

Chapter 70 PARKS AND RECREATION¹

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 70-1 General provisions.

Parks belong to the people and were created to provide for recreational facilities, the enjoyment and leisure pursuits of the citizenry and for the preservation and interpretation of natural, cultural and historical resources.

The Town Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Department are proud to be hosts for public activities, but reserve the right to regulate these activities in the best interest of the parks, their users, neighbors and the general public.

In order to protect public parks, assure the safety of park users and maximize the public's enjoyment of these parks, it is necessary that regulations be established and adhered to by all park patrons. These regulations shall also apply to all paid and volunteer park staff except in those instances where an exception to these regulations is required for staff to complete tasks as part of their assigned duties. This document seeks to define those activities that are prohibited and/or regulated by law in the town parks. In addition to these regulations, all applicable state and/or local codes, including but not limited to, fire prevention codes, traffic and game laws are enforceable on park property.

Park patrons shall follow the lawful orders of park employees given to enforce or uphold these regulations. Park employees include both paid and authorized volunteer staff. For the purposes of these regulations, a lawful order is any direction by a law enforcement officer or park employee or public works personnel for a person or persons to comply with park regulations, state laws or local ordinances or to provide for public safety.

If any of these regulations or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid the remainder of the regulations and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall remain in full force and effect.

In addition to these regulations, park patrons shall follow rules, procedures or policies, established by the Commission governing the use of parks and recreation facilities.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-2. Definitions.

For the purpose of administering, enforcing or interpreting these regulations the following definitions shall apply:

Commission shall mean the Town Parks and Recreation Commission.

Department shall mean the Parks and Recreation Department of the town.

Designated swimming area shall mean the area within swim buoys, ropes and floats, as determined by the state department of energy and environmental protection.

¹Cross reference(s)—Environment, ch. 38; litter in parks, § 82-39; streets, sidewalks and other public places, ch. 86.

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Director shall mean the appointed head of the Parks and Recreation Department for the town and any designee as appropriate.

Parks shall include all parks, greens, playgrounds, beaches and open spaces located within the town, and which are managed by the Town Parks and Recreation Department.

PFD's (Personal Flotation Devices) are lifejackets, either coast guard approved or not.

Possess shall mean having on one's person, among one's personal possessions, or in one's control.

Public gathering shall be defined as demonstrations, picketing, speeches, vigils, parades, ceremonies, meetings, rallies, entertainment, games, shows, concerts, picnics, weddings and all other forms of public assembly.

Recreational facilities shall include all buildings, stadiums, sports fields, sports complexes, and community centers located within the town, and which are managed by the town Parks and Recreation Department pursuant to sections 70-31, et seq.

Swimming aids may include toys, rubber balls, masks, fins and flotation devices, inflatable aids including "floaties", arm-wings, and buoyant bathing suits.

Tobacco products shall include cigarettes, cigars, pipe, chew tobacco, or any other products containing tobacco.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Secs. 70-3—70-30. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION²

Sec. 70-31. Establishment.

There is hereby established a parks and recreation commission ("Commission") for the purposes of making recommendations on and reviewing the development of town parks and recreational facilities and programs. The Commission shall have the following responsibilities:

- Identify and advocate for community recreation goals
- Advise and make recommendations to the Town Council, Town Manager, and Parks and Recreation Department in matters related to parks and recreation
- Assist with planning for recreation programs
- Participate in future development of parks and other recreation facilities
- Act as an arts commission, overseeing cultural and enrichment activities

(Ord. No. 122, § 1, 1-6-75; Ord. No. 122a, § 1, 1-17-83; Ord. No. 216, 3-3-03; Ord. No. 226, § 2, 7-17-06; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

²Cross reference(s)—Boards, committees, commissions, § 2-146 et seq.

Sec. 70-32. Appointment; terms.

- (a) The Commission shall consist of five regular members and two alternate members. Each regular member and alternate member shall be an elector of the town who shall be appointed by the town council. Minority representation rules shall apply to both regular members and alternate members.
- (b) Hereafter, all appointments (except vacancy appointments) shall be for two-year terms, and each such appointment shall commence upon the expiration of the term of a current Commission member. The term of the first alternate member to be appointed shall expire on January 1, in odd years. The term of the other alternate member to be appointed shall expire on January 1, in an even year. Vacancy appointments may be made by the town council for the period of time necessary to fill the remainder of the term of any member who has resigned or has otherwise vacated his or her position.

