

CHAPTER 971

Municipal Parks

- 971.01 Definitions
- 971.03 Park hours
- 971.05 Use of ball field lights (Repealed)
- 971.07 Scheduled events and activities
- 971.08 Program and facility fees and charges (Repealed)
- 971.09 Vehicles
- 971.11 Protection of natural and ecological environment
- 971.13 Animals
- 971.15 Personal conduct
- 971.16 Intoxicating liquor/controlled substances, harmful intoxicants
- 971.17 Power models and toy engine units
- 971.19 Firearms and weapons
- 971.21 Camping
- 971.23 Fires
- 971.25 Commercial activities
- 971.27 Erecting and attaching signs
- 971.29 Water activities
- 971.30 Littering
- 971.31 Fireworks and explosives
- 971.32 Pollution of Water
- 971.33 Prohibited activities
- 971.35 Employee exemptions
- 971.37 Ejection from the park
- 971.38 Approval by Council; Director's powers
- 971.99 Penalty

CROSS REFERENCES

Land appropriation for parks - see Ohio R. C. 715.21, 719.01

Parks and playgrounds - see Ohio R. C. Ch. 755

Power to regulate vehicle speed in parks - see Ohio R. C. 4511.07(E)

Parks and Recreation Board - see ADM. Ch. 159

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund - see ADM. 159.01

971.01 DEFINITIONS.

Whenever used in this chapter, the meaning of the following words and terms shall be as follows:

“Department” shall mean the City of Reynoldsburg, Parks and Recreation Department.

“Director” shall mean the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

“Park” shall mean any land or water area owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the Department.

“Commission” shall mean the Parks and Recreation Commission.

“Parks and recreation department” shall mean the City of Reynoldsburg, Parks and Recreation Department.

“Peace officer” shall mean a City of Reynoldsburg employee qualified to enforce the rules and regulations of the Department pursuant to Section 1545.13 Ohio Revised Code, and every other law enforcement officer of the City of Reynoldsburg, State of Ohio or of any political subdivision thereof, including, but not limited to, State Highway Patrolmen, Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs, Constables and Division of Wildlife Officers.

“Person” shall mean any individual, company, partnership, corporation, or association, or combination of individuals, or any employee, agent or officer thereof.

“Park waters” shall mean any lake, pond, stream, channel or other body of water, or any part thereof, whether natural or artificial, located in a park.

“Fish or fishing” shall mean taking or attempting to take fish by any method, and all other acts as placing, setting, drawing or using any device commonly used to take fish whether resulting in such taking or not.

“Animal or animals” shall mean quadrupeds, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

“Motor vehicle” shall mean any vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power.

“Vehicle” shall mean everything on wheels.

“Watercraft” shall mean any vessel designed for navigation on water, including, but not limited to any rowboat, sailboat or motorboat.

“Motorboat” shall mean any watercraft propelled by any mechanical device, electric motor, or internal combustion engine.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.03 PARK HOURS.

All City parks shall be open to the public from 6:00 AM-DUSK

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03. Ord. 151-2022. Passed 12-12-2022)

971.05 USE OF BALL FIELD LIGHTS (REPEALED)

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Section 971.05 was repealed by Ordinance No.61-2021 , passed May 10, 2021.)

971.07 SCHEDULED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) No person shall schedule a public event in a park without written authorization of the Director.

(b) Parks and Recreation Department events and programs have priority over any other.

(c) Events and activities that are not scheduled in advance with the Parks and Recreation Department are subject to cancellation by the Department.

(d) Exclusive use of some parks or recreational facilities may require payment of a fee and proof of insurance.

(e) An organization utilizing a park or recreational facility for a reserved or scheduled function shall, as a condition of the reservation and scheduling, be responsible for providing adequate control and supervision over members and guests utilizing the parks or recreation facility. Organizations scheduling and reserving recreational facilities are thereby also insuring that the park or recreational facility used is not damaged by the use of their members and guests at the function. Upon notice and hearing before the Mayor or Hearing Officer designated by him/her, if it is determined that, by the exercise of adequate control and supervision, the organization could have prevented the violation or damage or substantially decreased the likelihood of same occurring, the Mayor or Hearing Officer may thereafter refuse to schedule or reserve a park or recreational facility for the organization for a maximum period of 18 months.

(f) Actual games will have scheduling priority over practice sessions and scrimmages.

(g) All organizations and teams are required to submit complete rosters of all participants with name, address and phone number. Failure to do so will result in not being put on the schedule.

(h) The Parks and Recreation Department will make its best effort to get organizations scheduled into a slot that will work for them.

