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# CITY OF CHICAGO

## RULES

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### Millennium Park Rules



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF  
**DCASE**  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL EVENTS

The background of the lower half of the page is a faded, light-colored photograph of the Chicago skyline, including the Willis Tower, and Millennium Park with its circular architecture and green spaces.

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Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot

Commissioner Erin Harkey

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BY AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-36-140(b) AND SECTION 10-36-140(g), OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF CHICAGO, THE FOLLOWING RULES REGARDING MILLENNIUM PARK ARE HEREBY ADOPTED.

By Order of the Commissioner:

Signed:   
Commissioner Erin Harkey

Date: May 19, 2022

Published: 5/19/22

Effective: 5/19/22



## MILLENNIUM PARK RULES

Welcome to Millennium Park! Millennium Park ("Park") was created for the enjoyment of Chicago residents and visitors. While in the Park, please respect the rights of others by allowing open access to all areas of the Park at all times.

These Rules have been promulgated by the Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events ("DCASE") pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago Section 10-36-140(b), and may be enforced pursuant to Municipal Code of Chicago Section 10-36-140(g), up to and including violators being removed from the Park. Prior to any such enforcement, Park security will inform the violator of the conduct that violates the Rules and give the violator an opportunity to cease that conduct. The Rules apply to activity within Millennium Park, which is the 24.5-acre park bounded by Michigan Avenue, Randolph Street, Columbus Drive, and Monroe Street, as well as the BP Bridge that spans Columbus Drive and extending into Grant Park. Millennium Park is divided into several outdoor areas or "rooms," each with its own character, purpose or art. These rooms are: the Jay Pritzker Pavilion and the Great Lawn; the Lurie Garden; Cloud Gate Plaza; Chase Promenade North; Chase Promenade Central; Chase Promenade South; Boeing Gallery North; Boeing Gallery South; Wrigley Square and Millennium Park Monument; McCormick Tribune Plaza and Ice Rink; and Crown Fountain. Sidewalks surround Millennium Park and connect to sidewalks within the Park, which connect the rooms but are not part of the rooms. **(NOTE:** The Nichols Bridgeway is owned and operated by the Art Institute of Chicago; any use of the Bridgeway is subject to the review and approval of the Art Institute of Chicago.) These Rules shall not apply to the streets or the sidewalks that bound the Park or the parking facilities located below the Park.

In addition to these Rules, all visitors of the Park are subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The Code of the Chicago Park District does not apply to the Park.

### **A. Park Hours**

The Park is generally open daily from 6 a.m. – 11 p.m. These hours may be adjusted for special circumstances, such as large events nearby. No person is permitted to be in the Park outside of these hours. The Great Lawn and Jay Pritzker Pavilion may be closed during hours when the Park is otherwise open.

For the comfort and safety of all visitors, the Park has put in place a youth escort policy for entrance to and presence in the Park after 6 p.m. on all Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Park visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 21 years of age during these hours. An adult who is at least 21 years of age may escort up to four minor guests. Guests may be asked to present a valid photo identification card, such as a driver's license, state ID, student ID, or military ID, upon entering Millennium Park. Millennium Park reserves the right to implement the youth escort policy on other days and at other times, on an as-needed basis, when justified by objective circumstances demonstrating a substantial likelihood of large gatherings of unsupervised youths. Youths under the age of 18 may enter the Park unaccompanied while the youth escort policy is in effect if they (1) are engaged in employment at Millennium Park; or (2) are attending an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the City, a civic organization, or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor.

**B. Restricted Behavior**

1. Park visitors are prohibited from using the restroom facilities and water features for bathing or personal grooming.
2. Park visitors are prohibited from sleeping in the Park.
3. Park visitors are prohibited from engaging in any obscene or indecent acts, including, but not limited to, exposing genitalia and engaging in sexual acts.
4. Park visitors are prohibited from engaging in physical acts which:
  - a. endanger public health or safety;
  - b. substantially impair pedestrian traffic or viewing of permanent or temporary art installations or structural and landscape architecture including flower plantings, provided, however, that this section is not intended to restrict First Amendment activity on the sidewalks throughout the Park, so long as such activity does not substantially impair pedestrian traffic;
  - c. constitute disorderly conduct as set forth in Section 8-4-010 of the Municipal Code of Chicago; or
  - d. are prohibited by other applicable federal, state, or local laws.
5. Park visitors are prohibited from erecting any stage or other structure within Millennium Park, bringing or using staging, power generation, or amplified sound equipment except as authorized during Park-sponsored programs or performances.

