



Town of Nags Head

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Use of Dowdy Park Policy

Board of Commissioners Policy
(Updated August 2, 2017)
Amended July 5, 2018; May 21, 2024; December 3, 2025

Dowdy Park located at 3005 S. Croatan Highway

- At this time, a reservation for private events, such as birthday parties, is not required.
- The Town expects users to respect the park and to leave it in good condition, clean and ready for use when they leave.
- There is to be no alcohol at the park, except as otherwise permitted as part of a Town authorized event.
- Hours of operation. The park shall be open daily from an hour before sunrise to an hour after sunset.
- Open fires/grills are not to be used under any pavilion or structure; open fires shall be limited to permanently installed grill facilities.
- Fireworks (including sparklers) are prohibited within the park.
- Firearms, concealed or otherwise, are prohibited in the park.
- Pets must be on a leash at all times. Owners must clean up after pets.
- Tobacco products. The use of cigarettes, cigars, or similar products is prohibited.
- Damage to town property. It shall be unlawful for any person to damage town property, including, but not limited to, defacement of property with graffiti, damaging furniture or fixtures, or damaging trees or vegetation within the park.
- Bicycles/rollerblades/skateboards/scooters. The use of bicycles, rollerblades, scooters and similar apparatus is strictly limited to the sidewalks and walkways within the park. Use of bicycles, rollerblades, scooters and similar apparatus on playground equipment, play dunes, or on the lawn areas is strictly prohibited. Use of skateboards at Dowdy Park shall be prohibited.
- Children under the age of 12 shall be under the supervision of an adult who is physically present within the park.
- Balloons are prohibited from being released within the park.

Approval, scheduling, and use of Dowdy Park Organizations, groups, or private individuals who wish to schedule an event or activity at Dowdy Park may do so only in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

- Only town sponsored events or activities will be permitted between June 1st – September 30th.
- Only three (3) non-town related events or activities per month will be permitted between October 1st – May 31st.
- Dates for events will be reserved on the Dowdy Park calendar based on a first-come, first-served basis, and are subject to the restrictions in this policy. Recurring events will be given first priority to reserve the same day of the same week of the following calendar year (e.g., the second Saturday of February) or the same exact date of the following calendar year (e.g. February 14th). Conflicts that arise due to these two different reservation methods (e.g., February 14th falls on the second Saturday of February) will be handled by the Town Manager's Office on a case-by-case basis. Event organizers shall have two weeks after the event's completion to submit a letter of intent stating their desire to hold the event with the same date and location

the following year. Once confirmed with the Town Manager's Office, the letter will serve as a reservation but will not replace an official application, which will still need to be submitted by the corresponding deadline.

- Organizations, groups, or private individuals may not have more than one scheduled activity in any 30-day period.
- All Crowd Gathering Activities for Dowdy Park shall require a Tier II crowd gathering permit. The town shall maintain priority of use for the park over non-town related individuals or groups.
- The event or activity must be free and open to the public.
- Unless approved as part of a Crowd Gathering Permit, no organization, group, or individual shall post signage, sell products or services, solicit business, or otherwise advertise within the park.
- Designated freedom of speech area. The south side of the park may be used for this purpose. It shall not conflict with a scheduled event.
- No portion of the park may be reserved or restricted for use by other members of the general public not associated with the scheduled activity.
- Weddings. The park shall not be reserved for weddings. Weddings are not prohibited; however, no portion of the park shall be closed to accommodate the event.
- The use of additional equipment, including, but not limited to, chairs, umbrellas, tables, tents, canopies, cooking devices, sound-amplifying devices, and the like is strictly prohibited unless associated with an approved activity. When approved by the town as part of a scheduled activity, items such as tents, canopies, etc. shall be secured with sandbags or weights. No stakes shall be used in lawn areas.