(Ord. No. 122, § 2, 1-6-75; Ord. No. 122a, § 2, 1-17-83; Ord. No. 216, 3-3-03; Ord. No. 226, § 2, 7-17-06; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-33. Officers; recordkeeping; annual report.

The Commission shall hold regular meetings on a monthly basis and may hold special meetings as needed or desired. The Commission shall file with the town clerk a schedule of its regular meetings for each calendar year no later than December 31 of the immediately preceding year. In January of each year, the Commission shall choose a chair, vice chair and secretary from its members. The Commission shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall review the annual report.

(Ord. No. 122, § 3, 1-6-75; Ord. No. 122a, § 3, 1-17-83; Ord. No. 216, 3-3-03; Ord. No. 226, § 2, 7-17-06; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-34. Budget request for funding.

The Commission shall annually review the proposed Department operating budget and recommend capital improvements to the Director during the regular budgetary process.

(Ord. No. 122, § 4, 1-6-75; Ord. No. 122a, § 4, 1-17-83; Ord. No. 216, 3-3-03; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Secs. 70-35—70-65. Reserved.***ARTICLE III. USE OF TOWN PARKS AND BEACHES*****Sec. 70-66. Fishing and boating restricted; exceptions.**

No person shall use the shore or beach of any designated swimming area of any town park for the purpose of fishing, angling, floating or launching any boat into the waters of Lake Wangumbaug, or for the purpose of landing any boat thereon from the waters of such lake without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.

Fishing is allowed on park property in designated areas. Persons who fish or participate in the act of fishing shall have a fishing license as required by the state.

(Ord. No. 174, § 1, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 216, 3-3-03; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-67. Placing, leaving, standing or parking of boats or boat trailers.

No person shall place, leave, stand or park any boat or boat trailer of any kind whatsoever within Lisicke Park, Patriots Park, or the parking area of either park, except as may be specifically authorized by the Town Manager or the Director.

(Ord. No. 174, § 2, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 216, 3-3-03; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-68. Placing, leaving, standing or parking of motor vehicles within Lisicke Park and Patriots Park; permit required, eligibility for permit, and exceptions.

- (a) No person shall place, leave, stand or park any motor vehicle, automobile, motor bus, motor truck, motorcycle, camp or house trailer or any other means of conveyance, excluding non-motorized bicycles, within Lisicke Park, Patriots Park, or the parking area of either park, unless such vehicle shall have visibly displayed thereon a permit issued by the town authorizing the parking of such vehicle in the relevant parking area.
- (b) All persons who are town residents or taxpayers, or bona fide lessees of such residents or taxpayers, shall be eligible to apply for and receive such parking permits. Persons who are not town residents or taxpayers may purchase a daily parking ticket for Patriots Park only. The Commission shall recommend the fee for such tickets or permits to the Director.

(Ord. No. 174, § 3, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 216, 3-3-03; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 238, adopted December 17, 2012, amended § 70-68 to read as set out herein. Former § 70-68 pertained to placing, leaving, standing or parking of motor vehicles within Lisicke Park and Patriot's Park; permit required, eligibility for permit.

Cross reference(s)—Traffic and motor vehicles, ch. 98.

Sec. 70-69. Hours of operation.

- (a) *Opening and closing.* No person shall enter a park before sunrise or remain in a park after sunset unless the person is:
 - (1) Using a lighted facility (as provided for in subsection (b)),
 - (2) Attending a permitted special event,
 - (3) Traveling along footpaths lighted by pedestrian lights for that purpose, or
 - (4) Has the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director, to be in a park before opening or after closing.

If a patron is in a park outside of operating hours in accordance with exceptions (1)—(4), the patron must leave the park by the closing time posted for the facility, park or event or specified in the permit.

- (b) *Lighted facilities.* Hours of operation for facilities for which the Department furnishes artificial lighting shall be posted at the facility or stipulated in a use permit.
- (c) *Interpretations.* In no way shall this section be interpreted to permit persons to remain between sundown and sunrise in areas lighted by security lights, including concession stand areas, walkways and athletic fields without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.

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- (d) *Camping.* No person shall set up an overnight camping or lodging site in a park without the express written permission of the Commission or its designated representative.

(Ord. No. 174, § 4, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 216, 3-3-03; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 238, adopted December 17, 2012, amended § 70-69 to read as set out herein. Former § 70-69 pertained to closing hours; exception.

