

Code of Parks and Open Spaces Conduct

Parks and green spaces are important well-being community assets which lend themselves well to provide informal outdoor recreation, ability to visit and enjoy recreational facilities and are accessible to the whole community.

The activities and uses are wide ranging from dog walking, cycling, children's play, outdoor sport, events, etc. It is important that all these activities and uses can co-exist together and that all visitors are able to enjoy parks and green spaces in a respectful and safe way.

Parks and Green Spaces are also the home of local wildlife and natural habitats, deserving of our protection and enhancement.

With this in mind a voluntary code of conduct (Do's and Don't's) has been developed to set out behavioural expectations and provide guidance to all visitors of Chelmsford's and South Woodham Ferrers' Parks and Open Spaces as follows; -

Do's

- Visit and enjoy your local park and open spaces regularly.
- Be kind, patient and respectful of other users and visitors.
- Respect and enjoy observing wildlife and natural habitats.
- Respect and observe high quality horticultural areas such as bedding, borders, etc.
- Keep dogs on a lead in car parking and other vehicular/cycleway areas and always make sure dogs are under owner's control (and do not disturb wildlife or other parks visitors).
- Car park within designated parking areas only.
- Fish in permitted areas only with an Environment Agency rod licence.
- Follow byelaws, local regulations, safety and user guidance as displayed on site at all times.
- Respect park opening and closure times where applicable.
- Report to and engage with local parks staff and the City Council on parks and open space experiences and suggest improvements through the various media available.
- Contact the City Council to book outdoor facilities (some will be subject to fees and charges; the income goes to the upkeep of the parks and green spaces).

Don't's

- ☒ Leave behind litter, debris, dog fouling (including hanging up dog scoop bags in trees or hedges). "Do bin it or take it with you!"
- ☒ Engage in anti-social behaviour disturbing other visitors including nearby residents when using parks and open spaces.
- ☒ Cause damage or vandalise the parks and open spaces.
- ☒ Cause environmental, habitat damage or interfere with local wild and plant life (including introducing non-indigenous animal or plant life and setting free fish or other aquatic animals).
- ☒ Allow dogs to enter equipped play areas or fenced off ball courts.
- ☒ Fly drones (large kites or model aircraft), launch "chinese style" lanterns or launch helium filled balloons.
- ☒ Fish in Central Park or Hylands Park lakes and ponds; and use watercraft (full sized or model craft) on lakes and ponds.
- ☒ Have barbeques or set fires in parks and green spaces.
- ☒ Drive, cycle, scoot or propel at excessive speed or driving off road endangering other visitors.
- ☒ Camp or stay overnight in parks and open spaces (unless agreed in advance with the City Council).
- ☒ Remove or cut down vegetation.
- ☒ Play golf other than at the West Park Pitch and Putt Course.
- ☒ Erect structures or enclosures in parks and open spaces.