Village of Williamsville
Code of Conduct for Public Facilities and Parks

Guidelines for Responsible Use and Community Enjoyment

Introduction

Public facilities and parks are shared spaces designed for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone in the community. Further, picketing and protesting are important ways for individuals and groups to express their opinions, advocate for change, and bring attention to issues.

While these activities are protected under the First Amendment in the United States, there are also rules and guidelines that must be followed to ensure demonstrations remain lawful, safe, and respectful of the rights of others. To ensure that these areas remain welcoming, safe, and enjoyable for all, users are expected to follow this code of conduct. The guidelines, contained herein, promote respect, safety, and stewardship of our community resources.

Respect for Others

- Always be courteous to fellow visitors, staff, and neighbors.
- Avoid disruptive behavior, including excessive noise, profanity, and harassment.
- Comply promptly with instructions from police and village staff.

Safety and Security

- Use equipment and amenities as intended and follow posted safety instructions.
- Always supervise children and vulnerable individuals.
- Report hazards and suspicious activity to village police or staff immediately. In case of an emergency, please dial 9-1-1.
- Weapons, dangerous objects, and illegal substances are prohibited in public facilities and at public parks.

Cleanliness and Environmental Stewardship

- Dispose of trash, recyclables, and pet waste in designated receptacles.

- Do not damage or remove plants, wildlife, or park property.
- Refrain from littering, graffiti, or vandalism.
- Conserve water and energy in facility restrooms and common areas.

Pets and Animals

- Keep pets leashed and under control at all times.
- Clean up after your pets and dispose of waste properly.
- Only bring animals into areas where they are permitted.

Use of Facilities and Amenities

- Respect posted hours of operation and access restrictions.
- Reserve areas such as picnic shelters or sports fields by contacting the Village Hall.
- Do not monopolize shared resources (benches, tables, courts) and allow others a turn.

Prohibited Activities

- No smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco products except in designated areas.
- No consumption of alcohol or controlled substances except where expressly permitted.
- No unauthorized commercial activities, solicitation, or distribution of materials except as expressly permitted.
- No open fires, fireworks, or grilling except in designated and permitted areas.

Striking, Picketing, and Protesting

- Location: Ensure you and your group remain in the area designated by the Village for picketing and protesting. Do not interfere with the flow of traffic, parking, or the use of sidewalks.
- Designate Leaders: When appropriate, assign marshals or organizers to help manage crowds and communicate with law enforcement.
- Remain Peaceful: Violence, threats, or aggressive behavior are not permitted. Peaceful conduct helps maintain the legitimacy of the protest and keeps participants safe.
- Respect Others: Do not harass, intimidate, or block access to businesses, residences, or other individuals.
- Use Signs Responsibly: Signs and banners should be non-offensive, clearly visible, and not used as weapons or to obstruct views.

- No Littering: Clean up after the protest. Dispose of trash and materials properly to respect the community and environment.
- Cooperation: By seeking the cooperation of the parties involved, tensions may be reduced and self-discipline encouraged so that the parties may police their own conduct.
- Follow Law Enforcement Instructions: Cooperate with police and other officials. If asked to disperse or move, comply calmly and respectfully. Fighting, assault, battery, threats and intimidation will not be permitted. Firearms, knives, clubs and other unlawful weapons will not be permitted.

Enforcement and Consequences

- Failure to comply with this code of conduct may result in a warning, removal from the facility or park, or referral to law enforcement.
- Repeated or serious violations may lead to suspension of access privileges.
- The Williamsville Police Department will at all times remain impartial regarding the parties and issues involved and by taking appropriate action to maintain public safety within the Village and at our public facilities and parks.
    - The Department seeks to minimize criminal violations connected with the use of our facilities and parks as well as during disputes and protests, by providing guidelines for the conduct of all parties.
    - The Department will enforce all laws of the State of Illinois and the ordinances of the Village of Williamsville at our public facilities and parks, and during the event of a strike, picket, or protest.

Conclusion

By adhering to this code of conduct, all visitors, including but not limited to picketers and protesters, help maintain the welcoming, safe, and enjoyable environment that makes our community's public facilities and parks special. Thank you for your cooperation and respect for shared spaces.