

THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

BY-LAW

PARKS

(Consolidated Version – Enacted as By-law 134-95)

Last consolidated on December 8, 2022. City of Vaughan by-laws are provided online for convenient public reference. By-laws are consolidated on an ongoing basis, but recent amendments may not be reflected in the latest consolidated version. Check the [Amendment History](#) to get a complete listing of all pertinent regulations. For further information contact the Office of the Director and Chief Licensing Officer.

A By-law for the Use, Regulation, Protection and Government of Parks in the City of Vaughan.

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1. Definitions

In this By-law:

"Alcoholic beverage" means spirits, wine, beer, or any combination thereof, and includes any alcohol in a form appropriate for human consumption as a beverage, alone or in combination with any other matter; [Added by section 2. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

"Authorized Sign" means any sign, notice, or other device placed or erected in or upon a park, under the authority of this by-law;

"Bicycle" includes a tricycle and unicycle but does not include a motor assisted bicycle;

"Cannabis" has the same meaning as in subsection 2(1) of the Cannabis Act, S.C. 2018, c. 16; [Added by section 2. of By-law [059-2019](#) on May 1, 2019.]

"Electronic Cigarette" or "e-Cigarette" has the same meaning as subsection 1(1) of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017; [Added by section 2. of By-law [059-2019](#) on May 1, 2019.]

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Community Services for the City appointed

by Council whose duties include the management, operation and maintenance of parks, or his or her designate;

"Control" includes care and custody;

"Council" means the Council of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan;

"Cycle track" means the lanes on highways or portions of highways designated as cycle tracks under Schedule "H", Part 2. [Amended by section 3. of [By-law 015-2022](#) on February 15, 2022.]

"Designated area" means an area defined or constructed for a specific use which may include posted conditions;

"Disabled person" includes a person who is blind or who has any degree of physical disability, which requires the physical reliance on a wheelchair, crutches, braces, canes or other similar remedial appliance or device;

"Motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle within the meaning of the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.8, as may be amended from time to time;

"Motorized recreational vehicle" means a vehicle propelled by an internal combustion engine, electric motor, pneumatic motor, hydraulic motor, or any combination thereof, including but not limited to a snowmobile, go-cart, trail bike, mini bike, all-terrain vehicle, scooter, or motorized skateboard; [Amended by section 1. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

"Municipality" means the Corporation of the City of Vaughan;

"Organized sport or activity" means a sport, game or activity pre-planned by a group or organization whether or not formally constituted and whether or not the players or members wear uniforms;

"Park" means land and land covered by water and all portions thereof owned by or made available by lease, agreement, or otherwise to the municipality, that is or hereafter may be established, dedicated, set apart or made available for use as public open space or golf course, and that has been or hereafter may be placed under the (jurisdiction) of the Commissioner including any and all buildings, structures, facilities, erections, and improvements located in or on such land, save and except where such land is governed by other by-laws of the municipality;

"Permit" means any written authorization of Council, or the Commissioner where such authority has been delegated;

"Post" or "Posted" refers to the erection or presence of permissive, regulatory, restrictive, warning or prohibitive signs and "posted area" means an area where such signs are erected;

"Smoke or Smoking" includes the holding or carrying of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, e-cigarette, electronic vaporizer or any other lighted, heated or otherwise activated smoking or vaporizing equipment, that contains any Tobacco, Cannabis or other substance or product; [Added by section 2. of By-law [059-2019](#) on May 1, 2019.]

"Special Event Permit" means a permit issued under the authority of the Special Events By-law 370-2004, as amended, or its successor by-law; [Added by section 2.(a) of By-law [035-2017](#) on April 19, 2017.]

"Tobacco" includes any product that contains tobacco; [Added by section 2. of By-law [059-2019](#) on May 1, 2019.]

