

**CITY OF TOMBALL  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES, RULES AND PROCEDURES**

<b>SUBJECT</b>  <b>RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CITY OF TOMBALL PARKS</b>	NUMBER: 26	EFFECTIVE DATE: November 17, 2025	PAGE 1 OF 8
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	SUPERSEDES: August 5, 2019	APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL: November 17, 2025	

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CITY OF TOMBALL PARKS**

Except as specifically noted, these Rules and Regulations apply to all parks located within the City of Tomball, unless given prior written approval by the City Manager or designee.

**DEFINITIONS**

As used in these Rules and Regulations:

- a) **Abandon** means a person giving up custody of an animal without making arrangements for another person to assume custody.
- b) **Alcoholic Beverage** means any beverage containing more than one-half of one percent (.5%) of alcohol by volume, which is suitable for use as a beverage, either alone or diluted.
- c) **Animal** means a domesticated living creature (e.g., cat, dog, chicken, or rabbit) or a wild living creature previously captured.
- d) **City Manager or designee** means any administrator of the City of Tomball authorized to make decisions on behalf of City Council.
- e) **Explosive** means any chemical compound or mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion.
- f) **Light truck** means any truck with a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity not to exceed two thousand (2,000) pounds and is intended to include those trucks commonly known as pickup trucks, panel delivery trucks, carryall trucks, and vans.
- g) **Park** means a property owned, operated, or maintained by the City for recreation and enjoyment by the general public.
- h) **Parks Superintendent** (Superintendent) means the individual named or designated as a Park Superintendent or Park Manager by the City Manager to which the rules are being applied.
- i) **Peace Officer** means a peace officer as defined in Article 2.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended.
- j) **Person** means any individual, group of individuals, organization, corporation, or other legal entity, but does not include the City.
- k) **Pet** means a domesticated animal kept for pleasure rather than utility.
- l) **Road** means any road maintained or controlled by the City for public passage for vehicles within a park.
- m) **Special Event** means a non-routine organized activity intended for more than 100 individuals to share a common purpose as a group.
- n) **Truck** means a motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily to transport property.
- o) **Vehicle** means every device in, upon, or by which any individual or property may be transported or drawn upon a road, except a device moved by human power.

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- p) **Weapon** means those objects defined as weapons or prohibited weapons in Chapter 46 of the Texas Penal Code.
- q) **Wildlife** means living creatures that are neither human nor domesticated.

**PARK USE**

No person shall use a park, or any area or facility therein, for any purpose other than for the purpose for which it was designed or designated. Any activity that will disrupt the normal purpose of the park is prohibited.

**PARK HOURS OF OPERATION**

No person shall enter into or remain within a park at any time other than during such time as the park is open to the public as designated on the sign posted at or near the entrance of the park, unless given prior written approval by the City Manager or designee.

**VEHICLES**

- (a) No person shall operate a vehicle within a park except on the roads or parking lots therein. Operation of a vehicle on the shoulder of the road will be permitted only if the driver is parking on the shoulder of the road or is driving a previously parked vehicle from the shoulder of the road to the paved portion of the road. This provision does not apply to park maintenance or patrol vehicles.
- (b) No person shall operate a truck within a park, other than a light truck (e.g., pickup truck, panel delivery truck, carryall truck, or van) or a truck making deliveries of materials, supplies, and equipment purchased or rented by the City.
- (c) No person shall operate a vehicle in a park at a speed in excess of the posted speed limit.
- (d) No person shall cause a vehicle to be parked within a park, except in a designated parking area. Vehicles parked on the shoulder of a road in designated areas must be parked parallel to the road and shall not impede the flow of traffic.
- (e) No person shall leave a vehicle within a park after-hours unless approval is granted by the City Manager or designee. Vehicles remaining within a park for which approval has not been granted will be towed at the owner's expense.

**WILDLIFE**

- (a) No person shall willfully harm, harass, disturb, trap, confine, catch, possess, feed, hunt, release, or remove any wildlife within a park, without specific authority from the City Manager or designee.
- (b) Fishing in accordance with State of Texas laws and regulations shall be permitted within all parks, except as specifically prohibited.