Sec. 70-70. Regulations concerning parks and recreational facilities.

The Director shall have authority to promulgate reasonable regulations subject to the approval of the Town Manager, concerning the use of all town parks and recreational facilities. The Director shall apprise the Commission of proposed or new regulations. Such regulations shall not be in conflict with regulations laid out in Chapter 70 of the Town of Coventry Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 174, § 5, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 238, adopted December 17, 2012, amended § 70-70 to read as set out herein. Former § 70-70 pertained to regulations concerning parking and beach supervision.

Cross reference(s)—Stopping, standing and parking, § 98-31 et seq.

Sec. 70-71. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, Smoking, Vaping.

- (a) Offer or sale. No person shall sell or offer any alcoholic beverage to members of the public in Town Parks without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director as well as the Chief of Police in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth therein.
- (b) Possession or consumption. No person is allowed to possess or consume alcoholic beverages in Town Parks without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director as well as the Chief of Police. The possession or consumption of permitted alcoholic beverages shall be allowed only in areas designated by the Town Manager or the Director.
- (c) Prohibitions. Under no circumstances will the consumption of alcoholic beverages in Town Parks be allowed by those under the legal drinking age established by the state.
- (d) Persons possessing or offering for sale any alcoholic beverage in Town Parks must comply with the regulations of the state liquor control commission.
- (e) The Town Manager or the Director as well as the Chief of Police may require the person or organization sponsoring an event to provide security if deemed necessary.
- (f) Smoking tobacco, cannabis, or other such products are prohibited in Town Parks in accordance with Sec. 50-1 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances.
- (g) The use of e-cigarettes/vapes, or other similar aerosol producing devices is prohibited in Town Parks in accordance with Sec 50-1 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 174, § 6, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Cross reference(s)—Alcoholic beverages, ch. 6.

Sec. 70-72. Enumeration of prohibited acts.

No person shall throw rocks, mud or sand; engage in roughhousing on the beaches or in the water; use swimming aids in the water; use a boat or engage in fishing in swimming areas; swim under or past buoys which designate swimming areas; push or otherwise move buoys from their designated position or area; engage in unauthorized scuba diving; or scuba dive from an area designated for swimmers.

(Ord. No. 174, § 7, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-73. Supervision of children.

No person shall permit any child under 12 years of age on the beach or in the water unless accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or adult (18 years or older).

(Ord. No. 174, § 8, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-74. Animals; regulations.

- (a) Cages and leashes. No person shall have in his or her custody within a Park any animal, excluding any service animal in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, or police dogs, that is not either caged, or on a leash and under the person's control; except that a dog may be under the direct supervision of its owner or their agent without a cage or a leash in an area designated as an off-leash dog exercise area. Leashed animals are not permitted at Liske Park or Patriots Park during posted beach hours from May 20th to Sept 15th.
- (b) Horses. No person shall ride or lead a horse other than in an area designated for horseback riding without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
- (c) Feeding domestic animals. No person shall feed any domestic animal other than his or her personal pet within a park unless the Town Manager or the Director expressly authorizes such feeding by a posted sign or in writing.
- (d) Exceptions. No animals are allowed on any athletic fields and the adjoining spectator areas.
- (e) All persons bringing animals into any parks, including designated off-leash areas, shall remove and properly dispose of all waste left by their animal. Persons failing to do so shall be subject to a penalty fine subject to Section 1-10 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 174, § 9, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 238, adopted December 17, 2012, amended § 70-74 to read as set out herein. Former § 70-74 pertained to animals prohibited; exceptions.

Cross reference(s)—Animals, ch. 14.

Sec. 70-75. Littering.

No person shall possess glass containers, break glass, litter or permit children under his or her supervision to litter or otherwise deposit refuse of any type in any park. All litter that was carried in must be carried out of the park by park patrons, except in areas where trash receptacles are provided by the town.

(Ord. No. 174, § 10, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Cross reference(s)—Solid waste, ch. 82.

Sec. 70-76. Riding of horses, bicycles, skateboards or motorized vehicles, exceptions.