(i) The Department will mow the turf associated with the rental (i.e. outfield, soccer field, etc.) and drag the infield of a baseball/softball diamond the field unless otherwise agreed upon. Additional work may require additional payment by the user.

(j) The organization must provide the Department with their request for field usage. The request will include the following:

(1) Name of the organization/team.

(2) Contact person(s) with home address and phone number.

(3) Complete roster with verifiable addresses and phone numbers for each member of the organization/team.

(4) Field(s) requested and the park that fields are located in if known.

(5) Days and times requested.

(k) The organization/team will be required to sign a field use agreement outlining the responsibilities of the organization/team and the Department.

(l) No user fee is charged for the following:

(1) Any City of Reynoldsburg sponsored function.

(2) Scheduled functions of the Reynoldsburg City Schools.

(3) A minimum of \$1,000,000 liability insurance is required for any event in this category. Named as additional insured on the certificate will be the City of Reynoldsburg, its agents, officers, employees and volunteers. This certificate must be provided to the City of Reynoldsburg for review no less than 30 days prior to the event.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03; Ord. 50-04. Passed 5-10-04.)

971.08 PROGRAM AND FACILITY FEES AND CHARGES. (REPEALED)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Section 971.08 was repealed by Ordinance No. 30- 13, passed May 28, 2013.)

971.09 VEHICLES.

(a) Driving in permitted areas. No person shall operate a vehicle except on and within the roads provided for such vehicles.

(b) Barricades. No person in a park shall drive around, cause to be moved, or damage any barricade or barrier so placed to temporarily or permanently close a road to traffic.

(c) Speed. No person in a park shall operate a motor vehicle at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour in a park or recreational facility.

(d) Parking. No person shall park any vehicle except in places designated for this purpose. All vehicles must park as directed.

(e) After hours parking. No person shall leave a vehicle in a park during the hours when a park is closed.

(f) One-way roads. No person in a park shall drive a vehicle on a road or path in the direction other than that indicated by the traffic signs.

(g) Trucks. No person in a park shall drive a truck, tractor, or other vehicle, which is at that time used for transportation of goods or material, without a permit from the Director.

(h) Load limits. No person shall operate, move, park, or locate a vehicle, or combination of vehicles, having a gross load capacity in excess of three-fourths of a ton in a park or recreational facility unless the prior approval of the Department of Parks and Recreation is obtained.

(i) Safety. No person shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any park road in a reckless manner without due regard for the safety of pedestrians and drivers and all other occupants of any vehicle.

(j) Impounding vehicles. Vehicles in parks in violation of these Rules and Regulations shall be removed or caused to be removed by peace officers to a location, in or outside of the park where the same may be kept until owners, or their authorized representative, obtain an order from the Director or his/her agents releasing such vehicles to the owners thereof, or their authorized representatives.

(k) No person in a park shall intentionally accelerate a motor vehicle causing the rubber to mark park roadway surfaces.

(l) No person shall park any motor vehicle or other means of conveyance, walk, or trespass upon any area during the hours when a park is closed except by a permit from the Director.

(m) No person who is not handicapped or operating a motor vehicle to transport a handicapped person shall stop, stand, or park any motor vehicle at specifically designated locations provided for the handicapped.

(n) No person shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any park road without complying with all traffic signs and posted regulations.

(o) No person shall operate any motorized vehicle along any path, walking path, bikeway or skate park without authorization of the Director.

(p) No person, except in an emergency, shall repair a vehicle in any park.

(q) No person shall change oil, wash, wax, polish or otherwise clean any vehicle, in any park.

(r) No person shall operate a snowmobile upon or over any area administered by the department except in those areas so designated.

(s) No person shall operate any vehicle upon the frozen surface of any waterway.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.11 PROTECTION OF NATURAL & ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT.

(a) No person shall injure, deface, disturb, or damage in any manner any part of the park property or part thereof, which is owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Parks and Recreation Department; nor shall any trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other plants, animals, fossils or minerals be removed, injured or destroyed.

(b) Special exceptions to the above may be permitted for the purposes of scientific research, if approved guidelines are followed and collecting of natural minerals, plants and animals is authorized by written permit of the Director.

(c) Exceptions to the above could also be made for removal of non-native (alien or exotic) species and trees that present a clear and unacceptable risk as determined by the department personnel and for general accepted land management practices.

(d) No person shall install or plant any materials except with a permit from the Director.

(e) No person shall climb or rappel any rock escarpment or other natural features.

(f) No invasive species to be planted as per federal and state guidelines.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.13 ANIMALS.

