



Anderson Park District

First Amendment Guidelines

revised 6/13/2025

Freedom of speech, press, religion, and assembly are rights protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. People may exercise these rights in Anderson parks, but the Anderson Park District (“APD”) still retains its responsibility to protect park resources and minimize conflict among park visitors. Therefore, the APD establishes guidelines for setting the time, place, and manner for those wishing to exercise their rights in an APD park or at an APD event or program.

The APD has established places in parks where First Amendment activities can be accommodated. These areas are visible to the general visiting public without interfering with the public’s enjoyment of the park or the APD event or program. All requests for similar activities are treated equally.

Types of First Amendment Activities

- Religious services or ceremonies
- Press conference
- Press coverage of breaking news
- Voter registration
- Collecting signatures on petitions or voter initiatives
- Public demonstration, picketing, assembly or rally for expressing opinion and views
- Distribution of printed material related to free expression of opinion

Types of Activities that are NOT covered by the First Amendment

- Church picnic or social gathering
- Wedding ceremonies or receptions
- Political fund raiser or other invitation-only political activity or event
- Solicitation of donations
- Community parades, athletics, or sporting events
- Scattering of cremated human remains (“cremains”)

Many **non**-First Amendment activities can be accommodated through a special use permit. Please contact Scott Lahman slahman@AndersonParks.com or 513.474.0003 x5091 for more information about APD special use permits.

**Anderson Township Park District
First Amendment Activities Conditions of Use**

All local, state, federal, and Rules and Regulations of the Anderson Park District (“APD”), including but not limited to those specified in these guidelines must be strictly observed at all times. Please read the following carefully.

The following are some of the APD’s basic Conditions of Use for First Amendment Activities:

- **First Amendment activities are permitted in Anderson Parks on a non-exclusive use basis.**
 - The general public may be using the area for a variety of non-exclusive use activities such as walking, running, biking, or skating on the hike/bike trail, picnicking, kite flying, etc., in addition to any scheduled APD event or program. A group or individual exercising their First Amendment Rights cannot block/prevent the public’s access to park facilities.
 - The First Amendment activity must not conflict with any scheduled function, event or program. (Example: an individual/group may not set up on an athletic field or in a shelter that has been reserved by a member of the public or the APD, thus preventing a permit holder from using the field, shelter, etc.)
- **People exercising their First Amendment Rights in the Anderson parks may not harass or solicit individuals.** The transaction of money, goods or services is strictly prohibited.
- **Distribution of materials throughout the Anderson Parks is not permitted.** This includes placing flyers on car windshields, bulletin boards, etc.
- Amplified music/public address systems are not permitted.
- Structures, including tents and portable pavilions may not be erected.
- Electrical power will not be furnished nor will generators be allowed.
- People exercising their First Amendment rights are to avoid language which implies any official connections to the APD and its functions, events, or programs.
- The person or group will maintain their presentation in a clean, neat and professional manner as to not detract from the park setting and the environment created by it.
- First Amendment activities may be required to be conducted in designated areas as specified by the APD.
- A table & chair may be set up immediately preceding the activity with removal, cleaning and restoration of the area to its original condition required immediately following the activity. A maximum of one table and three chairs are permitted per individual or group exercising their First Amendment rights.
- The APD reserves the right to alter its guidelines at any time should this become necessary in the interest of public safety, public health, and general welfare.