

**CITY OF LEWES
PARK & BEACH RULES
FINAL**

1: USE OF PARKS & BEACHES

- A. The City of Lewes has provided for the creation and maintenance of parks and beaches located throughout Lewes. Lewes's Parks and Recreation Commission, an appointed group of Lewes citizens, ensures that Lewes parks and beaches are properly maintained and equipped.
- B. These rules are located on the city's website, www.ci.lewes.de.us.
- C. In addition to these rules, the city's code contains other restrictions and prohibitions on certain conduct. The city's code is located on the city's website and is fully searchable. Park patrons are urged to consult the city's code to learn additional information about rules governing park and beach use.
- D. Applications for permits and fee schedules also are located on the city's website under the "Forms & Applications" tab.
- E. A table of amenities is included as Attachment A to these rules.
- F. Further information may be obtained by contacting city hall at 302 645 7777, ext. 100.

2. APPLICATION OF RULES

These rules govern the use of public parks and beaches in the City of Lewes. The rules are designed to secure and preserve the enjoyment of the city's parks and beaches by Lewes citizens and park visitors, consistent with safeguarding the areas and all who use them.

3. GENERAL RULES

- A. Unless otherwise posted, city parks and beaches are open to the public.
- B. All users must:
 - 1. Exercise common sense and common courtesy when enjoying Lewes parks/beaches and their amenities. Visitors are expected to treat city property and other park users as they would their own property and neighbors, taking care not to cause damage to the parks and beaches or inconvenience to others.
 - 2. Adhere to all park and beach rules.
 - 3. Keep dogs on a leash, licensed, and vaccinated as required by law. Dogs may be off leash in the private dog park on Great Marsh Circle operated by Lewes Unleashed. Dog owners must pick up after their dog and dispose of waste properly.
 - 4. Operate motor vehicles (including motorcycles, mopeds, and scooters) and bicycles only in designated areas and under applicable rules.
 - 5. Place refuse in designated receptacles.
 - 6. Place recyclable materials in designated receptacles.
 - 7. Leave bathroom facilities clean and ready for use by others.

Bathrooms located in city parks or beaches are open to the public as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Beach 1 and 2	May 1 – Sept. 30	7 am to 10 pm*
Canalfront Park	All year	7 am to 10 pm*
George H. P. Smith Park	All year	Portable toilet
Otis Smith Park	All year	Portable toilet
Stango Park	All year	During building hours
Mary Vessels Park	All year	7 am to 10 pm
Zwaanendael Park	All year	7 am to 10 pm
Trailhead @ Library	All year	7 am to 10 pm

*Or until city sponsored/approved events conclude.

4. RULES FOR SPECIFIC PARKS, BEACHES, AND RECREATION AREAS

- A. **Canalfront Park** - This four-acre park provides multiple opportunities for enjoyment of a variety of activities for all ages.
1. Boat Slips and Small Craft Launch Area
 - a. Boat Slips: There are 19 slips located at the marina in Canalfront Park. Twelve are rented first to Lewes residents on a seasonal basis and seven are available on an hourly or daily basis. Access to the slips is restricted to boat owners and their guests. Please see Marina Guidelines, available online at the city’s website, www.ci.lewes.de.us.
 - b. Small Craft Launch: Canalfront Park offers a launching area for canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and other non-motorized watercraft. All watercraft must be hand carried or wheeled to the launch area on a hand operated trolley. There is no access for trailered watercraft. Short term dockage is available at the launch.
 2. Children’s playground: The playground is designed for children ages eight and under, accompanied by an adult.
 3. Fishing Pavilion: The pavilion is available for fishing and crabbing throughout the year. A Delaware State fishing permit and licenses are required.
 4. Tennis courts
 - a. These rules apply to all uses of the tennis courts (tennis, pickleball, etc.).
 - b. Use of courts will be on a first come-first served basis. Courts cannot be reserved for individuals, groups, or organizations.
 - c. Players will relinquish courts within one hour for singles, one and one-half hours for doubles, and two hours for groups of eight or more when others are waiting to play. Individuals desiring to continue playing after their allotted time expires go to the bottom of the order when others are waiting.
 - d. No bicycles, mini-bikes, roller skates, skateboards, or dogs are permitted on any courts.
 - e. Court shoes with non-marking soles are required on all courts.
 - f. No professional instruction, e.g., tennis lessons, is permitted.
 - g. Lights on the courts may be used from dusk to 11:00 pm.
 5. Basketball courts: Limit to one hour of play when others are waiting. See Tennis Court rules for additional restrictions.
 6. Shade Arbors/Pavilion: The shade arbor and pavilion may be reserved for weddings. Please see Wedding Guidelines for more information.

