

TOWN OF HARTFORD, VERMONT PARKS ORDINANCE

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ARTICLE I PURPOSE

The purpose of this article shall be to preserve the public peace and maintain order on lands owned and managed by the Town of Hartford, Vermont, and to contribute to the safety and enjoyment of the users of such parklands by regulating the use of the property.

ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS

1. **“Town”** the governing entity consisting of the following villages: Quechee, Wilder, West Hartford, Hartford and White River Junction.
2. **“Park”** is any area in the Town under the direct jurisdiction of the Town Parks and Recreation Department and Conservation Commission. Parks and Conservation Lands include: Quechee Green Park, Watson Memorial Park, Erwin Clifford Park, George Ratcliffe Park, Hurricane Wildlife Refuge Park, Frost Park, Kilowatt North and South Parks, Veterans Park, Quechee Falls Park, Maxfield Sports Complex, Meeting House Common, Lyman Point Park, Fred Briggs Park (Engine 494), Hurricane Town Forest, Maanawaka Conservation Area, David Chang Conservation Area and all open public properties managed by the Parks and Recreation Department and Conservation Commission.
3. **“Person”** is any individual, group, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
4. **“Vehicle”** is any conveyance, whether motor-powered, animal-drawn or self-propelled. The term shall include any trailer in tow of any size, kind or description.
5. **“Tobacco Products”** include cigarettes, little cigars, roll-your-own tobacco, snuff, cigars, new smokeless tobacco, and other tobacco products as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 7702.

ARTICLE III AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Parks and Recreation is charged with the administration of this article and the posting of signs designating parkland within the town. The rules and regulations set forth herein shall apply to and be in effect in all parks under the control, supervision and jurisdiction of the department. Under authority granted in 24 V.S.A. §§ 2291 (4), 2291 (7), 2291 (14), 2291 (17), and 2291 (18), the Selectboard of the Town of Hartford, Vermont hereby adopts the following civil ordinance regulating the Parks.

ARTICLE IV NO PERSON IN A PARK SHALL

1. Buildings and grounds
 - a. Willfully mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with, displace or remove, any building, bridges, tables, benches, grills, railings, paving/paving material, water lines, or other public utilities or parts or appurtenance thereof, signs, notices, or place cards (whether temporary or permanent), monuments, play equipment, facilities or park property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal.
 - b. Dig or remove any soil, rock, stones, down timber or other wood or materials, or make any excavation by tool, equipment, blasting, or other means or agency.
 - c. Erect Structures: Construct or erect any building or structure of whatever kind, whether permanent or temporary in character, or run, or string public service utility into, upon or across such lands. Exception is here made as to any person acting by and under the authorization by permit of the Town.
2. Trees, Shrubbery, Lawns
 - a. Damage, cut, carve, transplant, or remove any tree, flower or plant or injure the bark, of any tree or plant. Nor shall any person attach any rope, wire or other mechanical device to a tree or plant. A person shall not dig in or otherwise disturb turf areas.
3. Hunt and Trap
 - a. Hunt or trap on Park Properties, with the exception of what may be permitted by the regulations as outlined in the Hurricane Town Forest Recreation Management Plan.
4. Sanitation
 - a. Pollute the natural waters located in and next to the Parks.
 - b. Bring in or shall dump, deposit or leave any bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, waste, in or contiguous to any park, or left anywhere on the grounds thereof, but shall be placed in the proper receptacles where these are provided; where receptacles are not provided, all such rubbish or waste shall be carried away from the Park by the person responsible for its presence, and properly disposed of elsewhere.
 - c. Keep a dog or dogs off leash. Owner or person having custody of any dog shall keep the dog on a leash at all times, unless in an off-leash designated area on the park grounds. A dog may not defecate on any park properties, unless said defecation is removed immediately and properly disposed of in a designated dog waste container. No dogs are allowed on athletic fields. *Cross reference Dog Ordinance Chapter Sections: 27-4, 27-5, 27-8, 27-9 & 27-10*
5. Traffic
 - a. Fail to comply with State laws, Town ordinances and with the exception of what may be permitted by the regulations as outlined in the Hurricane Town Forest Recreation Management Plan in regards to recreational equipment and operation of vehicle of any kind.
 - b. Operate any vehicle or recreational equipment on any area except the designated road / driveway areas and or trails.
 - c. Park a vehicle in other than established or designated parking areas
6. Recreational Activities
 - a. Frequent any waters or places of park grounds before or after park posted hours. Parks are open from dawn to dusk, unless said activity is approved by the Town to be conducted after park posted hours.
 - b. Discharge or have use of firearms of any description, or air rifles, spring-guns, paint-ball guns/rifles, bow and arrows, sling, knife, slingshot, dagger, or any other types a dangerous weapon(s), with the exception what may be permitted by the rules and regulations as outlined in the Hurricane Town Forest Recreation Management Plan.

