

**CHAPTER 563**  
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

- Destruction of trees, shrubs, etc. - see Ohio R.C. 901.51;  
GEN. OFF. 541.06
- Department of Parks and Recreation - see ADM. Ch. 151
- Disorderly conduct; intoxication - see GEN. OFF. 509.03
- Littering - see GEN. OFF. 521.08
- Weapons, explosives and fireworks - see GEN. OFF. Ch. 549

**EXHIBIT A**

**563.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter, certain terms shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Park" means any public land controlled or operated by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City, with the exception of public land holding a State liquor license.
- (b) "Director" means the Director of Parks and Recreation.
- (c) "Department" means the Gahanna Parks and Recreation Department.
- (d) "Commission" means the Gahanna Parks and Recreation Commission.  
(Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.02 DEFACEMENT, DESTRUCTION, REMOVAL OR DISTURBANCE.**

(a) Property or Equipment. No person shall cut, injure, deface, destroy, disturb or remove any part of the park or building, sign, equipment or other property found therein.

(b) Natural Features. No person shall cut, injure, deface, destroy, disturb or remove any tree, flower, shrub or other vegetation, or fruit or seed thereof, nor shall any rock or mineral be removed, injured, destroyed or disturbed. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.03 USE OF NATURE TRAILS AND OPEN AREAS.**

No person shall leave the official or improved trails or open areas while such person is within the boundaries of the park, unless written special permission is obtained from the Director. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.04 LITTERING; DUMPING.**

No person, without the specific written consent of the Director, shall bring into, leave behind or dump any material of any kind in the parks except the refuse, ashes, garbage and other material of a picnic, camp or other permitted activity, and such material shall be deposited in receptacles or pits provided for such purposes. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.05 FIREARMS; WEAPONS.**

No person except law enforcement officers shall carry a firearm of any description, air or gas gun, bow, crossbow or other missile-throwing substances, or air or gas guns onto or over the parks, or bring into the parks any pistol, switchblade, or hunting knife, dagger, metal knuckles, slingshot, or other dangerous weapon.

Individuals participating in a department sponsored archery program shall be permitted to use bows and arrows in accordance with such program. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.06 DISORDERLY CONDUCT.**

No person shall cause a public address device, radio, phonograph, tape recorder or musical instrument to be used in the parks at a volume audible beyond his immediate area. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.07 SPECIAL EVENTS.**

(a) No individual or organization shall conduct, sponsor or promote any special event, public meeting, concert, theater, athletic event or other public activity in the parks without prior authorization by the Director.

(b) No event or activity sponsored or promoted by an individual or organization shall be permitted if, in the opinion of the Director or Commission:

- (1) It will constitute hazards and dangers to the personal safety of the participants or other park visitors.
- (2) Endangers peace and good order in the parks.
- (3) Interferes with the regular and normal use of the facilities and activities by park visitors.
- (4) Is inconsistent with the use of the parks for park purposes. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.08 INTOXICANT AND CHANCE.**

No person shall play at games of chance, consume or display the presence of beer, wine, malt liquor, malt beverage, intoxicating liquor or liquor in any park. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.09 ABUSIVE LANGUAGE, CONDUCT.**

No person shall use obscene, profane, or abusive language, or engage in any conduct that interferes with the peace or good order of the people within the park. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.10 SOLICITING; UNLAWFUL SALES.**

No person shall sell, offer or solicit for sale any goods or merchandise without a written permit from the Director. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.11 ENTERING TOILET FACILITIES.**

No person except park maintenance employees on duty shall enter a toilet room set aside for the opposite sex. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.12 ADVERTISING; SIGNS.**

No person shall expose, distribute, or place any sign, advertisement, circular, notice or statement or display any banner, emblem, or design within the parks without a specific permit from the Director. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.13 ORDERS BY EMPLOYEES; COMPLIANCE.**

(a) Parks and Recreation Department employees are authorized to issue reasonable orders or directives to park visitors when, in their opinion, an activity being conducted by the visitor constitutes a hazard, endangers the personal safety of the participant or other park visitors, or endangers peace and good order in the parks.

(b) No person shall refuse to comply with any reasonable order or directive given in the performance of duty by any authorized agent of the Parks and Recreation Department; nor shall any person commit a nuisance or obstruction or use abusive, profane or insulting language toward such employee of the Parks and Recreation Department; and upon continued disregard of such lawful order, directive or prohibition, such person may be ejected from the park. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.14 CAMPS AND CAMPING.**

No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging or sleeping place within the park without a specific written permit from the Director. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.15 FIRES.**

No person shall start a fire in the parks except small fires for cooking in park grills or privately owned grills, or fires in the areas approved by the Director. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.16 HOURS OF OPERATION.**

(a) Hours Closed. No person shall be permitted to enter, remain, stop or park within the confines of Gahanna Woods or any other open space under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise except for Friendship Park, which shall be closed daily from 11:00 p.m. until one-half hour before sunrise.

(b) Exceptions. Only persons participating in a scheduled Parks and Recreation Department Program or members of groups who have reserved facilities beyond normal operating hours are permitted in the parks after the closing hours stated in subsection (a) hereof.

