

Park Rules and Safety

Please be a Friend of the Parks

Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation manages approximately 13,000 acres of parks and woodland. These guidelines were developed to keep our parks and facilities fun and safe for everyone.

PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Parks are open dawn to dusk unless otherwise programmed.
- Vehicles must remain on park roads and in designated parking areas.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in any park unless permitted and approved by Parks Director. The use of tobacco or vapor products is not permitted in playground and sprayground areas.
- ATVs are not permitted. Mountain biking is permitted only on designated trails.
- Please take your trash with you or deposit it in trash receptacle.
- Swimming is only allowed in swimming pools during designated times.
- No fireworks, glass containers, hunting, open fires, metal detecting, dumping, littering, sales, or solicitation.
- Charcoal grills are available for use in some parks; you may provide your own. Please properly extinguish charcoal and fire. Do not place hot coals in trash receptacles.
- Fishing is limited to licensed patrons. Gas-powered boats are not allowed; trolling motors only in approved areas.
- Drone use is prohibited in all parks unless in the service of official parks staff or with the written consent of the Park Director.
- Parks are sanctuaries. No hunting, trapping, or removal of natural resources - such as rocks, plants and flowers - is allowed.
- Hunters may not enter city parks to retrieve animals shot elsewhere. If you shoot an animal that later drops in Louisville park, please call the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Services at 800/858-1549; they will have the animal collected and processed, and the meat will be donated to a local charity.
- Food sales and distribution are prohibited except by permit issued by Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation Department.
- Any organization using the park that charges a fee for participation in their activity by the participants (photography sessions, fitness classes, etc.) must get a permit.
- Vending, advertising or commercial photography requires a permit from Metro Parks and Recreation. Promotion of alcohol and tobacco products is prohibited.
- Please obey all posted signs.
- Avoid unnecessary engine idling. If your vehicle is going to be sitting for more than 10 seconds, shut off the engine.
- To reserve a picnic shelter or other park facility for a special occasion, call the reservations office at 502/368-5865 or email parkspermits@louisvilleky.gov.
- Report graffiti and maintenance concerns to MetroCall at 311.
- If you see criminal activity in progress, call Louisville Metro Police at 502/574-7111 (urban) or 502/547-2111 (suburban). For emergencies, call 911.
- Questions? Call 502/574-PARK (7275) or email parks@louisvilleky.gov.

TIPS FOR ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY IN PARKS



Read and obey the posted closing hours for parks.

For your safety, stay in groups when using parks, especially around dawn or dusk, or keep to high-traffic, well-lighted areas.

Keep children under your supervision.

Learn basic first-aid techniques.

Wear sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15, with special attention to face, nose, ears and shoulders. Apply 30 minutes prior to sun exposure. Wear sunglasses with UV protection, and use a lip balm with sunscreen.

Do not take unnecessary valuables with you on your outing, and never leave any valuables unattended in the park or in your car.

Please be aware of your surroundings. Note the name of the park and/or trail that you are on.

Watch the weather.

Carry a mobile phone.

If out on a trail, let a friend or family member know where you are going and when you will return.

During hot and muggy days, avoid unnecessary exposure to heat and drink plenty of water.

Stay on marked trails.

Only use park equipment and/or facilities for their intended purposes.

Do not use soft surface trails when they are muddy.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency: Call 911

LMPD Non-Emergency:
502/574-2111

General Park Information:
502/574-PARK (7275)



**METRO PARKS
AND RECREATION**
Escape. Explore. Connect.

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Park Rules and Safety

Help ensure a safe, enjoyable Metro Parks experience for yourself and others!

Tips

DRIVING



Please obey posted speed limits and watch carefully for all park users, especially children, pedestrians, bicyclists and in-line skaters.

Keep your vehicle on designated, paved surfaces.

Don't block walking paths or trails with your vehicle.

Please remember that bicyclists have equal rights and responsibilities on all roads.

BICYCLING AND SKATING



Wear properly fitted safety equipment that is appropriate to your sport, including helmets and pads. A helmet, worn correctly, can reduce the risk of serious head injury.

If you must be out at night, stay in lighted areas and wear reflective clothing.

Bicyclists: When on park roads, obey all traffic laws. "Take the lane" when necessary for your safety, but allow automobiles to pass at other times.

PLAYGROUNDS



Parents, please supervise your children on park playgrounds.

Playgrounds are checked regularly, but damage can occur between inspections. Report any damage, chipped paint or hazardous equipment to MetroCall at 311 or 502/574-5000.

Children should not wear clothing with hoods or exposed drawstrings while playing on equipment.

TRAIL USE



Plan ahead and know trail lengths so you can finish using the trail before dark.

Staying on marked trails minimizes the chance that you'll get lost, prevents soil erosion, and protects undergrowth.

On multi-use trails, remember that slower traffic has the right-of-way, downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic, and you should stay as far to the right side of the trail as is comfortable.

LIVING THINGS



Know your surroundings and be observant. Use a continual sweeping glance when visiting unfamiliar areas.

Wear an effective insect repellent, especially near dawn or dusk.

If you're stung, pull out the stinger, being careful not to squeeze the poison sac, and apply ice. If your reaction to the bite is severe, seek medical assistance.

Check for ticks after time outdoors. If you find one, gently pull it out with tweezers, being sure to get the head. It is wise to then follow-up with your doctor.

Avoid likely snake habitats, such as brush piles, debris mounds, logjams and root systems. Keep your hands and feet where you can see them at all times. If you see a snake, leave it alone and slowly back away.

Learn to identify and avoid poison ivy and other poisonous plants.

SLEDDING



Sledding is permitted only on designated hills when the "Sledding Hill Open" sign is displayed.

Only use devices designed for sledding.

Dress in layers, so you can remove one layer without risking frostbite. Several thin layers are warmer than one bulky layer.

Make sure you have good visibility during your descent – don't face backwards, and make sure hats and scarves don't obscure your vision.

Don't drink alcohol before sledding – it impairs your ability to use good judgment and causes your body to lose heat more rapidly.

Don't stand too close to fire barrels; they are hot and can catch clothing on fire.

Make sure you're with someone who knows your name and can contact your family in an emergency.



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