

**Decatur Park District**  
**Ordinance No. 456 Index**

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**ORDINANCE NUMBER 456**

**WHEREAS**, it has become necessary to amend and renumber certain parts and provisions of the laws, ordinances and regulations of the Decatur Park District;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, that, Ordinance 456 of the Decatur Park District is hereby repealed and reenacted as follows:

**INTRODUCTION TO ORDINANCE**

The rules and regulations contained in this ordinance of the Decatur Park District are intended to ensure the use and enjoyment of all Park District facilities. It is the intention of the Decatur Park District Board of Commissioners that not only will this ordinance be enforced but that all appropriate provisions of state criminal law, especially those related to the use of drugs, liquor or weapons, be enforced by the Decatur Park District Ranger Department. This ordinance is in no way intended to take the place of provisions of state, municipal or county law otherwise intended to ensure the safety and good conduct of any person making use of Park District Facilities.

**Section 1.00 PUBLIC’S RESPONSIBILITY TO BE INFORMED**

It is the public’s responsibility to be aware of all park rules and regulations that may or may not be posted in the parks or at the nature trails. Specific prohibited activities, park hours, and other rules and regulations which are referred to in this ordinance are printed and are available for inspection at the Decatur Park District office.

**Section 1.01 OTHER AGENCIES’ AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE**

All law enforcement agencies which have a concurrent jurisdiction or whose corporate limits fall within the boundaries of the Decatur Park District and which have entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Decatur Park District shall have full power and authority to act on behalf of the Decatur Park District in enforcing the provisions of this ordinance.

**Section 1.02 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**

- A. No person shall cut, pick, mutilate, or in any other way harm any tree, bush, shrub, wild flower or other natural formation on Park District property. Unless authorized by the Director of Parks, no person shall bring into Park District property, any tree, shrub or plant or any newly plucked branch or portion thereof.
- B. No person shall deface or destroy any bench, sign, building or any other property under the control of the Park District.
- C. No person shall drive any motor vehicle or motorized vehicle as defined in the Illinois Vehicle Code, bicycle, horse or similar animal on property of the Park District in such a manner as to destroy or damage Park district property.
- D. No Person shall build a fire of wood, charcoal or other material on the ground or any other place except as specifically designated by the District for such purpose and any fire

of legal nature shall not be unduly larger or dangerous to surroundings. All fires shall be attended while burning and will be extinguished before leaving Park District Property.

- E. The practice known as “Metal Detecting” is prohibited on all Park District Property.

**Section 1.03                    RESTRICTIONS TO ANIMALS**

- A. No person shall allow any domestic animal to run free without restraint on Park District property. All domestic animals shall be restrained by a leash not to exceed 6 feet in length.
- B. No person shall ride or lead a horse or similar animal anywhere on Park District property other than in areas designated for such purpose. Horseback riding shall be no faster than a slow canter or slower when reasonable and proper.
- C. No person shall hunt, trap, kill, disturb, molest, rob a nest of any bird or water fowl, or in any way harm any animal within Park District property.
- D. No dogs shall be allowed entry to any park facility where animals are on display or exhibit with the exception of service dogs.
- E. No person shall allow a dog, cat or other animal under their control to defecate on Park District property. If the animal does so, it shall be the responsibility of the person who has control of the animal to promptly remove the excrement.
- F. Unless authorized by the Director of Parks, no person shall bring into and leave on Park District property, any animal, fish or fowl.
- G. No person shall mistreat, override, cruelly beat, mutilate, torture or in any other manner harm any animal on Park District property.

**Section 1.04                    CRIMINAL ACTS PROHIBITED**

No person shall commit any criminal act on Park District property as prohibited in the Criminal Code of the State of Illinois, as set forth in the Illinois Revised Statutes, any violation of Federal Criminal Law or City of Decatur Ordinance.

**Section 1.05                    HOURS OF OPERATION**

- A. Parks shall be open to the public every day of the year during designated hours. Hours for park use shall be from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., unless otherwise posted.
- B. Hours for use of the Nature Trails are dawn to dusk.
- C. Any section or part of any park may be declared closed to the public by the Park District, at any time and for any interval of time, either temporarily or at regular intervals and stated intervals (daily or otherwise) and either entirely or for merely certain uses as the Park District shall find reasonably necessary.
- D. No person shall remain on Park District property at a time when it is not open to the public, except where otherwise authorized.

