



RECREATION & PARKS

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for Officers responding to complaints at Anne Arundel County parks. To take a proactive approach to these complaints, the department has worked with Anne Arundel County Recreations and Parks officials to develop a combined approach to educating the public and gaining voluntary compliance with park regulations.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Anne Arundel County Police Department to respond to and investigate all complaints reported or discovered within Anne Arundel County Park facilities in order to maintain security and safety for all citizens utilizing these facilities.

III. RESPONDING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers dispatched to a call for service at an Anne Arundel County park, or discovering a crime/violation of park regulation at an Anne Arundel County park, will investigate the incident thoroughly using the Anne Arundel County Park regulations in the Anne Arundel County Code, Article *XIV* as well as all local and state laws, as a guideline.

The police department in cooperation with Recreation & Parks encourages officers to take an educational and voluntary compliance response to violations of county park rules and laws. Visitors and less frequent users of the county parks may be unaware of certain laws governing park activities. This approach is not intended to discourage officers from taking immediate enforcement action against violations of laws pertaining to alcoholic beverages, trespassing, destruction of property, and/or reckless activities likely to cause injury or endanger others.

If an officer discovers the person or persons involved are only in violation of a Park Regulation (refer to Park Regulations in Section *VI* of this Index Code), the officer shall identify the individual(s) and refer them to Recreations and Parks to obtain the proper permits. In addition, it will be the responsibility of the officer to contact the area Recreation and Parks representative and advise them of the violation, as well as the identity of the individual(s) involved.

If an officer discovers the person or persons involved has committed a crime in violation of local or state laws, then proper enforcement action should be taken. In addition, it will be the responsibility of the officer to contact the area Recreation and Parks representative and advise them of the violation, as well as the identity of the individual(s) involved.

Information obtained by an officer will be forwarded to one of the following representatives from Recreation and Parks:

Chief of *Park Operations*
Chief of *Natural and Cultural Resources*
Chief of Park Maintenance

Individuals violating regulations or committing crimes on park property may be banned by park officials via certified letter. A banning list will be maintained on Sharepoint for all banned individuals for reference. The Southern District Executive Officer will ensure the banning information is entered into Sharepoint.

Officers are also encouraged to check for valid permits, authorizing the use of a facility (including field and pavilion use), by *calling the permits office at 410-222-7315 during normal business hours.*

IV. PARK RANGERS

Park Rangers are based out of Regional Parks and are generally working 0700-1900 hrs. Park Rangers are available to assist with issues arising in the community parks nearest to their assigned Regional Parks. A Park Ranger can be reached by calling the landline of the nearest regional park and requesting the duty ranger.

The contact numbers are:

B&A Trail Rangers (410) 222-~~6141~~
Kinder Park Rangers (410) 222-6115
Quiet Waters Rangers (410) 222-1777 or 1796
Downs Park Rangers (410) 222-6230 or 6231
Ft. Smallwood Park Rangers (410) 222-0087 or 0088
Mayo Beach/Beverly Triton Rangers (410) 222-1978
Lake Waterford Rangers (410) 222-6248

Officers can also request Communications to contact a park ranger via channel 21A. Officers should determine the nearest regional park to their location and request for example “Kinder Duty Ranger” or “Quiet Waters Duty Ranger”. The park rangers have a general knowledge of the permit process but specific questions about the user groups or the validity and content of user permits should be directed to *one of the Park Chiefs* at (410) 222-7317.

V. PATROL/TPU SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Patrol Supervisor will ensure the proper notification to Recreation and Parks is made by the investigating officer regarding park incidents.

B. It will be the responsibility of the Patrol Supervisor to notify the oncoming shift of relevant information regarding incidents in county parks to ensure periodic checks are being conducted at the park.

C. TPU Supervisors in the corresponding District will be the designated point of contact with Recreation and Parks to address concerns related to county parks and share intelligence.

D. TPU Supervisors will coordinate meetings with Recreation and Parks to plan for large events scheduled to occur in county parks which may require police assistance. TPU Supervisors will determine the need for additional resources (additional detailed personnel, Reserve Officers, etc.).

VI. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PARK REGULATIONS

The following is a list of Park Regulations an officer may reference to resolve a complaint:

Anne Arundel County Code, Article 14 Recreation and Parks

14-2-101- Alcoholic beverages

A person may not drink or possess alcoholic beverages in a park unless as part of a group having permission for exclusive use of the park.

14-2-102- Camping

- a. **Permit.** A person may not camp in a park in other than a designated area and without a permit issued by the Director.
- b. **Sanitation.** Campers shall keep camping areas clean. Garbage, refuse, and rubbish shall be placed in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- c. **Installation of permanent facilities prohibited.** A person may not install permanent camping facilities or dig or level the ground at a campsite in a park.

