



9323 Union Cemetery Road
Symmes Township, OH 45140-9386
Tel. (513)683-6644
www.symmestownship.org

Symmes Park
11600 Lebanon Road

Home of the Brave Park
11605 Lebanon Road

Meade Historic Preserve
11887 Lebanon Road

Hopewell Meadows Park
9131 Hopewell Road

Stonebridge Park
12150 Stonebridge Way

Blong Memorial Park
11433 Blong Road

Camp Dennison Nature Trail
Munson & Campbell Streets

Seven Gables Park
11680 Seven Gables

Shore Drive Park
Shore Drive

PARK RULES & REGULATIONS

Effective January 2024

Section 1 – Operations

Township parks will be open for public use only during daylight hours, or at times officially posted by the Board. No person shall remain in or use any part of the park facilities after closing time unless the Board grants specific written permission.

The parks will be open for public use only during the following times:

April 1 – October 15	7:30am to dark
October 16 – March 31	8:00am to dark

Areas may be closed whenever conditions are such that any activity conducted thereon would cause unnecessary damage to such area. Park areas under construction or development are closed until such a time as opened by the Board for public use. Areas to be closed shall be posted.

Section 2 – Reservations for Picnic Shelters/Amphitheater

Picnic shelters may be reserved through the Township office and are available at Symmes Park, Seven Gables Park, Home of the Brave Park, and Hopewell Meadows Park. The Amphitheater is available only at Symmes Park. The shelters and amphitheater may be reserved from April 15 to October 15, between the hours of 11:00am and closing.

Other picnic areas/tables and athletic fields are available on a first come, first serve basis unless reserved.

Symmes Township residents/businesses (those having an address in Symmes Township and living inside the township) will have priority in making reservations. Reservations for the coming calendar year will be taken online through the website after January 1. Non-residents may schedule after April 1. The Township reserves the right to match group size with shelter capacity. No one may reserve a shelter for more than the capacity of the shelter listed in these rules for safety and parking reasons. *Township residents are not permitted to reserve a shelter for non-residents.*

Reservations must be made by an adult at least 18 years old who assumes responsibility for the group and condition of the area after the group has departed. The deposit and Maintenance Impact fee must be received within three (3) working days after the reservation is made or the reservation will be canceled.

The deposit/Maintenance Impact fee schedule is as follows:

Shelter	Capacity	Deposit	Fee	Non-Resident Rate
Leming	80	\$250	\$175	\$325
Shady Ridge	64	\$250	\$160	\$310
Deer Run	48	\$250	\$145	\$295
Amphitheater		\$250	\$125	\$275
Seven Gables	20	\$250	\$115	\$265
Hopewell Main	68	\$250	\$175	\$325
Hopewell Remote	38	\$250	\$145	\$295
Home of the Brave	60	\$300	\$225	\$375
Special Events		\$400	\$500	\$650
Daycares at HOB		\$250	\$225	\$375

The deposit and/or Maintenance Impact fee may be waived at the discretion of the Board or its designated agent. Payment of the deposit/impact maintenance fees must be made with a credit card and paid on the township's website – no cash or checks will be accepted.

The deposit for reservation and use of the park shelter is not a payment of a fee or consideration to enter and use the park premises. It is only intended to ensure proper cleanup of the shelters. Users of the park shelters may take advantage of all the other kinds of recreational activities offered in the parks. Because all of these activities are available to the general public without charge, users of the park shelters are free to use them when they are not already being used by other parties.

Reservations are for rain or shine. The Maintenance Impact Fee is refundable if the event is canceled ten (10) days prior to the scheduled date. After the event is over and the reserved area is checked and deemed satisfactory, the deposit refund will be processed. This process takes approximately two (2) weeks.

The user is totally responsible for all necessary set-up and clean-up, including (but not limited to) removing decorations (i.e., tape, staples, tacks, and nails, etc.), cleaning tables, benches, grills, etc., placing garbage in trash containers and cleaning up after games. No paint, paintballs, glitter, silly string, grease, chalk, confetti, food remnants from throwing food, bubbles, etc. will be allowed in the shelters or restrooms for any reason.

