

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE NO. 01-08-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CONCERNING USAGE RULES AND FEES FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS AND AMENDING CHAPTER 108 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY.

WHEREAS, to address the ever-increasing demand for the use of Cranbury Township's playing fields (including soccer, lacrosse and field hockey fields, softball fields, and baseball fields), the Cranbury Township Recreation Commission has recommended that the Township establish a priority list and fee structure for the reservation and use of Cranbury's playing fields; and

WHEREAS, under the regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program, N.J.A.C. 7:36-25.11, municipalities may adopt fees and schedule the use of their recreation facilities on unfunded parkland at their discretion; and

WHEREAS, all of Cranbury's playing fields are located on unfunded parkland; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has reviewed the recommendations of the Recreation Commission and seeks to update and revise Chapter 108 of the Code consistent therewith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, in Middlesex County, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The title of Chapter 108 of the "Code of the Township of Cranbury" ("Code") is hereby changed from "Parks" to "Parks and Recreation".

2. Subsection 108-2.B of Chapter 108 is hereby amended to read as follows (deletions are in [brackets] and additions are underlined):

B. Reservation of park areas and facilities and athletic fields.

1. Generally.

- a. Reservation of park areas and facilities must be made in advance through the Recreation Department and in accordance with the requirements set forth hereinbelow.
- b. All individuals and groups are permitted to use reserved facilities until those who have reservations arrive.
- c. No one individual, group or organization other than the Township may reserve any Township park in its entirety.

2. Park facilities that may be reserved.
 - a. [Pavilion(s) – A pavilion may be reserved by a group of ten or more persons.] Picnic grove – Up to three tables may be reserved in the picnic grove by a group of ten or more persons.
 - b. Tennis courts – Tennis courts may be reserved only as set forth in section 108-3 below.
 - c. Gazebo(s) – A gazebo may be reserved by any individual, organization or group.
 - [d. Softball fields – Softball fields may be reserved by any individual, organization or group, except that no one individual, organization or group may reserve a field more than four times Mondays through Saturdays.]

3. Park facilities that must be reserved.

- a. Athletic fields. No individual, organization or group may use the Township’s athletic fields without first securing a permit and paying the applicable fee, as set forth in sections 108-3.1 and 108-6 below.
- b. Pavilion. Groups of ten or more persons may not use the pavilion without first securing a permit.

3. There is hereby added to Chapter 108 new Section 108-3.1, entitled “Athletic fields,” which shall read as follows:

§ 108-3.1. Athletic fields.

- A. No individual, organization or group may use the Township’s athletic fields for any purpose, including games and practices, without first obtaining a permit in accordance with the provisions hereof and of section 108-6 below and paying the applicable fee.
- B. For the purposes of this chapter, the term “athletic field” shall refer to the following:
 1. Small sided game field, Millstone Park
 2. Small sided practice fields, Millstone Park
 3. Large sided soccer/lacrosse/field hockey fields, West property
 4. Little League field – C1, Village Park
 5. Baseball field – C2, Village Park
 6. Baseball field, Millstone Park
 7. Softball field, Village Park

8. Such other playing fields, including baseball fields, softball fields, soccer fields, lacrosse fields and/or field hockey fields as may be hereafter owned or controlled by the Township
- C. The specific usage regulations and fee structure applicable to each of the Township's athletic fields shall be as adopted from time to time by resolution of the Township Committee acting in consultation with the Cranbury Township Recreation Commission and/or Parks Commission.
 - D. In addition to the penalties set forth in section 108-7 below, any person, organization or group who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this section or the usage rules promulgated hereunder shall be subject to the following:
 1. First offense: Written or verbal warning
 2. Second offense: Loss of use of practice and game fields for one week
 3. Third offense: Loss of use of all practice and game fields for the remainder of the season, based upon a majority vote by the Cranbury Township Board of Recreation Commission
 - E. All field usage fees collected shall be used exclusively for the improvement, maintenance and operation of the Township's athletic fields and other recreational facilities.
4. The title of existing Section 108-4 of the Code shall be changed from "Regulations" to "Regulations applicable to parks and other public lands."
 5. The headings "Article I Parks" and "Article II Provisions Applicable to Parks and Other Lands" shall be deleted in their entirety from chapter 108.
 6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication, as required by law.

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, held on January 28, 2008. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held in the meeting room of Town Hall, 23-A North Main Street, in the Township of Cranbury on February 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., and during the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of said ordinance will be made available at the Clerk's Office to the members of the general public who shall request the same.

Kathleen R. Cunningham, Clerk