Township of Doylestown, PA
Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Chapter 119. PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Doylestown as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES
Mass public assemblies — See Ch. **58**.
Firearms — See Ch. **92**.
Fire prevention — See Ch. **94**.
Garbage, rubbish and refuse — See Ch. **100**.
Peace and good order — See Ch. **121**.
Peddling and soliciting — See Ch. **124**.
Skateboards — See Ch. **140**.

Article I. Conduct in Parks

[Adopted 9-30-1997 by Ord. No. 266[1]]
[1]: *Editor's Note: This ordinance also repealed former Article I, Conduct in Parks, adopted 11-1-1983 by Ord. No. 129, as amended.*

§ 119-1. Definitions.

A. Except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms used in this article shall have the following meanings:

FACILITY
Refers to areas and amenities within the park system boundaries which are available for public use.

FACILITY USE PERMIT
Refers to the written authorization issued by the Township granting permission for the use of a requested facility or activity.

PARK SYSTEM
Any lands or facilities owned or leased by the Township of Doylestown and designated or used for park, recreation or open space purposes.

PERSON
Any individual, corporation, partnership, association, unincorporated association or any other group who may apply for a facility use permit.

B. In accordance with recognized standards as outlined in the Handbook For Public Playground Safety, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM F1487 except as otherwise modified herein, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

PLAYGROUND
Designed for and limited to use by school-age children.

TOT LOT
Designed and limited to use by preschool age children.

§ 119-2. Hours.

A. The park system is open for public use from sunrise to sunset unless otherwise authorized, in writing, by the Township.

B. Lighted tennis and basketball courts are open for public use until 11:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted by the Township.

§ 119-3. Facility use application and permit.

A. All park system visitors must comply with all rules and regulations established by the Township of Doylestown.

B. Application for a facility use permit shall be made upon the official forms designated by the Township and shall be accompanied by the required fee(s).

C. Applications for a facility use permit are available at the Township Building.

D. Any gathering or group of 20 or more persons shall be required to obtain a facility use permit.

E. In the event more facility use applications are received than space is available, such applications will be considered and the final determination, in whole or in part, shall be made by the Recreation Director.

F. An applicant must be at least 18 years of age.

G. Persons or organizations to whom facility use permits are issued will be held responsible for the actions and conduct of all those associated with the authorized facility use.

H. Groups or individuals in receipt of a facility use permit may not prevent other park system users from making use of available facilities.

I. The cost, if any, for a facility use permit shall be established by the Board of Supervisors, by resolution, from time to time.

§ 119-4. Vandalism; defacing of property.

A. No person shall injure, deface or destroy any notice, sign, rule or regulation posted within the park system, nor shall any person post any notices or placards in the park system without first obtaining written permission from the Township.

B. Cutting, mutilating or taking away of trees, shrubs and flowers or the removal, defacing, damaging or vandalism of park system property and structures is prohibited.

C. No person shall utilize park amenities or fixtures in a manner for which said items are not designed or intended.

D. No person shall remove from or relocate any bench, table or other structure in any Township park.

§ 119-5. Vehicle operation; parking.

A. Vehicles are to be driven and parked only in designated areas. Authorized vehicles only shall be permitted on bike/hike paths or grass areas unless otherwise authorized.

B. The designated speed limit within the Township park system shall be 15 m.p.h.

C. Motorists shall at all times yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in a designated crosswalk.

D. Motorists shall refrain from obstructing traffic on any park system roadway or parking area.

E. No person shall wash or perform mechanical work on any vehicle within the park system.

§ 119-6. Solicitation.

A. Unless authorized in writing by the Township, private solicitation of any kind is prohibited within the park system.

B. Unless authorized in writing by the Township, no individual or group shall set up any booth, table or structure within the park system.

[1]: *Editor's Note: See Ch. **124**, Peddling and Soliciting.*

§ 119-7. Fees and charges.