Failure to clean up or any damage to the shelter, concrete base, equipment, electricity, etc. will result in forfeiture of the deposit, as well as an additional charge for clean-up or repairs by Township personnel. The clean-up must be completed on the same day as the event. Compliance with this rule for purposes for deposit refund shall be the sole determination of the Board's agent.

Users will not be permitted to have inflatable bounce houses, slides, etc., pop-up tents, livestock, kettles, private grills, fire pits, or anything that may burn coal, wood, etc. Please leave all coal from Township grills in the grill – do not dump them in the trash cans. Failure to abide by these rules will result in forfeiture of the deposit.

Section 3 – Child Supervision

No child under 12 years old should be left unattended in any area of the park.

Section 4 – Athletic Areas

Use of the athletic fields will be allowed by non-school athletic groups which provide organized team sports for Symmes Township children through the Indian Hill, Loveland, and Sycamore school districts. Each group will be required to observe all guidelines established by Symmes Township for use of the fields.

All use of athletic fields must be reserved through the Township for use by recreational teams or organizations. All teams shall pay a \$20.00 resident fee/\$25.00 non-resident fee per player per season to help off-set maintenance costs. If field lights are requested during game play or practice, then teams will be required to pay a fee of \$30.00 per use/per day. Teams will be required to request and pay for the lights on the website prior to use. Failure to pay any of the fees will result in loss of field usage in the future. All teams are required to provide a roster of players each season to determine the total user fees. No field space can be sold or reallocated to another team unless authorized by Symmes Township.

Athletic fields may be closed whenever conditions are such that the use thereof would cause significant damage to the playing surfaces. Areas to be closed will be posted on our website.

Section 5 – Pond

Fishing is permitted only with a proper Ohio State Fishing License. No child under 12 years of age may fish unless accompanied by an adult.

No swimming or wading by persons or pets, ice skating, ice fishing or snowmobiling is permitted.

No boating of any type, motorized models or remote-control devices are permitted.

Section 6 – Reservation of Property and Natural Features

No person shall injure, deface, disturb, or befoul any part of a park of any building, sign, equipment, or other property found therein, nor shall any tree, flower, shrub, rock or other mineral be removed, injured or destroyed.

No park fixtures or equipment (picnic tables, waste receptacles, etc.) shall be moved to other locations within the parks or removed from park property.

Decorations, glass containers, shepherd rods (hooks), pictures, whirligigs, trellises, fencing, etc. are not permitted and should be removed without notice from any of the parks within the Township. Temporary decorations may be placed within the shelters but must be removed once the use of the shelter is completed.

Section 7 – Preservation of Good Order in the Parks

No individual or organization shall conduct, sponsor, or promote any public meeting, concert, theater, athletic event, or other public activity in the park without prior authorization of the Board.

No event or activity sponsored or promoted by an individual or organization shall be permitted if, in the opinion of the Board, it will constitute hazards and dangers to the personal safety of the participants or other park visitors, endanger peace and good order in the parks, interfere with the regular and normal use of the facilities and activities by park visitors, or is inconsistent with the use of park lands for park purposes.

Section 8 – Garbage, Refuse, Ashes, Sewage & Waste Materials

No person shall deposit, permit, or suffer to be deposited in any part of the parks any garbage, ashes, sewage, refuse or any waste material whatsoever other than in receptacles provided for such purposes nor dump any earth within the parks without specific written permission from the Board.

No person shall bring into or cause to be brought into the parks from the outside park boundaries any garbage, ashes, sewage or refuse for depositing in a manner within a park.

No person shall either within or from without a park discharge into, throw, cast, lay, drop or leave in any storm sewer or drain flowing into or through a park any substance, matter or thing, either liquid or solid, which may or shall result in the pollution of the water courses within the park to such an extent as to unreasonably or improperly prevent or interfere with the conservation of the natural resources of the parks by preventing, interfering with or lessening, to an improper or unreasonable degree, the use of said water course for recreational or other proper park uses or to endanger the health of visitors in the parks in the proper use and enjoyment of the same.

Section 9 – Hunting, Fishing and Molesting Wildlife

No person within the confines of a park shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap, molest, harm, harass, injure, or take any wild bird or animal found within the confines of the park or therein rob or molest any bird nest or take the eggs of any bird.

