

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Dear Park Visitor:

Gloucester County parks are administered as a public trust and are dedicated for use as active and passive recreation, entertainment, and sports activities.

We caution all visitors that use of any park area or facility is **AT YOUR OWN RISK**.

The following “Rules and Regulations” are designed to ensure visitors a safe and enjoyable experience at County parks, and to preserve our parks for future generations

GLOUCESTER COUNTY PARKS RULES & REGULATIONS

SECTION 1.

The provisions herein relate to the parks, streams, lakes and recreational areas within the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey. These Rules and Regulations shall apply to any and all facilities, structures and natural resources that are part of the Gloucester County Parks System, hereinafter referred to as “Park Area(s)”; and to all persons who enter upon or use these areas.

SECTION 2.

While in any Park Area, all persons shall conduct themselves in a lawful and orderly manner, and, **NO PERSON SHALL:**

- a. Willfully mark, vandalize, disturb, interfere with, destroy, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with or displace or remove any property, natural feature, tree, plant, building, bridge, table, bench, fireplace, railings, paving, water lines or other public utilities or parts or appurtenances thereof; signs, notices or placards, whether temporary or permanent, monuments or other structures or equipment, facilities or other County property or appurtenances whatsoever.
- b. Construct or erect any building or structure of whatever kind, whether permanent or temporary in character, or run or string any public utility into, upon or across any Park Area.
- c. Molest, harm, frighten, kill, trap, chase, tease, or throw any object at any wild animal or bird, or remove or take into possession any wild animal or bird, or the eggs or nest of any wild animal or bird.
- d. Hunt in Park Areas; or build, erect or use any hunting stands or blinds.
- e. Throw, discharge, or otherwise place or cause to be placed in the waters of any fountain, pond, lake, stream or other body of water in or adjacent to any part of any tributary, stream, storm sewer, or drain flowing onto such water, any substance, whether solid, liquid or gas, which may result in the pollution of said waters, including but not limited to those materials designated as environmentally hazardous substances, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11b.
- f. Dump or leave in any of the Park Areas, trash or refuse of any kind whatsoever. All trash or refuse must be placed in proper receptacles where provided, or removed and carried away from Park wherever receptacles may not be available; nor place or dispose of trash or refuse of any kind in any lake, stream or waters in or contiguous to Park Areas.
- g. Leave a picnic area before a grill fire is completely extinguished.
- h. Drive any motorized vehicle in any Park Area except on roads designated for vehicle travel, drives or designated parking areas established for such purpose; or leave a motorized vehicle standing or parked in established parking areas or elsewhere in Park Areas after closing hours. All motor vehicles operated on Park lands shall be subject to the Motor Vehicle Laws of the State of New Jersey.

- i. Drive or use any type ATV, snowmobile or other motorized off-road vehicle, or unregistered vehicle, in any Park Area.
- j. Operate an unmanned aerial vehicle or remotely operated aircraft (“drone”) within any Park land or water, except by the written permission of the County of Gloucester County for authorized purposes.
- k. Ride a bicycle or similar non-motor vehicle on surfaces other than a paved road or path designated for that purpose; leave a bicycle or similar non-motor vehicle lying on the ground or paving, or leaning against objects or fixtures, or in any place or position where other persons may trip or be injured.
- l. Bring into or release into any Park Area any pet or animal of any species, whether domestic or wild. This provision shall not apply to the accompaniment of “guide dogs,” “service dogs,” “seeing eye” dogs or other authorized "service animals" by qualified persons (see N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.), or to the use of any animal by members of a police, fire, law enforcement or other related emergency service agency (see N.J.S.A. 10:5-29.7 et seq.).
- m. Indecently expose oneself, or dress or undress on any beach or in any vehicle, toilet or any other open or enclosed Park Area.
- n. Swim, bathe or wade in any lake, stream or other body of water in Park Areas.
- o. Launch, dock or operate a boat of any type or character in any lake, stream or other body of water in any Park Area, except as permitted at designated parks and subject to the requirements and limitations for such use. This provision shall require use of a personal flotation device (life jacket) by any person using a boat of any kind in a lake, stream or other body of water in a Park Area.
- p. Use, carry, possess, or discharge firearms or weapons of any kind or description, including, but not limited to, air-rifles, spring-loaded guns, bows-and-arrows, slingshots, paintball guns, blank guns or any other forms of weapons potentially harmful to wildlife or dangerous to human safety; or any instrument that can be loaded with and fire blank cartridges, or any kind of trapping device. Shooting into Park Areas from beyond the borders thereof is strictly forbidden. This provision shall not apply to historic battle reenactments or similar events performed pursuant to formal agreement with the County or as permitted at County sponsored or authorized events.
- q. Picnic in any park location other than those areas designated for that purpose. Use of park owned picnic tables, benches and grills will be on a “first come, first served” basis unless reservations are approved in advance by the Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Department.
- r. Erect tents or any other temporary shelter for the purpose of overnight camping, except as may be specifically permitted for County sponsored or authorized events; nor shall any person leave in Park Areas, after closing hours, any movable structure or special vehicle to be used for such purposes, such as a house trailer, camp trailer, camp wagon, or similar device.
- s. Throw or otherwise propel objects or projectiles (other than soft-style balls or frisbees) such as stones, arrows, javelins, model airplanes, or any similar objects, except in areas that may be designated for such types of sports or activity.
- t. Utilize propane tanks or similar bottled cooking fuels in any Park Area. Charcoal is the only acceptable cooking fuel permitted in any Park Area designated for such use.

