

Jefferson Township Parks and Recreation Regulations

In accordance with LO 7-53, the following rules and regulations shall pertain to all public parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities owned, leased or controlled by the township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey. Such places shall be open to the public from sunrise to sunset unless otherwise stated below.

A. Public use and availability of parks and recreation areas –

1. No person on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, age or sex or handicap, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in any park facility, program or activity.
2. Except for unusual and unforeseen emergencies or authorized permitted use, parks shall be open to the public every day of the year from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset unless otherwise posted.
3. In the case of pickleball, tennis and basketball – courts will be open 9 am, Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, courts will open at 10 am. All courts will close at sunset.
4. Private lessons, tournaments and leagues are not permitted in any park, ballfield, or court without prior authorization from the Parks and Recreation Department.

B. Permits for use of parks and recreation facilities –

1. Permits may be issued for special events and sporting events and shall be obtained by application through the Department of Parks and Recreation.
2. A person or organization seeking issuance of a permit hereunder shall file an application with the Department of Parks and Recreation stating:
 - a. The name and address of the applicant.
 - b. The name and address of the person, persons, corporation, or association sponsoring the activity, if any.
 - c. The day(s) and hour(s) for which the permit is desired.
 - d. The park or portion thereof for which such permit is desired.
 - e. Any other information which the Parks and Recreation Department shall find reasonably necessary for a fair determination as to whether a permit be issued hereunder.
3. Upon approval, applicable fees may apply (see local fee ordinance and local fee resolution).
4. Standards for issuance of a recreation facility use permit by the Department of Parks and Recreation shall include the following findings:
 - a. The proposed activity or use of the park will not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the general public enjoyment of the park.
 - b. The proposed activity or use of the park will not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the promotion of public health, welfare, safety and recreation.
 - c. The proposed activity or uses that are reasonably anticipated will not include violence, crime, or disorderly conduct.
 - d. The proposed activity will not entail extraordinary or burdensome expense of police operation by the Township of Jefferson.
 - e. The facilities desired have not been reserved for other use at that date and hour requested in the application.

Jefferson Township Parks and Recreation Regulations

5. Upon request, an individual or organization must produce and exhibit any permit from the Parks and Recreation Department he/she claims to have to any authorized person who shall desire to inspect the same for the purpose of enforcing compliance with any ordinance or regulation.
6. A permittee shall be bound by all park rules and regulations and all applicable ordinances fully as though the same were inserted in said permits
7. The person or persons to whom the permit is issued shall be liable for all loss, damage or injury sustained by any person whatsoever by reason of the negligence of the person or persons to whom such permit shall have been issued.
8. A certificate of insurance naming the township as additional insured for one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) may be required to ensure proper coverage for reasons stated in #7 above.
9. Additional permits may be required from other township departments depending on the activity desired and number of attendees (i.e. fire permit, food handlers permit, outdoor gathering permit, etc.)

C. General use and care of recreational facilities -

1. Rest rooms and washrooms must be maintained in a neat and sanitary condition.
2. All trash must be placed in the disposal receptacles, where provided. If no such trash receptacles are available, then trash shall be carried away from the park area by the picnicker to be properly disposed of elsewhere (carry-in/carry-out).
3. No one may use any portion of a picnic area or any of the buildings or structures therein for the purpose of holding picnics to the exclusion of another person, nor shall any person use such areas and facilities for an unreasonable time if the facilities are crowded, except by permit issued by the Park and Recreation Department stating exclusive use by individuals or organizations.
4. One may not damage, cut carve, transplant or remove any tree or plant or injure the bark or pick flowers or seeds of any tree or plant, dig in or otherwise disturb grassed areas or in other way injure the natural beauty or usefulness of any area.
5. One may not erect, maintain, use or occupy on or in any park, trail, beach or bathing area any tent, shelter or structure of any kind, nor shall any guy wires, rope or extension brace or support be connected or fastened from any such structure to any other structure stake, rock, or other object outside thereof.
6. Set tents, shacks, or any other temporary shelter for the purpose of overnight camping, nor shall any person leave in a park after closing hours any movable structure or special vehicle to be used or that could be used for such purpose, such as house trailers, camp trailers, camp wagons or the like, except in those areas designated by the Park and Recreation Department.
7. It is prohibited to ride a horse, except on the designated bridle trails/ where permitted, horses shall be thoroughly broken and properly restrained and rided with due care and shall not be allowed to graze or go unattended/ nor shall they be hitched to any rock, tree or shrub.

