
Lancaster Recreation Commission

SUMMER PLAYGROUND AND WADING POOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please note, by taking part in the Lancaster Rec summer playgrounds program, children agree to abide by all outlined rules and regulations.

1. **Registration:** All children must be registered in order to participate in playground and wading pool activities. A completed and parent/guardian signed registration form must be submitted, along with a parent/guardian signed responsibilities form.
2. **Conduct:** Participants are expected to follow the rules and commands given by the playground leaders. Talking back, swearing, spitting, stealing, fighting, and unwillingness to cooperate or follow instructions will not be tolerated.
3. **Program Type:** The playground and wading pool program is a drop-in program for children ages 6 to 13. Playground leaders are not responsible for the coming and going of children to and from the playground.
4. **Prohibited Items:** Bringing guns, tasers, knives, pepper spray, mace, nail clippers, nail files or any other item that may be used as a weapon to the playground is strictly forbidden.
5. **Safety:** Climbing of fences, trees, roofs or equipment not designed for climbing is not permitted.
6. **Furniture:** Jumping or standing on tables, benches and play equipment is not permitted.
7. **Vandalism:** Abuse or marking of buildings, fences, picnic tables or other equipment is not permitted.
8. **Misconduct:** Throwing of sticks, stones, woodchips, food, or playground supplies is not permitted.
9. **Equipment:** Be respectful of playground property, use check-out sheets and return all equipment at the end of the playground session.
10. **Respect:** Be respectful of other children on the playground. Name-calling, threats of violence, harassment, and bullying will not be tolerated.
11. **Animals:** Animals are not permitted at the program. Service animals must have valid identification and documentation, which must be submitted with registration.
12. **Hygiene:** Children must use hand sanitizer or wash hands prior to receiving food.
13. **Food:** Food must be eaten in the designated area and cannot be taken off the playground. Unopened food that is not wanted must be placed on the shared table.
14. **Supervision (Under 6):** Children under 6 years of age must be accompanied and supervised by an adult while at the playground program. The adult must be within an arm's reach of young children in the wading pool.

15. **Wading Pool:** Proper swimming attire must be worn in the wading pool. Swim diapers are required for all children 3 years of age and younger.
16. **Pool Access:** Parents with children 6 years of age and older are not permitted in the wading pool, but may sit on the side with feet in the pool.
17. **Pool Safety:** No diving, running, pushing, sliding on rails, horseplay, glass bottles, food, playing with pool filters, bike riding, and metal or hard objects is permitted in the wading pool area.
18. **Pool Capacity:** Each wading pool has a designated maximum capacity. Once capacity is reached, no additional participants will be admitted until a participant exits. Staff will monitor and enforce capacity limits to ensure the safety and comfort of all children in the pool area. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.
19. **Environment:** All trash must be thrown in the trashcans provided after lunch and snack. All children will be required to participate in picking up trash if the playground does not remain clean.
20. **Facilities:** Children will help to keep the bathrooms tidy by keeping paper towels, toilet paper and other trash off the floor, flushing after using the toilets and turning off the water after washing hands.
21. **Substances:** No smoking, alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs are permitted on the playground.
22. **Physical Harm:** Committing any type of physical harm to another will be, at a minimum, an automatic three (3) day suspension from the playground.
23. **Personal Items:** Lancaster Rec is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items. It is recommend that children leave personal items of value at home, as programs do not have lockers for storage.

CONSEQUENCES OF RULES VIOLATION

- **First Offense:** Warning or child asked to leave playground, depending upon the nature of the offense. The police will be called if child does not leave the playground when directed to do so.
- **Second Offense:** Three (3) day suspension from the playground; parents called.
- **Third Offense:** Suspension from the playground for the season; parents called.

Note: Rules violation consequences will be accelerated for serious offenses. If a child is suspended, they may not attend other playgrounds. Staff is responsible for supervision of registered children only; we do not supervise the entire park.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The playground program is not a babysitting service; please do not treat it as such.
2. Children are free to come and go as they please. We are not responsible if your child leaves the playground without your permission.
3. Playground leaders remain at the playground only until closing time. Leaders will leave at closing time even if children have not been picked up.
4. You must be aware of the weather at all times and instruct your child on what to do or pick up your child if severe weather occurs.

5. NO SMOKING, ILLICIT DRUGS, OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PERMITTED ON THE PLAYGROUND.

Supervision of Young Children: Children ages 5 and under may attend the Summer Playgrounds Program only when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The parent/guardian must remain on-site and provide direct supervision at all times. Lancaster Recreation Commission staff do not provide supervision, custodial care, or responsibility for children under the age of 6. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in denial of participation.

Participant Eligibility, Readiness, and Conduct: The Summer Playgrounds Program is a structured, group-based recreational program designed for children who can participate safely and independently in a group setting with general supervision. Lancaster Recreation Commission is committed to providing equal access to programs in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable modifications will be considered to support participation; however, the Commission does not provide one-on-one supervision, personal care assistance, behavioral aides, or medical services.

Parents/guardians are responsible for informing the Commission of any accommodation needs and for determining whether their child (ages 6–13) can safely and appropriately participate within the program structure.

All participants must be able to follow program rules, respond to staff direction, and maintain behavior that does not pose a safety risk to themselves or others. If a participant's behavior—regardless of cause, poses a direct threat to health or safety, or substantially disrupts program operations, Lancaster Recreation Commission reserves the right to suspend or dismiss the participant. In such cases, continued participation may require the presence of a parent or guardian.

INCLEMENT WEATHER RULES

The playground will not open or will close immediately if the National Weather Service issues a thunderstorm or tornado warning, or if there is any indication of a storm (thunder, lightning, heavy rain).

- **Walkers:** Parents should instruct children to leave immediately and where to go (home, neighbor, or friend).
- **Drop-Offs:** Parents must monitor weather and promptly return for children. A leader will remain for 30 minutes after closing; after 30 minutes, the leader will leave even if children remain.

QUESTIONS

For questions, please contact Chris Haer - Lancaster Rec, Recreation Technician, at chaer@LancasterRec.org.