**Section 1.06 FISHING**

- A. Any person fishing from the banks, bridges or watercraft on Park District property shall possess a valid Illinois Fishing License as required by law, with proper game or fish stamps attached and shall abide by all game laws of the State of Illinois.
- B. No person shall kill any fish or other aquatic creature or disturb a spawning bed in waters controlled by the Park District, unless engaged in the lawful sport of fishing.
- C. Fishing in those waters, commonly referred to as “Dreamland Lake” shall be restricted to persons under 16 years of age or persons participating in a Decatur Park District or Illinois Department of Natural Resources sponsored fishing program.
- D. To be able to address site specific problems, Executive Orders may be issued on a temporary basis, from time to time, and have the same effect as an Ordinance Violation.

**Section 1.07 WEAPONS**

- A. Any person who is registered for participation in any Park District approved firearms or archery program is exempt from the applicable possession sections of this ordinance when attending sponsored activities, provided firearms or bows are transported properly cased and in an unloaded condition. Those participating shall abide by all regulations as set forth by the governing clubs.
- B. No person, except duly authorized Police Officers, shall carry, possess, transport or discharge on Park District property any firearm, B.B. or pellet gun, sling shot, stun gun, pepper spray, any object of explosive nature, including but not limited to fireworks or other objects or devices designed to discharge or propel an object. In addition to Police Officers, personnel of the Decatur Park District Airport while performing their duties as related to removal of hazardous wildlife from the runway area are exempt.
- C. No person shall possess, have or carry any firearm, bow and arrow, switchblade, hunting knife, dagger, metal knuckles, bludgeon, blackjack, karate sticks, throwing stars, slingshot or other dangerous weapon while on Park District property.

**Section 108 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

- A. No person shall possess, consume, or transport in a vehicle any alcoholic beverage on Park District property.
- B. A special exception from this section is granted in designated areas of Park District property. All rules and regulations applicable to those designated areas must be abided by as set forth therein.
- C. No person shall enter or remain on Park District property in an intoxicated condition.
- D. No person shall use, possess or be under the influence of any substance as defined in the “Controlled Substance Act” or cannabis as defined in the “Cannabis Control Act” of the Illinois Revised Statutes, while on Park District property.

## Section 1.09

## RESTRICTIONS TO VEHICLE AND ANIMAL MOVEMENT

Definitions: For the purpose of this section, a vehicle is any mechanically driven device by which a person or property is transported. Common vehicles referred to in this ordinance would be automobiles, buses, trucks, motor cycles, motor-driven cycles, go-carts, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, vans, tractors and other similar devices.

- A. Any vehicle entering Park District property shall abide by all applicable sections of the Illinois Vehicle Code of the Illinois Revised Statutes.
- B. All persons operating any vehicle or bicycle or riding a horse shall obey all signage regarding the movement or operation of such vehicle or animal unless otherwise directed by a park official.
- C. No person except those having contracted business with the Park District shall drive a vehicle of gross weight of more than 10,000 lbs. on any pavement within Park District property.
- D. No person shall operate a vehicle on Park District nature trails unless otherwise authorized.
- E. The use of snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles, except for law enforcement purposes, is expressly prohibited on Park District property.
- F. Any person operating a vehicle on Park District property shall do so in a safe manner at a speed no greater than 20 M.P.H., unless otherwise posted, or at a lesser speed where hazards or conditions so dictate.
- G. Any person operating a vehicle or riding an animal or bicycle on Park District property shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and bicycle traffic and make every attempt possible to avoid a collision with a pedestrian, vehicle, animal, bicycle or other object or property.
- H. No person shall drive any automobile, truck, motorcycle or other motorized vehicle within Park District property except upon the parking lots and roadways provided for driving or parking the same, except for Park District vehicles being operated in maintenance of the property.
- I. No person on Park District property shall fail to obey any police officer or park employee who is authorized and instructed to direct traffic.
- J. No person on Park District property shall operate or attempt to operate a motor vehicle while in an intoxicated condition.
- K. No person on Park District property shall ride upon the fenders or any other outside part of any vehicle.
- L. No person on Park District property shall change any parts or make repairs of any kind to any vehicle, except such emergency repairs necessary to remove a disabled vehicle.