(a) No person in the confines of the park shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, molest, harm harass, injure or disturb wild animals or take wild birds or animals, or therein rob or molest any bird nest or take the eggs of any bird found in the confines of the park.

(b) Special exceptions to trapping of wild animals may be permitted for the purposes of scientific research, if approved guidelines are followed; including use of humane live trapping methods and release of the animals, and the trapping is authorized by written permit of the Director.

(c) Trapping and removal of non-native or nuisance animals to preserve native wildlife, habitats or the safety of park visitors may be accomplished by park personnel or individual(s) designated by the Parks and Recreation Director .

(d) No person in a park shall fish in park waters in violation of any sign or signs prohibiting fishing.

(e) No person in a park shall hunt fish with a crossbow.

(f) Unless otherwise permitted by State law, no person shall use or possess a firearm or crossbow on the premises of any park owned by the City of Reynoldsburg, except a peace officer or person authorized by the Division of Police of Reynoldsburg.

(g) No person in a park shall ride a horse, mule, donkey, cattle, or other animal, in the park without the specific written permission of the Director.

(h) No person shall bring into, have, or keep in the park, any animal destructive of wildlife, nor shall any person bring into or permit within the park a domestic dog or domestic cat unless such is under constant control and supervision and held on a leash no longer than six feet in length.

(i) No person shall fail to remove feces of animals they own which have defecated in a park or recreational facility.

(j) This section does not assure admittance of park visitors with their pets to such locations and at such times as may conflict with the Board of Health requirements or preservation of public safety and order within the park.

(k) No person being the owner or having charge of a dog, cat or other animal shall permit the dog, cat or other animal to be present in areas designated or posted as play areas or playgrounds within a park or recreational facility.

(l) The City of Reynoldsburg shall have the right to impound or destroy a feral or diseased animal.

(m) The Parks and Recreation Department may house non-domesticated animals on park grounds as an exception to the provisions of Chapter 505 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg so long as such animals are secured to ensure they are not able to traverse by ground or air at large.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.15 PERSONAL CONDUCT.

(a) No person in or adjacent to a park shall conduct himself/herself by word or by act, in a riotous, disorderly, boisterous, threatening or other manner so as to disturb the peace and good order of the park.

(b) No person shall use any sound amplification device audible more than 20 feet from the device without specific written permission from the Director. No speaker, amplifiers, or similar equipment shall be displayed outside of a vehicle.

(c) No person shall remain within the park that does not abide by conditions adopted by the Department for the preservation of good order and the protection of property within the park; and no person shall remain within the park who does not abide by the instructions of a duly authorized peace officer or Department staff member in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person directed by a peace officer or Department staff member shall do so promptly and peaceably.

(d) No person shall obstruct, resist, or engage in disorderly conduct toward a peace officer or Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department staff member in and during the lawful performance of his/her duties.

(e) No person in the park shall willfully assault or commit bodily injury upon another or engage in or abet or aid in any fight, quarrel, or other disturbance.

(f) No person or groups of persons shall assemble in or adjacent to a park for any unlawful purpose or riotous assemblance or with intent to annoy, harass, or inflict property damage or bodily injury upon another person or persons or inflict damage to a park.

(g) No person in a park shall solicit or attempt to solicit another to engage in an act of sex perversion or solicit or request another to commit, perform or engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene, or indecent act or behavior.

(h) No person with the intent to do so shall willfully interfere with, disrupt, or prevent the conduct of any recreational program event or activity conducted by or having been scheduled through the Department at a park or recreational facility.

(i) No person shall enter restrooms designated for the opposite sex unless necessary for maintenance, service or safety reasons.

(j) No person shall use any form of tobacco or electronic nicotine delivery systems in City-owned parks or outdoor facilities used or operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. Tobacco and nicotine free zones shall be established by placing appropriate signage as determined by the Director or his/her designee.

(k) No person, without permission, shall enter a clearly marked work zone of tree removal or maintenance.

(l) No person, without permission, shall enter a clearly marked work zone where pesticides or herbicides are being applied or during a time period following the application of pesticides or herbicides necessary to ensure the safety of the public.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03; Ord. 146-17. Passed 12-11-17.)

971.16 INTOXICATING LIQUOR/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, HARMFUL INTOXICANTS.

(a) No person shall knowingly possess with the purpose to consume any liquor or beer, as defined in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4301, while being in or upon any park.

(b) For the purposes of subsection (A) of this section, any person found in or upon any park and in possession of any liquor or beer is presumed to knowingly possess the liquor or beer with the purpose to consume such.

(c) Subsection (A) of this section shall not apply to the following locations:

(1) The following parks: Civic Park, Huber Park, JFK Park, Livingston House, Pine Quarry Park, when the possession, sale and/or consumption of liquor or beer is permitted by written authorization from the director of the recreation and parks department.

(2) Certain enclosed, public rental shelter houses and/or facilities when the possession, sale and/or consumption of liquor or beer is permitted by written authorization from the director of the recreation and parks department.

(d) The possession, sale and/or consumption of liquor or beer, when permitted by subsection (C), shall be in compliance with all applicable laws pertaining thereto and with any recreation and parks department administrative rules. Failure to comply with any laws or administrative rules shall be sufficient grounds for immediate revocation of permit.

(e) No person shall, without the written authorization provided by subsection (C), sell or offer for sale any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage upon the grounds of any park owned and operated by the City.

(f) No person in a park shall be intoxicated or under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage.

(g) Except as permitted by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department under this Section, no person in a park shall consume, possess or display the presence of any alcoholic beverage in any park owned by the City of Reynoldsburg.

(h) No person in a park shall unlawfully sell, or offer for sale or possess any type of narcotic drug, opiate, or hallucinogen, or any equipment for administering such drugs, opiates or hallucinogens or any dangerous drugs or controlled substances.
(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03 Ord. 61-2021 Passed 5-10-2021.)

971.17 POWER MODELS, TOY ENGINE UNITS AND DRONES.

(a) No person in or adjacent to a park shall operate any engine powered model or toy airplane or solid fuel rocket, without the written authorization of the Director. Such Director has the discretion of determining whether or not authorization should be given based on the other activities in the area and whether or not the operator has the necessary licensing.

(b) No written authorization shall be given for recreational drone activity in, on, or in the air space above a park owned and operated by the City of Reynoldsburg if such drone is required to be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration under the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (or as may be periodically amended)

(1) If an owner or operator of a recreational drone obtains written authorization as provided in Subsection (A), such owner shall not fly the drone above 400 feet above ground level, outside the visual line of sight for the operator, over any group of people, and not within any controlled airspace.

(2) "Recreational drone activity" shall be defined as the operation of any unmanned aircraft that is operated remotely for the purpose of recreation and not for any pecuniary benefit.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03; Ord. 61-2021. Passed 5-10-2021)

971.19 FIREARMS & WEAPONS.

(a) Unless otherwise permitted by State law, no person, except a police officer, shall possess or discharge a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous ordnance, air rifle, slingshot or missile throwing device.

(b) Firearms, bows and arrows, knives, air or gas guns, missiles, slingshots or other missile throwing devices or any snares or traps brought into a park may be confiscated by peace officers.

(c) Affirmative defenses to a violation of division (a) hereof are self defense, the discharge of official duty, when otherwise authorized by law, when participating in a city sponsored Parks and Recreation program or a competition event approved by the Director of Public Safety and, if the event is to be held in municipal park, the Director of Parks and Recreation.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.21 CAMPING.

No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging place or sleeping place, within the park, without the specific written permit from the Director.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.23 FIRES.

(a) No person shall start a fire in the park except small fires for cooking purposes in park grills.

(b) The Director may at his/her discretion prohibit fires for limited periods at any location or for any purpose when necessary for the protection of the park.

(c) The Director may provide written authorization for ceremonial or other open fires for special events or programs. The fire department for the area may require a permit to be issued for said fire.

(d) All fires shall be properly contained and extinguished by the person or persons starting or using the same before leaving the immediate vicinity of the fire.

(e) No person shall collect wood in a park for any purpose.

(f) No person shall place portable stoves or grills in shelters or on combustible picnic tables.

(g) No person shall deposit burning material or hot ashes on grass or plants, or in refuse containers.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03. Ord. 61-2021. Passed 5-10-2021)

971.25 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.

(a) No person in a park shall sell or offer for sale any article, privilege, or services unless such sales or offer is pursuant to a contract with the Department.

(b) No person in a park shall beg, peddle, or solicit for money, a privilege or service.

(c) No park shall be used for commercial purposes except with a permit from the Director.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.27 ERECTING AND ATTACHING SIGNS.

(a) No person shall expose, distribute, erect or place any sign, handbill, pamphlet, advertisement, circular, notice or statement and no person shall display any banner, emblem or design for the purpose of promoting commercial activity within any park without a permit issued by the director. The purpose of this section is not to prohibit or inhibit the expression of speech on public property but rather to prohibit litter within the park facilities and to preserve the aesthetic nature of the parks.