A. The Township may require security deposits and/or usage fees for individual and/or group use of park system facilities as established by the Board of Supervisors.

B. The sponsors of any gatherings (not sponsored by the Township) which require police, maintenance or other personnel and/or equipment shall be responsible for all associated costs as determined by the Township.

[1]: *Editor's Note: See Ch. **A180**, Fees.*

§ 119-8. Personal conduct.

A. No persons shall conduct themselves in any violent, loud, boisterous, abusive, immoral or otherwise disorderly fashion tending to create a breach of peace, or disturbing or annoying others while in or on any Township property.

B. No persons shall commit any indecent or immoral act tending to corrupt the morals or manners of the public while in or on Township property.

C. No persons shall operate any amplification equipment within the park system unless otherwise authorized by the Township.

§ 119-9. Firearms; hunting; fireworks.

A. Other than an officer of the law, no person shall carry or discharge a firearm, rifle or other weapon within the park system.

B.

Hunting, shooting, trapping, injuring, killing or otherwise disturbing of any birds or animals in any Township park, and the damaging, destroying or removal of any nest or habitat is strictly prohibited.

C. The discharge or possession of any rocket, firecracker or other fireworks or any explosive substance within the park system is prohibited unless authorized by a permit.

[1]: *Editor's Note: See Ch. **92**, Firearms.*

§ 119-10. Drugs and alcohol.

The possession, consumption or distribution of any alcoholic beverages or any controlled substance, as defined by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States of America, within the park system is prohibited.

§ 119-11. Fires; smoking.

A. Unless authorized by a facility use permit, open fires are prohibited within the park system.

B. Fires are permitted only in patron supplied charcoal/gas grills (the patron shall be responsible for clean-up and removal of all ash, charcoal, etc.) No fire shall be left unattended at any time.

C. Matches, cigarettes, cigar and pipe ashes must be completely extinguished before discarding into appropriate containers.

D. Smoking is prohibited in all wooded areas and areas specifically designated by the Township.

E. Unless authorized by a facility use permit, the pavilion fireplace (Central Park) shall not be available for public use.

[1]: *Editor's Note: See Ch. **94**, Fire Prevention.*

§ 119-11.1. Littering; trash disposal.

A. The discarding, dumping or littering of refuse of any kind or nature is prohibited. All refuse shall be disposed of in trash containers provided for such purpose.

B. Disposal of any type of trash, refuse or debris within the park system, whether disposed of in receptacles or not, and if such refuse did not result from park usage, is prohibited.

C. For safety reasons, glass containers are prohibited within the park system.

[1]: *Editor's Note: See Ch. **100**, Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse.*

§ 119-11.2. Dogs.

A. Dogs are permitted within the park system, but must be kept on a leash and under control at all times, unless otherwise authorized by a facility use permit.

B. Dogs are prohibited in all designated wildlife protection areas.

C. Persons with dogs shall be required to immediately clean up and properly dispose of all fecal material.

D. Dogs are restricted from the tennis/basketball and volleyball courts and areas specifically designated by the Township.

§ 119-11.3. Hindering employees.

No person shall interfere with, use profanity towards or in any manner hinder any Township employee, official or agents who are performing their official duties within the park system.

§ 119-11.4. Bicycles; rollerblades; skateboards.

A. The use of bicycles and rollerblades is permitted within the park system, except in areas specifically designated by the Township.

B. Helmets and appropriate safety equipment are required at all times.

C. The operation of bicycles and rollerblades on any grass area is prohibited.

D. The jumping of curbs, tables and/or other objects is prohibited.

E. The amphitheater loop (Central Park) shall be designated as a pedestrian walkway only.

[1]: *Editor's Note: See Ch. 140, Skateboards.*

§ 119-11.5. Swimming; boating; skating.

