



City of Texarkana, Texas Parks & Recreation Rules

Subject Park Rules and Regulations		Directive 11.01	
Effective Date August 12, 2019	Amended Date August 12, 2019	Review Date August 12, 2019	Pages 10

PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. General Considerations

1. Pursuant to Section 32-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Texarkana, Texas (“City Code”), the Parks and Recreation Director (“Director”) shall prepare a list of general park rules that are applicable to all city parks and may prepare lists of additional park rules that are applicable to specific city parks. These general and additional park rules shall be submitted to the city manager for approval. The approved park rules shall be filed with the city secretary and copies shall be provided to the city council.
2. These Park Rules and Regulations (“Park Rules”) are to protect the interests, safety, and well-being of the citizens and to enable the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department to manage public facilities. Park Rules establish guidelines governing the procedures for obtaining permission to use City parks and the activities and conduct of persons using City parks.
3. Any person who violates any of the Park Rules may be asked to cease in the activity that violates the applicable rule. Failure to abide by Park Rules, City Code, or Texas law may result in the person being asked to leave the park. Persons who refuse to leave the park after being directed to do so may be arrested for criminal trespass.
4. Park Rules neither enhance a City’s employee’s civil or criminal liability in any way nor create a higher standard of safety or care with respect to any third party claims. Any City employee violating this directive may only form the basis for disciplinary action by the City.

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B. General Rules for all Parks

1. The sale, possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited in all parks with the exception of Spring Lake Park, Bringle Lake Park and authorized by the Director and the City Safety Committee. All requests must apply for a Temporary Daily Permit from Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and/or be in accordance with all applicable State of Texas and federal regulations. Individual consumption of alcohol during small private/family gatherings will not be allowed.
2. Amplified music or speaking is prohibited except as authorized by the Director. Small stereos, compact disk players, instruments, etc., may be used as long as they are not amplified and do not disturb other park users.
3. Fund raising activities are allowed on park property only when the event is sponsored by a non-for profit (501c3) organization and co-sponsored by the City.
4. Parks are categorized as either community or neighborhood parks.
 - a. "Community Parks" typically exceed twenty acres and provide both active and passive recreational opportunities that appeal to and draw residents from throughout the community. These parks accommodate large numbers of people and offer a wide variety of facilities, such as group picnic areas and shelters, sport fields and courts, children's play areas, trail or pathway systems, community festival or event space, and green space or natural areas. The size of these parks also provides opportunities for structured recreation activities for the entire community because the service area is much broader and therefore can meet a wider range of interests. These parks have additional support facilities such as off-street parking and restrooms. Bringle Park, Spring Lake Park, and Wallace Park are Community Parks.
 - b. "Neighborhood Parks", smaller in acreage than Community Parks, are the basic units of a park system and serve as a social and recreational focal point for neighborhoods. Many include playgrounds, limited green space, picnic areas, and pavilions. These parks provide relief for residents from the built environment and generally lack additional support facilities Bell Park, Beverly Park, Ferguson Park, Findley Park, Joplin Park, Karrh Park, and Kidtopia Park are Neighborhood Parks.

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5. Any use subject to City Code Chapter 36, Public Amusements or Special Events, will be allowed and authorized only in Community Parks. For the purposes of this policy, a “Special Event” is defined as:
- a. an event coordinated by an individual or group that advertises to the public and invites the public to its event, or
 - b. parties, dances, parades, weddings, celebrations, or other gatherings which would likely result in traffic congestion, parking problems, crowds, sanitation problems, excessive noise, security or safety concerns, violations of City Code, or any other circumstances likely to cause a breach of the peace or adversely affect the health and safety of the public or any participant at the special event.

Any requested use must be submitted to the Director for preliminary review. If the Director deems the requested use to be a Special Event regulated by City Code Chapter 36, the applicant must submit the appropriate Special Event application which is located on the City website. The application will be forwarded to the City Secretary for review by the City Safety Committee in accordance with City Code. No application will be considered requesting a special event in a Neighborhood Park.

