



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

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POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FREDERICK COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Park Rules

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Purpose:

To establish clear and consistent rules for the use, operation, and enjoyment of Frederick County parks. These rules are designed to ensure the safety, preservation, and accessibility of park facilities while promoting responsible use and stewardship of the County's natural resources.

Procedure:

Alcoholic Beverages

All possession or use of alcohol is prohibited at Frederick County Parks, except at **Ballenger Creek, Kemptown, Loys Station, Middletown, Pinecliff, Old National, Othello Regional Park, Rose Hill, Urbana District and Utica Parks**, where alcohol is allowed by permit only within designated areas of those parks. [County Code § 1-12-45](#)

Ball Fields

Reservations take priority. Any regular use of sports fields requires a reservation.

[County Code § 1-12-36](#)

Camping

No person shall camp on park grounds except with permit and only in designated areas.

[County Code § 1-12-36](#)

Destruction Of Property

Damaging, defacing or removing County-owned property and/or natural features is prohibited.

[County Code § 1-12-35](#)

Disorderly Conduct/Disturbing the Peace

No person shall disturb the peace or engage in disorderly or indecent behavior.

[County Code § 1-12-47](#)

Drones

Drones are permitted only in designated parks / park areas in compliance with all regulations and require approval through a Special Request application. [County Code § 1-12-47](#)

Fees And Charges

- Use of facilities for which a charge has been established, without payment, is not permitted. [County Code § 1-12-33](#)
- No one may charge a fee in the parks without permission from the Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Fires

No fires permitted except in fireplaces and grills provided or by permit. [County Code § 1-12-38](#)

Grills

Grills must be at least 20 feet from shelter and any combustible materials. No grease is to be dumped on park grounds.

Trailered grills require a completed Special Request Permit and Certificate of Insurance. [County Code § 1-12-38](#)

Hindering Employees

No one may interfere with any employee or agent of the Division in the performance of official duty. [County Code § 1-12-46](#)

Horses And Riding Animals

No one may ride a horse, pony or other animal on park property except in designated areas. [County Code § 1-12-40](#)

Hose Bib/Water Spigot

Access to hose bib/water spigot is permitted April – November. Water usage is not to exceed 2 hours, and water should be conserved whenever possible.

Hunting

No hunting, harming, removing or frightening wildlife. [County Code § 1-12-37](#)

Littering

No littering. Deposit trash in receptacles provided. Where no receptacles are available trash shall be removed from the park by persons creating such trash. [County Code § 1-12-44](#)

Operating & Parking of Motor Vehicles

- Vehicles are only allowed on designated roads and parking lots.
- Vehicles are not allowed on grass.
- Any vehicles left in the park after hours will be towed at owner's expense.
- No vehicles may block roads, boat ramps, fire trails, or hiking trails.
- Minibikes, trail bikes, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and any other vehicles that cannot be registered for operation on the public highways, are not allowed in Frederick County Parks.

[County Code § 1-12-41](#)

Peddling And Soliciting

Per [County Code § 1-12-42](#). Peddling and Soliciting: No person shall peddle or solicit business activities for profit of any nature, collect any funds for any service, charity or any purpose, distribute handbills or other advertising matter unless by permit.

Pets

Pets are permitted only if attended and tethered on a leash of 9 feet or less.

[County Code § 1-12-37](#)

Pop-Up/Accordion Tents

Tents require a Special Request Permit, must always be anchored in designated grass areas, and must not block access to paths, trails or walkways. Tents must be set up and removed on same day. Frederick County will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the tents or related equipment. Requests for tents 240 square feet and larger require a completed Special Request Permit and Certificate of Insurance.

[County Code § 1-12-34](#)

Public Exhibitions

No performance or exhibition is allowed without a permit. [County Code § 1-12-34](#)

Recycling

Events at this facility serving food or drink AND expecting 200 or more persons in attendance must comply with State of Maryland Special Event Recycling legislation.

For more information, please visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/EventRecycling.

Reservation Cancellations, Refunds, and Transfers

- Division Initiated Cancellations, Refunds, Credits are issued with no administrative fees applied.
- Shelter Cancellation requests must be submitted 10 business days before the reservation date for a refund, minus a 20% administrative fee.
- Building (e.g., Ballenger Creek Community Building, Browning Building) Cancellation requests must be submitted 30 business days before the reservation date for a refund, minus a 20% administrative fee.
- Athletic Fields Cancellation requests must be submitted 20 business days before the reservation date for a refund, minus a 20% administrative fee.
- Transfers to another date or facility are allowed with a \$10 transfer fee.

Shelter Reservations

Shelters are available on a first come first serve basis unless reserved [County Code § 1-12-36](#).

Reservations are posted on signage at shelters and on bulletin boards at the park. All reservations are on a daily basis and are "Rain or Shine".

Skating, Coasting & Winter Sports

- No skating, sledding or walking on ice.
- No use of hand sleds, bobsleds, or other devices on wheels or runners except in designated areas and at designated times.
- No one may skate, sled or ski in a negligent manner.
- Downhill skiing or use of snowmobiles is not permitted.

[County Code § 1-12-40](#)

Trespassing

No one shall remain upon park property at any time between closing time of park and opening time the following morning except by permit. [County Code § 1-12-32](#)

Use Of Loudspeaker, Radio, Amplifier, Or Public Address System

- No amplified music, use of a loudspeaker or any public address system except by permit.
- Sound volume must be kept to a level so as not to create a nuisance.

[County Code § 1-12-39](#)

Weapons, Fireworks

Firearms, weapons, and/or fireworks of any kind are prohibited. [County Code § 1-12-43](#)

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ALLOWED EXCEPT BY PERMIT (per [County Code § 1-12-40](#)):
Swimming or boating in non-designated areas, , entering or exiting park by vehicle except at designated locations, moon bounces, pony rides, cutting/removal of firewood, erecting any structure, digging or trenching, introduction of any plant/animal/agent.

**THIS IS A SUMMARY OF PARK RULES BASED ON FREDERICK COUNTY CODE SEC. 1-12.
VIOLATIONS OF THIS CODE ARE MISDEAMEANORS AND SUBJECT TO FINE!**

PENALTIES: It shall be a misdemeanor to violate any of the provisions of this article, any person so convicted of a violation shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or be sentenced to sixty (60) days in jail, or both, at the discretion of the court before whom the person shall be tried.

If there are any problems with your park reservation, please call the reservationist during normal business hours Monday thru Friday (8am-4pm) at 301-600-1646.

If it is after business hours, weekends and holidays, for assistance or to reach a Park Ranger on duty, please contact 240-285-9170. If it is a true emergency, please contact 911. You can also call the Central Alarm Non-Emergency number at 301-600-0311.