"Vehicle" includes a motor vehicle as defined under the Highway Traffic Act,

R.S.O. 1990, c.H.8, as may be amended from time to time, and any bicycle, carriage, wagon, sleigh or other vehicle or conveyance of every description, whatever the mode of power, but excludes wheelchair or similar device (powered or otherwise) used by an individual due to a disability, baby carriage or cart, child's wagon, child's stroller, child's sleigh or other conveyance of like nature;

"Watercraft" means any device for conveyance in or on water and includes but is not limited to boats, row boats, sailboard, canoes, kayaks, or dinghies.

PART 1 - CONDUCT

2. Restricted Areas

While in any park, no person shall enter into areas posted to prohibit or restrict admission of the public.

- (b) No person shall enter into or remain in any park between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:59 a.m. [Added by section 3. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

3. Conduct

While in any park, no person shall:

- (a) indulge in any riotous, boisterous, violent, threatening, or illegal conduct or use profane or abusive language;
- (b) cast, throw or in any way propel any object in such manner as may or does endanger or cause injury or damage to any person or property;
- (c) create a nuisance by loitering, spying, accosting, frightening, annoying or otherwise disturbing other persons; or
- (d) create a nuisance or in any way interfere with the use and enjoyment of the park by other persons;
- (e) move or use any structure, facility or equipment, other than for its intended use; [Added by section 4. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]
- (f) carry or possess any glass container or other breakable container while in playground areas. [Added by section 4. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

4. Firearms and Offensive Weapons

While in any park, no person shall be in possession of or use any firearm, air gun, bow and arrow, axe or offensive weapon of any kind unless authorized by permit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, recreational archery equipment may be used in designated areas in accordance with posted conditions and/or where supervised.

5. Fireworks

While in any park, no person shall ignite, discharge or set off any firecrackers, rockets or other fireworks except as a fireworks display. A fireworks display shall not be permitted unless authorized by permit issued by the Fire Department pursuant to City of Vaughan Fireworks By-law as amended from time to time and also by permit.

6. Injury and Damage

No person shall in any park:

- (a) climb any building, structure or equipment, unless it is equipment designed for climbing;
- (b) break, injure, deface or remove the whole or any part of any flowers, plant material, trees or other vegetation or any building, structure, equipment or other property of the municipality;
- (c) unless authorized by permit, climb or remove the whole or any part of rocks, boulders, rock faces or remove any soil, sand, wood or mulch; [Amended by section 5. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]
- (d) in any manner, disturb ground which is under repair, prepared for planting, has been newly seeded or sodded or is in an area posted to that effect; or
- (e) drive, park or walk in an area posted to prohibit same.

7. Waste and Pollution

No person shall in any park:

- (a) dispose or dump garbage, litter, tree trimmings, or any other refuse, except that which is generated through the normal use of the park and shall only deposit same in receptacles provided for such purpose;
- (b) dispose of or dump garden refuse except in a designated area therefor;
- (c) unless authorized by permit, dump or deposit snow, fill, soil, building or construction materials;
- (d) dump or drain any other material or liquid onto any soils or into the waters of any pool, pond, lake, stream, fountain, or watercourse of any kind, including but not limited to the backflushing of pools or hot tubs, or the redirecting of downspouts; or [Amended by section 6. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

- (e) release any balloons. [Amended by section 1. of By-law [343-99](#) on May 26, 2009.]

8. Protection of Wildlife

While in any park, no person shall:

- (a) subject to the provisions of section 19, kill, attempt to kill, maim, injure, trap or disturb any animal, bird, waterfowl, fish, worms, or other wildlife; or
- (b) touch, injure or remove any nest or egg therefrom.
- (c) allow a pet to kill, attempt to kill, maim, injure, trap or disturb any animal, bird, waterfowl, fish, worms, or other wildlife.

