



## CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

### RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC PARKS

- 3.10. Intent
  - 3.11. Definitions
  - 3.12. Park Hours
  - 3.13. Expulsion
  - 3.14. Motor Vehicles; Other Motorized Items
  - 3.15. Use of Parks
  - 3.16. Athletic Games
  - 3.17. Fires; Grills; Fireworks
  - 3.18. Dogs
  - 3.19. Sound Amplification
  - 3.20. Park Roads and Grounds
  - 3.21. No Hunting
  - 3.22. Alcoholic Beverages
  - 3.23. No Camping
  - 3.24. Destruction, Damage or Defacing of Parks
  - 3.25. Golf Prohibition
  - 3.26. In-line Skates; Roller Skates; Motorized and Non-Motorized Scooters; In-Line Skates; Bicycles
  - 3.27. School Rules
  - 3.28. Weapons Prohibited
  - 3.29. Swimming
  - 3.30. Parking and Storage
  - 3.31. Boat Launches
  - 3.32. Feeding Birds and Waterfowl
  - 3.33. Deposit of Garbage and Rubbish

3.10. Intent. The following rules and regulations pursuant to section 3.1 of the City Code.

3.11. Definitions. For purposes of these rules and regulations, the term ‘public park’ shall mean any park, recreation facility (including boat launches), natural resources or open space owned or controlled by the City of East Grand Rapids, as well as joint facilities properties utilized and improved by both the City and the East Grand Rapids Public Schools (‘schools’), which facilities are as follows:

- A. Remington Park (including baseball field).
- B. The Manhattan Park and adjacent athletic fields, tennis courts, playground, sledding hill, and trail system.
- C. Athletic fields, ball fields, and playgrounds surrounding Breton Elementary, Lakeside Elementary, Wealthy Elementary, Woodcliff Administration Building, the middle school, and the high school ('school buildings').
- D. Canepa community tennis center and all other public courts located within the City.
- E. John Collins Park.
- F. Memorial Field.
- G. Mehney Field.
- H. The lower field adjacent to Memorial Field.
- I. The community track which surrounds the lower field.
- J. Wealthy pool.
- K. High School pool.
- L. Hodenpyl Woods.
- M. Waterfront Park.
- N. Steketee Woods.
- O. Schroeder Park.
- P. Griffiths Lake Park.
- Q. Mary Triangle (old water tower).
- R. Campo Grande (San Lu Rae triangle).
- S. Other properties as acquired by the City.

The term 'Recreation Director' shall mean the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of East Grand Rapids. 'Parks and Recreation Commission' shall mean the Parks and Recreation Commission appointed by the Mayor of the City of East Grand Rapids. 'Superintendent' shall mean the Superintendent of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

3.12. Park Hours. Public parks shall be open to the public during such hours as are established and published by the Parks and Recreation Commission and posted

at the park. It shall be unlawful for any person, except those persons authorized by the Parks & Recreation Director or the Superintendent, to enter upon, cross through or remain within any public park outside of the established hours.

- 3.13. Expulsion. Employees of the City and the schools shall have, and are hereby given, the authority and power to exclude and expel any person or persons from any public park located within the City when such City or school employee believes in their judgment that those person or persons have violated any provisions or requirements of this Chapter, any City Ordinance, or any state law. It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse or fail to leave a public park when ordered to do so by a City or school employee.
  
- 3.14. Motor Vehicles; Other Motorized Items. All motor vehicles (except authorized City or school vehicles) shall be removed from Manhattan Park, Remington Park and Waterfront Park parking lots before closing. Any motor vehicles left in said parking lots after closing will be ticketed and towed away by the City at the owner's expense. No motor vehicles, motorcycles, mopeds, go-carts, mini-bikes, snowmobiles, ATV's or similar items shall be used in public parks unless the Parks and Recreation Director or Superintendent authorizes such use beforehand except that motor vehicles and motorcycles are allowed as provided in Section 3.20.
  
- 3.15. Use of Parks. The scheduling of public parks and the issuance of permits for the use of public parks shall be the responsibility of the Recreation Director or his/her designee (except for special events permits, which shall be issued by the Parks and Recreation Commission). Certain facilities may not be used unless a permit has been obtained as provided by subsections D and E of this section. In addition, a permit is required to reserve any facility. Notwithstanding the above, the scheduling of facilities located in school buildings shall be handled by the Superintendent or his/her designee. Preference for use in scheduling will be given to events of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools and the Parks and Recreation Department. No person shall interfere or disturb any person or party occupying any area, or participating in any activity, under the authority of a permit or reservation. The two (2) types of permits for use of public parks are as follows:
  - A. Facilities Use Permit.
    1. A facilities use permit is issued to an organization, group or event regardless if participation entry or donation fees are charged for those participating in or watching the event.
    2. The following groups can qualify for a facilities use permit:
      - a. Team practice, games, contests or events involving adults or children. Preference will be given to teams or clubs associated

with the East Grand Rapids Public Schools or the Parks and Recreation Department;

