JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP 
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO 

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR TOWNSHIP PARKS 

Section 1. Hours of Operation 

A. Jefferson Township Parks (“Parks”) will be open daily from 8:00 a.m. until sunset. 

B. Except for activities approved by the Township, Parks are closed from sunset until 8:00 a.m. During such period, no person shall enter or remain in the Parks. 

Section 2. General Rules 

A. Vandalism. Defacement, destruction, removal or disturbance of any building, sign, equipment or natural vegetation within the Parks is prohibited. Vandalism will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. 

B. Dumping. No person shall bring to, leave behind in, or dump any materials of any kind in the Parks, except the refuse, ashes, garbage, and other materials of a picnic, campout, or other permitted activity. Such materials shall be deposited in the receptacles provided. 

C. Fires. Fires, other than in grills, fire rings, or fireplaces, are prohibited. Any cooking apparatus using bottled propane must first be approved and is not permitted inside any structure. Visitors must extinguish all fires before leaving the Parks. 

D. Amenities. 

   1. Picnic tables, benches, and other amenities shall be returned to their original location after use. 

E. Wildlife and vegetation. 

   1. Hunting, harassing, trapping, collecting, or in any way harming or damaging wildlife and endangered or threatened species of vegetation is prohibited. 

   2. Feeding wildlife is prohibited. 

F. Fishing. Fishing is permitted, subject to state statutes, rules and regulations. 

G. Snow and water activities. 

   1. Sledding is permitted. 

   2. Ice skating, swimming and wading are prohibited. 

H. Natural Play Areas.
1. The Township may designate areas of any Township park as “Natural Play Areas” to allow activities that are not otherwise permitted in the Parks. Natural Play Areas shall be signed accordingly and applicable rules and standards of conduct shall be posted.

2. Within the designated Natural Play Areas, visitors shall be allowed off trail and may make use of park resources for education and recreational activities. Permitted activities include climbing trees, wading and creeking, building forts, playing games, creating rope swings, catching invertebrates, and similar activities that help promote an understanding and enjoyment of the natural work.

3. All other rules and regulations shall remain in force.

I. Pets. Dogs are permitted on a leash, in hand, and must be under the owner’s control. Failure to control pet will result in eviction of the owner from the park. Owners of pets shall be responsible for removal and proper disposal of droppings left by said animal.

J. Models and toys. Engine powered miniature models and toy airplanes, rockets, boats, cars, sirens and noise making devices are not permitted.

K. Alcoholic beverages. Consumption or carrying of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Possession of alcohol inside the Parks is a misdemeanor offense.

L. Firearms and weapons. No unauthorized person shall carry or discharge firearms, air or gas guns, bows, crossbows, missile throwing objects, slingshots or any other weapons into the Parks.

M. Musical equipment and instruments. No person shall operate musical equipment or instruments at a volume audible beyond their immediate area within the Parks. The restrictions shall not apply to noncommercial public speaking and public assembly activities and shall not apply to organized school-related programs, activities, or other public programs, activities or events authorized by the Jefferson Township Board of Trustees or its designated representative. Live entertainment must have prior approval from the Township Administrator or Chair of the Board.

N. Decorations. Decorations may be affixed only to shelter house surfaces and only with tape. Use of confetti is prohibited. All decorations shall be removed prior to exiting the Parks.

O. Disclaimer of liability. Jefferson Township is not responsible for lost and/or damaged property, accidents, or injuries incurred while using Township park facilities.

P. Soliciting, Adverting, and Event Promotion. Soliciting, sales, and advertising are prohibited in the Parks without written permission from Township. No person or group shall promote any special event, public meeting, athletic event or other public activity without prior authorization in writing from the Township.
Section 3. Traffic

A. Animals. No unauthorized person shall ride or bring into the Parks any horse, mule, pony, burro, or jackass except on road entrances to Parks or parking lots.

B. Motor vehicles. No person shall drive at a speed of more than 10 miles per hour on park roads. Motor vehicles, mopeds, motorcycles, ATV's, snowmobiles, or other motor propelled vehicles or wagons are not permitted in areas not specifically designated as parking areas. Any vehicle left in the Parks after closing hours will be removed at the owner's expense.

C. Driving on Closed Drives. No person shall drive upon or along any Township park drive which has been closed or posted with appropriate signs or barricades. Township staff shall have the authority to order drives closed during the process of construction, reconstruction, or repairs or when in their opinion conditions render travel either unsafe of unduly destructive of the drive.

D. Operation in Willful or Wanton Disregard of Safety. Persons shall not operate vehicles within the Parks in a reckless manner or without due regard for the safety of other so as to endanger the life, limb, or property or any persons in the lawful use of the Parks. Persons shall not operate vehicles within the Parks in a manner to cause unusual or excessive noise.

Section 4. Facility Rentals

A. Facility Rentals. Township park facilities, including shelter houses, are rented on a first-come, first served basis, and can be secured no more than one year prior to the rental date. Applicant/lessee must have the Facility Rental Permit completed and pay the rental fee to complete a reservation. Reservations are not complete until payments and forms are processed. Individuals or groups may reserve a time slot on the Township website, or by contacting the Township via phone. Facility Rental Permits are available at the Jefferson Township Administration Offices or online at www.jeffersontownship.org

B. Non-profit Camping. Non-profit organizations may camp overnight with prior authorizations. Organizations must have the Facility Rental Permit completed, and pay the campout fee to complete a campout reservation. Organizations may reserve a campout on the Township website, or by contacting the Township via phone. Facility Rental Permits are available at the Jefferson Township Administration Offices or online at www.jeffersontownship.org

C. Fees. Rental and campout fees may be paid by check or money order payable to Jefferson Township.

1. A fee of $1.00 per person, per night will be applicable to overnight campouts. Fee does not include shelter house use. The shelter houses may be rented and standard fees apply.
2. Rental fees will not be refunded if an event is canceled due to inclement weather. Any cancellation more than 14 days prior to rental date will receive a full refund less a $10 administration fee. Any cancellation within 14 days of rental date will result in a loss of the rental fee in its entirety.
3. In order to receive the resident rate, the resident must complete and sign the facility rental permit, accepting liability as outlined in section 4.F of this document.

**Jefferson Community Park, Shelter Houses**
- Maple Leaf Shelter House – Resident $100.00 & Non-Resident $140.00.
- Trillium Shelter House – Resident $60.00 & Non-Resident $80.00
- Small Pines Shelter House – No charge; available first-come, first-served.

**Jefferson Run Park, Shelter House**
- Shelter House – Resident $80.00 & Non-Resident $120.00

**Olde Quarry Park, Shelter House**
- Shelter House – Resident $80.00 & Non-Resident $120.00

D. Availability.

1. Shelter houses can be reserved in 4-hour increments from 12 to 4 p.m. or from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. from April 1 through November 30.
2. The shelter house at Jefferson Run Park can be reserved from 12 to 4 p.m. from June through August, when school is not in session.
3. During the months when sunset is prior to 8:30 p.m., the shelter house and the park must be vacated at sunset.
4. Campouts will be permitted April 1 through November 30.

E. Liability. Persons/organizations reserving any Township facility, structure, or area, shall ensure that the facility is left in a sanitary and clean condition and that person/organization shall accept liability for any breakage, destruction, or removal of Township park property by any member of their group as a condition of receiving the applicable permit. The township will bill renters for cleaning costs and any damages, normal wear and tear excepted. Bills unpaid after 60 days will be referred to the Ohio Attorney General for collection.