

**ORDINANCE NO. 329**  
**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA**  
**ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES**  
**CHAPTER 343. PARKS**

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA ORDAINS:

§ 343-1. Purpose.

Rules and regulations governing the use of public park properties within the Charter Township of East China shall be established.

§ 343-2. Rules and regulations.

A. Public Park Hours. The public parks of the Charter Township of East China shall be open during hours as posted by Park Management. No person shall be in any public park after or before the time posted by Park Management.

B. Designated paths, roads, and driveways. No person shall ride or operate any motorized or self-propelled form of transportation (including Electric Powered bikes/mopeds or other vehicles) in the public parks except on roads or driveways. Provided, bicycles and bicycles equipped with electric assist may be operated on paved trails within public parks provided they are operated using manual power only without electric assist. The foregoing shall not apply to authorized Township vehicles, park staff, park vehicles, approved organized event staff, authorized contractors, emergency vehicles, and public utility vehicles, or wheelchairs or power-driven mobility devices utilized by persons with mobility disabilities.

C. Animals or pets. Except as provided herein or other applicable law, animals or pets are not permitted within public parks.

- (i) Only dogs are permitted within designated dog parks.
- (ii) Except for dogs within the fenced area of a designated dog park, no person shall bring any animal or pet into the public parks unless such animal is a dog or cat and is at all times either: (a) within the control of an adult and secured by a leash which does not exceed six feet in length; or (b) within the control of an adult and secured in a crate or other secure holder.
- (iii) No "off-leash" dog training/courses are permitted outside of the fenced area of a designated dog park.

- (iv) Horseback riding is not permitted in any public park.
- (v) No pets or animals are permitted in pavilions, restrooms, on playgrounds or play areas or on sport courts or playing fields.
- (vi) Individuals who bring pets or animals to the public park, shall immediately clean and dispose of all animal waste.

#### D. Fires and Grills.

- (i) No person shall start or maintain a fire within a public park, except as provided herein.
  - (a) Fires may be started and maintained only within designated fire pits provided by the park. Fire pits are on a first come / first serve basis and may not be reserved.
  - (b) Fires may only be built and maintained within a designated fire pit. No portable fire pits, including "smokeless" fire pits are permitted.
  - (c) Fires shall, at all times, be attended by a responsible adult. Fires shall be operated safely in a manner that does not constitute a nuisance or interfere with other individuals use and enjoyment of a public park.
  - (d) Fires shall be operated consistent with and extinguished at the directive of park management, the Fire Department and all other law enforcement agencies.
  - (e) All wood for fires must be supplied by the person building/operating the fire. No wood or other materials located in the public park may be utilized to fuel a fire.
  - (f) All fires shall be completely extinguished, including all coals/embers prior to leaving the public park or at the direction of the Fire Department, park management, law enforcement, or the Township.
- (II) No person shall grill or prepare food in a public park except as provided herein.
  - (a) Individuals may utilize grills provided by the park on a first come / first serve basis. Grills provided by the park may not be reserved.
  - (b) Portable stoves and grills may be used in public parks only for food preparation. Portable stoves or grills shall not be used or operated except while preparing food.

(c) Individuals must provide their own wood/charcoal to fuel grills and may not use wood or other material located within the public park.

(d) While in use grills shall be attended by a responsible adult.

(e) All grills / stoves shall be extinguished prior to leaving site. Ashes shall be deposited only in designated receptacles.

E. Amplifying devices. No person shall use or cause to be used any loud-speaking device, sound amplifier, or speaker in the public parks unless: (i) such is operated in a manner so as not to cause a nuisance; and (ii) such is operated in manner that does not interfere with others use and quiet enjoyment of the park. Provided, park management may authorize specific uses of loudspeakers, amplifiers, and/or speakers within the park for events.

F. Structures. No person shall erect any tent, stand, platform or other structures in the public parks unless authorized by park management.

G. Sled Hill. The sled hill may be used only consistent with the Rules and Regulations adopted by the Parks Management. No person shall launch or throw any projectiles from sled hill, including but not limited to disc golf discs, frisbees, golf balls, items for "off leash" dog exercises, parasails, etc.

H. The East China Township Parks Commission may adopt such other Rules and Regulations applicable to public parks which do not conflict with this Ordinance or law.

§ 343-3. Prohibitions and restrictions.

A. Obstruction of walks or driveways. No person shall obstruct or cause obstruction to occur to any walk or driveway in the public parks.

B. Destruction or removal.

- (1) Property. No person shall damage, deface, destroy, move, or carry away any monument, sign, structure, table, building, playground equipment, tool, device, tree, shrub, flower, or other public property located within or used in connection with the public parks.
- (2) All volunteer maintenance that is conducted by persons that are not East China Township Park employees requires prior written approval from park management, including but not limited to disc golf, pickle ball courts, dog park, trail maintenance.
- (3) No person, including those performing volunteer maintenance as permitted herein, shall take, remove, dig or carry away any gravel, sand, turf, earth, soil or wood unless authorized by park management.
- (4) No person shall kill, destroy, harm, or bother any bird, bird nest, fish or animal located within the public parks.

