

TOWN OF ARLINGTON TEMPORARY OUTDOOR FITNESS AND ARTS IN PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS

Tuesday March 9, 2021 –Approved as revised by the Park and Recreation Commission

ARTICLE I - GENERAL

Section 1 - Purpose and Scope

The 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic has caused not only a public health crisis; it has also triggered a worldwide economic crisis. Public health requirements for social distancing have placed new burdens and challenges on the business community to provide more physical space between customers and staff. In an effort to respond to the new social distancing requirements, the Department of Planning and Community Development is recommending temporary outdoor fitness and arts regulations that will allow local for-profit businesses and artists to operate outdoor classes and exhibitions in designated locations within the Town's Park and Recreation land. Non-profits are encouraged to apply for space using the Town's current Field Request Form and policy. These temporary regulations shall remain in effect until sixty (60) days past the end of the state of emergency, or November 1, 2021, whichever is sooner.

Outdoor park and recreation areas designated for the explicit use of local fitness businesses, arts-related businesses, and artists can provide an amenity for residents throughout the warmer months of the year. Temporary Outdoor Fitness and Arts Permit ("TOFAP") applications will be reviewed by Town staff for compliance with these guidelines and administrative approval. TOFAP permits are intended to be compatible with regular Park and Recreation programs and field use requests. TOFAP Permits, like regular permits, may be terminated at any time the Park and Recreation Commission determines the purpose of temporary outdoor fitness and arts uses is no longer served by such permits.

Section 2 – Usage Guidelines and Protocols

Outdoor fitness and arts areas are available between the hours designated for each location in Section 3. Applicants must apply using a Field Use Request form for Business in Parks. Applicants are encouraged to submit an application by Thursday April 1, 2021. After that date space will be awarded on an as-available basis. Timeframes will be limited to two (2) hours to allow for class time as well as set up and clean up. Group capacity must be limited to twenty-five (25) or the maximum allowed group size in alignment with Massachusetts Reopening Plan guidelines and concurrent phasing.

Section 3 – Park Areas

These temporary regulations allow the permittee to conduct classes and/or display exhibitions in a defined area of Arlington's Park and Recreation properties. These properties include:

- McClennen Park grass area across from Palmer's Garage: 5 am–Dusk
- Hurd Field Parking Lot: 5 am–3 pm
- Water Tower Grass Area: 7 am–9 pm
- Mill Pond Park: 5 am–9 pm
- Robbins Memorial Garden: 5 am–9 pm
- Whittemore Park: 9am-9 pm
- Spy Pond Tennis Court Grass Adjacent Area: 5 am–9 pm
- Magnolia Basketball Courts: 7 am–9 pm

- Monument Park: 9 am–Dusk

Section 4 – COVID-19 Safety Requirements

All permittees and their clients/customers must adhere to the following COVID-19 Safety Requirements:

Outdoor Education Programs

All activities must align with Massachusetts Reopening Plan guidelines and concurrent phasing. Organized educational programs, activities, workout classes, and outdoor public art exhibitions may occur in outdoor spaces only if the program does not require individual participants to share equipment or make physical contact in order to engage in the activity, subject to the following guidelines. Outdoor Education Program Guidelines:

- To allow for adequate social distancing for the activity, as well as ingress and egress, the layout of the class should be managed to accommodate a minimum of 12 feet distance between each individual activity station.
- Facial coverings are required, and instructors and participants must always comply with all social distancing requirements and remain 6 feet apart. Programs must be conducted without shared equipment, tools or materials.
- Activities must be limited to gatherings of no more than 25 or the maximum allowed group size in alignment with Massachusetts Reopening Plan guidelines and concurrent phasing, including the instructor or leader. Larger areas may be used by more than one group at one time, provided that adequate social distance and group separation can be maintained. To ensure group separation, groups must be spaced at least 20 feet apart at all times.
- Organizers must use a pre-registration process to control group size.
- Instructors must be familiar with all protocols and procedures to maintain a safe activity, e.g., monitoring physical distancing, not allowing participants without facial coverings, disinfecting tables before and after use in accordance with CDC guidelines
- Temporary signage will be posted to inform participants of public health guidelines and standards of behavior during program.
- If using outdoor displays or tables, add protective barriers, when possible and/or disinfect before and after use
- Applicants granted a permit should be prepared for limited on- and off- street parking conditions and to communicate to patrons this limitation.
- Applicants granted a permit will be required to carry in and carry out any and all equipment needed for classes. The Town is not able to accommodate with on-site storage.
- There is not any access to restrooms in any parks.

ARTICLE II - SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS

Section 1 - Application Procedure

Applications for TOFAPs shall be submitted to the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department will review the application. All plans must comply with any applicable Massachusetts Governor's orders,

Massachusetts Department of Public Health orders and guidance documents for social distancing and for fitness and arts-related establishments. If the plan is acceptable and the application form is complete, they will notify the applicant of administrative approval. If additional information is needed or a revision to the seating plan is required, they will contact the applicant. Applications shall be submitted on the "Field Use Request 2021, State of Emergency Business in Parks" form.

Section 2 - Insurance

Organizations must submit a copy of their organizations liability insurance (minimum of \$1 million dollar coverage) naming the Town of Arlington as additionally insured.

ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS

These rules may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Park and Recreation Commission provided such amendment is presented in writing at a regular meeting and action taken thereof at a subsequent regular meeting.

ARTICLE IV - EFFECTIVE DATE

These rules were adopted at a regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission on March 9, 2021 and became effective as of that date. These guidelines will be continually reviewed by the Park and Recreation Commission throughout the duration of the program and changes may occur at any time with feedback solicited by the permitted businesses and Board of Health.

COVID-19 Plan Recommendations:

1. The participants will be advised not to carpool to class.
2. The participants will be asked to come to class already dressed and ready to go.
3. Once the participant gets out of the car and begins to walk over to the program, the instructor will personally direct them exactly where to go and what to do with their gear/stuff and where to go to after. The Instructor will be asking for everyone to at least wear a mask up until the class begins and also as soon as class ends. If the participants would like to wear a mask during class, they are more than welcome to do so.
4. Before, during and after class there will be ZERO socializing or interacting within 6 feet from one another. The participants will be told they may speak to one another from at least 6 feet apart, but there will be no communication or socializing within 6 feet from each other. Any instructor/participant interaction within 6 feet, both individuals will be required to wear a mask.
5. The participants will be told that once class is over, you leave without any interacting or socializing.
6. The participants will be told that there is ZERO sharing of equipment and ZERO sharing of water bottles or snacks.
7. The instructor will have hand sanitizer (to be supplied by the instructor) at the program for every class that everyone will have to use before they actually begin the class and at the end of class.
8. The instructor will also be cleaning the high touch areas with disinfectant that meets EPA criteria for use against COVID-19 before and after every class.

9. There will be no bathrooms on site and participants will be advised as such.
10. Participants' personal property (gear) will be kept in marked areas of the field that are a minimum of 6 feet apart.
11. As always, a first aid kits with gloves and other supplies will be on site for the duration of every class.
12. Everyone must self-screen, or have their parents screen them, prior to arriving. This includes checking body temperature (temperature of 100.0°F or above is considered a fever), and for symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, gastrointestinal symptoms, abdominal pain, unexplained rash, new loss of taste/smell, muscle aches, or any other symptoms that feel like a cold. Anyone with a fever of 100.0°F or above, and/or any other signs of illness will **NOT** be permitted to participate in the program.

Please refer to the Massachusetts Reopening Guidelines for Recreation and Outdoor Fitness:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-fitness-centers-and-health-clubs>