

CITY OF DAWSONVILLE
PARKS & FACILITIES
RULES & REGULATIONS

Chapter 1 - Authority

- a. As provided by Georgia law, the Dawsonville City Council has the right to create and enforce the following rules and regulations for its parks and facilities. City parks and facilities include Main Street Park, Wallace Park, City Dog Park, City Farmer's Market Facility and such other parks and facilities that the City may add in the future. Violators may be prosecuted.
- b. Park Rules & Regulations are posted at all City parks and facilities and available on the City website. These must be observed by all park and facility visitors. Violators may be removed from the park/facility and may be prosecuted.

Chapter 2 - Hours of Operation

- a. Parks and facilities are open from sunrise to sunset year-round unless otherwise posted.
- b. The City reserves the right to close any park or facility at any time it deems necessary for City event use, maintenance, weather-related or other issues.

Chapter 3 – Risk of Loss or Damage

- a. The City of Dawsonville will not be responsible for the loss or damage of personal property or for injuries to persons or animals who use city parks and facilities. All person(s) using city parks and facilities do so at their own risk.

Chapter 4 - Motor Vehicles

- a. Park roads are public roads, and unless otherwise posted, are subject to license, registrations, safety requirements and regulations of the Georgia Department Public Safety. Drivers must obey all traffic signs and all vehicles must be operated in a legal and safe manner.
- b. The only licensed motorized vehicles permitted on park roads designated for vehicular traffic are non-commercial, passenger automobiles, truck and motorcycles unless prior written approval has been received from the City. Non-licensed vehicles are not are not permitted on park property.
- c. No one shall operate a motorized vehicle except on designated roads. Motorized vehicles of any sort are prohibited from all paths, walkways and paved trails other than maintenance vehicles authorized by the City.
- d. Parking is permitted only in designated areas and visitors shall adhere to the Georgia Code regarding handicap parking.
- e. Motorized vehicles may not be left in any park or facility after dark. Vehicles in violation will be towed at the owner's expense.
- f. The speed limit is 7 miles per hour in all parks.

Chapter 5 - Trail Use

- a. Bicycles are permitted only on park roads and on the designated recreational trails.
- b. Skateboarding and hoverboards are prohibited on all City property, including all sidewalks, buildings, grounds, parks, facilities, cemeteries, and parking areas. Skateboarding is allowed only in designated skateboarding areas, if any.

Chapter 6 - Pets

- a. Dogs must be leashed (no longer than six feet in length) and dogs must always be accompanied by the owner. Owners must quickly pick up any waste or debris caused by their dogs and properly dispose of same in provided containers.
- b. Dogs are not permitted in playground areas or any other posted area.
- c. No other pets besides dogs are allowed in city parks or facilities.

Chapter 7 - Natural Resources

- a. All wildlife, plant life, and any other natural or man-made features are protected and may not be disturbed, damaged, altered or removed.
- b. No person in a city park or a facility shall install or plant any materials except with a permit from the City Manager or his designee.
- c. No person shall possess or use any type of metal detecting equipment.
- d. Lawn pesticides and herbicides may be applied periodically by the City or their designee under manufacturer's or any required guidelines and procedures. Call the City Public Works Department for more information about when and where pesticides and herbicides are being used.

Chapter 8 - Signs/Handbills and Solicitation

- a. No person shall post, print, affix, distribute, deliver, place, cast, erect, or leave about any bill, billboard, placard, ticket, handbill, sign, circular or advertisement other than described in Section 'b' of this chapter in any City park or facility without prior approval of the City Manager or his designee.
- b. Persons desiring to place signs on a fence or other park/facility property to advertise a special event or cause must apply to the City Manager or his designee for permission to place signs. A maximum of two signs, up to 3' X 5' each, for the same event or cause may be placed for a maximum of thirty (30) days during a calendar year. Signs must be removed within three days following the event.
- c. No solicitation is permitted at city parks or facilities other than the sales of products properly permitted by the city.

Chapter 9 - No Vaping – No Smoking – No Dipping – No Tobacco

- a. The use of any and all vape devices, tobacco products, snuff, and other similar items is prohibited on all City property, including all buildings, grounds, parks, facilities, cemeteries, and parking areas.

Chapter 10 - Intoxicants

- a. Possession, consumption or use of alcoholic beverages or intoxicants is unlawful in any City park or facility unless it is at a properly permitted City event that allows alcohol.

