison or other known noxious substance.
3. Fishing shall be permitted with proper licenses, only in those waters designed by the Director or authorized agents. The use of nets or seines is expressly prohibited.
4. No person shall hunt, trap, or pursue at any time, and no person shall use, carry, or possess firearms (other than by firearms permit), air rifles, spring guns, bows and arrows, slings, or any kind of trapping device, or any other weapons or explosives potentially inimical to wildlife and dangerous to human safety.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 4 (above), a person possessing a valid hunting license and a valid waterfowl stamp may, during the waterfowl hunting season, transport an unloaded shotgun (with the action open), across Veteran's Park, Calf Pasture Beach, or Shady beach from the parking area or entrance to the nearest hunting area by the most expeditious route.

#### Sec. 1-4. Pets.

1. No owner, keeper or person having charge of a dog or other animal shall permit or allow or be responsible for permitting or allowing such dog or animal to run loose or to roam at large at any time upon any park or to injure, chase, harass, or otherwise disturb any person or any species of wildlife. Nothing herein shall prevent the Director from prohibiting dogs or other animals from specific parks, recreational places or facilities, buildings or structures or any part thereof. No pet shall be allowed on the beach except seeing-eye dogs. The owner shall be responsible for the cleaning up and proper disposal of petwaste matter of his pet with the exception of designated bridle paths.

#### Sec. 1-5. Picnicking and Camping.

1. No person shall picnic or lunch in any area prohibited for the purpose, nor shall he fail to obey directions of the Director or authorized agent when issued to prevent congestion and secure maximum use of such areas.
2. No person shall use any portion of the picnic areas or any building or structure therein for the purpose of picnicking to the exclusion of other persons, nor shall any person use such area and facilities for an unreasonable time if facilities are crowded, except as expressly permitted by the Director or authorized agent.
3. No person shall leave a picnic area before any fire lighted or used by him is completely and properly extinguished.
4. No person shall camp or erect a tent in areas other than those designated for camping and unless a special permit has been obtained from the Director or authorized agent.

#### Sec. 1-6. Sanitation.

1. All persons shall use only such restrooms as provided in a park and shall cooperate in maintaining restrooms in a neat and sanitary condition.
2. No person shall dress or undress in any portion of the park except in buildings or areas designated for such purposes.
3. No person in any public park shall throw, discharge or otherwise place or cause to be placed in the waters or adjacent to any park or any tributary stream, stormwater or drain flowing into such water, any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which will or may result in the pollution of said waters. (Sec.74-32, Code of the City of Norwalk).
4. No person shall dump or deposit bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper, plastics, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, water, garbage, rubbish or other trash or refuse in a park, except as provided in Section 6.5 hereof.
5. No person shall bring into a park or dump, deposit or leave in any waters in or contiguous to any park or leave anywhere on the ground thereof any bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, waste, garbage, refuse or trash, but same shall be placed in the proper receptacles, where these are provided and where, receptacles are not so provided, all such garbage, refuse or trash shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere. (Sec. 74-33, Code of the City of Norwalk)

#### Sec. 1-7. Conduct and Behavior.

1. No person shall swim, bathe, float or wade in any spring, stream, pond or any other waters, natural or artificial, where prohibited by the Director or authorized agent unless specifically authorized by a special permit issued by said Director or agent.
2. No person shall take part in or abet the playing of games involving horseshoes, arrows, stones, balls, or other propelled objects except in areas designated for such activities.
3. No person shall ride a horse except on a designated bridle path. (Refer to equestrian section).
4. No person shall hike or walk in nature study area or areas where educational and scientific activities or experiments are carried out except along paths and trails laid out and marked accordingly.
5. No person shall voluntarily bring, land or cause to descend or alight within or upon any park and aircraft, flying machine, balloon, parachute, hand glider, or other apparatus for aviation unless authorized by the Director of Recreation and Parks. Voluntarily in this connection will mean anything other than a forced landing.
6. No person shall go onto the ice on any of the ponds, streams, springs or any other waters, natural or artificial, except as such areas are designated for skating and ruled safe by the Director or authorized agents.
7. No person shall engage in motorized toy or model aviation, model boating or model automobiling, except at such times and such places designated or maintained therefore by the Director or agent.
8. No person shall interfere with various recreational programs as may be sponsored by the City.
- 9a. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under (19) years of age is prohibited, unless said minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian and said parent or guardian has expressed his or her consent to said consumption and assumes all responsibility therefore.
- 9b. No person shall consume or possess with intent to consume any alcoholic liquor within the limits of any city park or public ground with the exception of the following parks: Veteran's Park, Calf Pasture Beach, Shady Beach and Cranbury Park. This provision may be waived for special events under the procedures of Norwalk Code Section 13-1(d)
10. No one shall build or attempt to build a fire except in fireplaces at picnic areas or at such other locations as may be specifically permitted by the Director or authorized agent.

