

RCRFA Policy - 100

Dark Sky Park Protocol for Rappahannock County Park

adopted April 11, 2019

The Rappahannock County Park was granted a Silver Tier Dark Sky Park status on February 21, 2019 by the International Dark-Sky Association. Upon request, the Rappahannock County Recreational Facilities Authority (RCRFA) will make the Park available without fee for after dusk use by individuals and groups to make astronomical observations, take night photographs, and hold dark sky events. This policy documents the request protocol and the associated Park rules for after dusk use.

DESIGNATED AFTER DUSK USE AREAS

Areas of the Park designated for after dusk use include the gravel lot for parking, pavilion and restrooms, the asphalt pad where the shuffleboard and cornhole facilities are located, and the open field east of the tennis courts. All other areas of the park are excluded from after dusk use including the tennis courts, basketball court, skateboard park, and walking trails in the forested area.

PARK RULES FOR AFTER DUSK USE

1. Only astronomical observations, night photography, and dark sky events are permitted.
2. Usage requests for specific dates and times must be made before 4:00 pm on the date of use.
3. The individual/group using the Park is solely responsible for injury or damage to property or persons using the facility. The RCRFA, the County of Rappahannock, its agents or employees accept no responsibility for injury or damage resulting from permitted or unpermitted use.
4. The individual/group using the Park agrees to pay for damages caused by their use.
5. Only organizations who have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the RCRFA may request exclusive after dusk use. Others will share the facilities.
6. Trash and debris must be removed from the Park on the date of use.
7. Alcohol, fireworks, and loose pets are prohibited.
8. Electric generators are prohibited.
9. Amplified sound is not permitted without prior consent by the RCRFA.

To make your request, please contact:

- Ms. Krystal Porras, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator (week days)
- Mr. Torney Van Acker, RCRFA Board Vice-Chair (weekends)
- Phone: Porras: 540-675-5330 (week days), Van Acker (weekends) 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- E-mail: kaporras@rappahannockcountyva.gov (week days), torney630@gmail.com (weekends)

Krystal or Torney will notify appropriate authorities advising them the Park will be in use after dusk.

In your request, please provide:

- Name of individual or group
- Telephone number (cell preferred, noting that only Sprint and T-Mobile have service at the Park)
- E-mail and physical addresses
- Date and planned hours of Park use
- Expected number of Park users