- c. Picnic Areas and Use
 - 1) Picnic or have large food serving stations in a place other than those designated for that purpose.
 - 2) Large groups are required to submit a Park Use Permit. A large group consists of ten or more people.
 - 3) Light and create open fires, and/or fire pits with the exception of what may be permitted by the rules and regulations as outlined in the Hurricane Town Forest Recreation Management Plan.
 - 4) Leave a picnic area before the fire is completely extinguished and before all trash, garbage and all other refuse is placed in the disposal receptacles. If no such trash receptacles are available, all refuse is to be taken out of park and properly disposed of elsewhere.
- d. No person shall set up 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 for, or that could be for, such purpose of overnight camping, with the exception of what may be permitted by the rules and regulations as outlined in the Hurricane Town Forest Recreation Management Plan or without permission from the Hartford Parks and Recreation Department.
- e. Take part in organized athletic games without written permission of the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- f. Ride a horse or any other animal in the parks, with the exception of what may be permitted by the regulations as outlined in the Hurricane Town Forest Recreation Management Plan.

ARTICLE V BEHAVIOR – NO PERSON IN A PARK SHALL:

- 1. Bring or possess alcohol beverages, tobacco products, or any illegal drug, nor shall any person drink alcohol beverages, or use any tobacco products, tobacco substitute products as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001(8), cannabis as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 831(2), cannabis products as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 831(3) or illegal drug at any time in the park, except when allowed by the rules or regulations of the ordinance relating to the use of alcohol beverages. *Cross reference Open Container Ordinance*
- 2. Engage in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language, or engage in any disorderly conduct or behavior tending to breach the public peace. *Cross reference Noise Ordinance.*

ARTICLE VI MERCHANDISING – ADVERTISING – SIGNS

- 1. Expose or offer for sale the article of 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 here made as to any person acting by and under the authorization by permit of the Town.
- 2. Announce, advertise, or call the public attention in any way to any article or service or service for sale or hire – without written permission from the Town.
- 3. Paste, glue, tack or otherwise post any sign, placard, advertisement, or inscription, nor shall any person erect or cause to be erected any sign on park properties. Exception is here made as to any person acting by and under the authority by permit of the Town.

ARTICLE VII BICYCLE, SNOW VEHICLES AND MOTORBIKES

1. No person shall ride a bicycle upon the lawns, walks, or foot trails in the parks unless otherwise posted.
2. No motorized snow vehicles shall be permitted in the area of a park except where permitted by the Town.
3. No motorized vehicle shall be permitted in any area of the parks, with the exception of those permitted by the rules and regulations of each park.

ARTICLE VIII VIOLATION AND PENALTIES

A violation of this ordinance shall be subject to civil enforcement in accordance with the provisions of 24 VSA Section 1974a and 1977 et seq. A civil penalty of not more than \$500.00 may be imposed for a violation of this civil ordinance and the waiver fee shall be set at \$50.00 for the first offense, \$100.00 for the second offense within a six month period, and \$200.00 for all subsequent offenses within a six month period. Each day violation shall constitute a separate violation of this ordinance.

ARTICLE IX EFFECTIVE DATE

Effective Date: This ordinance shall take effective sixty days after the adoption by the Select Board for the Town of Hartford, Vermont.

ARTICLE X NO PREEMPTION OF PRIVATE REMEDY

Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to limit or modify any remedy which may be available to any private person under existing common law or statute for abatement of nuisance, nor shall any enforcement process begun or completed by the Town of Hartford against any person be deemed or construed to exempt such person from imposition of liability resulting from pursuit of civil remedy by any other person.


Adopted this 16th day of May, 2023 at Hartford, County of Windsor, State of Vermont all in accordance with Title 24 VSA (14) and 24 VSA Chapter 59 (Civil Enforcement).


HARTFORD SELECTOBOARD:



Mary M. Erdei, Selectboard Member


Robert Rocket, Selectboard Member
5698540.1


Michael Hoyt, Chair


Daniel Fraser, Vice Chair


Kim Souza, Clerk


Lannie J. Collins, Selectboard Member


Ally Tufenkjian, Selectboard Member