

Parks & Recreation: Public Park Code of Conduct



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Parks & Recreation Program

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SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

Public Park Code of Conduct

Parks & Recreation Department

Policy Owner: Parks & Recreation Program Manager

Implemented: Seskéha/August 6, 2026

BACKGROUND

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Parks & Recreation Program is committed to providing safe, healthy, and welcoming spaces for all community members and visitors. By entering or using any Parks & Recreation facility, all guests agree to follow this Public Code of Conduct.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Public Code of Conduct or 'Code' is to ensure that all individuals who visit or utilize the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Parks & Recreation facilities can enjoy a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment. This Code establishes clear expectations for behavior, preserving and protecting community spaces, and supports the Tribe's commitment to providing healthy recreational opportunities for people of all ages. By outlining standards for conduct and shared responsibility, the Code helps ensure a safe, clean, and healthy park that reflects our cultural values.

POLICY STATEMENT

This Code serves as a framework for promoting acceptable behavior within all Parks & Recreation facilities and grounds. It is designed to promote fairness, respect, and responsible use of community resources while ensuring that all visitors, staff, and program participants can safely enjoy the amenities provided. All individuals are expected to comply with the rules, regulations, and expectations outlined in this Code, as well as any posted signage or instructions issued by Parks & Recreation staff. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is responsible for enforcing this Code and will take appropriate action when violations occur.

The Code cannot cover every situation as it relates to applicable law or policy but serves as a resource for acceptable conduct and provides information on whom to contact with questions or concerns. For additional guidance, consult the Park Manager or the Executive Director's Office.

SCOPE

This Code of Conduct applies to all users of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Parks & Recreation facilities, including Tribal programs, employees, elected officials, sports leagues, community members, visitors, volunteers, and outside organizations. It governs behavior across all park areas, amenities, events, and activities, whether reserved or open for public use. Compliance with this

Code is required while on Parks & Recreation property, and all individuals are responsible for ensuring their actions support a safe, respectful, and community-centered environment.

RESPECT & BEHAVIOR

To ensure a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for everyone, all visitors, participants, staff, volunteers, and officials are expected to follow the following Code of Conduct while on Tribal property and participating in Tribal programs and activities.

1. **Respect for others:** Treat all visitors, staff, volunteers, and officials with courtesy. Harassment, intimidation, threats, or discriminatory language are not permitted.
2. **Positive conduct:** Avoid running, shoving, fighting, or any aggressive or unsafe behavior. Good sportsmanship is expected during all recreational and sporting activities.
3. **Appropriate attire:** Shirts and bottoms are required at all times. Appropriate footwear is highly recommended. Clothing with discriminatory or derogatory wording or symbols is prohibited.
4. **Controlled substances & alcohol:** Alcohol, tobacco, vape products, marijuana, illegal drugs, and drug paraphernalia are strictly prohibited on all Tribal properties. Tribal properties have a zero-tolerance policy.
5. **Weapons:** Weapons of any kind are prohibited.
6. **Children & supervision:** All children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult aged 18 and over. Drop-offs are not allowed. Children under the age of 12 should not be left unattended and/or responsible for the supervision of other children.
7. **No Interference with employee duties:** To ensure staff can perform their duties without disruption or safety risks, all members of the public must respect the work environment and adhere to this Code of Conduct.

GENERAL RULES

Any land or water, devoted to park or recreation uses and owned, operated, or established otherwise by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and all vegetation or natural element, and including any parking lot, facility, trails, and other buildings, fixtures, monuments, structures, and their contents located on such land or water.

All visitors are expected to always treat Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal property and equipment with care and respect. Unauthorized use, tampering, or handling of park equipment, including maintenance tools, facility controls, storage areas, or program-specific materials is strictly prohibited to ensure safety and prevent damage. Community members must refrain from defacing, moving, or misusing any park structures, fixtures, or recreational equipment. Protecting Park property helps maintain a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for everyone who enjoys park facilities.