(b) Vessels and motor vehicles with semi permanent or permanent painted or installed signs are exempt, as long as they are used for authorized recreational activities only and comply with all other rules and regulations pertaining to vessels and motor vehicles.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.29 WATER ACTIVITIES.

No person shall place any boat, canoe, raft or watercraft of any type upon or in a lake, pond, stream or other waters within the boundaries of the park without specific written permission from the Director.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.30 Littering, importing of rubbish and trash prohibited and pet owner(s) responsibility.

(a) No person shall leave, place or dispose of in any manner leaves, grass clippings, garbage, peelings of vegetables or fruit, waste, refuse, rubbish, ashes, can(s), bottle(s), wire, paper carton(s), box(es), motor vehicle or bicycle or wagon parts, furniture, glass, oil, sewage, anything of an unsightly or unsanitary nature under or upon the parks except in a receptacle designated for that purpose.

(b) No person shall import into any area administered by the department from another place any substance described in subsection (A) of this section.

(c) No pet owner shall fail to clean up after their pets by collecting and removing feces from park or reservoir property. Pets shall include dogs, cats, or other animals whose owners knowingly bring them into park or reservoir property.

(d) Section 971.30(C) does not apply to the owner of or person in charge of an animal where that animal is assisting a blind or handicapped person and defecates on property, and such person either is unaware of that fact or is unable to comply with Section 971.30(C). Section 971.30(C) does not apply to law enforcement personnel in charge of an animal which is assisting such personnel in the performance of official duties.

971.31 FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES.

(a) No person in a municipal park shall have in his/her possession or ignite any fireworks.

(b) No person in a municipal park shall have in his/her possession or detonate any explosives or explosive devices.

(c) All fireworks displays shall be governed by and must comply with Chapter 3743 of the Ohio Revised Code and the penalties for any violations of Chapter 3743 are to be in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3743.99.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.32 POLLUTION OF WATER.

No person shall place or permit to be placed in any waterway any noxious or deleterious material or any material which may affect the use or enjoyment of such waters for recreational or other park uses.

(Ord. 61-2021. Passed 5-10-2021)

971.33 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.

(a) No person in a park shall operate an all-terrain vehicle, air balloon, hang glider, or metal detector.

(b) No person in a park shall operate a snowmobile, engage in sledding skiing or ice skating except in areas and times designated by the Director.

(c) Gambling is prohibited unless approved by the director and pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 2915.

(d) No person shall hit a golf ball or practice golf .

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.35 EMPLOYEE EXEMPTIONS.

(a) Acts of employees of the City, to the extent necessary for the performance of their authorized duties shall be exempt from the provisions of these Rules and Regulations.

(b) The Director may from time to time designate a Department staff member or members to exercise any authority permitted him under these Rules and Regulations.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.37 EJECTION FROM THE PARK.

(a) Peace officers and Department staff members may order any person violating any of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations to leave the park and no person shall fail to obey such orders.

(b) Any person repeatedly violating rules and regulations may lose the privilege of entering a park for a period of time as designated by the Director therein.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)

971.38 APPROVAL BY COUNCIL; DIRECTOR'S POWERS.

The Parks and Recreation Director shall announce his/her intention to act pursuant to and under the authority granted by Section 6.08 of the Charter by filing notice with the Clerk of Council. Any such action shall become effective upon the filing of such notice and shall remain in effect unless disapproved by a resolution of Council within thirty days from the first committee meeting that is held, after the filing of notice with the Clerk of Council. The powers of the Director of Parks and Recreation shall not be limited by the specific enumeration of subjects contained in this chapter.

(Ord. 15-12. Passed 3-12-12; Ord. 30-13. Passed 5-28-13.)

971.99 PENALTY.

(a) Whoever violates Sections 971.11(a), 971.15(g), and 971.23(a) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor in the third degree.

(b) Whoever violates Sections 971.15(e) and 971.19(a) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor in the first degree.

(c) Whoever violates Sections 971.08 through 971.15(a) or 971.16(b) shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor except as specified in Section 509.03(e)(2).

(d) Whoever violates section 971.15(f) shall be subject to the penalties specified in Section 509.011(b).

(e) Whoever violates Section 971.16(d) shall be subject to the penalties specified in Section 513.03(c).

(f) Whoever violates Section 971.09(m) shall be subject to the penalties specified in Section 351.04(m).

(g) Violations of any section of Chapter 971 shall be a minor misdemeanor or cause for ejection from the park unless otherwise specified in Section 971.99.

(Ord. 37-03. Passed 5-27-03.)