9. Encroachment

No person shall:

- (a) encroach upon or take possession of any park by any means whatsoever, including but not limited to the construction, installation or maintenance of any fence or structure, the dumping or storage of any materials or plantings, and any planting, cultivating, grooming or landscaping, unless in accordance with municipality encroachment by-law and policy; or
- (b) alter any park fence, including the addition of gates, or otherwise creating access points to a park through a fence. [Amended by section 7. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

10. Alcoholic Beverages

While in any park, no person shall possess, consume, sell, or:

- (a) possess an unsealed container of an alcoholic beverage;
- (b) consume an alcoholic beverage; or
- (c) serve and sell an alcoholic beverage

unless in accordance with the Liquor License Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. L.19, as amended, and the City of Vaughan Municipal Alcohol Policy. [Amended by section 8. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

10.1 Smoking

While in any park, unless otherwise provided for in this By-law, no person shall smoke, except in accordance with the provisions of the Smoking By-law. [Added by section 1. of By-law [059-2019](#) on May 1, 2019.]

PART II - PARK USE

11. Campfires and Barbecues

While in any park, no person shall:

- (a) light, build or stoke an open fire or bonfire unless in a designated area and authorized by permits from Recreation and Culture and the Fire Department;
- (b) use any barbecues unless authorized by permit; [Amended by section 9. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]
- (c) [Deleted by section 10. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]
- (d) leave a barbecue or campfire without extinguishing the fire and ensuring that the embers are cold.

12. Organized Gatherings and Picnics

While in any park, no person shall:

- (a) unless authorized by permit, which must be produced for examination forthwith upon demand, hold a picnic, organized gathering or event for more than twenty-five persons; or [Amended by section 11. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]
- (b) interfere with a picnic, organized gathering or event authorized by permit.

13. Amplifiers and Loud Speakers

Except in accordance with the municipality's noise by-law and unless authorized by permit, no person shall operate loud speakers or amplifying equipment in any park.

14. Camping and Lodging

Unless authorized by permit, no person shall dwell or lodge in any park.

15. Tents and Structures

Unless authorized by permit, no person shall place, install or erect any temporary or permanent tent or structure in any park.

16. Bathing, Swimming, and Sun Bathing

No person shall in any park:

- (a) enter any public swimming pool, except at times designated for swimming;
- (b) in or adjacent to any swimming pool, fail to abide by posted signs or to obey the instructions of any lifeguard or other authorized person;
- (c) swim, bathe or wade in any fountain, pond, lake or stream, except in a designated area; or
- (d) utilize facilities without being properly attired including appropriate swim wear or beach clothing.

17. Use of Wash and Change Rooms

No person shall enter any portion of any washroom, bathhouse, or change room in any park set apart for the opposite sex.

PART III - GAMES, SPORTS AND ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES

18. Organized Sports or Activities

- (1) While in any park, no person shall:
 - (a) arrange or engage in an organized sport or activity, unless authorized by permit; or
 - (b) interfere with an organized sport or activity authorized by permit.
- (2) In addition to the prohibitions set out in subsection (1), while in any park no person shall utilize a designated area without a permit where same is posted to prohibit or restrict such use.

19. Fishing

No person shall fish in an area posted to prohibit same, in any park.

20. Golfing

- (1) While in any park, no person shall play or practice golf or strike a golf ball except on a golf course or in a designated area.
- (2) On any golf course located in a park no person shall:
 - (a) play or practise golf unless registered on that day as a player;
 - (b) hunt for or pick up any lost, misplaced or abandoned golf balls provided that nothing herein shall prevent a person registered as a player or such player's caddy from retrieving or attempting to retrieve golf balls lost by such registered player; or
 - (c) during the period from April 1st to and including November 30th, enter in or upon the playing area thereof unless registered on that day as a player or accompanying such player as a caddy.

21. Model Aircraft and Rockets

While in any park, no person shall operate any powered models of aircraft, rockets,

watercraft or vehicles unless authorized by permit.

22. Gliders and Hot Air Balloons

Unless authorized by permit, no person shall tether, launch or land any hot air balloon, hang glider, ultra light aircraft, parachutes or similar conveyance in any park.