Below is a list of general park rules:

1. **Follow rules & staff instructions:** All guests must comply with posted signs, facility rules, and directions from Parks & Recreation staff.
2. **At-your-own-risk use:** All Parks & Recreation facilities are used at your own risk.
3. **Vandalism & misuse:** Damaging, defacing, abusing, or removing park property, amenities, trees, plants, or natural features is prohibited.
4. **Hours of operation:** Entering or using park amenities outside posted hours is not allowed. Park staff have the authority to open and close park amenities as required. Instances of individuals entering park amenities that are closed to the public may be punishable by law.
5. **Littering:** Littering is prohibited on all Tribal properties. Disposal receptacles for trash and recycling are provided for your convenience. Do not discard flammable or hazardous substances such as e-cigarettes, vapes, lighters, or other smoking paraphernalia.
6. **Fire safety:** Fireworks, open flames, and fires are prohibited except in designated, approved areas during specific community events. See section on Permitted Fires.
7. **Wildlife & environment:** Do not harm, harass, or disturb wildlife. Activities that endanger people, wildlife, or park property are not permitted.
8. **Animals:** Pets must be leashed at all times. Owners must pick up and properly dispose of dog waste. Dog waste stations are available along the Walking Trail, Amphitheater, and Nature Trail.
9. **Structures & signage:** No unauthorized construction, installation, or posting of signs, banners, flyers, or displays.
10. **Improper use of amenities:** Picnic tables, playgrounds, and other amenities must be used only for their intended purposes.
11. **Restroom misuse:** Bathing, sleeping, storing belongings, or doing laundry in restrooms or facilities is prohibited.
12. **Personal belongings:** Do not store or leave personal items unattended. The Parks & Recreation Program is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
13. **Inflatables:** Inflatable bounce houses or climb-on inflatables are not permitted within Parks & Recreation facilities, unless prior approval with appropriate insurance and waivers is provided.
14. **Dumping and Trash:** No person shall deposit any refuse or recyclable materials in a designated trash or recycling receptacle located on Park Property, unless the trash or

recyclable materials are generated as such during the person's authorized usage on that Park Property.

15. **Archaeological and Cultural Artifacts, Fossils:** No person shall remove fossils, archaeological, or cultural artifacts from Park Property, including projectile points, historic items, historic coins, and war relics, except if specifically authorized by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.
16. **Lost and Found:** Items in the lost and found box are governed by the "Standard Operating Procedure Lost and Found" document.
17. **Amplified sound:** Music can be played in common areas at an acceptable level that does not disturb neighboring buildings or others using the facilities. Music with inappropriate language or topics that reasonably may offend others is prohibited.
18. **Obstruction of others:** Interfering with other guests' use of park amenities or staff maintenance activities is prohibited.
19. **Vehicles:** Operation and parking of vehicles is allowed only in designated areas and posted speed limits must be followed.
20. **Reservations & Bookings:** Designated Park areas that have been reserved or booked for specific events, programs, or community activities must be respected at all times. When a reservation is in place, the reserved space is to remain free from interference, disruption, or unauthorized use by other park visitors. All community members are expected to honor posted notices, staff instructions, or schedule information to ensure that organized activities can take place safely, smoothly, and without interruption.
21. **Parking Rules:** No person shall park any vehicle on Park Property at any time or for any purpose other than the lawful use and enjoyment of Park Property. No person shall stop, stand, idle, or park a vehicle on Park Property: in front of a public or private driveway, on a sidewalk, at an intersection, in a crosswalk, within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant.
 - Parking along Margaret Terrance Memorial Way in the North and Southbound roadsides, from Route 37 to McGee Road, is no longer permitted. This change is necessary to prevent children from playing near active traffic and to reduce the risk of damage to vehicles and private property.
 - This rule will be strictly enforced at all times in coordination with Park Staff, SRMT Security, and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police.
 - Any vehicle parked along the fence will be required to move their vehicle and failure to do so will result in a parking ticket.
 - Parking along the roadway adjacent to park property is strictly prohibited to protect the safety of children, pedestrians, and all park visitors. Roadside parking can limit visibility for drivers, block emergency vehicle access, create hazardous traffic congestion, and increase the risk of accidents involving children who frequently cross between play areas and parking lots. Generations Park provides ample designated parking spaces,

and all visitors are expected to use these areas to ensure a safe, orderly, and respectful environment for the entire community.

