

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
65 Central Avenue
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
201-646-3940**

DATE: October 21, 2026
FROM: Timothy Hoffman, Acting City Clerk
RE: Ordinance 22-2026

PLEASE NOTE, THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
ORDINANCE NO. 22-2026**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ordinance No. 22-2026 of the City of Hackensack, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, entitled: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, "PARKS," TO CLARIFY CERTAIN RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PARKS** was introduced and has passed its first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the City of Hackensack, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, on October 20, 2026. It will be further considered for final passage after a public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the City Council to be held at City Hall, Council Chambers, 65 Central Avenue, on November 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached.

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
ORDINANCE NO. 22-2026**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117 OF THE
CODE OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, "PARKS,"
TO CLARIFY CERTAIN RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE PARKS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, the governing body of a municipality may make, amend, repeal, and enforce such other ordinances, regulations, rules and by-laws not contrary to the laws of this state or of the United States, as it may deem necessary and proper for the good of government, order and protection of person and property, and for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants, and as

may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this subtitle, or by any law; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:61-1, the City Council of the City of Hackensack ("Council") is further authorized to adopt ordinances for the government, use and policing of all public parks under its jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the foregoing statutory authority, the Council has promulgated rules for the use and enjoyment of City parks, which are codified at Chapter 117 of the Code of the City of Hackensack ("Code"); and,

WHEREAS, the Council has become aware that City parks and public areas are at times being used in ways that are injurious to park facilities and to the health, safety and welfare of park patrons, including the use of parks and parked vehicles as places to sleep or live; and,

WHEREAS, the Council finds it necessary to expressly prohibit camping and lodging in City parks and public areas, including sleeping in parked vehicles, in order to preserve these spaces for their intended recreational use, to protect public health and safety, and to maintain the safe and orderly operation of park facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Council finds that a permit to use a park, field, pavilion, or other reservable facility should be clarified to authorize use only of the specifically permitted area and time period, and not to guarantee exclusive use of other facilities within the park; and,

WHEREAS, the Council finds that park opening and closing times should be clarified and aligned with sunset throughout the year, that any person remaining in a park outside of the posted hours should be subject to enforcement unless attending a permitted event, and that the hours of operation for park grounds generally do not guarantee that restrooms and other ancillary facilities will be open or operational at all times; and,

WHEREAS, the City's Recreation Superintendent and other City officials have reviewed the use of City parks and have recommended the changes set forth herein; and,

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the amendments set forth herein are in the best interests of the City and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE

CITY OF HACKENSACK, as follows:

Section 1:

Chapter 117, Section 1 Subsections A through D shall remain unchanged. Addition of Subsection E by underline.

§117-1. Rules and regulations: required observance and suspension, special events.

E. A permit issued for use of a park, field, pavilion, or other reservable facility authorizes use of the specifically permitted area only for the time period stated on the permit. Issuance of a permit does not guarantee the availability of exclusive use of any other facility within the park, including but not limited to restrooms, picnic areas, and parking areas.

Section 2:

Chapter 117, Section 6 addition of Subsection S by underline.

117-6 Miscellaneous prohibited activities.

In public parks and public areas, no person shall:

S. Camp or lodge in any park or public area, including by sleeping in a parked vehicle. "Camp or lodge" means to use a park or public area as a place to sleep or live, including setting up a tent or other shelter, or keeping bedding or personal belongings there for that purpose. This subsection does not apply to activities authorized by a City permit or to emergency sheltering authorized by the City Manager or the Office of Emergency Management during a declared emergency. For purposes of this subsection, "park or public area" includes the entirety of the park or public area and all of its components, including but not limited to parking lots, parking structures, roadways, driveways, trailheads, pathways, restrooms, picnic areas, playgrounds, sports fields, plazas, and any adjacent, connected, or ancillary green spaces, landscaped areas, medians, or open lands under the City's ownership or control.

Section 3:

Chapter 117, Section 7 shall be amended as follows with additions by underline, and deletions by ~~striketrough~~.

117-7 Opening and closing times.

- A. All public parks of the City of Hackensack shall open at 6:00 a.m. throughout the year. All public parks shall close at ~~9:00 p.m.~~ sunset throughout the year.
- B. ~~The closing time set forth herein may be extended in particular parks or portions thereof for specific uses, activities or events, provided that lighting adequate to ensure public safety is provided. Any such extension of the 9:00 p.m. closing time shall be set forth by resolution of the Mayor and Council upon the recommendation of the City Manager. No person shall enter or remain within any park after sunset or before 6:00 a.m. except persons attending an organized activity or event permitted by the City of Hackensack, provided such persons vacate the park within 30 minutes after the conclusion of the activity and there is adequate lighting to ensure public safety is provided.~~
- C. The hours of operation set forth in this section apply to the park grounds generally and do not guarantee that restrooms or other ancillary facility within the park will be open, unlocked, or operational during all such hours. Restrooms and similar facilities may be subject to separate seasonal schedules, maintenance closures, or staffing availability, and shall not be deemed part of the park for purposes of any claim that the park was not open as requires by subsection A.

Section 4:

All other provisions of Chapter 117 of the Code shall remain unchanged.

Section 5:

Repeal of Inconsistent Provisions. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, but only however, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, it being the legislative intent that all ordinances or part of ordinances now existing or in effect unless the same being conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance shall remain in effect.

Section 6:

Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof for any reason is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance, but shall remain in effect; it being the legislative intent this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

Section 7:

Codification. This Ordinance shall be a part of the Code of the City of Hackensack as though codified and fully set forth therein. The City Clerk shall have this ordinance codified and incorporated in the official copies of the Code. The City Clerk and the City Attorney are authorized and directed to change any Chapter, Article and/or Section number of the Code of the City of Hackensack in the event that the codification of this Ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between the numbers and the existing Code, and in order to avoid confusion and possible accidental repealers of existing provisions not intended to be repealed.

Section 8:

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage, adoption, and publication in the manner prescribed by law.

Timothy Hoffman, Acting City Clerk