7. Net House/Overlook Deck and Pier: These facilities may be reserved for meeting and/or receptions hosted by 501(c)(3) organizations or city sanctioned activities. Advance Reservation is required. The maximum capacity is 49 in the Net House and 125 on the overlook deck. All regulations pertaining to Park usage apply to use of the Net House. Please see the city's website for detailed information and fees.
 8. Restrooms: Located underneath the Overlook Deck, these facilities serve both the City Dock and Canalfront Park.
- B. **George H. P. Smith Park** - This nearly 12-acre park and pavilion provide a rural, open environment for walking and picnics.
1. Designated portions of the park and/or pavilion may be reserved for weddings or group or family functions - please see Wedding Guidelines for more information.
 2. Block House Pond at Smith Park provides an opportunity to fish along the shoreline (no swimming allowed) throughout the year. Delaware State permits and licenses are required.
 3. Bocce Ball and Horseshoe Pits: These facilities are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and users must provide their own bocce ball and horseshoe equipment.
 4. Tents: Temporary placement of tents is permitted with prior reservation and approval.
 5. Playground: Provides equipment for children ages 15 and under.
- C. **Stango Park** – This park offers shaded areas and is located adjacent to the Margaret H. Rollins Community Center. Designated portions of the park may be reserved for weddings or for group or family functions - please see Wedding Guidelines for more information. Restrooms available for public use are located in the community center, subject to building hours of operation. The Children's Learning Garden located in this park is managed by Lewes in Bloom - picking or harvesting of any vegetables or flowers in the garden (unless sanctioned by Lewes in Bloom) is prohibited.
- D. **Zwaanendael Park** – This landscaped park is located adjacent to Zwaanendael Museum. Designated portions of the park may be reserved for weddings or for group or family functions; please see Wedding Guidelines for more information. The Herb Garden is located in this park and managed by Lewes in Bloom – picking or harvesting any herbs (unless sanctioned by Lewes in Bloom) is prohibited. Public Restrooms are available in this park.
- E. **1812 Park** – This facility is located between Front Street and the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal and includes The Lewes City Dock. The 200-foot dock provides transient dockage that can be rented on an hourly or daily basis for watercraft. Fishing from the City Dock is allowed at the discretion of the dockmaster. Designated portions of this park may be reserved for weddings or for group or family functions - please see Wedding Guidelines for more information. Marina Guidelines and information about dockage at the park can be found on the city's website www.ci.lewes.de.us.
- F. **Mary Vessels Park** - This small park and gazebo, located at the corner of Market Street and Front Street, may be reserved for group or family functions - please see Wedding Guidelines for more information. Public Restrooms are available in this park.
- G. **Otis Smith Park** - This small park located on East Savannah Road offers a picnic pavilion. The picnic pavilion and grill pit are maintained by the Lewes Rotary Club. Contact the Lewes Rotary Club to rent the pavilion and grill by email lewesrehobothrotary@gmail.com, or website <http://www.lewes-rehobothrotary.org/>. Portable toilet facilities are available.
- H. **Great Marsh Park** – A 66-acre parcel leased from the State of Delaware and located between New Rd and Park Rd. Currently home to a membership only dog park, operated and managed by Lewes Unleashed, a non-profit organization. Membership information can be found on Lewes Unleashed website <http://www.lewesunleashed.org/>.

- I. **Lewes shoreline** (including Roosevelt Inlet, Beaches 1 and 2) - These beaches are located on the Delaware Bay and provide opportunities for swimming, fishing, and other seaside activities.
 1. Sections of these beaches may be reserved for weddings or for group or family functions - please see Wedding Guidelines for more information.
 2. Beaches 1 and 2 offer life guard services from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
 3. Restrooms/Bath House: These facilities are located at Beaches 1 and 2 and are open daily from 7 am to 10 pm from May 1 to September 30. Portable toilets are located at Roosevelt Inlet from May to October.
 4. Visitors may fish from May 1 through September 15 at any time offshore at least 300 feet from the beach and onshore at any time, except during the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm between Pilot Point and the Lewes Yacht Club. Delaware State fishing permits and licenses are required.
 5. Visitors may use kayaks and paddle boards, but no other types of boats or watercraft are allowed within 300 feet of the beach.
 6. Bonfires – Bonfires may be held along the Lewes shoreline. A separate permit and fee is required for each bonfire. Bonfires hours are restricted during the peak season of Memorial Day to Labor Day from 6:00 p.m to 11:30 p.m. Off peak season bonfire hours are 4:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Please see the city’s website for detailed information and fees www.ci.lewes.de.us.
 8. Dogs are not permitted on the beach between May 1 and September 30 between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:30 pm. Dogs must be on leash at all times.
 9. Visitors may not sleep overnight on the beach or in a parked car in city parking lots.
 10. Visitors may not feed the seagulls.
- J. **Bicycle Trails**- The Junction & Breakwater trail, the longest rail-trail in the state, loops between Lewes and Rehoboth beach along the western edge of Cape Henlopen State Park and connects in Lewes to the Gills Neck trail and to the newly completed phase 1 of the Lewes to Georgetown trail. Bicycle riders now have new amenities in Lewes including a new bicycle parking lot located at the intersection of Savannah Road and Gills Neck, right across from the Dogfish Inn. The parking lot includes a fix it station for riders to work on their bicycle, parking for over 50 bicycles, walking distance to all the shops and restaurants in Lewes, and is located along the Gills Neck bicycle trail. Cyclist can also take advantage of the new trailhead building located next to the Lewes library along the Lewes to Georgetown trail. The trailhead features heated bathrooms, information kiosk, fix it station, bicycle parking, and outdoor seating. More information about bicycle trails within Delaware can be found on DelDOT’s website http://deldot.gov/information/community_programs_and_services/bike/biking_in_delaware/maps.shtml.