6. Small private/family gatherings or other use which do not meet the definition of Special Event may be approved by the Director.
7. A person requesting park use, whether individually or on behalf of an organization, either for a Special Event or other park use which does not meet the definition of Special Event:
- a. Shall be responsible for complying with all Parks Rules and City Code during use of the facility;
 - b. Shall be responsible for the conduct and behavior of the persons participating in the Special Event or other park use;
 - c. Must be present for the duration of the intended park use;
 - d. Must promptly notify police or a park official if an uninvited person “crashes” the use;
 - e. Shall immediately discontinue park use if the use gives rise, directly or indirectly, to traffic congestion, a neighborhood noise complaint, or nuisance as defined by City Code; and
 - f. Shall pay the City for labor and expenses incurred when the use gives rise, directly or indirectly, to City intervention during or following the use to enforce Parks Rules or City Code.

The Director may require a person to submit in writing agreement to this rule as a condition for the requested park use.

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8. Small shade covers may be used for outings, no tents may be erected without approval of the Director or designee.
9. All pets must be on a leash outside the designated Dog Park area.
10. Vehicles must remain on roads and be parked in designated parking areas.
11. No hunting, trapping, of any kind is allowed including hunting or shooting with a bow/arrows or a sling on park property.
12. Patrons shall only carry or possess weapons or firearms while in park facilities or the Bringle Lake Wilderness Area as allowed by state and federal gun laws.
13. No person shall build or attempt to build a fire except in designated picnic areas with outdoor cookers available except with the prior approval of the Fire Marshall and the Director.
14. No person shall gamble, participate in, or abet any game of chance.
15. No person shall go onto the ice of any of the waters in any park.
16. No glass containers or bottles are allowed in the park except authorized by written permission issued by the Director.
17. No commercial vending except authorized by contract or written permission issued by the Director. City facilities shall not be used to host activities which may result in profit for any private sector business. It shall be prohibited for any person in a park to expose or offer for sale any article or thing, or to station or place any stand, cart, or vehicle for the transportation, sale or display of any such article or thing. An exception is made as to any regularly licensed concessionaire acting by and under the authority and regulation of the Director.
18. No Fireworks or explosives of any kind are allowed in a City Park.
19. No overnight camping including camping in any type of structure or vehicle is allowed without approval of the Director or designee.
20. Wading, bathing or swimming is not allowed in any park lake.
21. No boats are allowed on city lakes with exception of Bringle Lake Park.

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- 22. No person shall intentionally harm or injure wildlife in any park.
 - 23. Park curfew is 10:00 PM for all parks except Kidtopia Park, Bringle Lake Park East and the Bringle Lake Wilderness area which are daytime hours only.
 - 24. In restricted-use facilities, such as athletic complexes, metal detectors are not allowed except to find a specific lost item. We request that the manager of the facility be notified when the item is lost. Permission to use a metal detector at these facilities will be granted by the manager and will be at a time when the facility is open to the public.
 - 25. Radio-controlled model airplanes are only allowed at the designated flying circle area in Spring Lake and must have permission by the Director or designee. Absolutely no flying over persons inside or outside the designated area.
 - 26. The Parks & Recreation Department may establish and post maximum occupancies for any park area, wilderness area or facility. Patrons shall not enter or remain in the area or facility for which an occupancy limit has been established when such action will have the effect of exceeding the established occupancy limits.
 - 27. All-terrain vehicles (ATV), golf carts, utility vehicles, motorcycles, dirt bikes, similar motor- driven vehicles, as well as, horses, ponies and mules are not allowed to be ridden on park property except authorized by written permission issued by the Director.
 - 28. Mobile Food Units are only allowed in city parks between the hours of 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM unless permission has been granted by the Director.
 - 29. No mobile units are allowed in any City Park during a league or sanctioned sporting event when the following concession stands are in operation: Wallace Park Soccer Concession, Wallace Park Softball Concession, Karrh Park Softball Concession, Spring Lake Park-Swanger Complex Concession.
- C. Rules for Specific Areas:
- 1. Bringle Lake Wilderness Area
 - a. Camping is restricted, and campers must have an approved registration form on file in the park office.
 - b. Cutting or gathering and/or removal of trees, parts of trees or any other plants are prohibited.
 - c. Gathering of dead wood on the ground for use in a camp site is prohibited.
 - d. Creation of new trails is prohibited.