- b. Family reunions;
  - c. Block parties;
  - d. Company, firm, organization or group events such as picnics, softball, or touch football.
3. Facilities permits are issued on a per event basis. Permits are issued by the Recreation Director or his/her designee. The applicant will be charged fees for use of the facility as set by the City and/or Joint Facilities Committee. City and school sponsored events will not be charged a fee and do not need to receive a facilities permit, but they do need to be scheduled as provided above.
  4. The Recreation Director can attach reasonable conditions to the granting of a facilities permit.
  5. Prohibition of independent commercial activity in John Collins Park: Only commercial activities which are authorized or controlled by concession or contract with the City or are part of any City-sponsored program shall be allowed the use of John Collins Park. No independent commercial activity undertaken in John Collins Park by an individual, firm, partnership, cooperative, nonprofit membership corporation, joint venture, association, company, corporation, agency, syndicate, group, organization, or combination acting as a unit shall be allowed.

B. Special Event Permits.

1. Any individual, group, company, firm organization or combination acting as a unit who charges an admission fee or collects donations to watch or participate in an event in a park or who sponsors or conducts any walk, run, competition or non-competition event that is used to raise funds, which walk, run, competition or non-competition event is to occur in a public park and/or on the City right-of-way, must obtain a special event permit from the Parks and Recreation Commission.
2. An application and permit fee, as determined by the City Commission, must be paid to the City except for City or school-sponsored events.
3. Special event permits shall evidence the right of the group to occupy the designated portion of the park and right-of-way

involved for the approved use. Special event permits shall be subject to the following requirements:

- a. A certificate of insurance may be required by the City from any person or group that wishes to obtain a special event permit. Any required insurance shall be in such amounts and for such times as the recreation director requires.
  - b. Applicants must fill out a proper special event permit application and submit it to the City at least sixty (60) days prior to the proposed event.
  - c. Applicants shall pay the application and permit fee required by Section 3.15B2 at the time the application is submitted. Such fee shall not be refunded, even if the application is denied.
  - d. In addition to the application fee, the applicant shall reimburse the City for all City labor costs (including wages and overtime for City employees and any part time or contracted labor for the event), equipment rental, cleanup costs and damages to the public park or off site property (if any) which are caused by or attributable to the special event. Such costs shall be fully reimbursed to the City within thirty (30) days of the date the applicant receives an invoice for the same from the City. Such costs may be waived in whole or in part by the City Commission in a given case for good cause shown.
  - e. Any other reasonable conditions determined to be appropriate by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- C. Limited Use Facilities. Because of the need to maintain certain athletic fields in the best possible condition for game play, it is necessary to limit the use of said fields so that they have adequate time to recover between games and seasons. The following list of facilities are to be used only for scheduled events of the East Grand Rapids Schools Athletic Department and the Parks and Recreation Department unless a permit has been obtained from the Parks and Recreation Department prior to use:
1. Swaney Baseball field at Remington Park.
  2. Manhattan official size soccer field number 5.
  3. Manhattan softball field number 3.
- D. Mehney Field and Memorial Field. Mehney Field and Memorial Field have been designed and built as all-weather playing surfaces to be used primarily for events scheduled by the East Grand Rapids Public

Schools and the Parks and Recreation Department. Events scheduled by either of these two (2) bodies shall be entitled to preferential use of the fields. When not in use for such a scheduled event, the fields may be made available for use by other persons and groups who obtain a permit and pay all required fees. Any use by a group, company, league, or other organization can only occur if a facilities rental permit or a special event permit has first been obtained and fees paid in accordance with subsections A and B of this section. Individuals are permitted to use these fields on an informal basis at times when no other use of the field is scheduled, subject to the opening and closing hours posted at the park pursuant to section 3.12.

- 3.16. Athletic Games. No baseball, football or softball throwing, or other activities hazardous to others shall take place in any public park, playground or other public place, except in areas designated therefore by the city manager.
- 3.17. Fires; Grills; Fireworks. No person shall build, light or maintain any fire of any type in any public park. No grill shall be brought into or utilized in any public park, with the exception that grills may be utilized in designated areas within Manhattan Park as approved beforehand by permit issued by the Recreation Director or the director's designee. In addition, grills that have been placed in Manhattan Park by the City may be used without a permit. Any grill approved by the recreation director or the director's designee shall be fueled by gas or propane only; no wood burning or charcoal burning cookers, smokers, or grills shall be brought into Manhattan Park. Charcoal may only be used in grills provided by the City.

No person shall possess or ignite fireworks, rockets, or sparklers in a public park unless permission, or a fireworks permit, has been obtained beforehand from the recreation director or the director's designee and unless such possession and use complies with Section 9.57E of Chapter 93 of Title IX of the City Code.

