TOWN OF MEXICO

RECREATION PARK POLICY

Summary - This policy sets forth the Town of Mexico operation of the Recreation Park here defined as 'Park'. The task of the Recreation Department is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for Town of Mexico residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural and cultural resources.

- 1. Hours of Operation The Park shall be open each day from May 15th until October 15th (weather Permitting) of each year from the hours of 8:30 AM until 8:30 PM, except for emergencies and permitted special, sports or social events. Individuals shall not be allowed in or to remain in any area of the Park during hours in which the Park is not open unless authorized by the Police Department, Recreation Department Director or the Town Manager. Persons on the Park grounds without prior authorization outside of the posted hours may be considered as trespassing and enforced by the Law Enforcement agencies. Town employees or Law Enforcement agencies are not restricted by the operating hours when in performance of their duties.
- 2. Animals All animals are prohibited from entering the Park except for a Service (Assistance) animal. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to an individual's disability. M.R.S §4553 defines an "Assistance Animal" as:

For the purposes of subchapter 5, a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting an individual who is totally or partially blind with navigation and other tasks, alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting an individual to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or a telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to an individual with a mobility disability and helping a person with a psychiatric or neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

3. Alcohol - The Town has determined this area to be free of alcohol products to provide a healthful environment to visitors. Any person violating this determination may be requested to leave the park. Refusal to stop usage of these products or leave the premises may be grounds to request Law Enforcement assistance.

- **4. Smoking** The Town has determined this area to be free of tobacco products (to include smokeless) and nicotine products such as e-cigarettes and vapor products to ensure a healthful environment to visitors. Any person violating this determination may be requested to leave the park. Refusal to stop usage of these products or leave the premises may be grounds to request Law Enforcement assistance.
- **5. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV/UTV)** There are no ATV trails associated within the boundaries of the Park. ATVs are prohibited from entering or operation in the Park. Any exception (such as ride-ins) must be approved by the Recreation Park Director. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law for all damages.
- **6. Speed Limit –** The speed limit within the Park is 10 miles per hour unless posted lower to keep dust to a minimum and provide a safe environment for visitors.
- **7. Marijuana Usage-** The Park is determined to be free of all marijuana products to ensure a healthful environment to visitors. Any person violating this determination may be requested to leave the park. Refusal to stop usage of these products or leave the premises may be grounds to request Law Enforcement assistance.
- **8. Weapons** Discharge of any weapons is prohibited in the Park.
- 9. Fishing There are no fishing facilities at the Recreation Park.
- **10. Swimming** There are no swimming conveniences at the Park. <u>The Swift River adjacent to the park is not within the Park limits</u>. Any vehicles found in the Park outside of the posted open hours may be subject to ticketing and/or towing. Retrieval and all associated costs of towed vehicles are between the towing operator and the owner.
- **11. Special Use** Requests for conducting any special use events or other similar businesses are to be submitted to the Recreation Department Director or Town office.
- **12. Golf** There are no golfing allowed. All damage from an individual performing any golfing action will be turned over to the Police Department for prosecution of trespassing and recovery of costs to repair damaged areas.
- 13. Vehicles Driving or parking vehicles on grass, landscaped or athletic fields within the Park (unless designated) is strictly prohibited. All items should be hand carried from the parking area to the interior of a park. Any damage to turf or irrigation systems shall be turned over to the Law Enforcement for appropriate action to charge the associated vehicle owner or operator. This paragraph does not apply to Town, Emergency or Law Enforcement personnel in performance of their duties.

- **14. Fires** Open fires are not allowed anywhere within the Park except special permitted burns within the enclosed stone fireplace which <u>may</u> be allowed on weather days when there is a low probability of any escaping embers igniting any material. <u>ALL</u> requests must be called into the Town of Mexico Fire Department (364-3612) before lighting any material within this fireplace.
- **15.** Camping No camping shall be allowed in the Park unless special permitted usage such as scouting activities is provided in writing by the Recreation Department Director. All requests shall be made to the Recreation Department Director or Town Manager.
- **16. Metai Detecting** There is no metal detecting allowed in the Park. Person(s) violating this provision of policy shall be responsible for all damages incurred.

Approved on this date July 17, 2018	
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