23. Skating

On any natural or artificial ice surface located in any park, no person shall:

- (a) use speed skates unless authorized by permit or in a posted area in accordance with posted conditions;
- (b) skate in such a manner as to interfere with and/or endanger any other person using the surface; or
- (c) use a stick of any kind except in accordance with posted conditions.

24. Skiing, Tobogganing and Sledding

No person shall ski, toboggan, snowboard, skibob or sled in any park posted to prohibit same.

25. Roller Skates and Skate Boards

While in any park, no person shall:

- (a) obstruct, inconvenience or endanger other users of the park while operating or utilizing traditional or in-line roller skates, skate boards or like conveyances.

26. Tennis

No person shall enter, walk, or play upon a designated area for tennis in any park, except in accordance with the posted rules and regulations.

PART IV - VEHICLES

27. Roadways

- (1) The Council or, where such authority has been delegated, the Commissioner, is authorized to establish appropriate regulations to regulate the use of park roadways.
- (2) Unless authorized by permit, and except as provided in section 30 with respect to bicycles, no person shall while in any park drive, operate, pull or ride any vehicle except on a roadway or parking area.

28. Parking

No person shall in any park:

- (a) park or leave a vehicle except in a designated area for parking;
- (b) park or leave a vehicle between the hours of 11:01 p.m. and 5:59 a.m., except in a designated area allowing for such overnight parking, or where authorized by permit;
- (c) stop or park a vehicle in a designated area for parking, except in a parking space and in accordance with posted conditions;
- (d) stop or park a vehicle in a designated disabled parking space, unless a disabled person parking permit issued in accordance with the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.8, as may be amended from time to time, is properly displayed on or in the vehicle; or
- (e) use any parking space except while using the park.

29. Other Activities

No person shall make use of any roadway or parking lot in any park for:

- (a) washing, cleaning, servicing, maintaining or, except in the event of an emergency, the repair of any vehicle; or

- (b) instructing, teaching or coaching any person in the driving or operation of a motor vehicle.

30. Bicycles

While in any park, no person shall:

- (a) ride or operate any bicycle where posted to prohibit same; or
- (b) obstruct, inconvenience or endanger other users of the park while riding or operating a bicycle.

31. Motorized Recreational Vehicles

No person shall ride, drive, park or be in possession or control of a motorized recreational vehicle in any park except in a designated area.

32. Trucks and Commercial Vehicles

No person shall unless authorized by permit, drive, operate, pull or ride in any park:

- (a) any heavy machinery or equipment of any description and whatever the mode of power; or
- (b) any truck, trailer or bus whatsoever except a vehicle that is,
- (c) being used for the purpose of making a delivery to a point within the limits of the park while it is proceeding to or from such point of delivery, or
- (d) operated for personal, recreational, or non-commercial use.

33. Speed

Unless authorized by permit, while in any park no person shall operate:

- (a) any vehicle on a roadway at a speed in excess of the posted limit; or
- (b) a bicycle other than on a roadway at a speed in excess of 20 kilometres per hour.

PART V - ANIMALS

34. Horses

- (1) Unless authorized by permit, no person as owner or person having control of any horse shall permit it to enter or remain in a park unless:
 - (a) within a designated area for use by horses; and
 - (b) it is well broken and wearing a bridle.
- (2) No person riding or having control of a horse in any park shall obstruct, inconvenience or endanger other users of the park.

35. Dogs

- (1) While in any park, no person as an owner or person having control of any dog shall:
 - (a) allow it to run at large, except as permitted within a City designated off-leash zone;
 - (b) permit any dog to enter any beach, pond, swimming area, farm area, garden, landscaped area, playground or sports field, or any other area posted to prohibit same, excluding blind persons reliant upon a guide dog.
- (2) While in any park, every person as an owner or person having control of any dog shall:
 - (a) ensure that it is on a leash or chain, unless within a City designated off-leash zone;
 - (b) pick up and remove forthwith excrement left by the dog and dispose of it in a sanitary manner in a receptacle for litter or in some other suitable container, excluding disabled persons. [Added by section 12. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.] [Amended by section 1. of By-law [088-2022](#) on May 17, 2022.]