22. **Excessive Loitering:** It is prohibited to remain in a park, building, or designated sitting area for extended periods without purpose or engaging in park-approved recreation or activities. Refusing to move or disperse when directed by park staff, security personnel, or police officers constitutes a direct violation and violators may be ordered to leave the premises, may be denied future access, and may be cited for criminal trespass.

PROHIBITION OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

To maintain a neutral, welcoming, and politically unbiased environment for all community members, campaigning of any kind is strictly prohibited on park property. This includes, but is not limited to, candidates for any elected position giving speeches, distributing campaign materials, soliciting support, or engaging in any activity intended to promote their candidacy or political platform. All visitors are expected to respect this prohibition to ensure that park facilities remain safe, inclusive, and non-partisan public space.

THREE STRIKE POLICY (FOR ONGOING GROUP ACTIVITIES)

Groups that use Parks & Recreation facilities for ongoing or recurring activities are subject to the following **Three Strike Policy** for policy violations:

1. **First Incident — Verbal Warning:** Staff will provide a verbal reminder of the policy and expectations.
2. **Second Incident — Written Warning Letter:** A formal written notice will be issued to the group or organizer.
3. **Third Incident — Loss of Privileges:** The group may lose access to Parks & Recreation facilities for the remainder of the season or for a period determined by the Parks & Recreation Manager.

Appeals: Any group wishing to appeal a written warning or loss of facility privileges may submit a written appeal to the Executive Director's Office (EDO) within ten (10) business days of receiving notice of the action. The appeal must include the reason for the appeal and any relevant supporting information. The EDO will review the appeal, consult with Parks & Recreation staff as necessary, and issue a final decision in writing. The decision of the EDO shall be final.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS

Any violation of this Code of Conduct or the Parks & Recreation Usage Policy may result in:

- Verbal warnings
- Written warnings
- Fines or fees
- Suspension of facility privileges

- Removal from the premises
- Long-term restrictions for repeated or serious violations
- May result in criminal prosecution for unlawful activities

AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS OF PUBLIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Public Code of Conduct will be readily accessible to all community members through multiple platforms to ensure transparency and awareness. A full copy will be posted on the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's official webpage and shared on the Generations Park Facebook page, with permanent signage installed at all park properties for on-site visibility. Community members may also request a copy at any time by emailing generations.park@srmt-nsn.gov or by calling the Parks & Recreation Office at 518-358-9009 for direct assistance.

AUTHORITY & ENFORCEMENT

Authority to modify or update the Public Park Code of Conduct rests solely with the Parks & Recreation Program Manager and the Executive Director's Office, ensuring consistency and accountability in all policy decisions.

Enforcement of this Code is carried out collaboratively by the Parks & Recreation Program, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Security Department, and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Police Department, who are authorized to address violations, ensure public safety, and uphold community standards across all park properties.

PERMITTED FIRES

- Specific small, monitored fires may be permitted for certain purposes such as campfires, ceremonies, crafts, cooking demonstrations, or similar activities.
- You must send your request by email to the Park Manager at generations.park@srmt-nsn.gov.
- You will need to have a signed waiver of liability in place.
- You will need to have a bucket of water to extinguish your fire at the end of your event and a fire extinguisher on hand for emergencies.
- You will need to have a staff person present at the fire at all times.
- A photo or detailed description of the type fire pit/containment being used is required.
- A plan for removal of ashes is required (consider that the ashes will be very hot at the end of your event).
- Please bring a first aid kit with materials for addressing any burn injuries and have a reliable radio/cell phone nearby for emergencies. Central Dispatch phone number is 518-358-9200 or 911.

INCIDENT REPORTING & DOCUMENTATION

All incidents occurring on park property must be reported immediately to on-site Parks & Recreation staff or the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police to ensure timely response and appropriate follow-up. Park staff will complete an official incident report documenting the date, time, location, individuals involved, a detailed description of the incident, witness names, contact

information, whether medical care was required, corrective measures taken, and any potential consequences. Incident investigations may include review of security footage, interviews with involved parties or witnesses, and coordination with SRMT Security or SRMT Police as needed to ensure accuracy, safety, and accountability.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR INCIDENT REPORTING:

PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAM	Office: (518) 358-9009
	Email: generations.park@srmt-nsn.gov
	“Generations Park” Facebook Page
SRMT SECURITY	Phone: (518) 358-2272 extension 2195
SRMT POLICE DEPARTMENT	(518) 358-9200

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Code will be effective at the time of signing and remain in effect until such time as they may be modified or revoked as required by the Parks & Recreation Program or the Executive Director's Office.