C. Metal Detecting / Digging. Metal Detecting or other activities that involve *digging* are not permitted in any East China Township Park.

D. Posting. No person shall paste, affix, or inscribe any handbill, sign, poster, card device or inscription to or upon any tree, sign, structure, or other property in the public parks.

E. Refuse.

(1) No person shall deposit any rubbish, refuse, garbage, waste, paper, rags, containers, cigarette butts, bottle caps, or other forms of litter in the public parks except in such wastebaskets or containers as may be provided for such purpose.

(2) No person shall dispose, discard, or leave any of the following in public parks, including in waste receptacles: (i) Fish or Animal Carcasses; (ii) household waste or trash; (iii) yard debris; (iv) trash or debris located in or being taken from a vehicle; or (v) any other item that was brought to the park for the purpose of disposing or discarding the same.

F. Intoxicating liquor and other substances.

(1) Dispersal or distribution. No person, group of persons, firm, or corporation shall sell, furnish, or give away any intoxicating liquor in the public parks, nor shall any person, group of persons, firm, or corporation barter or exchange tokens, coupons, or any other form of exchange which results in intoxicating liquor being dispersed or distributed in the public parks.

(2) Consumption or intoxication. No person shall consume any intoxicating liquor in any public park nor shall any person or persons be intoxicated in any public park. *Exception to consuming intoxicating liquor as described in the following section (3).*

(3) Intoxicating liquors can be consumed at family or group picnics or functions, provided a permit for such consumption is obtained. The park manager may require that one or more law enforcement officers or park staff be present at such picnics or functions. In such cases, the expense shall be paid by the group having the picnic or function.

(4) For purposes of this Ordinance, the term "intoxicating liquor" shall mean alcohol, spirits, wine and beer, and all fermented, spirituous, vinous, or malt liquor, or combinations thereof, and mixed liquor, a part of which is fermented, spirituous, vinous or malt liquor, or otherwise intoxicating; and every liquid or solid or semi-solid or other substance, patented or not, containing alcohol, spirits, wine or beer, and all drinks or drinkable liquids and all preparations or mixtures capable of human consumption, and any liquid, semi-solid, solid or other substance which contains more than one percent (1%) of alcohol by weight shall be conclusively deemed to be intoxicating.

G. Firearms and weapons. No person shall discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, BB gun, slingshot, air rifle, paint ball gun, replica firearm, or any other weapon within the public parks, except police officers in the performance of their regular duties.

H. Overnight camping. No person shall place a tent, camper, trailer, motor home or any other such vehicle or structure in the public parks which can be used for overnight accommodations. Provided, Park Management may approve such uses in writing for special events.

I. Drones and unmanned aircraft. No person shall launch, land, or operate manned/unmanned aircraft, including drones, at any public park less than 400 feet above the ground level. Parasailing or similar activities are prohibited within public parks. Drones or unmanned aircraft are not permitted to interfere with the enjoyment of the land being used at these areas.

J. Fireworks, Firecrackers, Smoke Bombs, Self-Propelled parachute rockets or similar items are prohibited in public parks. Provided, park management, in its discretion, may permit such activities for special events.

K. Attire. All persons shall be appropriately dressed while in public parks. Nudity is expressly prohibited.

L. No person shall toss, throw, or drag heavy items, including but not limited to tires, shotput, and large rocks, which may or do cause damage to the ground. Provided, sport training which does not damage the public parks is permitted in provided designated locations or open field areas.

M. No person shall practice golf, including chipping or golfing, within a public park, unless a designated area is provided for the same.

N. All persons shall comply with all park Rules and Regulations as adopted from time to time. Any person in violation of park Rules and Regulations shall be in violation of this Ordinance.

SEVERABILITY.

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, rule, regulation, section or subsection is declared void or inoperable for any reason by any Court, it shall not affect any other part or portion thereof, other than the part declared void or inoperable.

REPEAL.

All Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication after adoption.

INSPECTION OF ORDINANCE.

A copy of this Ordinance may be inspected or purchased at the Township Hall, 5111 River Road, East China, Michigan 48054, during regular posted office hours.

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Sandra Smith, Clerk

Charter Township of East China

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of Ordinance Number 329, duly adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of East China, St. Clair County, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on the 19th day of August, 2024 at which all members were present except \_\_\_\_\_, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that minutes of said meeting were kept and have been or will be made available as required by said Act.

I further certify that Member \_\_\_\_\_ moved for adoption of said Ordinance and that Member \_\_\_\_\_ supported said Motion.

I further certify that the following Members voted for adoption of said Ordinance: \_\_\_\_\_  
and that the following Members voted against adoption of said Ordinance: None.

I further certify that the following events and dates occurred in the adoption of this Ordinance.

DATE INTRODUCED: AUGUST 5, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: AUGUST 8, 2024, Times Herald Newspaper

DATE ADOPTED AFTER INTRODUCTION: AUGUST 19, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED AFTER ADOPTION: AUGUST 20, 2024, Times Herald Newspaper

EFFECTIVE DATE: AUGUST 20, 2024

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Sandra Smith, Clerk  
Charter Township of East China