- (3) Subsection 35(1)(a) shall not apply to animals within a designated leash free area. [Added by section 12. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

36. Dangerous Animals

No person as owner or person having the control of any animal shall bring into or permit such animal to enter any park if it may or does constitute a danger to other park users.

PART VI - WATERCRAFT

37. Boating & Mooring

No person shall, subject to any right at law to do so, place, operate, drive, ride or moor any watercraft in any park in any area posted so as to prohibit or restrict the type and allowable uses of watercraft.

PART VII - COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES

38. Sale of Merchandise, Trade or Business

- (1) Unless authorized by a permit for a special event organized or sponsored by the City or by a Special Event Permit, and subject to the conditions therein, no person shall, while in any park, sell or offer or display for sale: [Amended by section 2.(b) of By-law [035-2017](#) on April 19, 2017.]
- (a) any food, drink or refreshment;
 - (b) any goods, wares, merchandise or articles including promotional materials, souvenirs and novelties; or
 - (c) any art, skill, service or work.
- (2) While in any park, no person shall practise, carry on, conduct or solicit for any trade, occupation, business or profession.
- (3) No person shall use any park or its facilities for commercial or business purposes, whether or not for profit, unless permitted under Section 38, subsection(1). [Added by section 1. of [By-law 283-2002](#) on September 9, 2002]
- (4) Notwithstanding Section 38, Parks may be used for the walking of dogs for licensed Commercial Dog Walkers pursuant to the City's Licensing By-law 315-2005, as amended, or its successor by-law. [Added by section 1.a) of By-law [065-2020](#) on May 27, 2020.]

39. Filming and Videotaping

Except in accordance with the municipality's filming by-law, while in any park, no person shall take or permit to be taken for remuneration any film, photograph, video tape or television broadcast unless authorized by permit.

40. Circular and Advertisements

Unless authorized by permit, no person shall:

- (a) while in any park distribute, discard, or display any handbill, notice, or other circular, bill or advertisement; or
- (b) post, nail, attach, stencil or otherwise fasten or erect any poster, sign, notice, placard or other circular, bill, advertisement or paper to any park property, including trees.

PART VIII - REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

41. Permits and Licences

- (1) Permits issued for activities contemplated in this by-law may be subject to such fees as Council shall from time to time establish.
- (2) Permit issued for activities contemplated in this by-law may include conditions as to time, location, area, equipment, number of participants, type of activities, release, indemnity, letter of credit and insurance coverage.
- (3) The issuance of a permit pursuant to this by-law shall not relieve any person from

the necessity of acquiring any other licence or permit required for such activity by any governmental or public authority.

- (4) No permit contemplated by this by-law shall be issued if same would result in the contravention of other applicable law.

42. Posting of Signage

The Commissioner is authorized to post signage of permission, regulation, restriction, warning or prohibition with respect to uses of or activities in any park in accordance with the provisions hereof.

43. Closure

- (1) The Commissioner is authorized to close off for such period or periods as the Commissioner deems appropriate any park or parts thereof to relieve or prevent overcrowding or traffic congestion, or in the interests of public safety, or as may otherwise be authorized by Council. [Amended by By-law [196-2000](#) on May 23, 2000.]
- (2) All parks within the City of Vaughan shall be closed at 11:00 p.m., other than those parks listed in Schedule "A" to this By-law, and except where exemptions for special events have been granted. [Added by By-law [196-2000](#) on May 23, 2000.]

44. Exclusions and Exemptions

- (1) This by-law shall not apply to:
 - (a) the drivers, operations or other personnel of ambulances, police or fire department vehicles, or the riders or attendants of police department horses, while engaged in the performance of their duties;
 - (b) employees or agents of the municipality while engaged in works or services undertaken for or on behalf of the municipality; or
 - (c) a park, property or building that is now or hereafter under the jurisdiction of a board established by the Council or by statute, the members of which are appointed by Council.
- (2) This by-law shall be subject to provisions of contracts and agreements now or hereafter entered into by the municipality covering works or services to be performed in any park.

