Master Rule & Policy Document for all Parks

This is an open working document monitored and maintained by The Park & Recreation Commission. In recent years it has been brought to the Commission’s attention that written policy has become necessary in order to establish guidelines that are enforceable by authorities when the Grounds are being used in an inconsiderate or unsafe, as well as, illegal manner. All policies and rules are enforced by the Clinton Parks & Recreation Commission, town employees, and police.

**Posted Sign Rules:**

* Dispose of all waste properly. No Littering.
	+ There is no littering allowed in the park, therefore all waste must be disposed of properly in the barrels provided. Dumping of household trash in these barrels will be prohibited and considered littering.
	+ If caught littering or dumping fees will be charged and determined by the Clinton Police Department, the Clinton Parks and Recreation Commission. General Guidelines:
		- First offense = $25 fee
		- Second offense = $50 fee
		- Third offense = indefinite No Trespassing Order
* Do not block or obstruct the sidewalks; pedestrians have the right of way.
	+ Gathering on the sidewalks is prohibited. Park benches and lawn areas exist for groups to gather during day light hours.
	+ No permanent or semi-permanent structures/objects may be placed on sidewalks, benches, or other park structures without prior approval from the Parks & Recreation Department.
	+ Recreational wheels being used in an appropriate and courteous manner are allowed on the sidewalks only if there is clear space and does not interfere with pedestrians. This includes bicycles, skateboards, strollers, scooters, etc.
	+ Failing to adhere to these rules will result in the following action:
		- First offense = $25 fee
		- Second offense = $50 fee
		- Third offense = indefinite No Trespassing Order
* Recreational wheels allowed in a forward motion on sidewalks only.
	+ Skateboards, bikes, etc. will be allowed on the sidewalks for those using them in an appropriate and courteous manner.
	+ All recreational wheels being used must be traveling in a forward motion at a reasonable speed and allow pedestrians to have the right of way.
	+ No tricks, stunts, etc. will be allowed on the sidewalks or on other park elements.
	+ Children who are learning to ride a tricycle will be allowed, but on the sidewalk only if there is clear space and does not interfere with pedestrians.
	+ “Lapping” the park on any form of bike in a fast, unsafe manner is prohibited.
	+ Wheels of any kind are not allowed on the grass at any time.
	+ Reckless behavior of any kind will be addressed in the following manner:
		- First offense = $25 fee
		- Second offense = $50 fee
		- Third offense = indefinite No Trespassing Order
* No climbing, hanging, or stunting on trees or park structures.
	+ Tree limbs break easily, not only damaging town property, but may result in injury to those trespassing in trees.
	+ Those that destroy or vandalize any living plant life, including flowers and bushes, will be fined and prosecuted accordingly by police, town employees and officials.
	+ Those that destroy or vandalize any structures in the park including, but not limited to: park benches, fences, monuments, memorials, staging, walkways, fountain, plaques, etc. will be fined and prosecuted accordingly by police, town employees and officials.
		- Fees will be determined based on severity of office and charge by police
* Dogs must be held on a leash and all waste must be removed by owner.
	+ No person shall allow their dog on play areas, playfields, courts, pools, or any other structure not designed for animals.
	+ “DogiPot” stations have been installed at most properties. Dog owners may use these bags and trash receptacles to dispose of their dog’s waste.
	+ Failing to leash your dog at all times while in the park and/or cleaning up after your pet will result in fines and consequences outlined below:
		- First offense = $25 fee
		- Second offense = $50 fee
		- Third offense = indefinite No Trespassing Order
* Sitting or climbing on park fences, monuments, or structures is not allowed.
	+ Park benches are the only structures that any visitor to the park should be sitting or resting on. All other structures are not designed for this purpose and could result in injury if this rule is ignored.
	+ Monuments and statues were donated in honor of other Clinton residents and are not designed to be climbed on.
	+ Reckless behavior of any kind will be addressed in the following manner:
		- First offense = $25 fee
		- Second offense = $50 fee
		- Third offense = indefinite No Trespassing Order
* Most parks are open from Dawn to Dusk unless special programming is taking place.
	+ No gathering allowed in the park after dark unless special events are taking place.
	+ Groups of any size gathered in the park after dark will be asked to leave by police. Gathering is described as any more than one person staying in the park for an extended period of time in a stationary or walking form.
	+ Any unauthorized motor vehicle in any park or playground between dusk & dawn shall be towed at the owner’s expense.
	+ Those passing through the park will be allowed at their own risk as there is limited lighting on walkways in the park after dark.
		- First offense = $25 fee
		- Second offense = $50 fee
		- Third offense = indefinite No Trespassing Order
* Specific to Central Park and other parks with fountains. No swimming in, wading in, or climbing on fountain.
	+ There shall be no climbing on the fountain at any time including when there is no water in the fountain.
	+ The water in the Foster Fountain is not safe for swimming, wading, or drinking and therefore strictly prohibited by all.
	+ Dogs, children, litter, branches, money, etc. should never be thrown or placed into the fountain. The fountain must remain clear of all objects at all times to function properly.
	+ Reckless behavior of any kind will be addressed in the following manner:
		- First offense = $25 fee
		- Second offense = $50 fee
		- Third offense = indefinite No Trespassing Order

**Additional Park Policies:**

* All passive activities are acceptable so long as they are legal and, in the judgment of the Parks & Recreation Department, Town Officials, or the Police, not offensive or inconsiderate to others.
* All active activities, such as ball catching, Frisbee, and the like, is acceptable, but in addition to such use being considerate of others, it must meet common sense limits for consideration of the safety of those playing and anyone that might be affected by the play.
* Inappropriate language, music, or any other form of verbiage that is seen as offense or inappropriate to all park users will not be tolerated. Respect and courtesy are expected of all those using the park. Those that act in a way that makes others feel uncomfortable will be asked to leave the park.

**The following are not permitted:**

* To operate or drive any motor vehicle upon any part of the park except designated roads or parking areas and/or with special permissions.
* To start fires and/or use grills on any property without special permissions and permits.
* To fish or hunt on any park property, except at such places and times as shall be authorized.
* To erect or maintain a tent, shelter, camp, or other structure in any park without the prior written consent of the parks & recreation department.
* To disobey any legal request or order of the Police, or any agent or employee of the Town of Clinton.
* To use or possess a firearm, explosive device, bow & arrow, blowgun, sling shot, B.B. gun, paintball gun, spear or trap, or any other such device.
* To possess or consume alcohol unless permitted in accordance with a permit issued by the Town of Clinton.
* Metal detecting not allowed in any park.

**Enforcement:**

* Any passive or active use of the grounds that is regarded by the Parks & Recreation Department, Town Officials, or the Police, in their sole discretion, as inconsiderate, offensive or unsafe is cause for the participants to be requested to redirect their activity, or to cease, or to be removed from the grounds.
* Whoever violates any of the policies, regulations or rules listed herein, the violation of which is subject to a specific fine, may be penalized by noncriminal disposition as provided in General Laws, Chapter 40D, Section 21D. However, nothing herein shall limit or restrict any enforcing person’s authority to seek criminal prosecution for the violation of any such policy, rule or regulation.
* All special events taking place in the park that fail to follow the written procedures and rules for such events will be fined or penalized accordingly by the Clinton Parks & Recreation Commission and/or Police.