

Rules of Conduct Policy

POLICY STATEMENT: The Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) mission of Unite, Grow, and Play strives to ensure all people have access to the benefits of parks and recreation, leads in improving health and wellness, and focuses on environmental conservation of open space. Those using park facilities and its resources have the right to expect a reasonably clean, safe, and comfortable environment that supports appropriate park services and activities. In order to protect these rights, the users of park facilities and property are expected to comply with the *Rules of Conduct* listed in this directive.

The *Rules of Conduct* apply to all park premises, including buildings, interior and exterior, and all grounds controlled and operated by PAR. The *Rules of Conduct* applies to all individuals entering recreational facilities or who are on park property. This does not preclude individual recreation facilities, park property, or programs from implementing area specific rules such as gymnasium rules, camp behavior, athletic field and program rules. These rules will be made available to provide park users with notification and are subject to the same enforcement procedures outlined in this policy.

Any person who violates Rules 1-3 listed below while in or on park property will be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and will be ejected and issued a criminal trespass notice from the Denton Police for all PAR premises.

Any person issued a trespass order who then re-enters any PAR location is subject to arrest. The prohibition from entering any PAR shall be effective from the issuance of the notice.

Any adult person issued a trespass notice from either PAR staff or Denton Police is excluded from PAR property and shall lose all PAR privileges for a period of one year. Minor (teens 11-17) offenders may be excluded from use of PAR property by trespass at intervals of 30-days up to one year as determined by PAR employees.

With approval by the PAR Director, persons who commit especially egregious offenses or exhibit an ongoing threat to the community may have a trespass notice extended for an additional year for a total of a two-year enforcement period.

The following are violations of PAR's *Rules of Conduct*:

1. Commits or attempts to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state, or local criminal statute or ordinance.
2. Is under the influence of any controlled substance or intoxicating liquor.
3. Possesses, sells, distributes or consumes any alcoholic beverage, except as allowed at a parks-approved event where the person is legally authorized to sell, distribute, or consume alcoholic beverages.

Any person who violates the following rules listed below while in or on PARD premises will be given one warning at the discretion of PARD staff. If the person fails to adhere to the warning, then the person will be asked to leave the premises for the day. Subsequent offenses by that person may result in a suspension from PARD programming for up to a year or an issuance of a trespass notice and immediate ejection and exclusion from all PARD premises.

4. Engages in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the facility/program or that disturbs park staff or individuals. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, disregard of staff directives, abusive or threatening language or gestures, unreasonably loud or boisterous physical behavior, talking or noise;
5. Engages in bullying or harassing behavior or conduct that disrupts both a person's ability to engage in development opportunities and the City's ability to deliver services in a safe environment in violation of City Policy 510.01, supported by Resolution 18-2146.
6. Intentionally destroys, damages, or defaces any park or other individual's property. Certain violations of the policy may also be a violation of Rule of Conduct #1;
7. Takes, appropriates, or secures property or any item of value other than their own and without the consent of the owner. Certain violations of the policy may also be a violation of Rule of Conduct #1;
8. Solicits, petitions, distributes written materials or canvass for political, charitable or religious purposes inside a park building, including the doorway or vestibule of any such park building or in a manner that unreasonably interferes with or impedes access to the premise. Activities related to or in conjunction with a polling site must adhere to all applicable voting and election laws.
9. Brings in articles that create a hazard for other park customers by their size, condition or substance;
10. Fails to maintain control of personal items or by leaving items unattended, allowing items to block access to walkways, materials or equipment, or by allowing items to interfere with a staff member or individual's use of the park facility;
11. Personal possessions (except for bicycles) may not be left unattended outside the park building. If sitting outside, a customer must keep their possessions with them in a neat, orderly or contained manner. Personal possessions such as grocery bags, trash bags, backpacks, bedrolls, shopping bags and carts, and luggage left outside park facilities are subject to removal.

12. Use of bicycles, skates, roller blades, skateboards, and motorized or non-motorized scooters (except for motorized ADA assistive devices, wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers) on playgrounds or park amenities such as benches and tables;
13. Operates motorized or non-motorized scooters, roller skates, skateboards or other similar devices inside buildings, including, but not limited to, vestibules or covered doorways;
14. Interferes with the free passage of park staff or customers in or on park premises;
15. Smokes, uses tobacco products or electronic smoking devices inside a park building or within 30 feet of a park structure, including but not limited to, buildings, playgrounds, restrooms, and dugouts;
16. Brings animals inside park buildings / facilities, other than those assisting customers with disabilities or for the purpose of park approved events or programs. Animals must be restrained and attended at all time in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances.
17. Violates PARD's Computer, Internet, and Wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) Policy. Certain violations of the policy may also be a violation of Rule of Conduct #1;
18. Lying down and sleeping inside park buildings / facilities; having feet on furniture or blocking aisles, exits or entrances;
19. Improperly uses restrooms, including but not limited to, washing or drying clothes and bathing in areas that are not shower facilities;
20. Uses equipment at a volume that disturbs others;
21. Leaves one or more children under the age of eight (8), who reasonably appear to be unsupervised or unattended, anywhere in or on park premises;
22. Fails to wear shoes or shirts at all times inside park buildings / facilities. Exceptions will be made for programming as appropriate such as swimming, yoga, karate classes;
23. Solicits money or donations in or on park premises without prior permission from PARD;
24. Sells merchandise or services in or on park premises without prior permission or a permit from PARD;
25. Uses photography, film, or television equipment inside park buildings/facilities without prior permission from PARD.

26. Any individual whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a significant nuisance to other persons will be required to leave the building until such time as the condition is corrected.

27. Does not adhere to the operational hours for park buildings, facilities, parks, and open spaces.

28. Does not adhere to the posted rules at park buildings, facilities, parks, and open spaces.

Procedures for Enforcement

Any user in violation of the *Rules of Conduct* is subject to enforcement actions by PARD staff. Egregious violations may result in the issuance of a criminal trespass notice. Individuals receiving a suspension or trespass notice are not eligible for program refunds. PARD staff is dedicated to working with park users in addressing potential violations prior to becoming an issue requiring enforcement.

Actions taken will be dependent on the nature of the behavior and / or activity and the severity of disturbance or threat it creates. Levels of action are as follows and include but are not limited to the measures described:

Level 1 – Warning

- Verbal warning
- Redirection or time-out from activity
- Meeting / conference with parent or guardian

Level 2 – Suspension

- Removal from the building / facility for the day
- Removal from the program for the day
- Removal from the program for the remainder of the enrollment period
- Suspension from programs at 30-day intervals up to a year

Level 3 – Criminal Trespass Notice

- A one-year prohibition from stated park property for adults
- A prohibition from stated park property at intervals of 30-days up to one year for minors age 11 – 17

Staff may begin with or move to any level of action depending on the nature and circumstance of the incident. Incident reports shall be completed for all meetings or conferences under Level 1 and for all Level 2 and Level 3 actions. Immediate supervisors, up to the Director, must be notified for all Level 3 actions.

Procedure for Appeals

Persons may request a review by the PARD Director of a staff issued trespass notice. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the PARD Director as visits in person to any PARD location are prohibited.

The written appeal must be received at the following address within 14 days of the date the trespass notice is issued. **This appeal process shall only apply to any trespass notice issued by a park employee and shall not apply to a criminal trespass notice issued by a police officer. Appeals to notices issued by law enforcement may be processed as determined by Municipal Court.**

Denton Parks and Recreation Department
Director
601 E. Hickory St. Suite B
Denton, TX 76205

The appeal must include an address or contact information at which PARD may correspond with the individual making an appeal. The Director of Parks will respond in writing within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal.