

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER, COUNTY OF CAPE MAY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE #2025-19

Title: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 475, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS, ARTICLE I, GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SUBSECTION 1(C), OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER, TO ESTABLISH HOURS OF OPERATION FOR TOWNSHIP OWNED PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS**

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lower recognizes the importance of providing safe and accessible parks and recreation areas for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Township currently regulates hours of operation for its parks and recreation areas through a general ordinance that applies uniform hours to all such public facilities, with a specific exception for Canal Park; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last several years, the Township has renovated and improved a number of its public parks and recreation areas, enhancing recreational amenities and opportunities to residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the park and recreation area improvements effectuated by the Township, the Township Council has determined that the current hours of operation applied to all public parks and recreation areas does not adequately reflect the unique characteristics, usage patterns, and neighborhood considerations applicable to each individual park and recreation area; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to amend its existing ordinance to establish tailored hours of operation for each Township owned park and recreation area, in order to better serve the needs of the community, promote public safety, and minimize potential disturbances to nearby residential areas; and

WHEREAS, the Township finds that setting specific hours for individual parks is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare and is consistent with the Township's commitment to responsible park management and community engagement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 475, Parks and Recreation Areas, Article I, General Rules and Regulations, Subsection 1(C), Hours of Operation, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 475, Parks and Recreation Areas, Article I, General Rules and Regulations, Subsection 1(C), Hours of Operation, is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

475-1(C) Hours of operation. The following hours of operation are hereby established for each individual Township-owned park and recreation area:

- (1) Clem Mulligan Park
Location: 202 Caroline Avenue, Villas, NJ 08251
Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to Dusk
- (2) Lower Township Recreation Center Playground
Location: 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251
Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m
- (3) Rotary Park
Location: 2900 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251
Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to Dusk.
- (4) Mindy Park
Location: Mindy Avenue, North Cape May, NJ 08204
Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to Dusk

- (5) Mitnick Park (also known as Jonathan Hoffman Park)
Location: 3913 Bayshore Avenue, North Cape May, NJ 08204
Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to Dusk
- (6) David Douglass Memorial Park (also known as Canal Park)
Location: Beach Drive, North Cape May, NJ 08204
Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dusk
- (7) Freeman Douglass Park (also known as Bennett's Crossing)
Location: 677 Route 9, Erma, NJ 08204
Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to Dusk
- (8) Diamond Beach Park
Location: Rochester & Seaview Avenue, Diamond Beach, NJ 08260
Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to Dusk
** NO PICKLEBALL UNTIL 8:00am
- (9) Bayshore Pickle Ball
Location: 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251
Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to Dusk

The aforementioned hours of operation shall not apply to Township-sponsored/sanctioned events.

Adult/parental supervision of minor children utilizing parks and recreation areas is strongly encouraged for safety purposes. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain in any Township park or recreation area outside the designated hours of operation. Violators may be subject to penalties as provided in the general penalty provisions of the Township Code.

Section 2. All other ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

Section 3. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provision of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective 20 days after final passage and publication according to law.

First Reading: August 4, 2025

Adopted: Sept 3, 2025

Attest: Julie A Picard
Julie A Picard, Township Clerk

Thomas Conrad
Thomas Conrad, Councilmember

Joseph Wareham
Joseph Wareham, Councilmember

Roland Roy, Jr.
Roland Roy, Jr., Councilmember

Kevin Coombs
Kevin Coombs, Deputy Mayor

Frank Sippel
Frank Sippel, Mayor