BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, PENNSYLVANIA
ORDINANCE NO. 25-2

An Ordinance of the County of Montgomery, Pennsylvania, to adopt Rules and Regulations applicable in all parks, including historic sites, and linear parks commonly referred to as "trails", including the riparian buffers existing therein, which are owned or leased and operated by the County of Montgomery; to provide for enforcement of the Rules and Regulations by the Montgomery County Park Rangers and by the Historic Site staff; to provide fines and penalties for violations of the Rules and Regulations; to rescind, revoke and repeal all previously adopted Montgomery County park rules and regulations; and providing when this ordinance shall become effective.

WHEREAS, the County of Montgomery, through its Department of Assets and Infrastructure, Division of Parks, Trails and Historic Sites, owns and/or manages more than 6,000 acres of public open space which includes nine parks, five historic sites, and over sixty miles of regional trails. These areas include over 125 historic and non-historic structures, playgrounds, a fish ladder, a working historic canal lock, a wildlife center, and an archives/artifact collection of over 53,000 pieces; and

WHEREAS, these County parks, trails, and historic sites are enjoyed by over 3 million visitors each year, for activities such as fishing, environmental education programs, hiking, boat rentals, pavilion rentals, and more; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 6031 of the Second Class County Code, 16 P.S. § 6031, the County may enact such rules and regulations as determined by the County Commissioners to be necessary or prudent, in order to regulate the behavior or activities permitted in or on County recreational facilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Montgomery, Pennsylvania, as follows:

Section 1. The following Rules and Regulations shall be applicable in all parks, including historic sites and linear parks commonly referred to as "trails", including the riparian buffers existing therein, which are owned or leased and operated by the County of Montgomery as a park or historic site:

RULES AND REGULATIONS
Montgomery County Department of
Assets and Infrastructure
Division of Parks, Trails & Historic Sites ("PTHS")

1. **Alcohol and Controlled Substances**- Illegal drugs and abuse of controlled substances are prohibited on County Property. Alcoholic beverages are permitted ONLY pursuant to a Special Use Permit at designated facilities.
2. **Firearms and Other Dangerous Weapons –** No person shall discharge a firearm or possess or transport fireworks, BB guns, bows/arrows, pellet guns, air guns, paintball guns or slingshots on PTHS property. (Except under special conditions established by PTHS).

3. **Pets** - Pets are permitted on County property, except in buildings and in certain designated and posted areas. Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the owner's control. Pet waste must be cleaned up and disposed of properly. This policy shall not apply to service animals.

4. **Littering, Debris and Pollution** – Littering and dumping are prohibited. All trash, refuse and waste shall be removed from the County facility or placed in appropriate receptacles. Dumping of grass clippings, leaves, branches, and other landscape materials is prohibited. Introducing waste into any body of water is prohibited. Draining or dumping refuse or waste from any vehicle, trailer or camper is prohibited.

5. **Peace and Good Order** – No person shall engage in unruly, indecent, boisterous or disorderly conduct, including, but not limited to excessive loud music or abusive language.

6. **Fires** – Fires are prohibited except in fireplaces or other designated areas. All fires must be extinguished prior to leaving the designated area.

7. **Smoking** – Smoking is prohibited on County property or inside any building or structure. This prohibition includes E-cigarettes or similar vaporizing devices.

8. **Parking and Vehicle Use** – Vehicles may park in marked spaces only or where designated by PTHS staff. Parking areas are provided for PTHS facility use ONLY. Use of the parking areas by individuals not using a PTHS facility, including but not limited to trails and parks, is unauthorized vehicles and may result in ticketing and/or towing. Parking after posted closing time is prohibited without facility permission. The posted speed limit on facility roads and driveways must be obeyed.

9. **Motorized Vehicles**- The use of motorized vehicles, except those outlined herein and those transporting the disabled, or on roadways or designated areas, are prohibited on County property. These include, but not limited to, ATV's, motorcycles, and snowmobiles.

10. **Hunting, Trapping, Feeding Disturbing or Harassing Wildlife**- Hunting and trapping on County property is prohibited, except under special conditions established by PTHS. Feeding, disturbing, or harassing any wildlife is prohibited.