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**PLANT LIFE**

No person shall willfully destroy or remove any tree, shrubs, vine, wildflower, grass, fern, moss, leaves, cones, dead or downed wood, or any other plant life within a park without the consent of or under the direct supervision of the City Manager or designee.

**FIRES, SMOKING**

Except in designated areas, no person may light, build, or maintain a fire within a park other than within a camp stove or barbecue pit; only charcoal barbeque pits may be utilized in the parks. Smoking of tobacco products shall be confined to designated smoking areas.

If a burn ban is in effect, no fires or smoking will be allowed, except during special events and in facilities with a preapproved fire prevention plan reviewed by the Tomball Fire Marshal.

**WEAPONS**

The constitution and laws of the State of Texas, and those of the United States of America, govern the possession of Weapons within a park.

**EXPLOSIVES**

No person may possess gunpowder or other combustibles, explosives, or fireworks within a park. This provision does not apply to gasoline and other petroleum products in fuel tanks of motor vehicles, propane or petroleum products intended to be used as fuel for cooking, or petroleum products used to power an electric generator.

**ANIMALS**

No person may bring into or possess in a park any animal other than a dog or domestic cat. Any person bringing a dog or domestic cat into a park shall keep the animal confined to a vehicle or secured by a leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length (including retractable leashes), maintain control of the animal at all times and maintaining a safe distance from people and other animals in the park.

No person shall abandon an animal in a park.

**GLASS BEVERAGE CONTAINERS**

No person shall use or possess any glass containers in any City park.

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**METAL DETECTORS**

No person may bring into or possess in any park any metal detector unless the operator has specifically contracted with the City for survey, discovery, excavation, restoration, demolition, or study.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS/RESTRICTIONS PERTAINING TO THE USE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE**

No person shall possess or consume an alcoholic beverage in a park, except in compliance with the special conditions and restrictions noted below:

- (a) Alcoholic beverages may be consumed only if authorized by a Special Events Application and approved by City Council.

**RESERVATIONS**

Pavilions and other designated park facilities (e.g., tennis courts and pickleball courts) may be reserved by submitting a fully completed **Park Reservation Application** or Sports Court Reservation Application to the Public Works Administrative Assistant. Reservations are approved on a **first-come, first-served** basis.

A deposit is not required; however, the renter will be contacted for any charges assessed for damages resulting from the reservation.

Upon verification of the application and any required documents, payment of the applicable rental fee is due. Rental fees are **non-refundable**. The park grounds remain public space and are not subject to reservation. The City will not restrict general public access to areas outside of the rented facility, provided such access does not interfere with the reserved event.

Reservation requests should be submitted at least **ten (10) business days** prior to the proposed date of use. Continuous or exclusive use of a park or park facility is not permitted, except as provided in a concessionaire agreement authorized by the City.

**USE OF LOUDSPEAKERS**

The use of loudspeakers within a park shall be governed by sections 42.01(a)(5) and (c) of the Texas Penal Code, *Disorderly Conduct*, or as referenced in the City of Tomball Code of Ordinance Chapter 18, Article IV.

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**DUMPING AND LITTERING**

The disposal of trash, refuse, or waste in any manner other than in designated receptacles is prohibited. Willful destruction, damage, or theft of City property, creating hazards to persons or property, and climbing on landscaping, plant beds, or public buildings are strictly prohibited. No outside trash, refuse, or waste material may be brought into a City park. Following an event, all litter and debris must be removed from the reserved area, surrounding grounds, and landscaping; if the volume of waste exceeds the capacity of onsite receptacles, the renter is responsible for removing the excess from the premises.

**SOLICITATIONS AND SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES**

The solicitation or sale of goods and services, or the seeking of donations for a cause, is prohibited unless the person receives the prior written approval of City Council.

**CAMPING**

No person shall engage in overnight camping in a park.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

No person shall solicit for, hold, or sponsor a special event in a park or park facility without the prior written permission of the City Manager or designee, who shall require the provision of liability insurance, if needed, with the City named as insured.