LEGAL REVIEW

The Public Park Code of Conduct has undergone formal legal review by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Legal Department to ensure accuracy, compliance, and alignment with all applicable tribal laws, policies, and regulatory standards. This review provides assurance that the Code is enforceable, clearly written, and protective of both community members and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. Any future revisions will likewise be subject to legal review to maintain consistency and uphold the integrity of park governance.

AUTHORITIES IN AGREEMENT

By signing below, the undersigned affirm their review and approval of the Investment Policy as presented.

Parks & Recreation Program Manager	Director of Office of Emergency Management & Safety
Chief of Police	Executive Director

MEMO

Jill Benedict

JS
Johanne Sullivan (Aug 13, 2026 09:23:47 EDT)



To: Tribal Council

From: Jill Benedict, Executive Director

Date: Seskéha/August 6, 2026

Re: Public Code of Conduct Approval Request

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to request Tribal Council approval of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Public Park Code of Conduct for Parks & Recreation facilities and properties, a new policy with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

Background

The Parks & Recreation Department developed the Public Park Code of Conduct to establish clear expectations for behavior, safety, and responsible use of Tribal Park facilities. The policy promotes a safe, respectful, family-friendly environment while protecting Tribal property, cultural resources, staff, visitors, and community members.

The Code applies to all individuals using Parks & Recreation facilities, including employees, elected officials, volunteers, visitors, sports leagues, community organizations, and program participants.

Policy Summary

The Public Park Code of Conduct:

- Promotes respectful, safe, and inclusive behavior.
- Prohibits harassment, threats, discrimination, fighting, and disruptive conduct.
- Requires proper supervision of children under age 12.
- Prohibits alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, marijuana, illegal drugs, and weapons on Tribal property.
- Requires compliance with posted rules and staff instructions.
- Prohibits vandalism, littering, dumping, and misuse of park facilities.
- Protects wildlife, natural resources, and cultural artifacts.
- Requires pets to remain leashed and owners to clean up waste.
- Regulates fires, amplified sound, parking, vehicle use, and facility reservations.
- Prohibits political campaigning on park property.
- Establishes a Three Strike Policy for recurring group activities.
- Authorizes warnings, fines, suspension of privileges, removal from property, and possible criminal enforcement for violations.
- Establishes procedures for incident reporting, documentation, and enforcement by Parks & Recreation Staff, SRMT Security, and SRMT Police.

Recommendation

The Executive Director's Office recommends approval of the Public Park Code of Conduct. Adoption of this policy will support public safety, protect Tribal resources, provide clear behavioral expectations, and ensure Parks & Recreation facilities remain welcoming and accessible for the entire community.

Approval

By signing below, the undersigned affirm their review and approval of the Public Code of Conduct as presented.

<u>Chief Michael Conners</u> Chief Michael Conners (Aug 13, 2026 11:41:04 EDT)	<u>Donald Thompson, Jr.</u> Donald Thompson, Jr. (Aug 13, 2026 12:45:39 EDT)	<u>Chief Ross L Garrow</u> Chief Ross L Garrow (Aug 13, 2026 13:53:28 EDT)
Chief Michael Conners	Chief Donald Thompson, Jr.	Chief Ross Garrow

Parks & Recreation: Public Park Code of Conduct

Final Audit Report

2026-08-13

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 Signer Chief Ross Garrow (ross.garrow@srmt-nsn.gov) entered name at signing as Chief Ross L Garrow
2026-08-13 - 5:53:26 PM GMT

 Document e-signed by Chief Ross L Garrow (ross.garrow@srmt-nsn.gov)
Signature Date: 2026-08-13 - 5:53:28 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: TYPE

 Agreement completed.
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