45. Enforcement

- (1) Any police officer, provincial offenses officer or employee of the municipality designated by the Commissioner is authorized to inform any person of the provisions of this by-law and to request compliance therewith.
- (2) In addition to any other authority they may have, any police officer, provincial offenses officer or employee of the municipality whose duties include the enforcement of this municipal by-law, is authorized to order any persons believed by such officer or employee to be contravening or who has contravened any provision of this by-law,
 - (a) to desist from the activity constituting or contributing to such contravention;
 - (b) to remove from the park any animal or thing owned by or in the control of such person which the officer or employee believes is or was involved in such contravention; or
 - (c) to leave the park.
- (3) Any police officer, provincial offenses officer or municipal law enforcement officer may enforce the provisions of this by-law.
- (4) Where any person contravenes any of the provisions of this by-law, or fails to comply with the order referred to in subsection (2) hereof, the permission and licence of such person to remain in the park is revoked.
- (5) Any police officer or municipal law enforcement officer who on reasonable grounds believes that an individual is contravening, or has contravened any provision of this by-law, may direct such individual to immediately identify themselves and

produce suitable documentation to verify their identity. [Added by section 13. of By-law [116-2009](#) on May 26, 2009.]

46. Penalties

- (1) Any person contravening any of the provisions of this by-law, other than clause 33 (a) resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle, is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine in such amount provided by the Provincial Offenses Act, R.S.O. 1990 c.P.33, as may be amended from time to time.
- (2) Any person contravening the provision contained in clause 33 (a) of this by-law, resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle, is guilty of an offence under the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990 c.H.8, and, pursuant to the provisions thereof, on conviction is liable to a fine in such amount provided for by the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990 c.H.8 as may be amended from time to time.
- (3) The owner of a motor vehicle that is parked or left in contravention of section 28 of this by-law is guilty of an offence and on conviction is subject to the provisions of this section, unless at the time of the offence the motor vehicle was in the possession of another persons without the owner's consent.

47. Removal of Vehicles

A police officer or provincial offenses officer upon discovery of any vehicle parked or standing in contravention of section 28 of this by-law may cause it to be moved or taken to and placed or stored in a suitable place and all costs and charges for removing, care and storage thereof, if any, are a lien upon the vehicle which may be enforced in the manner provided by the Repair and Storage Liens Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.R.25, as may be amended from time to time, or any successor acts thereto.

48. Severability

If a court of competent jurisdiction should declare any section or part of a section of this by-law to be invalid, such section or part of section shall not be construed as having persuaded or influenced Council to pass the remainder of the by-law and it is hereby declared that the remainder of the by-law shall be valid and shall remain in full force and effect.

49. Short Title

The short title of this by-law shall be the "Vaughan Parks By-Law".

50. Repeal

By-law No.97-73, is hereby repealed.

51. Enactment

This by-law shall come into force and effect on the day it is passed.

Enacted by City of Vaughan Council this 8th day of May, 1995.

L. D. Jackson, Mayor

J.D. Leach, City Clerk

Schedule "A" – Park Hours of Operation

[Added by section 3. of By-law [343-99](#) on October 25, 1999.]

Park	Open	Closed
Aberdeen Parkette	6 a.m.	11 p.m.
Airdrie Park	6 a.m.	11 p.m.
Belairway Park	6 a.m.	11 p.m.
George Stegman Park	6 a.m.	11 p.m.
Hefhill Park	6 a.m.	10 p.m.
Joey Panetta Park	6 a.m.	11 p.m.
Maxey Park	6 a.m.	11 p.m.
McClure Meadows Park	6 a.m.	11 p.m.
Ramsey Armitage Park	6 a.m.	10 p.m.
Robert Watson Park	6 a.m.	11 p.m.
Rosedale North Park	6 a.m.	11 p.m.