14-2-103- Deprivation of use and enjoyment

A person may not deprive others of reasonable use and enjoyment of a park by indulging in riotous, boisterous, threatening, or indecent conduct or abusive, threatening, profane, or indecent language.

14-2-104- Destruction of property

- a. **Applicability.** This subsection does not apply to construction projects or maintenance performed on park land or structures.
- b. **Prohibitions.** A person may not:
 1. tamper with, mar, deface, remove, or destroy an official sign;
 2. damage, use without authority, or remove an installation, fixture, equipment, or vehicle in or from the park;
 3. cut, pull up, burn, carve, or in any manner mutilate, misuse, or damage any tree, shrub, plant, grass, or flower on park grounds; or
 4. intentionally destroy, injure, deface, remove, or disturb soil, rocks, or mineral formations unless incidental to a permitted activity.

14-2-105- Fires

- a. **Prohibitions.** A person may not:
 1. build a fire in a park except in a fireplace or other facility constructed for a fire; or
 2. use a charcoal grill or a gasoline or gas stove without written permission from of the Director.
- b. **Additional regulations relating to fire hazards.** Smoking or the building of fires may be prohibited in parks or limited by the Director whenever in the Director's judgment a potential fire hazard exists.
- c. **Liability for damages.** A person who builds a fire in a park except in a fireplace or other facility constructed for a fire is responsible for damage and expense caused by carelessness.

14-2-106- Fireworks, firearms, explosives

A person may not discharge fireworks, firearms, or explosives in a park without written permission from the Director and the other necessary permits.

14-2-107- Horses

A person may not ride, walk, or otherwise have a horse on park grounds except on bridle paths designated for that purpose by the Director.

14-2-108- Litter

A person may not dump refuse, garbage, or rubbish anywhere on park grounds except in designated receptacles, or bring garbage, refuse, or rubbish into a park and deposit it in park trash receptacles.

14-2-109- Meetings

- a. **Restriction.** A person may not hold a meeting in a park if the meeting will deprive the public of the reasonable use and enjoyment of the park or interfere with the public's right of free passage in the park.
- b. **Written permission required.** A person may not hold an organized gathering of 40 or more individuals in a park without written permission from the Director.

14-2-110- Model airplanes, rockets, and the like

A person may not launch or fly a power model airplane, rocket, or similar device from a park area without written permission from the Director.

14-2-111- Picnics

A person may not picnic in a park in other than a designated area without written permission from the Director.

14-2-112- Profit-making activities

A person may not utilize a tennis court, basketball court, athletic field, or other activity area in a park for conducting private instruction or lessons for which a fee is charged unless the program is conducted or sponsored by the Department.

14-2-113- Selling

A person may not sell anything in a park without written permission from the Director.

14-2-114- Sound amplification equipment

A person may not use sound amplification equipment in a park without written permission from the Director.

14-2-115-Traffic

- a. **Speed limit.** A person may not operate a motor vehicle, bicycle, minibike, play vehicle, or unicycle in a park at a speed in excess of 10 miles per hour unless permitted by posted official notice. The Director shall conspicuously post speed limits in all parks.
- b. **Trucks and commercial vehicles.** A person may not operate a truck or commercial vehicle, other than one owned or operated by the County or used by a person, team, or organization to transport persons participating in athletic or recreational activities in a park, on park premises without written permission from the Director.
- c. **Operation and obstructions generally.** A person may not obstruct a park entrance with a motor vehicle, bicycle, minibike, play vehicle, or unicycle. A person may not operate or stop a motor vehicle, bicycle, minibike, play vehicle, or unicycle in a park area, except on a paved road, without written permission from the Director.
- d. **Overnight parking.** A person may not park a motor vehicle in a park overnight. This subsection does not apply to County-owned, County-operated, or official vehicles.
- e. **Designated parking.** A person shall park a motor vehicle in a park only in designated parking areas.

14-2-116- Vehicle repairs

Except in an emergency, a person may not lubricate, repair, or perform mechanical work on a vehicle in a park.

14-2-117- Wild animals; wildlife management agreement

A person may not capture, confine, injure, destroy, or interfere with a wild animal in a park, except with permission granted by the Director, pursuant to a wildlife management agreement.

VII. DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS

A. The Director of Recreation and Parks has the authority under **Article 14-3-101** to declare a person who violates any provision under Article 14 to be ineligible to participate in County athletic programs or may ban the violator from County owned, leased, or operated facilities. The period of banning time will be determined by the Director.

B. The Director of Recreation and Parks will forward all information on banned subjects to the Southern District Executive Officer who will ensure the banning information is entered into Sharepoint.

VIII. PROPONENT UNIT: Bureau of Patrol.

IX. CANCELLATION: This directive cancels Index Code 1613, dated 12-12-14.