

Safe & Enjoyable Use of East Bradford Township Parks, Trails & Open Space

East Bradford Township, in partnership with the West Chester Police Department, wishes to remind residents of the rules and regulations governing the use of Township parks, trails, and open space. These rules are designed to ensure the safe and enjoyable use of Township lands.

As part of the Township's Police Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of West Chester, the West Chester Police Department routinely patrols Township parks. In addition to enforcing park rules and regulations, the Department also administers the Township's parking regulations. Residents are encouraged to contact the Police if they observe a violation or have any concerns while enjoying the Township parks. The non-emergency number for the West Chester Police is (610) 696-2700. In an emergency, residents should dial 911. Other inquiries can be directed to the Township Office at (610) 436-5108 or info@eastbradford.org.

There are three categories of park regulations – 1) rules for those properties that are owned by the Township, 2) rules that govern privately owned properties with recreational easements, and 3) rules for the privately owned Timber Top Farm property.

The following rules and regulations apply to all East Bradford Township active and passive recreation parks and open space lands (including, but not limited to East Bradford Park, Copeland School Park, Shaw's Bridge Park, and Harmony Hill Nature Area):

- Parks are open from dawn to dusk (hours 8am – 8pm). No person shall enter or remain in the parks before or after those times without a special permit from the Township. Overnight parking and camping is prohibited.
- Pets must be kept on a leash and/or under immediate control at all times by a responsible person. A dog that is under an owner's immediate control does not cause a nuisance or danger. An owner must be able to get an immediate and desired response from the dog by use of a leash, voice commands, hand signals, whistles, or other effective means. In many cases, people have different views about whether a dog is under control. Sometimes what one person sees as playful or boisterous, but harmless behavior, others see as "out of control." Keep in mind that elderly people and children may be injured if they are knocked over and that some people have a fear of dogs. Pet owners also are required to clean up after their pets and deposit any used pet waste bags in a trash receptacle.
- Motorized vehicles are allowed only in designated areas (e.g. parking lots), except for official business or emergencies. Use of motorbikes, ATVs and the like are prohibited on Township trails.
- Hunting is prohibited on park property unless it is part of a Township-approved wildlife management program. The Township partners with the Brandywine Valley Archery Club to hunt most Township lands.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Littering is prohibited; recycling is required.
- Disorderly conduct, including the use of indecent language or excessive noise, is prohibited.
- Barbecues, cookouts, grilling and open fires are prohibited except within the picnic grills provided for such purpose. Any fire must be completely extinguished before the person who started the fire leaves the park.
- Personal sound amplification equipment is prohibited.

The rules that govern the use of privately owned property with recreational easements are unique. Residents are encouraged to read the rules posted at parking areas and trail heads. People that enjoy Timber Top Farm need to be aware that:

- Public access is limited to the marked trails only.
- Pets are prohibited, with the exception of horses for equestrian use.
- Property access will be further restricted during the hunting season.

As with any regulation, there are violations and penalties associated with infraction. Any person who violates the rules and regulations associated with parks and open space commits a summary offense and will be required to pay a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and/or imprisoned for a period not more than 90 days per violation.

For additional information, please refer to East Bradford Township Code, Chapter 22 – Parks and Open Space Regulations. The Township Code is available on the Township website – www.eastbradford.org.