5. WEDDINGS – The city parks and beaches provide wonderful venues for weddings. The city requires that a permit be obtained and a fee paid for the use of a city venue for weddings. Wedding permit fees are non-refundable. Wedding information can be found on the City website under Parks and Recreation- Weddings in Lewes <http://www.ci.lewes.de.us/index.cfm?ref=12200&ref2=15>.

6. PERMITS AND FEES FOR PARK /BEACH USE

A schedule of fees for permits may be found on the city’s website (www.ci.lewes.de.us).

7. USE OF PARKS/BEACH BY GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS FOR EVENTS

- A. The parks may be used only by groups or organizations for events after the organizer applies for and receive a permit from the city. Permits must be obtained at least three days in advance of the date of the event. Only city approved fundraising events are permitted in the city parks and beaches.
- B. The city manager or his/her designee will determine whether an event is appropriate for a city park or beach. The city manager will apply the following guidelines, as appropriate, to make this determination:
 - 1. The number of people attending or who may attend the event.
 - 2. The duration of the event.
 - 3. The time period requested for park use for the event.
 - 4. The nature of the event, including whether it is appropriate to locate the event in a Park or on the beach.
 - 5. Whether the function or event is organized by a Lewes citizen or resident, organization, or business.
- C. The city manager may condition issuance of a permit on the event organizer's agreement to pay, in addition to any otherwise applicable fees, for services or other things that the city manager deems necessary to ensure the safety, well-being, and security of the park. These services include, but are not limited to, police, trash pickup, demarcation of off-limits areas, bathroom cleaning services for city restrooms, portable toilet facilities, emergency services, and security deposits.
- D. The city manager may require the event organizer to provide certificate of liability insurance naming the city as a certificate holder.
- E. If the city manager denies a permit application or places conditions on issuance of a permit, the applicant may request review of that decision by Mayor and City Council at the next regularly scheduled monthly Mayor and City Council meeting.

8. CLOSED AREAS

- A. The city manager may close park areas or facilities to public entry or otherwise restrict use.
- B. Except in emergency circumstances, notice of closure shall be posted.

9. SOLICITATION

- A. Peddlers, vendors, or canvassers shall not operate in parks unless a license has previously been obtained from the city.
- B. Licenses may be applied for at city hall.
- C. Nothing herein shall be construed to restrict the authority of the city to contract, through the granting of concessions or otherwise, for the sale of goods or services in or upon a park under terms and conditions to be established by the city.

10. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES OR CONDUCT

- A. As noted in Section 1, park visitors are expected to exercise common sense and common courtesy when visiting Lewes parks.
- B. Certain types of conduct are strictly prohibited either under the code of the City of Lewes or as provided below, unless otherwise permitted by law or specific authorization. A non-exhaustive list of types of such prohibited conduct is as follows:
 - 1. Use, consumption, or possession of alcohol.
 - 2. Lighting of fires (except permitted bonfires on beaches).

3. Cooking food, including barbecues (except in George H. P. Smith Park and Otis Smith Park).
4. Sale or offer of sale or barter of any product or thing, including solicitations.
5. Pollution of any stream, pond, or other body of water.
6. Littering, including dumping of yard waste, or other debris.
7. Swimming or wading in the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal or Block House Pond except in emergencies.
8. Damaging or defacing structures and equipment, including drinking fountains, benches and tables, and monuments.
9. Driving tent stakes or other items into the ground that may damage buried irrigation facilities.
10. Smoking, including e-cigarettes, in all city parks and beaches is prohibited.
11. Overnight sleeping on the beach, park benches or in gazebos or pavilions.
12. Intimate sexual conduct.
13. Defecating or urinating in other than a restroom.

ATTACHMENT A: Table of Park Facilities and Uses*

	Beach 1	Beach 2	Roosevelt Inlet	Canalfront	Mary Vessels	Stango	GHP Smith	Otis Smith	1812	Zwaanendael	Trailhead
Basketball courts				X							
Restrooms	X	X	X	X	X	X**	X	X		X	X
Bocce ball							X				
Bonfire	X	X	X								
Concerts				X		X					
Docks/Marina				X					X		
Fishing	X	X	X				X				
Grilling facilities							X	X			
Pavilion				X	X		X	X			
Picnic tables						X	X	X			X
Playground				X			X				
Tennis courts				X							
Horse shoes							X				

*Some uses require permits from the City of Lewes or from the State of Delaware as well as reservations in advance and payment of applicable fees.

**Bathrooms located in the Margaret H. Rollins Community Center next to Stango Park are open during the hours of operation of the facility.