A. Swimming, boating or wading in any natural or man-made waterway within the park system is prohibited.

B. Boating on any natural or man-made waterway within the park system is prohibited.

C. Except at such times and at such places as may be designated by the Township, skating, sledding, skiing, walking or otherwise going upon any natural or man-made waterway which may appear frozen is prohibited.

§ 119-11.6. Playgrounds and tot lots.

A. Tot lots shall be limited to use by preschool-age children, unless in a supervisory capacity.

B. Playgrounds shall be limited to use by school-age children, unless in a supervisory capacity.

C. Supervision of all school-age children shall be the sole responsibility of parents/legal guardians or designated adult supervisors.

§ 119-11.7. Tennis and basketball courts.

A. Tennis and basketball courts are available for public use on a first-come, first-served basis.

B. Court use is limited to the activities of tennis and/or basketball only.

C. All wheeled vehicles, including, but not limited to, bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards, etc. are strictly prohibited.

D. Rubber sole shoes must be worn at all times.

E. Food, glass containers and smoking are prohibited within the court area.

F. Trash must be removed from court areas and placed in designated containers.

G. At peak use times when individuals may be waiting, consideration shall be given and playing time limited.

§ 119-11.8. Golf.

A. Golfing is permitted only at the golf link Central Park in accordance with posted regulations.

B. Due care must be exercised and consideration given to the safety of other park users while participating in a golfing activity.

§ 119-11.9. Township authority.

A. Nothing contained in this Code, in whole or in part, shall prohibit authorized Township employees, police officers or agents from performing their official duties.

B. The Township has the right, as deemed necessary, to supersede all or any of the rules and regulations set forth herein in conjunction with any Township-sponsored event, maintenance activity or emergency situation.

C. Township-sponsored events shall take precedence over any approved or nonapproved park system use.

D. The Township has the right to revoke and/or cancel any approved or nonapproved activity at any time.

§ 119-11.10. Violations and penalties; enforcement.

A. Any person who violates any provision of this article shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding before any District Justice, be liable for a fine or penalty not to exceed $300 for each and every offense; or, if failure to pay is not caused by indigence or lack of sufficient assets, shall be subject to imprisonment in the Bucks County Prison for a period not to exceed 30 days. All prosecutions shall be brought in the name of Doylestown Township, and all fines shall be paid to Doylestown Township.

B. The Doylestown Township Police Department and any other law enforcement agency, shall have such authority as is conferred upon them pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Township herein authorizes any member of its Police Department to enforce the provisions of this Code.

Article II. Use of Facilities

[Adopted 3-12-1990 by Res. No. 358]

§ 119-12. Purpose.

A. This policy is established by the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors in order to regulate the use of the Township's athletic fields and parks by athletic associations and Township residents. The following information outlines the policy that will be implemented by the Township administration.

B. The use of Doylestown Township's public facilities are subject to the rules and regulations as set forth in Article I of this chapter.
[Amended 9-30-1997 by Ord. No. 266]

§ 119-13. Applications for permission to use facilities.

A. All requests for use of an athletic field or park facility shall be made on the athletic field/park use form. Phone requests will not be accepted.

B. Athletic field/park use forms can be obtained at the Doylestown Township Building, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901.

C. All applications shall be signed by the applicant. If the applicant is an organization, the application shall be signed by one responsible officer of the organization submitting the application.

D. Approval.

(1) The applicant shall receive written approval from the Township Manager or his designee.

(2) The allocation of an approval of use of requested facilities will conform to the general conditions and requirements as set forth.

(3) In the event that an organization wishes seasonal use of a recreation area, the application for use must be received by the Township Manager's office by the second Monday of January of the year being requested and will be acted on accordingly.

(4) If an organization or individual wishes to utilize a recreation facility on a one-time basis or for a special event, the application for use must be received by the Township Manager's office no later than 14 days prior to the event.

(5) Approval cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, it is upon the applicant to request use as early as possible.