Section 10 – Firearms/Fireworks

No person, in any park, except authorized employees or agents of the Board or law enforcement authorities, licensed concealed carry permit holders in full compliance with R.C. 2923.125 or 292.1213, or motor vehicle operators in full compliance with R.C. 2923.16, shall carry or have in their possession firearms of any

description, pellet gun, paint ball gun, air rifle, slingshot, or other missile throwing device including archery equipment.

No person shall discharge a firearm of any description within the parks. This shall not apply to law enforcement officials in the proper enforcement of the law or to any person in the proper exercise of the right of self-defense.

No person, except authorized employees or agents of the Board, shall possess fireworks within the parks. No person shall discharge any fireworks or explosive substances within the parks without specific written permission from the Board.

Section 11 – Fires

No person shall start a fire in a park, except small fires for cooking purposes in park grills, without written permission from the Board. No “bon fires” shall be permitted in the park grills. All fires shall be extinguished by the person or persons starting or using the same before leaving the immediate vicinity of the fire. The Board may at its discretion prohibit fires or smoking for limited periods at any location or for any purpose when necessary for the protection of park property.

Section 12 – Camps

No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging place within a park except for the Shore Drive Park.

Overnight camping is permitted at the Shore Drive Park on a case-by-case basis upon written authorization from the Board. Specific rules and regulations are provided in Appendix 1.

Section 13 – Animals

Pets are permitted in the parks but must be controlled and confined to a leash. Pet owners must have in their possession some device for the removal and containment of such pet’s excrement and shall remove any excrement deposited by a pet under their control.

Pets are permitted “off-leash” within the designated dog run area in Symmes Park. Specific rules and regulations for the dog park area are provided in Appendix II.

No person shall bring into, have, or keep in any park any cat or other animal destructive of bird life.

No person shall herd, graze, drive or permit to run at large within a park any cattle, horse, mule, donkey, goat, sheep or other animal or any poultry or other fowl.

No person shall ride a horse or any other animal within a park except with the prior written permission of the Board.

No animal shall be allowed on any hard play surface such as, but not limited to, tennis or basketball courts.

Section 14 – Parking

Vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas only. No parking is permitted in grassy areas without the written permission of the Board.

The Symmes Park meadow area shall be used for overflow parking. Appropriate signage shall be posted to direct park users to this area when required by circumstances.

All handicapped parking restrictions shall be observed.

No blocking of park entries or entryways to trails or walkways is permitted.

No other activities such as roller skating, roller blading, skateboarding, scooter, or bicycling shall take place in road or vehicle parking areas.

No parking outside of parking areas along the grass, ditches, or rights-of-way- is permitted.

No person shall leave any vehicle in a park during the hours when the park is closed. Any vehicle in a park after closing time will be subject to towing at the owner’s expense.

No person shall park or store any motor car, motorcycle, bicycle, wagon, or other vehicle within a park except in place and at such times as designated by the Board.

Section 15 – Traffic

No person shall drive or propel or cause to be driven or propelled along or over any road within the parks, any vehicle at a greater rate of speed than ten miles per hour (10 MPH). State laws regulating equipment on vehicles shall apply to vehicles within the parks.

No portion of a park shall be used for the purpose of travel by motorized vehicle except designated, paved roadways unless posted otherwise. Paths, walks and trails established for pedestrian travel shall not be used for vehicular travel. Motorized vehicles used as a means of transportation for disabled individuals are permitted on concrete paved trails and walkways.

No person shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any park road in a reckless manner without due regard to the safety of pedestrians and drivers and all other occupants of any vehicle.

No person shall drive or propel or cause to be driven or propelled along or over any park road, any commercial car or truck, trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer, bus or commercial tractor, unless authorized by the Board to make deliveries within a park, or unless engaged in work in a park that has been contracted for with the Board or unless delivering or picking up persons using a truck or trailer as transportation to or from a park area. No vehicle in excess of five (5) tons gross vehicular weight may be used to transport people to or from a park area without prior written permission from the Board.

