

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION AND USE  
OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES OWNED AND  
CONTROLLED BY THE TOWN OF RURAL HALL**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNCILMEN OF THE TOWN OF RURAL HALL:

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this ordinance is to establish regulations for the public health, safety and welfare in respect to the recreational activities, programs and facilities of the Town of Rural Hall. This ordinance is designed to maximize the enjoyment of recreation in Rural Hall's recreation facilities and programs and offer protection from conditions, which could harm, injure or offend any group or individual.

**SECTION 1.**

It shall be unlawful for any person in any park, recreation area, playground, ball field, tennis court, picnic shelter, or any other recreation facility and the parking facilities thereof, owned or controlled by the Town of Rural Hall to:

1. Willfully mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with, display or remove any structure, equipment, facilities or other property, either real or personal.
2. Damage, cut, carve, transplant, or remove any tree or plant, injure the bark, pick the flowers or seeds of any tree or plant, to dig or otherwise disturb grass areas in any other way, or injure or impair the natural beauty or usefulness of any area.
3. Dump, deposit or leave any bottles, broken glass, ashes, charcoal, gas, paper, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, wastes, garbage or refuse, or other trash.
4. Fail to obey all traffic officers and recreational personnel or volunteers, as appointed by the Town Manager or his designee, such persons being hereby authorized and instructed to direct traffic whenever and wherever needed in the park(s).
5. Fail to obey all traffic signs indicating speed, direction, caution, stopping or parking and all other traffic signs posted for proper control and to safeguard life and property.
6. Park any motor vehicle in areas other than established or designated parking areas.
7. Drive any motor vehicle on any area except the paved park roads, parking areas or such other areas as may be specifically designated by the Town Manager, or his designee. No motorcycles, mini-bikes, trail-bikes, dirt-bikes, go-carts, all-terrain vehicles, or like motorized vehicles are allowed on park property except for parking in designated parking areas only.
8. Ride on sidewalks, walking trails, exercise stations, tennis courts, ballfields, parking lots or any other recreation facilities in the park(s) upon any bicycle, motorcycle, sled, coaster, toy wagon, roller skates, roller blades, skateboard, or other similar device except for the purpose of transportation to and from the park(s).

**SECTION 1 (Continued):**

9. Boat, swim, bathe, wade or fish in any waters or waterways in or adjacent to any park, except in such waters at such places as are provided therefor, and in compliance with such regulations as adopted by the Town Council.
10. Allow pets in designated areas and allow or permit any horses, dogs or other animals to run at large.
11. Violate the regulation that use of the individual picnic sites and picnic shelters, together with tables and benches, follows generally the rule of "First Come, First Served", unless a picnic reservation has been issued according to regulations as adopted by the Town Council.
12. Leave a picnic area or shelter before the fire is completely extinguished and before all trash in the nature of boxes, papers, cans, bottles, garbage and other refuse is placed in receptacles provided. If no such receptacles are available, then refuse and trash shall be carried away from the park area by the user to be properly disposed of elsewhere.
13. Camp in any area without first obtaining a permit from the Town Manager or his designee. No person shall set up tents, shacks, or any other temporary shelter for the purpose of overnight camping, nor shall any person leave in any park after closing hours any movable structure or special vehicle to be used or that could be used for such purpose, such as a camper/trailer, house trailer, or the like, without a permit obtained from the Town Manager or his designee.
14. Bring, have in his possession, set off or otherwise cause to explode, discharge or burn any firecrackers, other fireworks, explosives, or non-explosives, such as sparklers or discharge them or throw them into any such area from land or highway adjacent thereto.
15. Build or attempt to build a fire except in such areas and under such regulations as may be designated for that purpose. No person shall drop, throw, or otherwise scatter lighted matches, burning cigarettes or cigars, or other flammable material within any park area or on any highway, road or street abutting or contiguous thereto.
16. Enter an area posted as "Closed to the Public".
17. Sleep or protractedly lounge on the seats, benches, floors or other area, or engage in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language or engage in any disorderly conduct or behavior tending to be a breach of the public peace.
18. Disturb or interfere unreasonably with any other person or party occupying any area, or participating in any authorized activity.
19. Charge admission into or solicit donations at any park or park facility or for any event.
20. No individual, group, club, company or corporation may sell food, beverages or merchandise without first obtaining a permit issued by the Town Manager or his designee.

**SECTION 1 (Continued):**

21. Subject to the provisions of N.C.G.S 14-415.11(c) and 14-415.23, No person who has a concealed weapon permit shall carry a concealed weapon in or on any recreational facilities or buildings, or their appurtenant premises, where prohibited by posting. The term "recreational facility" does not include any greenway, designated biking or walking path, an area which is customarily used as a walkway or bike path although not specifically designated for such use, open fields where athletic events may occur unless the area qualifies as an "athletic field" pursuant to subdivision 1 of subsection (c) of N.C.G.S. 14-415.23, and any other area that is not specifically described in section (c) of said subsection. The concealed weapon permittee, may, nevertheless, secure the handgun in a locked vehicle within the trunk, glove box, or other enclosed compartment or area within or on the motor vehicle. This section shall not apply to law enforcement officers when engaged in the discharge of their duties.
22. Enter, use or remain within any park between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM unless a Town sponsored event is delayed or a written permit therefore has been obtained from the Town Manager or his designee.
23. Bring upon, possess, consume or display any beer, wine, whiskey or other intoxicating liquor or beverage or controlled substances or the containers thereof within the confines of any park and recreation areas. It shall be prohibited for a person under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance to enter or remain in a recreation facility or program and such person or persons shall immediately leave upon the request of a traffic officer, recreation personnel, designated volunteers or other persons specified by Section 4(2) of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 2:**

1. No open fires are allowed. All fires must be contained in grills provided by the user or in the grill at the picnic shelter.
2. Flagrant misuse of parks and recreational facilities will result in forfeiture of future use and reservation privileges.
3. The Town Manager has the authority and responsibility to recommend rules and regulations governing the use and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities to the Town Council for their consideration. Such rules and regulations become effective as adopted by the Town Council.
4. Any requests for special events or use of the parks and recreational facilities shall be presented to and approved by the Town Manager or his designee. If these requests are approved, a permit will be issued and any fees will be assessed by the Town Manager or his designee.

**SECTION 3:**

Any section or part of any park, recreation area or facility may be declared closed to the public by the Town of Rural Hall at any time and for any interval of time, either temporarily or at regular and stated intervals (daily or otherwise) and closed to certain uses.

**SECTION 4:**

1. Users of all parks and recreation facilities shall adhere to not only this ordinance, but also to any rules and regulations as adopted by the Town Council.
2. The Town Manager or his designee and any authorized Town employee and any law enforcement agency shall have the authority to eject from any recreation facility, any person acting in violation of this ordinance, or in violation of other rules and regulations enacted pursuant to this ordinance as adopted by the Town Council.


**SECTION 5:**

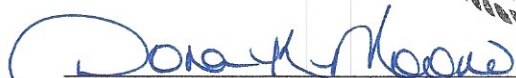
Any person who shall violate the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.00, or imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both, in the discretion of the court, as provided by Section 14-4 of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

Amended and adopted this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.

ATTEST:



  
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Timothy M. Flinchum  
Mayor

  
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Dora K. Moore  
Town Clerk