In addition, the person or organization may be required to employ and have on site provided security of at least one uniformed Texas certified Peace Officer for the first 300 attendees or fraction thereof, and at least one additional such peace officer for each additional 250 attendees or fraction thereof, depending on the type and size of the special event. Security, as well as other details of the event, is to be coordinated with the appointed department as determined by the City facility being utilized. All special events must meet with the City Special Events Team, unless otherwise directed by City staff. Applicants requesting to use a City park facility for a special event that is intended to raise money must provide proof of 501 (c) (3) nonprofit tax exemptions and/or Medical Trust Fund Documents from bank. Admission cannot be charged and solicitation of park users who are not participating in the event is not allowed, unless the person or organization receives the prior written consent of City Council.

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**SPECIAL RULES FOR SPECIFIC PARK FACILITIES**

Each park facility may develop rules and regulations that address problems specific to that facility, which shall be in writing and approved by City Council. All persons shall comply with the rules and regulations posted for individual facilities or special events.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

The following special provisions apply only to the designated parks:

- *All City Parks:*
  - No unaccompanied children under the age of 12.
  - Weddings and parties are allowed with approval through reservation.
  - Paper, confetti, rice, silly string, glitter, colored power, water balloons or other items that are designed to pop/break/shatter or otherwise burst and litter are prohibited.
  - Candy filled piñatas are permitted with a pavilion reservation and self-provided stand. Piñatas cannot be secured to any park structure or tree.
  - A person may not operate a drone or model aircraft in a park except in a specifically designated area, and the drone or model aircraft must remain in the operator’s line of sight.
  - Generators, balloons, and/or moonwalks allowed; moonwalks shall require Liability Insurance from the company supplying the equipment with the City listed as an additional insured.
  - Water recreation activities such as water slides, inflatable pools, etc. are prohibited from all City Parks.
  - No loud or abusive language.
  - Bicycles, skates, and skateboards are allowed, except on courts.
  - Pets allowed.
  - No posters, banners, signs or other devices will be allowed to be displayed or posted on park fixtures using tacks, nails, staples, tape or other fasteners.
  - Items are prohibited from being driven or staked into the ground.
- *Railroad Depot Gazebo:*
  - Reservations are for the Gazebo only.
  - Renters must provide their own tables and chairs.
- *Juergens Park:*
  - Reservations are for the pavilion only.
  - Renters may obtain keys to the interior of the park but area is to be used for temporary access for setup and clean up, no cars shall remain parked during the reservation.
- *Jerry Matheson Park*
  - Reservation is for the pavilion only.
  - Reservations that intend to use the pool must contact the Pool Manager in advance to confirm availability for their party.

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- *Theis Attaway Nature Center:*
  - Catch and Release Fishing only.
  - No cast nets permitted.
- *Broussard Community Park:*
  - Catch and Release Fishing only.
  - No cast nets permitted.
  - Soccer fields are maintained through a contract and if not in use by league soccer are open to the public and may not be rented.

**PARK SIGNS**

All persons shall comply with signs and markers installed, or caused to be installed, in the parks.

**EFFECT ON EXISITING LAW**

These Rules and Regulations are supplementary to all applicable federal, state, and municipal laws and do not replace or override any such provisions in effect within the park.

**ENFORCEMENT**

The Parks Superintendent or his designee shall be authorized to remove any person who violates any of these Rules and Regulations from the park. In addition to removal from the park, charges may be filed against a violator under subsections of the Texas Penal Code or City of Tomball Code of Ordinances.

**SEVERABILITY**

The provisions of these Rules and Regulations are severable. If any part is found to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect. It is the intent of the City Council that these Rules and Regulations would have been adopted even without the invalid portion.

**AMENDMENTS**

These Rules and Regulations may be amended at any time at the discretion of the City Council.

**POSTING**

These Rules and Regulations shall be posted on the City website.

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**OFFENSES**

Pursuant to the Texas Penal Code and City of Tomball Code of Ordinances, any violation of these Rules and Regulations may be subject to penalty.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

These Rules and Regulations are effective shall become effective upon approval by the City Council. All previously adopted rules and regulations are superseded and repealed.