**Section 1.10                      RESTRICTION TO VEHICLE PARKING**

- A. Any vehicle parked or standing on Park District property in violation of any law, ordinance, or rule is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. Such vehicle may be removed and the owner or person entitled to possession of the vehicle shall be liable for all towing, storage and other charges arising out of any action taken hereunder.
- B. No person shall park or drive any vehicle on Park District property on any area covered by sod, dirt or other areas not designed for such traffic or usage unless instructed to do so by a park official.
- C. No person shall drive or park any vehicle in any area which is posted to prohibit or restrict such driving or parking.
- D. No vehicle may be left unattended on any roadway or boat landing on Park District property so as to obstruct traffic.
- E. No person shall park a vehicle on Park District property in a handicapped reserved space unless such vehicle is clearly marked by a handicapped sign or license plate duly issued by the State of Illinois, any other state or by a local government body.
- F. No person shall park any vehicle adjacent to a curb painted yellow which shall constitute a prohibited parking area.
- G. No person shall drive a vehicle, ride a bicycle or ride an animal on any sidewalk on Park District property.
- H. Parking violations shall be paid within 3 days of issuance, at a fine set by the District. All fines unpaid after 3 days shall be subject to a penalty, and processed within the court system or other measures of collection as approved by the District.
- I. It shall be the responsibility of the registered owner of any vehicle parked in violation of this section to comply with the payment of the prescribed fines, and it shall not be an affirmative defense that the vehicle was not under his/her control at the time of the violation.
- J. No person shall allow a vehicle to be parked on Park District property while the operator or occupants are not currently using the facilities of the Park District or participating in its programs, or during the hours the facility is closed to the public.
- K. When any person shall occupy any parked vehicle on Park District property between the hours of sunset and sunrise, the parking lights of said vehicle shall be lighted at all times.

**Section 1.11                      TRESPASS TO LAND**

- A. No person shall use any water source at any park or District owned property for swimming, wading or bathing, animal swimming or bathing, washing clothes, cleaning fish or other unsanitary activities, except at places designated for such activities.
- B. No person shall set a tent on Park District property without permission of the District.
- C. No person shall enter or remain in any activity or special use area sponsored or provided by the Park District where a pre-registration, application, admission fee or membership in an organization is required, without first complying with the pre-registration, application, admission fee or membership requirements.
- D. No person shall use or operate a skateboard upon any surface of any park other than the designated "skateboard park".

- E. No person shall climb, walk, sit, or ride a bike upon any sign, wall, fence, picnic table or other structure under the control of the Park District, nor shall any person go upon any grass plot or any portion of any Park District property where, by any sign or notice, persons are prohibited from going.
- F. No person shall make use of any Park District property as a place to sleep.
- G. No person or persons shall loiter in a special use area or facility and not participate in the program or use of the facility as offered by the District.
- H. No person or persons shall loiter in the Park District parking lots.
- I. No person shall enter upon any land or property of the Park District, after receiving, immediately prior to such entry, notice that such entry is forbidden, or remain upon any land or property of the Park District after receiving notice to depart. A person has received notice within the meaning of this section, if such person has been notified personally, either orally or in writing, or if a printed or written notice forbidding such entry has been conspicuously posted on or adjacent to the land or property on which entry is forbidden.

**Section 1.12                    DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

- A. No person shall transmit a call to a park official of a fire or police emergency knowing such call is in fact false.
- B. No person or persons shall engage in the lewd fondling of self or others or engage in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual conduct on Park District property.
- C. No person on Park District property shall engage in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language, or engage in any disorderly conduct or behavior tending to disturb the public peace.
- D. No person shall cause a disturbance, hinder, intimidate or obstruct a park official engaged in his or her official duties. No person engaged in illegal or immoral activities shall remain on Park District property after being instructed to leave by a Park District employee.
- E. No person shall solicit or offer a sexual act from another while on Park District property.
- F. No person or persons shall enter, gather, or loiter on Park District property while wearing known gang colors, emblems or other gang insignia or communicate gang related messages through the use of hand signals or other means of communication while on Park District property.
- G. No person shall use Park District property as a place to panhandle or beg for money.
- H. No person or persons shall loiter in the parks in such a manner as to obstruct pedestrian or vehicle movement.
- I. No group shall collect or assemble within the park to do any unlawful act or for the purpose of inflicting injury to persons or property within Park District property. When any special event is conducted at any park or District facility, all persons not participating therein shall keep clear of participants in the event.
- J. No person shall swing or make use of any golf club nor play golf, nor hit or putt golf balls within or into the park except upon established golf courses and driving ranges.

**Section 1.13                   BOATS AND MOTORIZED MODELS**

- A. No person shall operate a boat, canoe, motorized boat, sail board or jet ski on waters controlled by the Park District.
- B. Motorized model aircraft, boats and cars shall be operated only in designated areas of the Park District property.

**Section 1.14                   LITTER**

- A. No person shall discard any paper, bottles, cans or other form of rubbish on Park District property, except in receptacles provided for such purpose.
- B. No person shall abandon, or unload any used property or vehicles on Park District property.
- C. No person shall bring any household garbage, yard waste, building materials, trash, rubbish or other matter onto Park District property or leased lands and leave such with the intent of disposing of it.
- D. The dumping of hot ashes or fire from portable picnic grills onto the grass or plants is prohibited. Hot ashes shall be deposited only in specified areas or designated receptacles, but not into picnic refuse receptacles.