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- e. No hunting, trapping, of any kind is allowed including hunting or shooting with a bow/arrows or a sling.
- f. Mobile units are allowed on the West Parking Lot only.

2. Karrh Park Softball Complex

- a. No food or drink may be brought into the vicinity of the softball fields.
- b. No pets may be brought into the vicinity of the softball fields.
- c. No soft toss against any chain link fence.
- d. No privately-owned vehicles allowed in the complex except for deliveries.
- e. No Smoking is allowed in the complex.
- f. Southern Diamonds Fastpitch Softball Alliance has first priority in regard to scheduling games and tournaments. All other request will need to be approved in advance by the Director.
- g. Mobile units are allowed on the front parking lot from Ann Street only.

3. Spring Lake Park Swanger Baseball Complex

- a. No food or drink may be brought into the complex.
- b. No pets may be brought into the complex.
- c. No soft toss against any chain link fence.
- d. No privately-owned vehicles allowed in the complex except for deliveries.
- e. No Smoking is allowed in the complex.
- f. Texarkana, Texas Dixie Baseball has first priority in regard to scheduling games and tournaments. All other request will need to be approved in advance by the Director.
- g. Mobile units are allowed on the parking lot northwest of the intersection of Street H and Street G and the parking lot northwest of the intersection of Street A and South Park Road only.

4. Spring Lake Park-Kylee Sullivan Dog Park

- a. Dogs must be current on all required vaccinations.
- b. Dogs must have current rabies and applicable license tags clipped to their collars at all times.
- c. Proof of current rabies vaccination and license is required upon request of a police or animal services officer.
- d. Keep your dog on-leash until you get to the off-leash area.
- e. Close all gates to the dog park after entering or exiting.
- f. Dog owners must remain in the park and keep their dog in view at all times. Owners are responsible for the behavior of their animals.

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- g. Aggressive dogs are not allowed in the park. Any dogs showing signs of aggression should be removed from the premises.
- h. If your dog becomes unruly or plays rough, leash and leave immediately.
- i. Female dogs in heat are not permitted in the dog park.
- j. Puppies under six months of age should not enter the park.
- k. Owners must clean up any dog droppings made by their pets. Bag all droppings before depositing them in provided receptacles.
- l. Owners must fill in any holes made by their pets. Only three dogs per adult are allowed.
- m. Do not bring any dog toys inside the park.
- n. Do not brush or otherwise groom pets inside the park.
- o. Only licensed and insured dog trainers will be permitted to do training.
- p. No infants or small children are permitted in the dog park.
- q. Dog bites to a person must be reported to Animal Services – call 911.
- r. No smoking or eating allowed in the Dog Park.
- s. Dog Park Opens at 7:00 AM daily and is for day use only.

5. Spring Lake Park-Rotary Splash Pad

- a. No food or drink may be brought into the Splash Pad.
- b. No pets may be brought into the Splash Pad.
- c. No Smoking is allowed in or around the Splash Pad.
- d. No running in the Splash Pad.
- e. No climbing on the Splash Pad Equipment.
- f. No bicycles, skateboards or skates allowed in the Splash Pad.
- g. Appropriate swimwear or street attire is required. Rubber sole shoes only.
- h. Swim diapers are required for young children who are not potty trained.
- i. Children 12 and under require adult supervision at all times.
- j. Individual who are sick or have open sores should not enter the Splash Pad.
- k. The Splash Pad may close without noticed due to maintenance, water restrictions, cool weather or special events.

6. Wallace Park Softball Complex

- a. No food or drink may be brought into the complex.
- b. No pets may be brought into the complex.
- c. No soft toss against any chain link fence.
- d. No privately-owned vehicles allowed in the complex except for deliveries.
- e. No Smoking is allowed in the complex.
- f. All practices, games, and tournaments requests will need to be approved in advance by the Parks & Recreation Manager.

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- g. Mobile units are not allowed on Saturdays during the months of March through May and September through November.

7. Wallace Park Soccer Complex

- a. No food or drink may be brought into the vicinity of the soccer fields.
- b. No pets may be brought into the vicinity of the soccer fields.
- c. No privately-owned vehicles allowed in the complex except for deliveries.
- d. No Smoking is allowed in the complex.
- e. Texarkana United Soccer Association has first priority in regards to scheduling games and tournaments. All other request will need to be approved in advance by the Director.