(c) Special Closing of Areas. No person shall be permitted to remain, stop or park within areas of the parks which have been closed by the Director or other officials of the Parks and Recreation Department. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.17 HUNTING, TRAPPING, COLLECTING OR MOLESTING WILDLIFE.**

No person shall hunt, collect, pursue in any manner, trap or in any other way molest any wild bird or other animal found within the confines of the parks, rob or molest any nest or den, or take or handle the eggs or young of any bird or other animal. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.18 FISHING.**

In all park waters fishing shall be permitted subject to the statutes of the State. (ORC 1533.32 and 1533.37; Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.19 PETS PROHIBITED.**

No person shall bring into the parks any pets except dogs or cats. Dogs and cats are permitted only in the open areas, parking areas, and roadways and shall be controlled at all times on a leash not more than six feet long. The owner of such animals shall be responsible for the removal and proper disposal of any droppings left by such animal. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.20 RELEASING OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS PROHIBITED.**

No person shall release any wild or domestic animal or plant, or culture any seed or vegetation of any type, in any of the parks without the written permission of the Director. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.21 HORSEBACK RIDING PROHIBITED.**

No person shall ride or bring into the parks any horse, mule or pony. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.22 SWIMMING PROHIBITED.**

Swimming is prohibited within the parks. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.23 GOLFING.**

No person shall hit a golf ball or practice golf except in areas where designated by the Director or his authorized agent. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.24 BOATING.**

Boating shall be permitted subject to the statutes of the State with all watercraft meeting the current Federal and/or State safety standards. (ORC 1547 and 1548; Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.25 ENGINE POWERED MINIATURE MODELS AND TOYS.**

Engine powered miniature model and toy airplanes, chemically powered rockets, boats, cars, sirens and other noisemaking devices are not permitted to be operated within the confines of the parks, except in areas designated by the Director. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.26 TRAFFIC.**

(a) Purposes of Way. No person shall use any portion of the parks for purposes of a passage way except drives, roadways, paths, walks, and trails established for such purposes. Paths established as foot paths, or bicycle paths shall not be used for motor vehicle traffic.

(b) Self-Propelled, Animal Drawn or Human-Propelled Vehicles. No person shall operate or cause to be operated any type of self-propelled vehicle or any vehicle which is moved by animal or human power over or upon any nature trail within the parks.

(c) Driving on Closed Roads or Drives. No person shall drive upon or along any park road or drive which has been closed and posted with appropriate signs or barricades. The Director or his authorized agent shall have the power to close any roads or drives within the parks when determined unfit for use. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.27 SPEED LIMIT.**

No person shall drive or propel any vehicle or cause any vehicle to be driven or propelled along or over any road or drive within the parks at a greater rate of speed than ten miles per hour or the posted speed limit. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.28 PARKING.**

No person shall park or store any motor vehicle, bicycle, wagon or other vehicle within any traveled roadway in the parks or at any location where posted signs prohibit parking except in emergencies, or upon any sod, gravel or other surface not specifically designated as a "Parking Area". (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.29 STORAGE OF VEHICLES.**

No person shall leave any motor vehicle, wagon or other vehicle within the parks after closing hours except in an emergency and only after obtaining permission from the Director or his authorized agent. Any vehicle left within the parks after closing hours without permission shall be removed from the park at the owner's expense. (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)

**563.30 SKATEBOARD PARK.**

IT IS NOTED AND SHALL BE POSTED "THAT USE OF THIS FACILITY MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY. ANY USE OF THIS FACILITY IS AT YOUR OWN RISK AND USERS ASSUME THE RISK OF ANY INJURY OR DAMAGE."

THE BASE AT SHULL PARK, BIKE AND SKATE ESCAPE, SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, WHICH SHALL BE POSTED, OVER AND ABOVE THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER;

- (A) THIS FACILITY IS DESIGNATED FOR SKATEBOARDING, IN LINE SKATING, HUMAN POWERED SCOOTERS, AND BMX BIKING. RIDING, OPERATING, OR UTILIZING ANY OTHER DEVICES IN THIS FACILITY IS NOT PERMITTED.
- (B) FACILITY OPENS AT DAWN AND CLOSES AT DUSK.
- (C) FACILITY IS NOT SUPERVISED.
- (D) FOR YOUR PROTECTION, SAFETY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS HELMETS, ELBOW PADS, KNEEPADS, WRIST PADS, AND ANKLE PADS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
- (E) CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS MAY CREATE UNSAFE SURFACES FOR SKATING.
- (F) UNAUTHORIZED OBSTACLES, RAMPS, OTHER EQUIPMENT, OR MATERIALS MAY NOT BE ADDED TO THE FACILITY.
- (G) RESPECT THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ALL FACILITY USERS.
- (H) NO ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS, LOUD MUSIC, PROFANITY, FIGHTING, GRAFFITI, STICKERS, GLASS CONTAINERS, MOTORIZED VEHICLES, OR MOTORIZED SCOOTERS ALLOWED.
- (I) KEEP FOOD, DRINK, AND LITTER OFF THE SKATE SURFACE.
- (J) USE TRASH CONTAINERS WHERE PROVIDED.
- (K) SPECTATORS ARE REQUIRED TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE RIDING AREA.
- (L) PARENTAL SUPERVISION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER.
- (M) THE CITY OF GAHANNA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CLOSE THE FACILITY FOR ANY CIRCUMSTANCES DEEMED NECESSARY.
- (N) ANY PERSON WHO DOES NOT FOLLOW THESE RULES, HAS EXHIBITED UNSAFE BEHAVIOR, OR WHOSE CONDUCT IS IN VIOLATION OF THE GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES OR OHIO REVISED CODE WILL BE COMPELLED TO LEAVE THE FACILITY AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION.
- (O) TO REPORT EQUIPMENT DAMAGE OR UNSAFE CONDITIONS CALL 342-4250.
- (P) ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE GAHANNA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

THE RULES OUTLINED ABOVE FOR THE SKATE PARK SHALL TAKE PRECEDENCE FOR THE SKATE PARK OVER THE RULES FOR OTHER PARKS, IF THE RULES CONFLICT.

**563.99 PENALTY.**

Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). (Ord. 6-84. Passed 2-7-84.)