



## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

**THE MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT** - 54,000 acres of land and water await the visitor to Conservancy District lands and lakes. Found here are 10 dams with permanent reservoirs and four dry dams which hold water only during times of flooding.

The Conservancy District has developed parks and marinas on its properties to help provide access to these lands and lakes. You will find a broad range of outdoor activities offered in the Conservancy District including camping, hiking, swimming, picnicking, fishing and hunting. The parks feature scenic picnic areas, spacious playfields, sandy swimming beaches and marked hiking trails for everyone's enjoyment. The clean family-oriented parks are open from 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. daily during the summer season and from 8:00 A.M. to dark from Labor Day to Memorial Day. Camping is available 24 hours per day.

**HISTORY and ORGANIZATION** - The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and was organized under state law in 1933 for the primary purposes of flood control, conservation and recreation. The Conservancy District covers 1/5 of the State of Ohio and is located in 18 counties.

By 1938, 14 flood-control dams were established and the first waters to form the 10 permanent lakes were retained behind the dams. The 1939 Federal Flood control Act transferred the operation of the 14 flood-control dams to the U.S. Army corps of Engineers. Since then, the MWCD has been responsible for all conservation and recreation throughout its 16,000 acres of water and 38,000 acres of land.

The MWCD is not apart of any other local, county, state or federal level of government. It is governed by a Conservancy Court which is made up of one judge of the court of Common Pleas from each of the 18 counties found within the Conservancy District. The Court appoints a five-person Board of Directors which oversees the operation of the Conservancy District. The Board appoints the staff which manages the day-to-day operation of the Conservancy District.

The Conservancy District operates on its own income from the operation of its recreational facilities and from various land management activities. All Conservancy District lands and waters are open for the enjoyment of the general public. The conservancy District recognizes the assistance it receives from the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Divisions of Wildlife and Watercraft.

Since the Conservancy District's formation, it has paid more than \$2.5 million in real estate taxes to the counties in which it owns land and does not levy any direct taxes for its operation. The MWCD was created "by the people" and functions "for the people." Its beautiful lands and waters are for everyone to enjoy ... today and tomorrow.

**RANGERS** - The MWCD is given specific authority under Ohio Law to appoint police officers to enforce Conservancy District Rules and Regulations and the laws of the State of Ohio. These officers are designated as Rangers by the Conservancy District and are Certified Peace Officers in the State of Ohio. Rangers have full authority to issue citations and make arrests on Conservancy District properties and lands adjacent to conservancy District properties.

**INTERPRETATION**

- A. "Rules" shall mean "Rules and Regulations."
- B. Any terms in the singular include the plural.
- C. Any term in the masculine shall include the feminine and the neuter.
- D. No provision hereof shall make unlawful any act necessary performed by any officer or employee of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District in the line of duty or work as such, or by any person, his agents, or employees, in the proper and necessary execution of the terms of any agreement with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.
- E. If any part, section, subdivision, paragraph or provision of these Rules shall be determined to be invalid, such determination shall apply to the particular part, section, subdivision, paragraph, or provision, and all other provisions of these Rules shall remain valid and in effect.
- F. Persons using the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lands and waters shall observe all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to such areas and will do so at the risk of the users. The United States, the State of Ohio, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and their agents shall not be liable for damages of any kind resulting from the use of the lands and waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.
- G. Areas administered by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District:

<b>AREA</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Atwood Lake	Tuscarawas, Carroll
Beach City Lake	Stark, Tuscarawas
Bolivar Dam	Stark, Tuscarawas
Charles Mill Lake	Ashland, Richland
Clendening Lake	Harrison
Dover Dam	Tuscarawas
Leesville Lake	Carroll
Mohawk Dam	Coshocton, Holmes, Knox
Mohicanville Dam	Ashland
Piedmont Lake	Belmont, Harrison, Guernsey
Pleasant Hill Lake	Ashland, Richland
Seneca Lake	Guernsey, Noble
Tappan Lake	Harrison
Wills Creek Lake	Coshocton, Guernsey, Muskingum

**DEFINITIONS**

- 1. **"Board of Directors"** means the five persons appointed by the Conservancy Court to oversee the operation of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