- (a) No person shall ride horses, bicycles, skateboards, motorized vehicles of any type, including motorcycles, on any beach, ball field or play area at any time, including hours when the parks are officially closed, except by special permit or where specifically designated.
- (b) Motor vehicles and traffic.
 - (1) *Speed limit where none is posted.* Where no speed limit is posted, no person shall operate a motor vehicle within a park at a speed greater than ten miles per hour.
 - (2) *Motorized wheelchairs and assistive devices.* Motorized wheelchairs and other motorized assistive devices for mobility-impaired persons, park personnel, law enforcement and emergency services personnel are permitted in all areas where pedestrian access is permitted, unless otherwise posted.
 - (3) *Off-road vehicle operation.* No person shall operate any type of motorized vehicle in areas of a park other than established roadways without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director except as noted in subsection (b)(2).
 - (4) *Parking and overnight parking.* No person shall park a motor vehicle in areas of a park other than those designated as parking areas by the Town Manager or the Director. Motor vehicles may not be parked overnight in a park without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director. Motor vehicles left over night in violation of this regulation may be ticketed and/or towed.
 - (5) *Maintenance of motor vehicles.* No person shall repair, clean, wax or otherwise maintain a motor vehicle in a park. In no case shall anyone discharge or cause to be discharged hazardous substances, including but not limited to, gasoline, antifreeze or motor oil, in any park.

(Ord. No. 174, § 11, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 238, adopted December 17, 2012, amended § 70-76 to read as set out herein. Former § 70-76 pertained to riding of horses, bicycles, skateboards or motorized vehicles.

Cross reference(s)—Horses, § 14-2; traffic and vehicles, ch. 98.

Sec. 70-77. Use or possession of firearms or other dangerous devices.

- (a) *Dangerous devices.*
 - (1) *Guns.* While in a park, no person, other than a police officer, shall possess a firearm or other gun. This includes projectile devices using air (e.g. BB gun) or gas (e.g. pellet/paintball guns) for exhibition purposes without the express written permission of the Town Manager.
 - (2) *Projectiles.* No person shall possess or use a slingshot, bow and arrow, dart device, javelin or similar pointed projectiles and other devices designed for high-speed missile projection, for recreational, educational or exhibition purposes without the express written permission of the Town Manager.
 - (3) *Dangerous sports.* No person shall engage in any sporting activity, including the practice of golf, archery, javelin, hammer, shot put or similar devices except in those areas specifically designated for that purpose without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director. No person will participate in paintball or other combative sports without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
 - (4) *Knives.* No person shall possess a knife with a blade more than four inches in length within a park except for the purpose of food preparation or exhibition purposes.

(5) *Fireworks.* No person shall possess or discharge fireworks in a park without the express written permission of the Town Manager.

(b) *Remote-control devices and powered models or toys.* No person shall operate hobby rockets, remote-control gliders or powered remote-control or tethered planes, boats, cars, drones or other like devices in a park except during times and in areas designated by the Commission or its designated representative.

(c) *Hunting and trapping.* Hunting and trapping of wildlife are prohibited in a park except when expressly permitted in writing as part of a town controlled activity.

(Ord. No. 174, § 12, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 238, adopted December 17, 2012, amended § 70-77 to read as set out herein. Former § 70-77 pertained to use or possession of firearms or other weapons.

Sec. 70-78. Rafts or docks in swimming areas.

No rafts or docks shall be permitted in swimming areas.

(Ord. No. 174, § 13, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-79. Swimming areas—Bathing and wading.

Swimming, bathing and wading in a park are permitted only in water facilities established by the Commission, or their designee, and only during posted hours of operation. No person shall be allowed to wade, swim, or bathe in any park fountain, pond, brook, or natural body of water on Town Properties except within designated, marked-off areas or with the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director. Entering water on Town properties in designated areas for the purposes of fishing shall be governed by section 70-66.

(Ord. No. 174, § 14, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 238, adopted December 17, 2012, amended § 70-79 to read as set out herein. Former § 70-79 pertained to swimming areas.

Sec. 70-80. Open fires.

No open fires shall be permitted in any town park, except upon express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director and with a permit from the town burning official in areas designated for such purpose.

(Ord. No. 174, § 17, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Cross reference(s)—Fire prevention and protection generally, ch. 42.

Sec. 70-81. Amplified sound.

No person shall operate in a park any device designed to produce, reproduce or amplify sound in a manner unreasonably loud to others, without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 238, adopted December 17, 2012, added §§ 70-81—70-91 and renumbered § 70-81, penalty for violation of article, as § 70-92.

Sec. 70-82. Business activities, soliciting and advertising.