11. No person shall drop, throw or otherwise scatter matches, burning cigarettes or cigars, or other burning material within a park.
12. Any exposure or display for sale of any food or beverage and goods and wares, solicitation of any contributions, or display of any advertising or commercial or political purposes, except upon specific written authority of the Recreation and Parks Committee, is prohibited within the premises of any city beach, park, boat basin or marina. (Sec. 74-12.1, Code of the City of Norwalk).
13. No person shall use loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language or engage in any disorderly conduct or breach of the peace.

#### Sec. 1-8 Traffic.

1. No person shall operate any vehicle on any trail or road in a park except to and from parking areas or as expressly permitted by the Director or authorized agent. The use of Mini-bikes, snow mobiles or unlicensed vehicles is expressly prohibited in all City parks, Except City-owned vehicles.
2. No person shall fail to obey the directions of any traffic officers or city employees authorized and instructed to direct traffic in a park.
3. No person shall operate any vehicle on roadway and parking area in a park in excess of the posted speed limit or where not posted, in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour.
4. No person shall operate any vehicle except in accordance with the state motor vehicle laws regarding equipment and operation of vehicles except as provided herein.
5. No person shall paint, maintain or make repairs to any motor vehicle in any City Park.
6. No person shall park a motor vehicle other than in a designated parking area except a expressly permitted by the Director or authorized agent.

#### Sec. 1-9 Operating Policies.

1. Inhabitants of the City and Guests may enter, remain upon or use parks, recreation places or facilities of the City pursuant to this ordinance or any particular laws, ordinances and regulations promulgated by the Director. It shall be the policy of the City of Norwalk to discourage commercial use of parks, beaches, open spaces, and other areas devoted to Recreation.
2. A permit, available to the inhabitants of New Canaan, Wilton, Weston, Redding and Ridgefield only, shall be obtained from the Director or authorized agent, with approval of the Common Council Committee for the purposes listed in section 1 above.
3. All or any part of a park, recreation place or facility may be declared closed to the public, either entirely or for particular uses, by the Director or authorized agents at any time and for a period of not more than 2 days. The Mayor may extend this closing as may be necessary.
4. No persons shall use in any manner whatsoever any park property, or any part thereof for any illegal, immoral or bawdy purpose, or for any purpose in violation of any federal, state or municipal law, ordinance, rule or regulation of the Director now in effect or hereafter enacted or adopted.
5. Fees, if any for the use of City parks, recreation places, facilities or activities shall be established by the Director subject to prior approval of the Common Council.
6. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to limit the power of the Director to promulgate regulations respecting recreational facilities and activities of the City, including but not limited to the use of playgrounds, golf courses, tennis courts, platform tennis courts, skating rink, bowling greens, community

center ball fields, park and City buildings, subject to prior approval of the Common Council. No person shall enter, use, remain in or upon any City park, recreation place, facility or activity except upon payment of the required fees, if any, and in accordance with the aforesaid regulations.

#### Sec. 1-10 Permits.

1. A person, available to Norwalk inhabitants only, shall be obtained from the Director or authorized agent for the following purposes.
  - a. Reservation of an area or place in a park for special use or private group use.
  - b. Use of a park by groups in excess of twenty-five (25) Persons.
  - c. Performance of scientific experiments or activities on a continuing basis.
  - d. Performance of special programs of a recreation, educational or conservation nature by private groups of City inhabitants.
2. A permit, available to inhabitants of New Canaan, Wilton, Weston, Redding and Ridgefield only, shall be obtained from the Director or authorized agent, with approval of the Common council Committee for the purposes listed in section 1 above.
3. Any permit so issued involving or related to the use of any wooded or treed area shall become void upon official State closing of woodlands or in the opinion of the Fire Marshall the fire hazard warrants such action, or if the Director determines hazard to life or property exists or is imminent.
4. Each permit shall be valid on the day or days, for the hour or hours for the stated use in the articular park or parts of the park, recreation place or facility designated in the permit.
5. The person to whom the a permit is issues, by accepting said permit, specifically agrees to be liable for and to indemnify the City against the expense or repairs of any and all damages to the park, recreation place or facility and to City property caused by and all use of said park, recreational place or facility under said permit.
- 6a. An applicant shall furnish to the Director at least three (3) days prior to the date of use a bond in the amount determined by the Director, but not less than \$250.00 duly executed and acknowledged by the applicant with a responsible surety satisfactory to the Director, which bond shall be satisfactory to the City, to insure payment for all expenses incurred by the City directly attributable to and caused by use, under the permit including, but not limited to, repair personnel, and expense or damage caused by breach of City ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to the use of said park and the conditions set forth in the permit. The requirement of a bond may be waived by the Director if in his judgement based upon prior experience with the applicant, said bond is unnecessary to insure the foregoing expenses and responsibilities.
- b. For groups of Twenty-five (25) or more a liability insurance policy may be obtained which must satisfy the insurance requirements of the City.
7. Application for permits must be submitted as shown below:
  - a. Groups of 26-100 inhabitants shall obtain application and submit date fourteen (14)0 working days prior to the event, and submit all requirements seven (7) working days prior to the event. This application requires approval of the Director or designate.
  - b. Groups of 01-500 inhabitants shall obtain application and submit date sixty (60) days prior to the event and submit all requirements 30 days prior to the event. The application requires approval of the Director, the Recreation and Parks Committee.