Chapter 11 - Fires

- a. Ground fires are not permitted in the parks or facilities.
- b. Fires are only permitted in grills for cooking purposes, must always be attended, properly contained and extinguished.
- c. Portable stoves or grills may not be placed on picnic tables.
- d. Burning material, hot coals or ashes may not be placed on grass, plants, in bodies of water, or in trash cans.
- e. Patrons should either allow coals or ashes to cool completely and then carry out of the parks for disposal or deposit in identified hot coal bins.

Chapter 12 - Loitering

- a. No person shall loiter, delay or stand idly around in the vicinity of a restroom or designated parking area located in the park or facility.
- b. Other than minor children under 6 years of age, no person shall enter rest rooms in a park or facility that is different than that person's gender.

Chapter 13 - Camping

- a. Camping is prohibited in City parks and facilities without the permission of the City Manager or his designee.

Chapter 14 – Commercial Photography & Filming

- a. It is the desire of the City to provide for the use of its facilities to accommodate photography and filming when practical and appropriate. In determining whether to authorize the use of any city parks, facilities, structures or other properties for commercial photography and filming; primary consideration will be given to reducing disruption of normal public use, recovering expenses incurred by the City, and protecting the cultural and natural resources.
- b. Individuals or Companies applying for approval of photography or film shoots must obtain an *Application for Film Permit* from the city and submit it to the City Manager or his designee for approval at least four weeks prior to the requested shoot date. Fees may be assessed.
- c. Any and all insurance requirements, indemnifications, waivers of liability and agreements for financial responsibility must be agreed upon prior to filming.

Chapter 15 - Drones/Engine Powered Toy Airplanes

- a. Drone operation, toy airplanes or other engine powered flying devices are prohibited in City parks and facilities unless specifically approved in writing in advance by the City Manager or his designee.
- b. If the drone is to be used for commercial photography and filming, an *Application for Film Permit* will also have to be submitted and approved.
- c. The requestor must provide detailed project description, specific site location requested, and exact dates and times the drone is to be used.

- d. The requestor must also submit their FAA drone registration, the name of the pilot, and proof of FAA Small UAS Certification Part 107.

Chapter 16 - Firearms – Weapons

- a. Persons may carry firearms in city parks and facilities only in accordance with federal, state and local law.
- b. Discharging a firearm in city parks or other facilities is prohibited.
- c. Bows and arrows, explosives or other dangerous ordinance, fireworks, missile throwing device, or any other weapon are not permitted in city parks and facilities.

Chapter 17 - Rules of Conduct

- a. Persons in city parks and facilities must conduct themselves in such a way as not to disturb the peace and quiet of the parks, facilities or surrounding neighborhoods.
- b. No person shall play a radio or other sound amplification devise so loud as to be an annoyance to other people in the park or to nearby residents. No person shall use any sound amplification device audible more than twenty (20) feet from the device without written permission of the City Manager or his designee.
- c. Persons using the parks and facilities are expected to exercise reasonable care of the city property, to clean the area before leaving and to properly dispose of trash.
- d. No person shall deposit any garbage, ashes, sewage, refuse, earth or any other waste material other than in receptacles provided for such purpose.
- e. Household or business refuse or garbage shall not be deposited in park or facility receptacles.
- f. No person shall remain within a park or facility who does not abide by conditions adopted and posted by the City for the preservation of good order and the protection of property within the park.
- g. Any person directed by a peace officer, City employee, or other agents of the City Council in the lawful performance of their duties, to leave the park or facility shall do so promptly and peaceably.

Chapter 18 - Picnic Shelters including Farmer's Market Pavilion

- a. Reservations are required for all shelter rentals and must be submitted on the required reservation form available at the City website www.dawsonville-ga.gov or at City Hall. Payments must accompany reservations. Reservation is not valid without payment.
- b. Reservations are accepted up to 12 months in advance in person, by phone, email, and mail. The appropriate reservation form and payment must be submitted within seven days of the reservation for it to be valid.
- c. All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing. If cancellation is requested more than 30 days from the event, a full refund less the \$10.00 administrative fee shall be granted. If cancellation is requested between 14 and 29 days from event, a 50% refund less the \$10.00 administrative fee will be granted. If reservation is cancelled 13 days or less from the event, there is no refund.
- d. There is a \$10.00 administrative fee per reservation date change. Changes to reservation dates must be made more than 30 days from the event.
- e. Fees will not be refunded if the event is canceled due to inclement weather.

- f. Use of food trucks or vendors, bouncy houses, pop up canopies, etc. and other similar equipment/uses are prohibited without prior approval from the City Manager or his designee.
- g. Users will enter shelters on the reserved day no sooner than the opening hours and will leave the premises prior to closing hours. Or if renting the pavilion, users may occupy no sooner than the rented time slot and no later than the ending of time slot.
- h. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited other than at a City permitted event where alcoholic beverages are specifically allowed in the park or facility.
- i. Renter will be held liable for any damage done to the shelter during their reservation. The shelter must be clean after the event concludes and ready for the next reservation.
- j. Renter will make certain all cooking fires are properly extinguished.
- k. Renter will put all litter and refuse associated with the event in the provided containers.
- l. Any group that abuses a shelter or violates rules and regulations will not be issued future reservations, and charges for damages will be assessed.
- m. Decorations may only be taped to surfaces with blue painter's tape. No tacks, staples, screws or nails may be used anywhere in the shelter. Confetti, glitter, rice or similar decorations is not allowed.
- n. Portable grills or any cooking apparatus, including those using bottle propane, are prohibited inside the shelter and may not be located closer than 25' from any structure.
- o. Amplified music must have prior approval from the City Manager or his designee.
- p. Tables, chairs and other amenities shall not be moved or removed from the shelter.

Chapter 19 - Dog Park Regulations

These regulations are to ensure a safe, disease-free exercise environment is maintained for all dog park patrons.

- a. All persons using the dog park do so at their own risk.
- b. The owners are responsible for the behavior of their dogs and are liable for any damages or injuries caused by their dogs.
- c. No dog shall be left unattended in the dog park.
- d. Owners must quickly pick up any waste or debris caused by their dogs and properly dispose of same in the provided containers.
- e. All dogs must wear a current license tag, vaccination tags, and owner identification tag attached to the collar while in the dog park.
- f. Owners must always have a leash with them and must use it upon entering or leaving the dog park.
- g. Dogs utilizing the dog park must be free of contagious diseases/conditions.
- h. Any aggressive or unruly dog must be removed from the park immediately.
- i. Only dogs 25 lbs. and under are permitted in the small dog section. Use of the large dog section is strictly limited to those 26 lbs. and over.
- j. No food items are permitted within the dog park. The only exception is small treats intended only for dogs. Do not feed treats to dogs other than your own dog.
- k. Puppies must be at least four months old to use the dog park.
- l. Children under the age of 12 must always be accompanied by an adult in the dog park.

- m. There is a limit of three dogs per handler in the dog park.
- n. The City reserves the right to close the Dog Park at any time for maintenance or other reasons.

Chapter 20 - Special Events

- a. Anyone wanting to utilize any city park or facility, shelter for a special event, such as, parade, rally, public assembly, public demonstration, road closing, Walk/Run, weekend tournaments, presentation of the arts, commercial event, etc. must submit a Permit Application and a \$2,000,000.00 Certificate of Insurance for permission to the City Manager or his designee along with a \$250.00 damage/clean-up deposit no less than 30 days prior to the event.
- b. Marking on the trails or roadways for special events must be water soluble paint, temporary cones/signs, etc.
- c. Use of food trucks or vendors, bouncy houses, pop up canopies, etc. and other similar equipment/uses are prohibited without prior written approval from the City Manager or his designee.

Chapter 21 – Cemeteries

- a. Cemetery lots must be purchased from the City of Dawsonville.
- b. No interment is allowed until grave space has been purchased and a receipt issued by the City.
- c. A non-biodegradable outer burial container is required for all internments.
- d. Only flat bronze markers and bronze vases mounted on a granite base are allowed to be installed in Dawsonville Memorial Gardens.
- e. The City must be contacted prior to any bronze marker being installed.
- f. No decorations are allowed which interfere with regular maintenance of the grounds.
- g. Planting of flowers or shrubs is prohibited.
- h. No conduct of a boisterous or disorderly manner will be permitted.
- i. Cemetery hours are from sunrise to sunset.
- j. A complete list of Cemetery ordinances may be obtained at City Hall or on Municode.com

Chapter 22 - Enforcement

- a. The City of Dawsonville Code Enforcement or the Dawson County Sheriff's Office, upon probable cause, is hereby authorized to issue citations for violations of any provision of these rules where a penalty may be levied upon a person found to have violated said provision. Citation shall be heard by the City Municipal Court.
- b. Any person repeatedly violating any rule or regulation may lose the privilege of entering a park or using a shelter for a period of time and receive such fines as determined by the City Judge upon the trial and conviction for any citation.
- c. Sherriff's Office, and City employees may order any person violating any of the provisions of the rules and regulations to leave and not re-enter the area on the day of the violation and the City Manager may ban repeat violators up to one month.

Approved by Resolution 02/03/2020