- (a) *Business activities.* No person shall sell or offer to sell any goods, merchandise or services or conduct business activities including advertising, within a park without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
- (b) *Solicitation.* No person shall solicit monetary or other valuable contributions; collect admissions or request donations from others in any park without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-83. Infringement.

No person or group shall engage in conduct or participate in any activity that infringes on the rights or the enjoyment of any other allowed or permitted activity.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-84. Historic artifacts, features and man-made objects.

No person shall damage, disturb or remove any historic artifacts, historic features or other man-made objects from a park without the express written permission of the Town Manager. The Town Manager may choose to consult with the Commission on proposed activities. For the purposes of these regulations, "historic artifacts" are any material remains that give physical evidence of human occupation, habitation, use or activity; and "historic features" include, but are not limited to, walls, fence lines, cellars, fire pits, mill races or any other man-made arrangement of materials or the trace thereof.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-85. Ice skating.

No person shall go upon the ice of any body of water in a park except at such places and at such times as may be designated by the Town Manager or the Director. Ice-skating is permitted at rinks operated by the Department for such use, at such times and subject to the rules prescribed and posted at the facility.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-86. Metal detectors.

No person shall use a metal detector or similar device within a park without the express written permission of the Town Manager.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-87. Protection of park property.

- (a) *Construction.* No person shall erect or construct any structure of any kind, install or perform any maintenance on any utility, equipment or other device on, below, over or across a park without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director and approvals as needed from the Planning and

Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency as required or in accordance with the terms of an existing easement duly recorded in the town's land records.

- (b) *Encroachments.* No person shall in any way alter, damage, remove or deface any facilities, features, vegetation, man-made objects or equipment in any park or place; nor erect or store personal property, plant vegetation or deposit debris or any park as an extension of a use on adjacent property without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director and approvals as needed from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency as required.
- (c) *Excavation.* No person shall make any excavation by tool, equipment, blasting or other means in any park without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director and approvals as needed from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency as required or in accordance with the terms of an existing easement duly recorded in the town's land records.
- (d) *Off-trail use.* No person shall bicycle, skate, ski, or ride horses off of trails, walkways, or roadways specifically designated by the Commission without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
- (e) *Trails.* Any person, board, or other organization that wishes to create a new trail or series of trails must, in addition to all other relevant permits or approvals, have plans reviewed and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission or its designated representative. This section shall not apply to maintenance performed on existing trails.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-88. Public gathering.

Any public gathering shall be conducted in accordance with section 66-37.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12; Ord. No. 255, 1-21-20)

Sec. 70-89. Restricted areas.

No person shall enter any area in any park designated and posted as restricted without the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-90. Signs.

No person shall post signs in any park except at locations designated by and in accordance with Department of Parks and Recreation policy, or with the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-91. Wildlife and habitat protection.

- (a) *Animals.* No person or his or her pet shall harass, capture, remove, injure or kill any animal or its young or eggs found in any park, or disturb the nest, den, burrow, lodge, roost, dam or other structure of any animal found in any park, or attempt to do so, without the relevant Federal, State, and Local permits and the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
- (b) *Feeding of wild animals.* No person shall feed any wild animal within any park without the relevant Federal, State, and Local permits and the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.

(Supp. No. 21)

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- (c) *Removal of plants and fungi.* No person shall remove from any park any plant or fungus (e.g., mushrooms) or parts thereof including, but not limited to, cuttings, flowers, seeds, berries, nuts or foliage, without the relevant Federal, State, and Local permits and the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
 - (d) *Abandonment or release of animals.* No person shall abandon, release or cause to be released into any park any animal or other organism without the relevant Federal, State, and Local permits and the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
 - (e) *Planting or release of seeds or spores.* No person shall plant any plant or release or cause to be released into a park any plant or fungus, seeds, spores or invasive species without the relevant Federal, State, and Local permits and the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
 - (f) *Habitat preservation.* No person shall disturb or modify woodlands, streams, stream banks, meadows, ponds, lakes or other natural areas within any park without the relevant Federal, State, and Local permits and the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.
 - (g) *Removal of natural materials.* No person shall remove or use any wood, wood chips, sod, earth, humus, rocks, minerals, fossils, sand, water or any other natural material from any park without the relevant Federal, State, and Local permits and the express written permission of the Town Manager or the Director.

(Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Sec. 70-92. Penalty for violation of article.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this article shall be subject to a fine for such a violation pursuant to Sec. 1-10 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 174, § 18, 9-16-91; Ord. No. 238, 12-17-12)

Editor's note(s)—See note at § 70-81.

Secs. 70-93—70-115. Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. COVENTRY LAKE (LAKE WANGUMBAUG)

Sec. 70-116. Intent of article.

It is the intent of this article to regulate the waters of Lake Wangumbaug, also known as Coventry Lake, within the town, and to promote public safety.

(Ord. No. 161, § II, 4-1-89)

Sec. 70-117. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Coventry Lake or the lake refers to Lake Wangumbaug, also known as Coventry Lake.

Motorboat means any vessel, propelled by machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

Operate means to navigate or otherwise use a vessel.

Sailboat means any vessel propelled by sail alone.

Vessel means every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

Waterskiing means aquaplaning, towing of any person behind a vessel under power and similar forms of activity.

(Ord. No. 161, § III, 4-1-89)

Cross reference(s)—Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 70-118. Speed limits.

- (a) No person shall operate a vessel on Coventry Lake at a rate of speed greater than 40 miles per hour.
- (b) From sunset to one hour after sunrise no motor boat shall be driven more than six miles per hour.
- (c) Between the hours of 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. on Sundays from May 15 to September 15 and between the hours of 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. on July 4, no motor boat shall be driven more than six miles per hour. Publicly owned police vessels of the United States, the state, the town and private vessels when responding to a verified emergency, i.e. rescue, are exempt from this limitation.
- (d) Notwithstanding subsections (a) through (c), no person shall operate a vessel in excess of slow-no-wake when the water level is at or above 94 feet as measured at the weir gate. The town manager shall be the sole judge as to the water level and shall communicate to the public when the slow-no-wake restriction is in effect and when it is ended. For the purposes of this section, "slow-no-wake" shall have the same meaning as in Section 15-121-A1 of the Regulation of the Connecticut State Agencies.

(Ord. No. 161, § IV, 4-1-89; Ord. No. 172, § I, 11-5-90; Ord. No. 211, § 1, 8-7-00; Ord. No. 261, 10-4-21)

Editor's note(s)—As set out in RCSA 15-121-A1 (j) and referenced in subsection (d) above, "slow-no-wake" means that a vessel shall not produce more than a minimum wake and shall not attain speeds greater than six miles per hour over the ground unless a higher minimum speed is necessary to maintain steerageway when traveling with a strong current. In no case shall the wake produced by the vessel be such that it creates a danger of injury to persons, or will damage vessels or structures of any kind.

Cross reference(s)—Traffic and vehicles, ch. 98.

Sec. 70-119. Boat use.

- (a) All vessels towing a water skier on Coventry Lake are to proceed and operate in a counter-clockwise direction.
- (b) Drinking of any alcoholic beverages while operating any vessel is prohibited.
- (c) No person operating a vessel on Coventry Lake shall cross or jump the wake of another vessel, when within 200 feet of the vessel creating such wake, in such a manner that the hull of the vessel crossing the wake completely leaves the water.

(Ord. No. 161, §§ V, VI, 4-1-89; Ord. No. 172, § I, 11-5-90; Ord. No. 211, § 1, 8-7-00)

Sec. 70-120. Special events.

- (a) The chief of police and the town manager shall be the individuals authorized by the town to act upon applications for persons seeking authorization from the state department of environmental protection to host any marine parade, regatta, race, tournament or exhibition on Coventry Lake.
- (b) The chief of police may suspend the times and speed limit restrictions of section 70-118(c) if a Sunday special event is approved. Such a suspension will be included in all advertisements and notices regarding the event.

(Ord. No. 161, § VI, 4-1-89)

Sec. 70-121. Waterskiing.

The maximum number of water skiers to be towed by a motorboat is two at any one time. Towing more than two skiers shall be regarded as a special event requiring a chase boat and notification of the chief of police that the special event is going to take place.

(Ord. No. 161, § VII, 4-1-89)

Sec. 70-122. Parasailing.

Parasailing shall be considered a special event requiring a chase boat. A permit issued by the chief of police is required for this type of event.

(Ord. No. 161, § VIII, 4-1-89)

Sec. 70-123. Reserved.**Sec. 70-124. Penalty for violation of article.**

Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be subject to a fine for such violation pursuant to Sec. 1-10 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 161, § XI, 4-1-89)