- c. Groups of 501 and more inhabitants shall obtain application and submit date ninety (90) days prior to the event and submit all requirements 30 days prior to the event. This application requires approval of the Director, the Recreation and Parks Committee and the Common Council.
- 8. A detailed program agenda must accompany each request for park use.
- 9. The application for a permit shall be in a form prescribed by the Director.
- 10. No person or organization will be denied the issuance of a permit by the Director, Committee, or Council providing :
  - a. That the proposed activity or use will not seriously interfere or detract from the general enjoyment of the park by others entitled to use the same.
  - b. That organizations wishing to hold a large scale fund raiser seek the approval of the Council to allow exclusive use of the specific park providing that:
    - 1) No admittance charge is sought to enter Veterans Memorial Park unless authorized by the Recreation and Parks Council Committee and the Common Council.
    - 2) No donation is sought at any entrance place of Veterans Memorial Park in such a way as to prevent entry unless authorized by the recreation and Parks Council Committee, and the Common Council.
    - 3) That the sponsoring organization is raising funds to benefit Norwalkers.
    - 4) That the sponsoring organization does not discriminate in race, creed, religion, sex or national origin in any form.
    - 5) Games of chance must be operated solely by qualified members of the sponsoring organization in accordance with Se. 7-186a of the Conn. State Statute.
  - c. That the proposed activity or use will not entail an expense to the City.
  - d. That the area of facilities desired have not been reserved for other use at the time requested in the application.
  - e. That the request for use of the park in question does not put undue burden on the surrounding neighborhood in that it is too frequently used for similar community events and fund-raisers drawing thousands of people.
  - f. That the deed of the specific park does not restrict the use of the park for the purpose requested by the applicant.

The Following deed restrictions apply:

Veterans Memorial Park

Deed: Arispa Vanscoy (one of many deeds)

Date: January 26, 1918

Deed: "shall be used for Park purposes only in accordance with the provisions of An act concerning a New Washington Street Bridge and Park in the Town of Norwalk and the Issue of Bonds therefore" Special Laws, State of Connecticut, 1911 Page 490.

Special Law (442), 1911, Page 490, State of Connecticut.

Section 1 " and said Town may establish harbor lines adjacent to all navigable waters bounding said park, and build, own and maintain docks, wharves, piers, and approaches along the water thereof, and may lease the same from time to time for terms not exceeding ten years and collect and receive compensation thereof and may reserve said piers and docks for public uses other than business uses, and may from time to time, adopt, amend and repeal by-laws regulating such use."

Calf Pasture



Deeds of: J. Wallace Marvie, Ori A. Marvin Taylor, Henry W. Gregory, George F. Betts, Sally Betts and Charlott F. Betts Jackson. Date: August 7, 1922

“That no manufacturing wholesale or retail or commercial enterprise of any kind shall ever be permitted or allowed to be conducted on said premises, except as hereinafter provided.”

“That no garbage or refuse or any other thing which may or shall constitute a nuisance shall be permitted or allowed to be placed, deposited or dumped in said premises.”

“That no carousel or merry-go-round, shooting gallery, so-called or other amusement apparatus or noise producing device shall be located or allowed or permitted to be on said premises.”

“That no tenting or camping shall ever be allowed or permitted on said premises.”

“That proper buildings for dressing rooms for bathers and suitable rooms in which refreshments may be offered for sale, sold, and consumed shall be erected only at the southerly end of the premises hereby conveyed, and that...”

“No small buildings or individual bathing houses shall ever be erected by said City or allowed or permitted by said City to be erected by individuals on said premises...”

“That if any portion of said park be permitted to be used for baseball, football, or other athletics, or sports, the same shall be confined to that portion of said park which lies southerly of the middle line of said park measuring the same from North to South, the said middle line being a straight line drawn East and West, but...”

