

ORDINANCE 2024-20

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 20, PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES, SECTION 20-3, SKATE PARK, AND COLONY RECREATION CENTER TENNIS RULES AND PROCEDURES, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham (the “Township”) desires to amend the Revised General Ordinances of the Township (the “Township Code”) Chapter 20, Parks and Recreation Facilities, Section 20-3, Skate Park, and Colony Recreation Center Tennis Rules and Procedures, to implement rules and procedures governing the use of the Township’s parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

Section 2. The Township Code Chapter 20, Parks and Recreation Facilities, Section 20-3, Skate Park, and Colony Recreation Center Tennis Rules and Procedures is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 20-3 Parks and Recreational Areas

§ 20-3.1 Park Hours.

Hours of Closing; Special Permits. No person or group of persons shall occupy or use any public park or playground or any portion thereof for any purpose between the hours of (i) 7:00 p.m. to sunrise from November 1 through March 31 and (ii) 9:00 p.m. to sunrise from April 1 through October 31, except upon prior application for a special permit, upon good cause shown therefor, directly to the Township Administrator. The granting of any such permit shall be at the discretion of the Township Administrator. The parks operating hours are not applicable to Township's lighted fields for the use of Township sanctioned sports or recreational activities. No sports or recreational activity shall continue beyond 10:00 p.m. Use of the Township's tennis courts and/or basketball courts shall not exceed a two-hour limit.

§ 20-3.2 Prohibited Uses; Rules of Conduct.

On any land, park, playground, improvements and equipment owned by the Township of Chatham used for active and passive recreation activities, no person shall:

- a. Injure, deface, displace, remove, alter, disturb, tamper with, damage or destroy any trees, shrubs, soil, grass, plant life or any structure, building, post, playground equipment, water fountain, railing, fence, bench, seat, table, platform, walkway, telephone or electric pole, wires, pipes or appurtenances or any other park or recreational equipment or facility, or any hydrant, water, storm or sewer drain, pipe, main, basin covering, manhole or any appendage or appurtenance thereof, or any sign, inscription, post or monument erected or marked for any lawful purpose; or injure or in any way interfere with the operation of any machinery or equipment used under the direction of the Township or any of its departments, agencies or officials; or deface, destroy, alter, damage or tamper with any drive, path, walk, bridge, parking area or shelter; or take up, remove or carry away any asphalt, concrete, stone, rock, wood, gravel, clay or earth or make any excavation of any kind.

- b. Create a disturbance which constitutes a nuisance or to disturb any wildlife or commit any act of nuisance in any park, playground, public open space area or floodplain.
- c. Take any animal into any parks or playgrounds except on a leash not longer than six feet or to permit any pet to go into any active public play area, apparatus area, athletic field or recreational enclosure or building unless said pet is participating in a Township program.
- d. For any leagues or organizations, take part in or abet the playing of any games involving thrown or otherwise propelled objects such as balls, stones, arrows, javelins, horseshoes, quoits or model airplanes without a permit issued by the Township of Chatham.
- e. Play or practice golfing unless such facility is specifically designated for such activity by the Township. This prohibition excludes the use of plastic "practice" wiffle golf balls outside any active public play area, apparatus area, athletic field or recreational enclosure or building.
- f. Engage in fighting or violent behavior.
- g. Spit, urinate or defecate except in designated rest rooms and washroom facilities. Every person using the rest rooms and washrooms shall cooperate to maintain them in a neat and sanitary condition.
- h. Litter and dispose of any trash or garbage on any athletic field, park or playground. This also prohibits littering of ponds, lake, streams or other bodies of water in or adjacent to any park with any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which will or may result in the pollution of the waters. All litter shall be deposited in the receptacles provided.
- i. Exhibit public nudity or public indecency.
- j. Use threatening or obscene language.
- k. Alter or adjust any fence, play surface, or piece of gym equipment (including but not limited to playground equipment or basketball rims) without the prior written approval of the Township of Chatham.
- l. Vaping, Smoking (as such term is defined in the Township Code, Chapter 3, Section 11, Smoking Regulations, subsection 3-11.1, Smoking Prohibited), or possess or consume an alcoholic beverage, or illegal drugs.
- m. Carry or possess firearms of any kind, including air rifles, spring guns, paint ball guns, bow and arrow or sling shots, or any other form of weapons that pose a danger to human or wildlife safety. Hunting and trapping is also prohibited.
- n. Build fires or grill, except in designated areas where grills are made available for use by reservation through the Township of Chatham.
- o. Possess any type of glass container.
- p. Use any type of artificial illumination for any Township field or recreation facility without the prior approval of the Township of Chatham.
- q. Use of radios, stereos or any type of amplified sound without the prior approval of the Township of Chatham.
- r. Operate or utilize skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, scooters, or any type of motorized vehicle except on driveways or parking lots without the prior approval of the Township of Chatham.
- s. For-profit entities are strictly prohibited from using the Township's fields, basketball courts and tennis courts without a permit issued by the Township of Chatham.
- t. Posting of any sign.
- u. Solicit, sell or offer for sale any goods without a permit issued by the Township of Chatham.
- v. No food or beverages other than water are allowed inside the tennis courts.

§ 20-3.3 Exceptions.

Exceptions will be considered in Subsection 20-3.3 only when requested in advance, in writing, upon good cause shown, to the Township Administrator. A permit to do any act shall authorize the same only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. Any violation by its holder or the holder's agents or employees of any terms or conditions thereof shall constitute grounds for its revocation by the Township Administrator or his/her authorized representative, whose action therein shall be final. The holder of such permit, together with the holder's agents and employees, who violates such terms and conditions,

shall be jointly and severally liable to the Township for all damages and loss sustained by the Township. Neither the recovery or collection of such damage shall in any manner relieve such holder or person from liability to punishment for any violation of any provision of this section.

Section 3. If any section or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid in any Court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the other sections or provisions of this Ordinance and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective, except so far as the section or provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect according to law.

Introduced: October 22, 2024

TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF
MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Adopted:

Attest:

BY: _____
Stacey Ewald, Mayor

Gregory J. LaConte, Clerk