Jefferson Township Parks and Recreation Regulations

D. Behavioral expectations while in a park or recreation area –

1. All persons shall conduct themselves in a proper and orderly manner.
2. No person shall bring alcoholic beverages or drink the same at any time in any park or recreation facility nor shall any person be under the influence of drugs or alcohol in any park or recreation facility.
3. No person shall have in his/her possession, or set or otherwise cause to explode or discharge or burn, any firecrackers, torpedo rockets or other fireworks, firecrackers or explosives of flammable material or discharge them or throw them into any such areas from lands or highways, roadways or waterways adjacent thereto.
4. It is prohibited to solicit alms or contributions for any purpose, whether public or private unless advance authorization is sought and approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation and/or the Township of Jefferson.
5. It is prohibited to build or attempt to build a fire, except in such areas and under such regulations as may be designated by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Township of Jefferson.
6. It is unlawful to enter an area posted as “Closed to the Public,” nor shall any person use or abet in the use of any area in violation of posted notices.
7. No person shall disturb or interfere unreasonably with any person or party occupying any area or participating in any activity under the authority of a permit.
8. No person shall expose or offer for sale any article or thing, nor shall he/she station or place any stand, cart or vehicle for the transportation, sale or display of any such article or thing. Exception is hereby made as to any regularly licensed concessionaire acting by and under the authority and regulations of the Township of Jefferson.
9. It is prohibited to paste, glue, tack or otherwise post any sign, placard, advertisement or inscription whatever, nor shall any person erect or cause to be erected any sign whatever on any parklands or highways or roads in any park. Exception is hereby made at the discretion of the /department of Parks and Recreation, permits may be given to properly recognized organizations acting by and under the authority and regulations of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Township of Jefferson governing body.

E. Bathing and skating areas –

1. It is unlawful to swim, bathe, or wade in any waters or waterways in any park, except in such waters and at such places as are provided therefore and in compliance with such regulations as are herein set forth or hereinafter adopted.
2. Nor shall any person frequent any waters or places customarily designated for the purpose of bathing, or congregate thereat, when such activities are prohibited by the Park and Recreation Department upon finding that such use of water would be dangerous or otherwise inadvisable.
3. No person shall go onto the ice or any other waters, except such areas as are designated as skating fields, and provided that a safety signal is displayed.

Jefferson Township Parks and Recreation Regulations

F. Dogs and other domestic animals –

1. It is prohibited to bring a dog or other domestic animal into areas clearly marked by the Department of Parks and Recreation by signage that indicates no pets allowed with the exception of service animals.
2. Nothing herein shall be construed as permitting the running of dogs/pets at large.
3. All dogs/pets in those areas where such animals are permitted shall be restricted at all times on adequate leashes not greater than six (6) feet in length. Exception is given to those who bring their dogs to the local dog park in which case the owner must remain within 6 feet of their dog in order to ensure proper behavior.
4. Dog/Pet owners are responsible for the proper behavior of their pet(s) at all times in areas where such animals are permitted.
5. Dog/Pet owners are responsible for the proper disposal of domestic animal waste in areas where such animals are permitted.

G. Motor Vehicles, boats and bicycles –

1. Posted speed limits must be adhered to in and around all park facilities at all times.
2. Motor vehicles shall be restricted to roads or designated parking areas only or such areas as may on occasion be specifically designated temporary areas by the Parks and Recreation Department.
3. Motor vehicles shall not be left standing or parked at night or overnight in established parking areas or elsewhere in the parking areas. No motor vehicle shall be parked in said park area from one half (1/2) hour after sunset until sunrise, except as otherwise permitted.
4. Unregistered vehicles, snowmobiles, quads, dirt bikes and other motorized trail vehicles are prohibited in any park or on any trail without prior authorization from the township or the Parks and Recreation Department.
5. Bicycles/skateboards/Roller Skates/Roller Blades are not permitted on any ball fields, playing fields, tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, or playgrounds.
6. Bicycles/skateboards/Roller Skates/Roller Blades are not permitted on any park equipment including but not limited to tables, benches, and bleachers.
7. It is not permitted to leave a bicycle lying on the ground or pavement or set against trees or in any place or position where a person may trip over or be injured by it.
8. Bicycles/skateboards/Roller Skates/Roller Blades must remain on paved pathways
9. Bicycles are only permitted on trails that are specifically designed for bicycles.
10. It is prohibited to bring into or operate any boat, raft, or other water craft/raft, whether motor-powered or not, upon any waters, except in places designated for boating by the Park and Recreation Department. Such activity shall be in accordance with applicable regulations as are now or will be hereafter adopted.
11. It is prohibited to navigate, direct or handle any boat in such a manner as to unjustifiably or unnecessarily annoy, frighten or endanger natural wildlife or the occupant of any other boat.

Jefferson Township Parks and Recreation Regulations

H. Hunting, Fishing, Weapons –

1. It shall be unlawful to shoot into park areas from within or beyond park boundaries.
2. No person shall carry or possess firearms of any description or air rifles, spring guns, bow and arrows, slings or any form of weapons potentially inimical to wild life and dangerous to human safety or any instrument that can be loaded with and fire blank cartridges or any kind of trapping devise, except as may be specifically provided for and being in accordance with state/federal fish and game laws.
3. No fishing allowed anywhere that bathing is permitted.
4. All ponds and lakes that fall within township property are for catch and release fishing only.
5. All fishermen are required to have the proper fishing license in their possession while fishing any township owned ponds or lakes.