“No professional games, games of chance or gambling shall ever be allowed on said premises”.

#### Shady Beach

Deeds of: Helen Smith Canevari and James W. Marvin.

Dated: September 1953

Shady Beach deed is almost a carbon copy of the Calf Pasture deed with the following differences:

“That no building except proper buildings for dressing room for bathers and suitable rooms in which refreshments may be offered for sale, sold and consumed shall be erected thereon, and such buildings shall be erected on only such portions of the said premises as are situated more than one hundred (100) feet southwesterly of the northeasterly boundary thereof, that is more than one hundred (100) feet southwesterly of the southwesterly line of said Taylor Land, and more than one hundred (100) feet southeasterly of the southeasterly line of said Parkway or Boulevard as now located and constituted, and no small buildings or individual bathing houses shall ever be erected by said City or permitted by said City to be erected by individuals on any part of said premises.”

“That said described premises shall not be permitted to be used for organized baseball, football or gambling.”

“The northeasterly one hundred (100) feet of said described premises, that is such portion if the same as lies within one hundred feet of the southwesterly line of said Taylor land, shall not be used for bathing or picnicking, or lounging or any use normally associated with bathing; the said City agrees to landscape the same and maintain it as a landscaped area and to prevent such use thereof as would interfere with its appearance as a public preserve.

Cranbury Park (Gallaher Estate)

Deeded By: The Trustees of the Stevens Institute of Technology

Date: August 1965

Deed: Contain no restrictions

Restrictions: Cranbury Park was purchased under the Federal Open-Space Program Project Number 05A-54 and the Connecticut Open-Space Project Number 0S37. The use of Cranbury Park for private, commercial enterprise, would be clearly consistent with the purposes of the Federal Open-Space Act and would be directly contrary to its provisions (see 42U.S. Sec. 1500 et. Seq.) and the Connecticut General Statutes (Sec. 7-131 st. Seq.)

Taylor Farm

Deed of: William Marvin Taylor

Date: October 1967

Restrictions of Deed: None

Restrictions: Since the State Purchased a section of Cranbury Park, an equal amount of park land had to be exchanged as open space and carry the same open space designation and restrictions as Cranbury Park.

Sec. 1-11. Equestrians.

1. Bridle Paths. Equestrians will not be allowed in any park except on bridle paths designated and posted for that purpose, and when so riding shall not cross a drive at any place except where bridle paths intersect such drives.
2. Control. No person shall use, ride, drive or lead a horse in any park except on a bridle path and unless it shall be well broken and constantly held in such control that it may easily or quickly be turned or stopped. No horse shall be left by its owner, rider, or custodian unbridled or unattended in any unenclosed space without being securely fastened. Reckless driving or riding on bridle paths is prohibited.
3. Obstruction. Equestrians shall not ride more than two abreast on the bridle paths, and in places where such a practice would prevent another horse from passing, they must ride in single file keeping to the right side of the path. Riders must not obstruct in any way the free use of bridle paths by other riders. In passing going in the other direction each rider shall pass no faster than a trot and in passing in the same direction, the rider passing shall keep to the left of the horse ahead and shall pass at a slow gait.
4. Pedestrians, vehicles, etc. Pedestrians or persons on bicycles, or dogs, or vehicles, shall not be allowed on any bridle path. Bridle paths are for the exclusive use of the equestrians.
5. Speed. Riders shall not drive or ride their horses in any park at a gait faster than a canter. At all turns where there is not clear vision ahead, the horse shall be kept at a walk.
6. Stopping. No person shall stop his or her horse within any picnic area, or dismount except in cases of emergency, nor allow the horse to be tethered or tied in any picnic area.

7. Trails. Equestrians shall not be allowed on any trail in any park except where riding is permitted and posted for that purpose. On crossing other trails, equestrians shall not drive or ride at a pace faster than a walk. Pedestrians shall be given the right of way on all trails.

Sec. 1-12. Violations and Penalties.

Any person violating any provision of these rules shall be subject to a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each offense. Each violation of a separate section of these rules shall be considered a separate offense and shall not merge with a violation of any other sections of these rules. Each violation continuing more than one (1) day shall constitute a separate offence for each day said violation continues in accordance with section 74-13. 1.

Sec. 1-13. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, shall be adjudged by any Court to be invalid. Such judgement shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof or the application thereof to other persons and circumstances but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof, and the persons and circumstances directly involved in the controversy in which such judgement shall have been rendered.

These rules and regulations are hereby adopted in accordance with the provisions of Sec.74-26 of the Code of the City of Norwalk.