2. **"Camp Area"** means an area of land designated and/or marked by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District as such, within which is contained any number of campsites.
3. **"Camping"** means utilization of any motor vehicle, watercraft or other piece of camping equipment for sleeping and/or for the purpose of occupying a portion of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property for transient and/or temporary outdoor living.
4. **"Camping equipment"** means any vehicle, item or device designed or modified for the purpose of camping.
5. **"Campsite"** means a portion of land situated in a camp area, designated and/or marked by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District as such, for the purpose of camping.
6. **"Closed Zone"** means that water area wherein the presence and operation of all watercraft is prohibited and is marked as provided in Section 1547.08 of the Ohio Revised Code.
7. **"Conservancy Court"** means the body of judges comprised of a judge of the court of common pleas from each county included in whole or in part in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. This court shall adopt rules of practice and procedure not inconsistent with Section 6101.01 to 6101.84, inclusive, of the Revised Code, and the general laws of this state.
8. **"Conservancy District"** means the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, which is a conservancy district set up under O.R.C. Section 6101 et seq. For the purposes set forth therein.
9. **"Dock"** means a structure which may be used for the mooring of watercraft.
10. **"Duty authorized agent"** or **"Agent"** means any person so designated by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for the administration and control of its lands and waters.
11. **"Horsepower"** means the horsepower rating published by the manufacturer for the power unit involved.
12. **"Park Area"** means the area designated by the Muskingum Watershed conservancy District as such for the purpose of recreation.
13. **"Motor Vehicle"** as used in these rules and regulations shall have the same meaning as set forth in Section 4501.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.
14. **"Operator"** means any person who operates or is in actual physical control of a vehicle including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, watercraft, bicycle, a snowmobile or all-purpose vehicles.
15. **"Owner"** includes any person who owns, leases, operates, or has the exclusive use of any vehicle, watercraft, animal, or any other property or who claims lawful possession by virtue of legal title or equitable interest therein.
16. **"Parking Area"** means any part of any Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District roadway or area contiguous thereto designated and/or marked for the purpose of standing, stationing or parking of any vehicle.
17. **"Person"** includes any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, body politic, combination of individuals or other entity including any agent, trustee, executor, receiver, assignee or other representative thereof except that "person" does not include the United State of America or the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

18. **“Residential Area”** means that area in which private dwelling structures are located on land leased to private dwelling owners by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.
19. **“Shore Zone”** means that water area of a uniform width of 300 feet lying parallel with and contiguous to the shoreline of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District waters; except that as it pertains to those water areas marked by buoys, “shore zone” means that water area between the shoreline and buoys.
20. **“Ski Zone”** means any water area designated as such and marked by buoys within which water skiing or towed surfboard riding is permitted.
21. **“Snowmobile”** and **“All-Purpose Vehicle”** as used in these rules and regulations shall have the same meaning as set forth in O.R.C. Section 4519.01.
22. **“Special Activity”** means supervised activities or events involving a number of participants or spectators, which activity or event significantly affects other public use of the waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.
23. **“Swimming Area”** means any area designated by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District to be used for swimming and/or wading and associated activities, including any actual sand beach, the adjoining land area, and the adjacent waters.
24. **“Water”** or **“Water Area”** and **“Reservoirs”** means any and all bodies of water in a liquid or frozen condition which are administered by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.
25. **“Watercraft”** means any conveyance or craft designed for use on water.
26. **“Winter Season”** means the period from November 30 to March 1 annually.

## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **SECTION 1.0**

#### **GENERAL RULES**

- 1.01 Any person who enters upon Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property shall remain upon such property only so long as he abides by all Rules and Regulations of the Conservancy District and only so long as he abides by the lawful directions and orders of all duly authorized agents of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, and he shall peaceably leave said property if so directed by such an agent. Any of the permits herein provided may be revoked by a duly authorized agent upon violation of any law or ordinance, including these Rules and Regulations, or any rule stated on the permit.
- 1.02 Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property shall not be used for any illegal purposes. No person shall suffer or commit any nuisance on said premises nor use said premises in any way or for any purpose that is likely to endanger the health or disturb the peace and quiet or reasonable persons, having due regard for the proximity of such persons.
- 1.03 No person shall do anything to cause pollution on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lands and waters.
- 1.04 The discharge or dumping of waste or wastewater is prohibited on the lands and waters of the Conservancy District except in designated containers as authorized by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District or its agents.