- 3.18. Dogs. No dogs shall be permitted in any public park unless on a leash, not exceeding six (6) feet in length, controlled by the owner at all times. Owners shall pick up all animal fecal discharges from park property and dispose of in a proper container. No dangerous or vicious dogs shall be permitted in any public park.
- 3.19. Sound Amplification. Use of sound amplification in the public parks shall not disturb the quiet enjoyment of the park by other park users unless an amplification permit has been obtained from the Parks & Recreation Department.
- 3.20. Park Roads and Grounds. No person shall operate any motor vehicle in any public park except upon established roadways, drives, and parking lots designated by the City. The Parks & Recreation Director or Superintendent

may authorize exceptions to this regulation for service vehicles and during special events.

- 3.21. No Hunting. No hunting or trapping shall occur within a public park or in any waters adjacent thereto unless a permit has been obtained from the Parks & Recreation Director.
- 3.22. Alcoholic Beverages. No alcoholic beverages shall be brought into, possessed or consumed within any public park.
- 3.23. No Camping. No person shall camp in any public park unless a permit has been obtained from the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 3.24. Destruction, Damage or Defacing of Parks. No person shall damage or deface any item within a public park. No person shall destroy or damage the surface or sod of any grass area or playing field, track, tennis courts, or practice area. There shall be no waxing of areas or equipment located in parks, playgrounds and on streetscape areas. No person shall obstruct any walk or drive in any public park or playground and no person shall trample, pick, mutilate, dig, remove, injure, mar or damage, in any manner, any grass, turf, field, trail, pathway, down timber, monument, ornament, fence, bridge, seat, tree, fountain, shrub, flower, playground equipment, fireplace or other public property within or pertaining to said parks.
- 3.25. Golf Prohibition. No person shall play, practice golf or take practice swings with a golf club in a public park and/or on school property.
- 3.26. In-Line Skates; Roller Skates; Scooters (motorized and nonmotorized); Bicycles. No person shall use a skateboard, roller skates, inline skates, scooter, bicycle, tricycle, or similar item, or apply any wax, on any playground equipment, park or school property furnishings (including, but not limited to, railings, stairs, curbs, benches, concrete walls, bike racks, planters, and trash cans), tennis court, the community track, John Collins Park, Canepa community tennis center, Mehney field, Memorial field, Remington field, or any other athletic field.
- 3.27. School Rules. It is anticipated that the schools will adopt their own rules and regulations pertaining to the use of joint facilities properties by the schools. If that occurs, such rules by the schools shall not negate these rules and any person utilizing any public park will have to comply with both sets of rules.
- 3.28. Weapons Prohibited. Except as provided by law, no person shall possess, transport, shoot, fire, or discharge any firearm, air rifle, air pistol, paint gun, bow and arrow, or any other weapon or instrument which might cause damages to persons or property in any public park.

- 3.29 Swimming. No swimming or wading shall be allowed in the waters immediately adjacent to any public-owned property including John Collins Park, Waterfront Park, the Community Center / Library / Public Safety Complex, Mehney Field, the East Grand Rapids Middle School, Remington Park, Hodenpyl Woods, and Steketee Woods. Persons shall not enter the water from any publicly-owned property except (a) as is necessary to utilize the boat launch in John Collins park or the canoe/kayak launch behind the Community Center for putting boats into or taking boats out of Reeds Lake or (b) pursuant to a permit issued by the City.
- 3.30. Parking and Storage of Vehicles, Vessels, Seaplanes, Trailers, and Iceboats. No parking or storage of any vehicle, boat, trailer, iceboat, vessel, or sailboard is allowed on park property, except for crew team boats stored in the crew team boathouse. Temporary parking while loading and unloading on the boat launch in John Collins Park is permitted.
- 3.31. Boat Launches. No boat, vessel, seaplanes, or iceboats shall be docked or tied up at Waterfront Park floating boardwalk, or piers, Community Center walls, railings, or canoe/kayak launch, the John Collins Park boat launch, the John Collins Park overlooks, or the crew team boat dock (except for East Grand Rapids High School crew team owned boats once a facility permit is obtained seasonally). This does not prohibit temporarily docking at the boat launch in connection with the loading or unloading of a boat or other vessel from a trailer or vehicle.
- 3.32. Feeding Birds and Waterfowl. No person shall feed or attract any birds or waterfowl, including geese and ducks, while that person is in or immediately adjacent to John Collins Park, Waterfront Park, City and School owned lake front property.
- 3.33 Deposit of Garbage and Rubbish. No person shall place or deposit any garbage, glass, tin cans, paper or miscellaneous waste in any public park or playground except in containers provided for that purpose.

Adopted by the East Grand Rapids City Commission on December 2, 2019