(6) The Township reserves the right to refuse any application or revoke any approval of an application and/or cancel the proposed event which has been previously approved.

§ 119-14. (Reserved)

[1]: *Editor's Note: Former§ 119-14, Fees and charges, was repealed 9-30-1997 by Ord. No. 266.*

§ 119-15. Responsibilities of applicant.

A. All groups wishing to use athletic fields on a scheduled basis must submit a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of $500,000/$250,000 bodily liability, $100,000 property damage.
[Amended 9-30-1997 by Ord. No. 266]

(1) This certification must be on file at the Township administration office prior to the organization using any Township facility. Approval will not be granted until certification is received.

(2) All certificates of insurance will be forwarded to the Township's insurance company.

B. All groups requesting field use on a scheduled basis must submit the previous year's practice and game schedule with the application for use. Once the particular season is underway, it is the

responsibility of the user group to forward a copy of the present practice and game schedule, as well as a roster of participants.

C. All organizations granted the authorization to use Township facilities will provide the Township with a list of the Board of Directors of their organization, including names, addresses, phone numbers and the capacity in which they serve the organization, as well as the names and phone numbers of at least two people who are to be contacted in case a problem arises. It is the responsibility of the user groups to provide the Township with bylaws and updated lists of officials when changes occur.

§ 119-16. Limitations and restrictions.

[Amended 9-30-1997by Ord. No. 266]

A. Violations of the provisions of Article **I** of this chapter may result in the revocation of any permits or approvals granted for the use of any portion of the Township's park system.

B. In addition to the provisions of Subsection **A**, as noted herein, playing fields are to be used only for their intended purpose, and a permittee may not transfer, set over or permit any other individual and/or users to make use of the rights and privileges afforded to the permittee as a result of the issuance of the permit by the Township. Furthermore, no portable lights shall be utilized in any of the Township's fields and/or parks unless written permission is granted in the permit, and there shall be no installation of equipment or alterations to existing playing fields by the permittee without said alterations or installation of equipment being specifically approved within the permit.

§ 119-17. Allocation policy.

The Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors, in recognition of the ever-increasing demand within the Township for the use of active recreation areas and playing fields and the limited number and availability of existing playing fields within the Township, hereby adopts the following policy statements to be used in the allocation of playing fields under its control:

A. The Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors recognizes that the following youth sports organizations provide an invaluable service to the residents of Doylestown Township and are afforded preferential treatment regarding use of Township facilities.

(1) Doylestown Athletic Association.

(2) Buckingham Athletic Association.

(3) Warrington Athletic Association.

(4) Warrington Soccer Club.

(5) Mt. Carmel Football League.

B. Doylestown Township will use due diligence to find playing areas for all groups that apply for such use. However, the Township encourages anyone who is considering the formation of a new organization or who is planning the establishment of a new program which would require use of Township fields to confer with the Park and Recreation Board before embarking on such an endeavor.

C. When a request is made for seasonal use by any group or individual that has not been allocated Township fields in the past, the applicant will be instructed by the Township to contact the appropriate organization. If an agreement cannot be reached between the requesting group and the organization, the Township Manager or his designee will be consulted and act as a mediator to reach

a compromise, if one shall exist. In the unlikely event that no compromise can be met, the Township Manager or his designee will determine the outcome of the request.

D. If a particular group was granted use of a field in the past year, then that group will be granted permission to use the same field in the coming year, under the following conditions:

(1) An application for field use has been submitted in accordance with the guidelines set forth.

(2) The proposed use for the field is the same as in the previous year.

(3) The number of participants of the group using the field has not been substantially changed from the past year.

(4) The group has not, in the previous year, violated the rules and regulations established for field use.

E. Doylestown Township reserves the right to assign these facilities for any special event as it deems necessary.

F. Doylestown Township reserves the right to revoke any previously approved allocation as it deems necessary.

G. Doylestown Township programs and/or activities have preference over all requests for facilities.