1.05 (A) No person offer for rent or rent, offer for lease or lease, offer for sale or sell, solicit or have in his possession for such purposes, any item or service in any area administered by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, except by authority of an approved concession contract or permit issued by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

(B) Except by contract or permit issued as provided by paragraph (A) of this rule, no person shall display, erect, fix or attach any sign, notice, billboard, poster or similar facsimile to any artificial surface or natural object in any area administered by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Owners of such signs shall be responsible for their removal at the expiration of the permit.

1.06 No person shall overtly and publicly consume or display the presence of any beer or intoxicating liquor, as defined in O.R.C. Section 4301.01, in any unauthorized area administered by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. No person under the influence of alcohol shall enter or remain on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy district property.

1.07 No person shall possess, use or consume a drug of abuse, as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, Section 3719.011, in any area administered by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. No person under the influence of a drug of abuse shall enter or remain on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property.

1.08 Except when lawfully engaged in hunting and fishing activities, no person shall damage, commercially harvest, destroy, or interfere with Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property including all trees, plants, rocks, wildlife and other flora and fauna. The removal of said property will be unlawful unless an appropriate, valid Ohio hunting or fishing license or written permission from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has been obtained.

1.09 Pets are permitted on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property if under control of the owner and/or on a leash in hand. Pets are prohibited in designated areas. Owners shall be held responsible for the actions of their pets. A duly authorized agent may direct that any animal(s) be removed from Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property if said animal(s) is menacing, disturbing the peace, or creating a nuisance. Said agent may arrange for the removal of said animal(s) by the proper authorities.

1.10 The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District may temporarily close to public use and evacuate any facility or area on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property determined to be hazardous for public use due to weather, water, fire, construction or other situations involving public health, safety or welfare. No person shall enter, use or occupy any such closed area.

1.11 All personal property, including but not limited to trailers, camp shelters, camping equipment, and motor vehicles left or stored on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property without the written permission of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District shall be impounded and disposed of in accordance with Rule 1.12.

1.12 Any personal property impounded by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District shall be held by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for a period of fourteen (14) days. Said property may be claimed by the owner during this period upon payment of a storage fee set by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District plus the actual cost incurred in the removal of said property the total of which shall not exceed \$1,000. If property is not claimed at the end of fourteen (14) days, said property will be disposed of in accordance with Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District policy.

1.13 (A) No person shall be present, unless exempted in writing by a duly authorized agent of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, on any area administered by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District between the hours of eleven (11) P.M. and six (6) A.M., except as hereinafter provided in this rule.

(B) Persons actually engaged in fishing, hunting, or boating, ice skating, biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing or any other legitimate recreational activity as determined by the Conservancy District, or going to or returning from areas where these activities may take place, or persons sleeping on watercraft as authorized in MWCD Rule 3.07, authorized campers and occupants of cabins or lodge rooms located within an area administered by the Conservancy District, or persons engaged in an authorized Conservancy District-sponsored program, may be present in such areas at any time during the day or night.

**RULES & REGULATIONS**  
**SECTION 2.0**  
**PUBLIC LANDS**

2.01 Any person who enters a Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District park area shall enter at a designated entrance and shall pay the prescribed fee at said entrance.

2.02 Camping is permitted on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property only in designated camp areas upon the campsite indicated on the camping permit issued by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and only so long as all terms and conditions of the camping permit are followed.

2.04 The hunting of wildlife is not permitted within 500 feet of any lease area nor within Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District resorts, golf courses, parks or campgrounds without the written permission of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

2.05 Fires shall not be ignited on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property except in places or containers designated by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District or as specified in a permit granted for that purpose. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has the right to regulate the size and location of fires and to ban fires when conditions warrant.

2.06 Motor vehicles shall not be operated in excess of posted speeds on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District roads.

2.07 (A) Vehicles shall not be operated on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District land except where roads or parking areas are provided. Vehicles operated in violation of this rule may be removed in accordance with Rule 1.12.

(B) Vehicles shall not be parked on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lands except where parking areas are provided. Vehicles parked in violation of this rule may be removed in accordance Rule 1.12.

2.08 Snowmobiles, golf carts, all-purpose vehicles and trail bikes may not be operated on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property without the written permission of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

2.09 The use of metal detectors on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property without a permit is prohibited.

2.10 Horseback riding on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property is prohibited except on designated trails.

**RULES & REGULATIONS**  
**SECTION 3.0**  
**PUBLIC WATERS**

3.01 No person shall swim except in those areas designated by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for swimming.