u. Park in a designated 'Handicapped' space without a State issued handicapped license plate or a valid State or locally issued temporary handicapped parking permit; or park a motorized vehicle in any area not designated for parking.

v. Feed geese, ducks, waterfowl or other wildlife at any time. Any person who violates this provision shall be subject to ejection from the park and/or fines as prescribed by law or other penalty as may be periodically imposed by resolution of the County of Gloucester.

w. Ride or bring horses into any Park Area, except as may be specifically permitted for County sponsored or authorized events.

x. Utilize metal detectors in any Park Area; except as permitted in the Scotland Run Park (Wilson Lake) beach area.

y. Plant, pick, dig, remove, injure or destroy any vegetation, soil or aquatic life from any Park Area.

z. Possess or consume alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or narcotics in any Park Area; nor shall any person be permitted in any Park Area under the influence of intoxicating beverages, drugs, or narcotics. Violation of this subsection shall be punishable by a fine or imprisonment as prescribed by law.

aa. Utilize or smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes (“vaping”) products in any indoor structures located in any Park Area, except that tobacco products shall be permitted outdoors, except where specifically prohibited.

bb. Paste, glue, tack or otherwise affix or post any sign, notice, placard, advertisement, or inscription whatever; nor attempt to perform such acts in any Park Area, except as permitted under Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Advertising Policy or the Pitman Golf Course Advertising Policy, as set forth below.

cc. Solicit, sell, or attempt to sell any food or drink items in any Park Area; except as permitted under contract by authorized food vendors and by registered participants in County-sponsored events, or as excepted under Section 3j. below.

dd. Engage in any commercial sales activity or enterprise, including, but not limited to the offering or solicitation of services or the sale of any item; or the distribution of any circular or the advertisement of goods, wares or merchandise in any Park Area, except as specifically provided under Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Advertising Policy or the Pitman Golf Course Advertising Policy, as set forth below.

ee. Enter into or remain in any Park building, section thereof or any other area which may be reserved or designated for the use of the opposite sex. Exception is made for children under six (6) years of age, or as an accommodation upon notice to a park representative for handicapped persons accompanied by an opposite sex caregiver.

ff. Solicit or beg for money or other contributions for any purpose in such a way that causes annoyance or alarm to others, or obstructs the free and convenient passage of others.

gg. Build, attempt to build, light or maintain a fire in any Park Area at any time, except in such areas and under such terms and conditions as contained in these rules and regulations regarding picnic grills; nor shall a person drop, throw, or otherwise scatter lighted materials or tobacco products, or any other flammable material within any Park Area.

hh. Possess, discharge, or set off fire-crackers, rockets, or fireworks of any kind in any Park Area. This provision shall not apply to County sponsored or authorized events.

ii. Enter any area posted as "Closed to the Public"; nor shall any person use, or abet the use of any Park Area in violation of posted notices, including but not limited to handicapped designated parking areas.

jj. Gamble, participate in or abet any game of chance in any Park Area.

kk. Sleep or protractedly lounge on the seats, benches or other park equipment; engage in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language, or engage in any disorderly conduct or breach of the public peace, or loiter in any Park Area.

ll. Block, obstruct, or interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic on any road, drive, parking area, trail, walkway, pathway or common area; nor occupy or interfere with access to any park structure or lavatory in a manner that interferes with its intended use, nor interfere with park personnel in the performance of their duties.

mm. Publicly urinate or defecate in any Park Area.

nn. All persons shall be clothed sufficiently to conform with commonly accepted standards of dress.