**Section 1.15                   ARTICLES FOR SALE**

- A. No person while on Park District property shall display or otherwise offer any article, goods, or service for sale or accept donations for such article, goods or service unless authorized by the Park District.
- B. Unless otherwise authorized, no person shall display or post any placard or advertisement on Park District property.

**Section 1.16                   USE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT BY ADULTS  
PROHIBITED**

No adult person shall in any manner use any playground apparatus or equipment ment for the use of children.

**Section 1.17                   PUBLIC MEETINGS**

All public meetings held on Park District property must be authorized by the District.

**Section 1.18                   GAMBLING**

No person shall engage in games of chance, wager on the outcome of any sporting event, or use any gambling device on Park District property

**Section 1.19 MAKING AND CREATION OF NOISES**

Definitions:

For the purpose of this section, certain words and phrases used herein are defined as follows.

- “A” band level is the total sound level of all noises as measured with a sound meter using the “A” weighting network. The unit of measurement is the dB(A).
- Bel is a unit of level when the base of logarithm is ten (10). Use of the bel is restricted to levels of quantities proportionate to power.
- Decibel is one-tenth of a bel and is a unit of level when the base of the logarithm is the tenth root of ten (10), and the quantities concerned are proportional to power
- Sound level meter is an instrument using the “A” weighting network amplifier, an output meter, and frequency weighting network for the measurement of noise and sound levels in a specified manner.

**Tests and Specific Standards for Determining Unlawful Noise**

- A. All electronically amplified sound is prohibited unless authorized by the Park District.
- B. All amplified noise **shall not** exceed 75 db as measured on a sound meter **at 25 feet** on the “A” scale.

**Section 1.20 RESTROOMS AND WASHROOMS**

- A. No person on Park District property shall loiter in, damage or deface restrooms and washrooms.
- B. No person over the age of four (4) years of age shall use the restrooms and washrooms designated for the opposite sex.

**Section 1.21 IMPERSONATION OF OFFICERS**

- A. No person shall falsely represent or impersonate a Decatur Park District Police Officer or pretend to be a Decatur Park District official.

**Section 1.22 PERMITS AND RESERVATIONS**

- A. A permit or reservation shall be obtained from the Park District prior to the use of any Park District property or facility whenever required by ordinance, rule or regulation.
- B. All permits and reservations shall be applied for in advance of any usage and the fee, if any is required, shall be paid at the time that such permit or reservation is applied for.
- C. Permits or reservations shall be issued when consistent with the proper use and protection of Park District property and may be refused when inconsistent with the proper use and protection of Park District property.
- D. A reservation shall be obtained for any picnic involving 100 or more persons and in all events when a facility is asked to be set aside for a specific group for a specified time and purpose.

- E. Fees and charges for the use of various facilities operated by the Park District on property of the Park District shall be established by the Board and may be changed from time to time as necessary.

**Section 1.23                    RULES TO BE OBEYED**

- A. No person shall violate or disobey any rule of the Park District relating to the use and governance of Park District property.
- B. The Park District may issue such rules and regulations as are necessary to insure public health and safety in the use and enjoyment of all park facilities.
- C. No person shall engage in any sport, game or amusement except in such areas as may be designated and then only under such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the safety of the participants and the public.

**Section 1.24                    EJECTION**

- A. Any park employee shall have the authority to remove from Park District property any person acting in violation of this Ordinance.

**Section 1.25                    PENALTIES**

- A. Traffic Offenses: Shall be handled under the rules prescribed by Illinois Vehicle Code of the Illinois Revised Statutes.
- B. Criminal Offenses: Shall be handled under the rules prescribed in the Illinois Revised Statutes.
- C. Ordinance Offenses: Any person violating or disobeying any clause or provision of any section of this ordinance or any other regulatory ordinance or rules of the Decatur Park District shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, may be forthwith ejected from park property and may have any permits or passes previously issued forfeited and may be fined upon conviction not less than Sixty-five Dollars (\$65.00) and not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) for each offense, the fine to be recovered in manner and form as provided by law. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day during or on which violation occurs or continues.
- D. Parking Violations: Any person violating or disobeying parking regulations (with the exception of Handicapped Violations) on Decatur Park District property shall be issued a parking citation in the amount of \$25.00 and may be prosecuted as an ordinance violation should the citation not be paid in 72 hours. Those violating the Handicapped Parking regulations of the Decatur Park District shall be issued a citation in the amount of \$200.00 and may be prosecuted either under the Illinois Vehicle Code or Park District Ordinance procedures.