

# PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Bath Nature Preserve

1. The Bath Nature Preserve is open for public use.
2. Nature preserve hours are seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. to dusk. Park hours are from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m. for individuals who have permission to use the astronomy observatory structure. No other areas of the park shall be accessed after dusk.
3. Out of respect for nature, no person shall purposely, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently handle or feed the wild animals, destroy or remove any tree, flower, shrub, grass or any part thereof from the nature preserve property.
4. The use of, or possession of, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited.
5. In the interest of safety, no discharge of firearms, fireworks, explosive or other projectiles of any kind is permitted in the park.
6. The burial of anyone or anything including the spreading or depositing cremations on park property is strictly prohibited.
7. Smoking and open fires are not permitted on the nature preserve property.
8. The public is prohibited from hunting, trapping, or molesting of the wildlife.
9. Fishing is allowed from April 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year at Bath Pond and Garden Pond. Fishing at all other ponds or streams is strictly prohibited.  
**See: Fishing Rules #22.**
10. The use of any boats or watercrafts including, but not limited to canoes, rafts, or jet skis, is not permitted on any of the ponds or streams.
11. Swimming or wading is not permitted in any of the ponds or streams.
12. Camping is prohibited.
13. In the interest of safety all pets or other animals must be kept under control by their owner at all times and remain on a leash that is no greater than eight feet (8') in length. Pet owners must clean up after their pets. In addition, these pets or other animals are permitted on trails only.

14. No person shall hit golf balls on the nature preserve property.
15. All users of the Nature Preserve must stay on and use only the properly marked trails and boardwalks.
16. Bicycle use is permitted only on the North Fork Trail but not on any other trails in the nature preserve. All bicycles must be parked or stored at the proper locations provided at the trailhead.
17. The use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles on the nature preserve property is strictly prohibited.
18. The use of mopeds, motorcycles, or motorbikes is permitted only on the hard-paved surface of the entrance drive and parking lot.
19. Deposit all trash in properly marked receptacles or take it with you out of the Bath Nature Preserve.
20. Shelter Eligibility:
  - a. The Regal Beagle Shelter is open January 1 through December 31, on a limited basis each year, for social functions for Bath Township organizations, University of Akron organizations, and other non-profit organizations affiliated with the Township. The Bath Township Board of Trustees reserves the right to grant or deny any application for the Regal Beagle Shelter in the interest of preserving the historic structure.
  - b. Bath Township organizations reserving the shelter are required to sign and have on file with the park director a shelter waiver.
  - c. When the social function is over and before the shelter is vacated a reasonable cleaning up of the shelter (i.e. depositing all litter in proper containers) must be completed.
  - d. The party's member whose name appears on the application must be in attendance throughout the duration of the function.
  - e. Each group using the shelter is expected to care for their assigned area and clean up before leaving the premises. The individual's name appearing on the application is responsible for conduct and care of each member of his or her party.
  - f. Additional portlets must be supplied by applicant at the applicant's expense.

- g. If a tent rental is necessary that will be supplied by applicant at applicant's expense along with the necessary Summit County permits.
- h. Use of the fireplace in the Regal Beagle requires special permission from the park director. A parks division employee must be on site to monitor the fire, or a separate insurance policy will be required.
- i. Alcohol will be permitted in the Regal Beagle for special events, provided all Ohio Division of Liquor Control guidelines are followed and special permission is granted by the board of trustees.

21. Terms and Conditions of Equestrian Use:

- a. All equestrian users must have with them a copy with their "Certificate of Insurance" that states that they have liability coverage for their horse or horses off of equestrian users property.
- b. Horse trailer sizes allowed are a double trailer or any trailer with a maximum length of 16 feet.
- c. Minors are not permitted to ride on the property without an adult supervisor.
- d. Users agree to abide by the lawful instructions of any agent of Bath Township.
- e. Horseback riding is to be confined to established equestrian trails only. Riding off of the established trails is prohibited.
- f. Riders are not permitted to utilize jumps located on the property of the Bath Nature Preserve.
- g. Riders will conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times.

22. Fishing Rules:

- a. Fishing is restricted to posted ponds only (Bath Pond and Garden Pond). Fishing in any other body of water on the Bath Nature Preserve is strictly prohibited.
- b. Fishing is open from April 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- c. Ice fishing is strictly prohibited.
- d. All fishing will be on a catch and release basis.

- e. Transport of fish to or from these ponds is strictly prohibited.
  - f. All fishing is limited to a hook and line. Fishermen are expected to remove all fishing gear, including snagged line, bobbers and tackle.
  - g. The use of lead weights is prohibited.
  - h. Fisherman 16 years of age or older must produce all applicable state of Ohio permits for fishing.
  - i. Fishing from the banks and the observation deck is allowed. All other fishing is strictly prohibited.
  - j. Unusual species: If a catch of anything other than bass, bluegill, shiners, or bullhead is made please contact the park director at 330-666-4007.
23. Bath Township assumes no responsibility or obligation for damage to any vehicles or property owned by users of any of the park property.
24. Bath Township assumes no responsibility or obligation for injury that may occur on park premises or while using park facilities.
25. Community Garden Rules:
- Restricted to Bath Residents only.
  - New gardeners may rent one gardening plot on an annual basis.
  - Returning gardeners maintain the right of first refusal for use of two of the same garden plots in the following year. The right expires if a returning renter has not made payment by [January 31](#) of the gardening year.
  - [From February 1 to February 28<sup>th</sup>](#) new gardeners may choose a plot not previously claimed.
  - [After March 1](#) returning gardeners can rent any open plot.
  - Fertilizer and pesticides use is limited to organic compounds, subject to the approval of the Park Director
  - Renter is responsible for prepping and maintaining garden plots

- If the plot becomes unsightly, notice will be given to clean the area within 48 hours
- If the plot is not maintained or cleaned within the period specified, the township reserves the right to remove the renter from the garden without refund of the rental amount
- Gardens may not contain tall or invasive plants. Be respectful of your neighbors!
- Renter will only pick crops in assigned area, unless permission is granted from another plot user
- Water will be made available from Mid-April [through October 31<sup>st</sup>](#)
  - Please alert the township if the water is low (call or email when half-empty or lower)
- Pets are prohibited in the garden area
- Gate shall be secured at all times
- Rental arrangement does not create a possessory interest in plot
- If at any time a renter decides to abandon his or her plot or is unable to maintain the plot for any reason, notification to Bath Township offices is required.