SECTION 3.

a. Lakes, streams and other bodies of water in Park Areas which are suitable for fishing shall be available to the residents of Gloucester County at all lawful times, and in such manner as may be permitted by the laws of the State of New Jersey, including, but not limited to, New Jersey Fish and Game Laws; except that any ice and spear fishing is prohibited. The Gloucester County Administrator or designee may limit, curtail or prohibit any or all fishing privileges authorized herein which is deemed necessary for the conservation and preservation of fish or for any other cause that may serve the public interest.

b. Park Areas shall be open to the public every day of the year during daylight hours except for Christmas and New Year's Day or as otherwise posted, for any other reason whatsoever, that may serve the public interest. Closing times at the artificially illuminated fields after daylight hours shall be as posted.

c. Park Areas, or any section thereof, may be closed for unusual or unforeseen circumstances, events or emergencies, or for any other reason deemed necessary at the discretion of the Gloucester County Administrator or designee, or may be restricted to use for a special event, at any time and for any interval of time.

d. The County of Gloucester may establish user fees for any Park Areas or portion thereof. Such user fees shall be clearly posted and due notice provided to the public.

e. Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Department staff or authorized representatives or agencies are charged with administering the provisions of these Rules and Regulations.

f. Park staff or authorized representatives may request any person who acts in violation of these Rules & Regulations or of any conditions or restrictions that may be adopted and posted for the preservation of order or protection of property, to immediately leave Park premises; or, to request the assistance of appropriate by law enforcement to enforce compliance. Persons found in violation of these Rules and Regulations may be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

g. Any person convicted of violating any of the provisions of these Rules & Regulations shall be subject to fines or imprisonment or both as prescribed by law for each offense; all such prosecutions shall be brought in the name of the County of Gloucester.

h. Use of any Park Areas or facility is at users'/visitors' own risk, as there are inherent dangers associated with outdoor recreational activities that could result in injury or loss to persons or property that cannot reasonably be foreseen or mitigated. County government liability is limited to the provisions of the Torts Claims Act (N.J.S.A. 59:1-1 et seq.).

i. Visitors to any Park Area must at all times comply with applicable federal, state or local laws, statutes, regulations and ordinances, in addition to these Rules & Regulations.

j. The Gloucester County Administrator or his/her designee is authorized to grant exceptions, waivers or modifications to any of these GLOUCESTER COUNTY PARKS RULES & REGULATIONS as he/she may deem appropriate and necessary.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

FACILITY RESERVATION INFORMATION

The pavilions in various County parks may be reserved by written request to the County Parks & Recreation Administrative office or by electronic submission to the Department of Parks & Recreation web site at www.co.gloucester.nj.us/depts/parks/default.asp. Included in the request must be the name and address of your organization; the name, address and telephone number of a contact person; the date, time and approximate number of people attending; and, the specific park facility you would like to reserve. (In addition to pavilion use, a ballfield at Atkinson Memorial Park may be available upon request for group, family or organization outings.)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The County of Gloucester complies with all state and federal rules and regulations against discrimination in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. In addition, Gloucester County encourages the participation of people with disabilities in its programs and activities and offers special services to all County residents 60 years of age and older. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the County's ADA Coordinator, through the Division of Human & Disability Services at (856) 384-6842/New Jersey Relay Service 711 or the EEO office at (856)384-6903.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

It is the belief of the Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Advisory Council and Department staff that recreation should be administered as a public trust so as to enhance opportunities for the enjoyment of everyone visiting Gloucester County parks without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, sex, veteran status or military service. Furthermore, it is the policy of the Gloucester County Board of County Commissioners to observe and comply with the Civil Rights Act (Title VII) of 1964.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

James G. Atkinson Park
138 Bethel Mill Road
Sewell, New Jersey, 08080
Tel.: (856) 251-6710
FAX: (856) 251-6749
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
Web Address: gloucestercountynj.gov/parksandrecreation

GLOUCESTER COUNTY PARK OFFERINGS & LOCATIONS

RED BANK BATTLEFIELD PARK

100 Hessian Avenue
National Park, NJ 08063
Tel.: (856) 853-5120

An historic Park on the Delaware River, dating from the American Revolution. Site of the Ann Whitall House Museum (1748) and the remains of Fort Mercer, the park includes picnic areas and pavilions, playground, river promenade and pier. Canopies may be used at picnic sites, but must be immediately removed upon completion of any event. Park is open year-round except Christmas Day and New Year's Day, dawn to dusk.

JAMES G. ATKINSON MEMORIAL PARK

138 Bethel Mill Road
Sewell, NJ 08080
Tel.: (856) 589-0047

An active recreational park which includes three (3) illuminated baseball/softball/soccer/football fields; one (1) unlit baseball/soccer/football field; eight (8) tennis courts and (6) pickleball courts (with night lighting); two (2) basketball courts (with night lighting); two (2) playground areas; an amphitheater for concerts; one and one-half (1-1/2) miles of bicycle/jogging trails; picnic area and pavilion. Canopies at sporting events and at picnic areas are permitted; however, they must be removed immediately upon completion of the event. No tents, or coverings anchored by stakes are permitted. The park is open year-round except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Fall and Winter hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Spring and Summer hours are from 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

SCOTLAND RUN PARK (and WILSON LAKE)

980 Academy Street
Clayton, NJ 08312 Tel.: (856) 881-0845

This 1,000+ acre facility is currently open for boating and fishing activities and includes a handicapped fishing pier, a picnic area, pavilion and playground. In addition, Summer canoe and kayak rentals are available. All boaters are required to wear USCG approved personal floatation devices. The Nature Center at this site is also available for grade school student trips upon prior written request. Open year round, except Christmas Day and New Year's Day sunrise to sunset. Canopies may be used at picnic sites, but must be completely removed upon completion of any event.

GREENWICH LAKE PARK

Tomlin-Station Road (Off I-295)
Greenwich Township 08027

Greenwich Lake Park offers a variety of aquatic-related activities. A popular fishing spot, the lake is stocked with trout twice a season, by the N.J. Department of Fish and Game, and is open year-round for fishing. The 40-acre spring-fed lake is also available for boating activities. The boat launch is open weekdays and most weekends from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., from opening day of trout season through October. Boaters are required to wear USCG approved personal floatation devices.

Nature lovers will enjoy the wide variety of plant and animal life that abound in the "wetlands" that surround the lake. Additional facilities include conversation areas, picnic tables, and grills. Canopies may be used at picnic sites, but must be completely removed upon completion of any event.

PITMAN GOLF COURSE

501 Pitman Road
Sewell, NJ 08080
Tel.: (856) 589-6688

Pitman Golf Course, located in Mantua Township, is a popular 18-hole public layout which plays to a par of 70 and measures 6,125 yards from the blue tees, 5,964 from the white and 4,942 from the ladies' tees. The Golf Course is open year-round except for Christmas Day. Starting times are not required, but highly recommended, for both weekday and week-end play. Power carts are available but not required. The Course also features a Driving Range and practice putting green, club rentals, a fully stocked Pro-shop and Golf Instruction (by appointment). Call for additional information and services.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTION PRK-8

GLOUCESTER COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVERTISING POLICY

As specifically described below, the Gloucester County Board of County Commissioners has adopted the Gloucester County Parks & Recreation Advertising Policy (the Policy), which permits, for a fee, commercial advertising signs to be placed on certain fences and building walls, and plaques and/or flags containing memorials or statements of donations to be placed on certain poles and park benches. This Policy applies to all Gloucester County Park Areas except Red Bank Battlefield Park and Pitman Golf Course (i.e., James G. Atkinson Memorial Park, Scotland Run Park and Greenwich Lake Park). No advertising of any kind is permitted at Red Bank Battlefield Park. The Pitman Golf Course Advertising/Donation Program is described in GLF-8.

Statement of the Policy: The fences, poles and building walls (the structures) that are the subject of this Policy are not and never have been intended or utilized as public forums for general or indiscriminate public discussion. With the institution of this Policy they will be intended and used exclusively for the paid display of commercial advertisements of appropriate content. The purpose of the Policy is to generate funds to defray the expenses of maintaining Gloucester County Park areas. These Park areas are administered as a public trust and are dedicated to active and passive recreation, entertainment, and sports activities. Their suitability for use by children is especially important. Any subject matter that is of a controversial or disruptive nature or gives the appearance of endorsing, promoting, favoring, or of imposing upon a captive audience, certain points of views, is contrary to the purposes to which the fences, light poles and building wall displays (the displays) are dedicated. Accordingly, the advertising signs, memorials and donation displays to be placed on the designated structures must be only of such a nature that is appropriate for the recreational enjoyment of the Park Areas and must be in conformance with the following terms and restrictions:

- The type and size of the displays, as well as their location, terms and costs are as established by the Board of County Commissioners.
- All advertising signs are restricted exclusively to commercial advertising. Displays that endorse, promote, describe or refer to any type of non-commercial viewpoint or venture, including but not limited to viewpoints on social issues, are prohibited. Displays that endorse, promote, describe, or refer to any institution, organization, or viewpoint of a political nature are also prohibited. Displays that endorse or promote a religious viewpoint are prohibited. These restrictions and prohibitions are to be uniformly and consistently applied.
- The following subject matter is deemed to be unsuitable for facilities used by children and minors and is therefore strictly prohibited on all displays:

- Advertising for the sale of alcoholic beverages, or for businesses that advertise as bars, taverns, nightclubs or other establishments for which the sale of alcoholic beverages is their primary business.
- Advertising for the sale of any type of tobacco product.
- Advertising for "adult" theaters, clubs, video stores or similar sexually oriented businesses, or any other advertising of an explicitly or implicitly sexually provocative or suggestive nature.
- Each contract for the procurement of the displays will be in accordance with the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, and regulations promulgated thereunder, whenever applicable. In all cases vendors will submit their applications/requests for the Displays in conformance with the applicable specifications set forth by the County, and, the County will then, upon receipt of payment from the vendor, order, procure and place the displays in accordance with the applicable specifications.
- Gloucester County retains the right to cancel or discontinue the Policy at any time and for any reason. If such cancellation or discontinuation should occur, any advertiser will be reimbursed pro rata for the period of time for which the advertisement was not displayed under its then-current agreement.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTION GLF-8

PITMAN GOLF COURSE ADVERTISING POLICY

As specifically described in Administrative Code Section PRK-8, the Gloucester County Board of County Commissioners has adopted an advertising policy for the parks owned and operated by the County. This section is an expansion of that policy to establish an advertising policy for the Pitman Golf Course which is likewise owned and operated by Gloucester County.

Statement of the Policy: All buildings and appurtenant facilities (structures), scorecards, hole flags and tee markers at the Pitman Golf Course are the subject of this Policy. They are not and never have been intended or utilized as public forums for general or indiscriminate public discussion. They may be used exclusively for the paid display of commercial advertisements of appropriate content, and for the placement of memorials and statements of donations. The purpose of the Policy is to generate funds to help defray the costs of the programs and maintenance at the Pitman Golf Course. The Pitman Golf Course is administered as a public trust. It hosts many scholastic matches each season and also encourages youth to learn and enjoy the sport by offering junior clinics. Accordingly, the presence of youth at the golf course must be considered. Any subject matter that is of a controversial or disruptive nature, that gives the appearance of endorsing, promoting, favoring, or of imposing upon a captive audience certain points of view, or behavior that is inappropriate to be provided by a government entity will not be accepted. Accordingly, the advertising signs, memorials and donation displays to be placed in the designated areas must conform with the following terms and restrictions:

- The type and size of the displays, as well as their location, terms, and costs are as established by the Board of County Commissioners.
- All advertising signs are restricted exclusively to commercial advertising. Any message that endorses, promotes or describes any type of non-commercial viewpoint or venture is prohibited. Any plaques, flags or advertising signs that endorse, promote, describe, or refer to any institution, organization, or viewpoint of a particular political or religious nature is prohibited. This restriction and prohibition are to be uniformly and consistently applied.

- The following advertising subject matter is deemed to be unsuitable for facilities used by minors and is therefore strictly prohibited from use on structures, displays or other materials subject to this Policy.
 - Advertising for the sale of any type of tobacco product.
 - Advertising for "adult" theaters, clubs, video stores or similar sexually oriented businesses, or any other advertising of an explicitly or implicitly sexually provocative or suggestive nature.
- Each contract for the procurement of the displays will be in accordance with the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, and regulations promulgated thereunder, wherever applicable. In all cases vendors will submit their applications/requests for the displays in conformance with the applicable specifications set forth by the County, and, the County will then, upon receipt of payment from the vendor, order, procure and place the displays in accordance with the applicable terms and specifications.
- Gloucester County retains the right to cancel or discontinue the Policy at any time and for any reason. If such cancellation or discontinuation should occur, any advertiser will be reimbursed pro rata for the period of time for which the advertisement was not displayed under its then-current agreement.