3.02 No person shall swim in any waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District from sunset to sunrise.

3.03 Without written permission from a duly authorized agent of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate or permit to be operated a watercraft having a total horsepower capacity in excess of:

- \* Electric motors only on Sites Lake, at Charles Mill;
- \* Ten (10) horsepower maximum on Beach City, Charles Mill, Clendening, Leesville, Piedmont and Wills Creek Lakes;
- \* Twenty-five (25) horsepower maximum on Atwood lake;
- \* Three-hundred ninety-nine (399) horsepower maximum on Seneca and Tappan Lakes.

3.04 Any watercraft with a power unit which has been modified to reduce or increase the manufacturer's horsepower rating may not be operated on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District waters.

3.05 It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a watercraft within zoned areas of the waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District except for the uses designated by the Conservancy District.

3.06 No person shall operate a watercraft on the waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District without being in reasonable control of nor with wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property. Persons operating watercraft shall obey all aids to navigation, buoys and signage, including those designating areas for specific use, and shall comply with the lawful instructions of duly authorized agents of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

3.07 No person shall use any watercraft on a water area for the purpose of sleeping on board unless such person has obtained a docking permit and the watercraft is anchored, tied or otherwise secured in an area designated by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for such use.

3.08 The operation of airplanes, airboats, hovercraft and submersibles is prohibited on any waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District land or waters.

3.09 No person, while being towed by a watercraft or motor vehicle, shall use any device for the purpose of becoming airborne over Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District land or waters.

3.10 Any person using any sailboard on the waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District must carry an approved personal flotation device for each person on board the craft.

3.11 Ingress and egress for watercraft to a Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District water area shall be at authorized sites only.

3.12 Watercraft shall not be anchored, tied or stored in excess of 24 hours at any point along the shores of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District reservoirs unless allowed by special contract or permit.

3.13 Watercraft found unattended in violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District shall be deemed abandoned and handled as provided in O.R.C. Section 1547.30, et seq, providing for the disposition of abandoned watercraft.

3.14 All watercraft anchored, tied or stored overnight upon Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property under the terms of contracts or permits as required in regulation 3.12 shall display a decal to be furnished by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. This decal shall be affixed upon the watercraft as designated by the Conservancy District. Said watercraft shall be docked, moored, anchored or stored at their assigned location. This decal shall be valid for the time specified on the contract or permit. All watercraft found without the proper decal may be impounded by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Said watercraft shall be handled in accordance with Rules 1.11 and 1.12.

3.15 All docks shall be installed, maintained and identified as specified by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Unless specifically excepted, said identification shall be affixed to the end of the dock in such a manner as to be visible from the water at all times. All docks found without the proper identification may be impounded by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Said docks shall be handled in accordance with Rules 1.11 and 1.12.

3.16 (A) Duck blinds and ice fishing shelters may be temporarily placed on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property. Each must have the owner's name, address and telephone number displayed on the blind/shelter in a conspicuous place in a waterproof container. Temporary duck blinds and ice fishing shelters must be completely removed from Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property each day.

(B) Seasonal duck blinds may be placed, constructed, maintained and used on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property. A seasonal duck blind permit issued by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District must be obtained. Each duck blind must have the owner's name, address and telephone number displayed on the blind in a conspicuous place in a waterproof container. The duck blind must be placed and removed in accordance with the terms specified in the seasonal duck blind permit.

3.17 All persons using authorized swimming areas shall obey and abide by the instructions of any duly authorized agent of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

3.18 The use of canvas, rubber or plastic inner tubes, and rafts of single-cell construction is prohibited at Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District park beaches.

3.19 Authorized swimming areas will be closed to the public and swimming therein prohibited whenever it is so determined by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District or its agents.

3.20 Diving with self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (S.C.U.B.A.) or other diving equipment is prohibited in the waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District except with written permission from the Conservancy District.

3.21 It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or permit to be operated a watercraft at a speed in excess of six (6) M.P.H. or to engage in water-skiing, surfboarding or other like towing activities on any waters of the Muskingum Watershed conservancy District from sunset to sunrise.

3.22 No person shall conduct any special activity upon the waters of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District without first obtaining a permit from the executive director of the Conservancy District or his/her



designated agent upon application made not less than thirty (30) days prior to the day of the proposed special activity.

**MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

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**MWCD MISSION STATEMENT**

*Responsible stewards dedicated to providing the benefits of flood reduction, conservation and recreation in the Muskingum River Watershed.*