11. **Animals & Enclosures**- No disturbing of any animals in fenced pastures or enclosures.

12. **Releasing or Abandoning of Plants and Animals**- Releasing or abandoning any wild or domestic animal, fish or plant of any type on any County property is prohibited without written permission from PTHS.

13. **Protection of Natural, Historic, Archeological and Facility Features** – Defacing, damaging, disturbing or removing any feature or artifact, natural or manmade, from County Property is prohibited.

14. **Metal Detectors** – The use of metal detectors is prohibited.

15. **Fishing** – Fishing shall be permitted during facility posted operating hours and in designated areas approved by PTHS. All Pennsylvania Fish and Boat commission Laws apply.

16. **Boating** – Boating is permitted only in areas designated by PTHS. See specific regulations at each facility. All Pennsylvania Fish and Boat commission Laws apply.

17. **Swimming** – Swimming, bathing, diving, or jumping into the waters owned, managed or leased by PTHS is prohibited.

18. **Ice Skating and Ice Fishing** – Ice Skating and Ice Fishing are prohibited except at certain designated facilities.

19. **Camping** – Overnight camping is prohibited, except in designated areas. All individuals and groups who wish to camp must register with the facility. Construction of lodging on county property is prohibited.

20. **Bicycles and E-bikes** – Bicycles and E-bikes are permitted in designated areas on County property. An E-Bike (pedalcycle/bicycle with electric assist) is a bicycle equipped with an electric motor that assists the rider when they are pedaling. E-bikes shall weigh no more than 100 pounds, shall be equipped with a motor no more than 750 watts and shall be equipped with fully functional, operational pedals. All cyclists must ride in a safe and controlled manner, and yield to pedestrians and horses. An audible warning must be given when passing. In accordance with State law, children under age 12 must wear a helmet. The speed of bicycles as well as other small mobility devices with electric assist such as E-bikes, scooters, tricycles, and other similar wheeled devices must not exceed 15 mph.

21. **Signs** – Temporary signs for events at County facilities are permitted at that location on the day of the event ONLY and must be removed by the end of the day. Posted signs must not cause damage to any County facility feature, natural or manmade.

22. **Soliciting and Advertising** – Individuals are prohibited from selling, soliciting, or promoting causes, merchandise or food, unless associated with a permitted event. Any such sales, solicitation or promotion is restricted to the area for which a Special Use Permit has been obtained.

23. **Hours of Operation** – Operating hours for each PTHS facility shall be posted at that site. Accessing a facility beyond the posted hours, without permission, is prohibited. Regional Trails shall be open from sunrise to sunset.

24. **Closed Areas** – PTHS reserves the right to close any facility, or portion thereof, for the health and safety of visitors and/or the protection of a feature, either natural or manmade.

25. **Fees and Reservations** – Certain activities and the use of certain facilities may require a reservation, security deposit and/or payment of a fee. See individual facility for more information.

26. **Special Events** – Certain activities, depending on size and scope, may require a Special Use permit and possible fee. See individual facility for more information.

27. **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Drone Use** - To balance public safety, privacy concerns, protection of wildlife, view-shed and sound-shed protection, and FAA rules and regulations with the popular recreational use of drones or other types of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), the use of such vehicles is permitted only in designated and posted areas.

28. **Site Specific Regulations** – Individual PTHS facilities may have additional regulations. See individual facility for more information.

Section 2. The proper officers of the County are hereby authorized and directed to take all such action, execute, deliver, file and/or record all such documents, publish all notices and otherwise comply with the provisions of this Ordinance and the Act in the name of and on behalf of the County.

Section 3. Pursuant to Sections 6031 and 6034 of the Second Class County Code, the above rules and regulations may be enforced by law enforcement personnel or any other entity authorized to enforce local or state laws or ordinances. Any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a summary offense, and upon conviction thereof shall pay a fine of not less than $100 or more than $300.

Section 4. All provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

Section 5. All ordinances and parts of ordinances heretofore enacted to the extent that the same are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

ENACTED and ORDAINED by the Commissioners of Montgomery County this 14th day of August 2025.

(COUNTY SEAL)

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

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Chief Clerk of County

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Chair
Board of County Commissioners