No person shall drive or propel any vehicle along or over any park road without complying with all traffic signs and all posted traffic regulations.

Section 16 – Path and Walkways

No bicycles, skates, skateboards, roller blades, motorized models, or any other objects with wheels except strollers, wheelchairs and motorized vehicles used as a means of

transportation for disabled individuals, will be permitted on trails or walkways unless otherwise posted or with written permission of the Board. No person or organization shall place any obstruction on a trail for any reason.

Bicycles, skates, skateboards, and roller blades are permitted on the paths at Hopewell Meadows Park.

Section 17 – Disorderly Conduct

No person shall recklessly engage in conduct that annoys, inconveniences, or alarms the community within a park.

No person shall do any indecent, lascivious, lewd, or improper act therein.

No person shall enter a toilet room set apart for the opposite sex except for parents to accompany their custodial children.

No person shall play games of chance in a park without specific written permission from the Board.

No person shall obstruct, resist or be abusive of or use profanity to a Township police officer or agent of the Board in and during the lawful discharge of his or her duties.

No person shall remain within a park who does not abide by conditions adopted and posted by the Board for the preservation of good order and the protection of property within a park; and no person shall remain within a park who does not abide by the instruction and direction of a duly authorized police officer or agent of the Board in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person directed by a police officer or agent of the Board to leave a park shall do so promptly and peaceably.

All persons who take part in any specialized activities for which there is a fee, rental or admission charge must abide by the posted regulations adopted by the Board for those specialized activities. No person shall be allowed within the confines of those specialized activities unless they have first paid the fee, rental, or admission charge.

No person shall indulge in any noisy, boisterous conduct nor shall any person use any sound amplification device (i.e., speakers) without specific written permission from the Board.

No person shall remain in or use any part of the facilities of a park during the times the park is closed.

No person shall drive or propel a golf ball or cause it to be driven or propelled within the park.

No person or group of persons shall loiter in or near any building restroom, or structure nor loiter in or near a motor vehicle or vehicles, or on or about a motorcycle or motorcycles, or on or about bicycles within the park.

Section 18 – Intoxicating Liquor

Alcohol is permitted within the reserved shelter areas only unless written permission is given from the Board to do so otherwise. Anyone found with an open container of alcohol outside of the reserved shelter area will be asked to return to the reserved shelter area or dispose of the alcoholic beverage.

Violation of this section may result in dissolution of the rental agreement and forfeiture of the deposit and/or ejection from the park.

Alcohol may be permitted at specialized activities upon written specific permission from the Board.

Section 19 – Public Intoxication

No person shall be under the influence of beer, liquor, or any intoxicating beverage, controlled substance, or harmful intoxicant within a park.

Section 20 – Controlled Substances and/or Harmful Intoxicants

No person shall possess, obtain, or use any controlled substance as defined by Section 4301.01 of the Ohio Revised Code within a park. No person shall sniff, breathe, or otherwise use in any way other than the intended use by manufacturer, any product containing a harmful intoxicant as defined by Section 2925.01 of the Ohio Revised Code within a park.

Section 21 – Commercial Enterprises

No person shall sell or offer for sale any article, thing, privilege, or service within a park without written permission from the Board and no person shall do begging, hawking, peddling, or soliciting therein.

Section 22 – Signs

No person shall expose, distribute, or place any sign, advertisement, circular, notice or statement or display and banner, emblem or design within a park without specific permission from the Board.

Section 23 – Enforcement/Penalty

All State of Ohio criminal and traffic laws will be enforced in the parks. Additionally, the Board has adopted as laws within the parks these Rules & Regulations which further protect and preserve the resources and property of the parks and ensure the safety of all park visitors.

Any person violating any of the foregoing Bylaws, Rules & Regulations and any amendments or additions thereto shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined a sum not exceeding \$100 for the first offense, nor more than \$500 for the second or further offense.

Violations of any of these regulations shall be considered prima facie grounds for immediate dismissal from the park and revocation of previously granted authorization to same by any member of the law enforcement agency designated by the Board to enforce the Rules & Regulations contained herein.

Section 24 – Terms

The term “park” as used herein means any land owned, leased, or controlled by the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.

The term “Board” as used herein means the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.