8. Kidtopia Skate Park

- a. Maximum Capacity: 25
- b. Know your limits and abilities. You are responsible for your safety. This park is designed for ages 10 and up.
- c. Proper safety equipment is required at all times – including helmets, proper shoes, knee and elbow pads, and wrist guards.
- d. Spectators are not permitted within the fenced skating area unless supervising younger children.
- e. No pets or motorized vehicles allowed in skating area.
- f. One skater on ramp or rail at a time. (More than one skater may be able to wait on the platform.)
- g. Skating allowed in authorized areas only.
- h. No personal ramps or rails are allowed.
- i. Skate Park will close if wet or raining.
- j. No alcohol, tobacco products or illegal substances allowed.
- k. Profanity and reckless and boisterous behavior will not be tolerated.
- l. No graffiti allowed. Park will be closed until graffiti is removed.

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D. Pavilions

1. Pavilions will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis.
2. In the event of a scheduling conflict the Parks and Recreation Director or designee will determine who has priority.
3. An individual or organization may not have more than two current reservations at a time on the books.
4. An individual or organization may not use inflatable type structures, such as bounce houses, slides, etc. without proper liability insurance proof.
5. Basic electricity is available at all Pavilion locations. Electrical service will support **limited use** of items such as radios, CD players, **and/or** small cookware, (roaster, slow cooker, crocks pot, etc.). For large amusements and catering services, an independent power source must be supplied. Overloading outlets with appliances will cause power failure, **limited to a 20-amp usage.**
6. A pavilion at a Neighborhood Park is neither compatible nor equipped for an event that invites the public to attend, and any reservation or use of a Neighborhood Park pavilion for such an event shall be disallowed, cancelled, or rescinded. The person or organization requesting use of a pavilion for such an event shall be redirected to request a pavilion at a Community Park.

<u>Pavilions Rental Times</u>	<u>Fee</u>
8:00 AM-2:45 PM	\$20.00
3:00 PM-10:00 PM	\$20.00
All Day (8:00 AM-10:00 PM)	\$25.00

Southwest Center

There are three groups who may be authorized to use the Southwest center for a meeting or event:

Group I - Public Agencies – Federal, State, County and City Agencies, other Agencies which serve the citizens of Texarkana, Texas, and depend primarily on public funds for existence, Youth Civic Organizations co-sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, and co-sponsored City Athletic Leagues.

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Group II - Civic and Service Organizations – Chartered organizations which provide and/or promote programs for community improvement including, but not limited to, Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees, Civic Clubs, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Fraternities, Sororities, and Lodges, etc.

Group III - Social Groups and Functions – Groups of a private nature seeking space for social purposes, including, but not limited to, family reunions, wedding receptions, social clubs, and banquets, etc.

<u>Meeting Rooms</u>	<u>Group I</u>	<u>Group II</u>	<u>Group III</u>
Multipurpose Room (Gym)	No Charge	\$150.00	\$300.00
ABC Room	No Charge	No Charge	\$100.00
Game Room	No Charge	No Charge	\$75.00
Room A	No Charge	No Charge	\$25.00
Room B	No Charge	No Charge	\$25.00
Room C	No Charge	No Charge	\$25.00
Room D	No Charge	No Charge	\$25.00

No commercial vending except authorized by contract or written permission issued by the Director. City facilities shall not be used to host activities which may result in profit for any private sector business. It shall be prohibited for any person in a park to expose or offer for sale any article or thing, or to station or place any stand, cart, or vehicle for the transportation, sale or display of any such article or thing. An exception is made as to any regularly licensed concessionaire acting by and under the authority and regulation of the Director. Fund raising activities are allowed in Park facilities only when the event is co-sponsored by the City.

No partial rental of the Multipurpose Room (Gym), in terms of time or space, shall be permitted. A rental period shall consist of up to but not more than 8 hours, including set up and clean- up. An individual or social organization (Group III) may not have more than two current reservations at a time on the books.

The decision to rent the Southwest Center facility and the determination of the scheduled time of use shall be made at the sole discretion of the Director or his designee.

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.