

Town Orford

USE OF PUBLIC GROUNDS POLICY

Definition.

Public Grounds shall be defined as the following unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning; public buildings (occupied and unoccupied), the bandstand, community fields, playgrounds, parks, common/mall, athletic fields and courts, beaches and boat landings, recycling center or any other area owned by the town including properties overseen by the Library Trustees and Conservation Commission.

Operating Policy on Public Grounds / Trespassing.

- I. Public Grounds, including parking lots, as noted above shall be closed to the public every day of the year from a half hour after sunset until 7:00 a.m., except for such functions for community programs or meetings as may be authorized by the Selectboard, or the entity to which the Selectboard have delegated management authority for the grounds in question.
 - a. A “Request to Use” must be completed and submitted to the Selectboard office for approval.
 - b. For groups wishing to hold a raffle on Town owned property, the “Raffle Request” form must be completed and submitted to the Selectboard office for approval.
 - c. Groups wishing to use the Community Fields for sporting events must seek permission from the Parks & Playground committee prior to Selectboard approval.
- II. Use of public grounds applies to residents and non-residents. Once approval has been granted, the organization/individual must keep the approval at the event for proof of approval.
- III. Rules and regulations for use of Conservation properties will be posted at those locations.
- IV. Such public closure shall be conspicuously posted at the affected grounds.
- V. Any person entering public grounds without permission or lawful authority during a time when said public grounds are closed shall be in violation of this section of the ordinance and may be fined.
 - a) Community service for a first offense,
 - b) \$ 250 for a second offense within the next 365 days,
 - c) up to a maximum of \$1,000 for subsequent offenses in a one-year period.

Behavior.

- I. No person on public grounds shall consume an intoxicating beverage, except as authorized by the Selectboard.
- II. No person on public grounds shall build a fire, except as authorized by the Selectboard or the entity to which the Selectboard have delegated management authority for the grounds in question.
- III. No person on public grounds shall engage in any disorderly conduct or behavior tending to a breach of the public peace.
- IV. No person shall camp, set up tents, shacks, or other temporary shelter for any purpose, except as authorized by the Selectman or the entity to which the Selectboard have delegated management authority for the grounds in question.
- V. No person shall operate, park or drive any vehicle, including but not limited to motor vehicles, motorcycles, mini bikes, go carts or bicycles, skate boards or other human or animal propelled vehicles on any public grounds, where operation of a vehicle is unauthorized, except as authorized by the Selectboard or the entity to which the Selectboard have delegated management authority for the grounds in question.
- VI. Use of Class VI roads
 - a. Maintenance allowed by residents that abut a Class VI road to allow emergency vehicles access to their personal property
 - Private maintenance of these roads do not allow for restriction of others to use the road
 - b. Can be used for snowmobile trails

Sanitation.

- I. No person shall throw, discharge, or otherwise place or cause to be placed in the waters of any fountain, pond, lake, stream, or other body of water or adjacent to any public grounds or any tributary, stream, storm sewer or drain flowing into such waters any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which will or may result in the pollution of waters.
- II. No person shall deposit refuse or trash, bring in or dump or leave any bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish waste, garbage, tires or any other trash. No such refuse or trash shall be placed in any water or contiguous to any public grounds or left anywhere on the grounds thereof, but shall be placed in the proper receptacles where these are provided; where receptacles are not so provided, all such rubbish or waste shall be carried away from the public property by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere.
- III. No pets are allowed on Public Grounds.

Smoke Free.

As of January 1, 1991 RSA155:64-77 requires that smoking be restricted. This law requires that smoking be restricted and regulated in enclosed places of public ownership, public access and places of employment to protect the health of the people who use them. In order to comply with the provision of this law, smoking on and in all public grounds is prohibited.

Penalty / Enforcement / Exceptions

- I. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter for which no penalty is otherwise provided shall be subject to a fine not exceeding the maximum allowed by R.S.A. 47: 17 or other law.
- II. The Parks & Playgrounds Director and Employees, in the case of violations on Town owned Athletic fields and Courts, Playground areas, Beaches & Boat Landings, and the police shall, in connection with their duties imposed by law, diligently enforce these provisions and shall have the authority to eject from these public properties any person acting in violation of this chapter or, in the case of the police, to effect lawful arrests.
- IV. Requests for exceptions by the Selectboard or the entity to which the Selectboard have delegated management authority for the grounds in question are to be made in writing.
- V. A response will be issued within 14 days of receipt of the request. Responses will be in writing. Approvals are to be posted.

Policy Adopted: 01/22/2020

Orford Selectboard-John Adams, Fred Kidder, Tom Steketee