Park visitors may erect tables no greater than 36 inches by 36 inches to aid in the distribution of non-commercial materials only in two specifically designated

areas surrounding the Great Lawn, from the time the Great Lawn is opened to audience members prior to a program or performance until 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of that program or performance. Visitors wishing to utilize these spaces may sign up on a first-come, first-serve basis at the Millennium Park Welcome Center, located at 201 East Randolph Street.

**C. Smoking**

Smoking, including e-cigs and vaping devices, is prohibited in the following locations in the Park:

1. The Jay Pritzker Pavilion seating area or on the Great Lawn;
2. East and West Arcades at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion;
3. Lurie Garden;
4. East and West Exelon Buildings;
5. McDonald's Cycle Center; and
6. Any tented areas in the Park.

**D. Vehicles and Other Mobility Devices**

1. *Motorized vehicles:*

- a. Unless otherwise provided, the use of motorized vehicles by Park visitors, including, but not limited to, cars, self-propelled scooters, carts, electric personal assistive mobility devices (Segways), hoverboards, and mopeds, is prohibited.
- b. This prohibition does not apply to people with disabilities who use:
  - i. power wheelchairs or electric scooters (for this subsection, an electric scooter is a three- or four-wheeled transportation device with a seat with back support designed to assist those with walking disabilities); or
  - ii. other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD). A Park visitor using an OPDMD may be asked to show proof of disability.
- c. The prohibition in subsection (1)(a) does not apply to motorized vehicles permitted by Park Management. Contractors or vendors may acquire permits for their motorized vehicles from the Park Management Office at 201 East Randolph Street. The permit must be displayed in the vehicle at all times while the vehicle is on Park property.

- d. Flight of small unmanned aircraft, as defined in Section 10-36-400 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, over Millennium Park is a violation of that section, subject to the exceptions therein.

2. *Non-motorized vehicles:*

- a. Riding bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller skates, rollerblades, or other wheeled transportation devices in the Park is prohibited. Bicycle parking is only permitted at the McDonald's Cycle Center and at designated bike racks.
- b. Manual wheelchairs and manually-powered mobility aids, such as walkers, crutches, braces, and canes, are allowed.

**E. Receipt of Deliveries**

All deliveries to the Park must be scheduled in advance with Park Management and DCASE.

**F. Fire and Barbecue Grills**

Park visitors shall not use barbecue grills or propane tanks, or otherwise light or use fires, in the Park.

**G. Animals**

Park visitors shall not bring any animals into the Park other than service animals as defined by 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.104 and 35.136, and 720 ILCS 5/48-8.

**H. Alcoholic Beverages**

No alcoholic beverages shall be sold, brought within, given away, delivered, or consumed within the Park, except in the following circumstances:

1. Alcohol may be purchased and consumed in designated areas at restaurants or within designated secured perimeters at properly licensed concession stands within the Park.
2. Alcohol may be consumed or sold in designated areas within designated secured perimeters during privately catered and City-sponsored events, as permitted by Park Management and DCASE, subject to all applicable ordinances and rules applicable to the consumption and sale of alcohol at these events.
3. Outside alcohol is prohibited at ticketed concerts and events presented by permitted private production companies.
4. Alcohol may be consumed within designated secured perimeters in the seating area and on the Great Lawn only during the performance of select free public

concerts in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, as permitted by Park Management. DCASE may prohibit outside alcohol at designated events.

**I. Landscaping/Park Property**

1. Park visitors shall not cut, break, injure, deface, destroy, mutilate, damage, disturb, or alter any plants, flowers, shrubs, leaves, or any other landscape elements; provided, this does not prohibit ordinary wear and tear on grass on the lawn areas of the Park at times when they are open to the public. Park visitors may not place anything in the plant beds.
2. Visitors to the Lurie Garden must stay on the designated pathways that surround the flower beds. Visitors shall not walk on the walls around the Lurie Garden or in the mulch pathways within the beds.
3. Climbing, sitting, and standing on Park parapet walls, balconies, balustrades, art, or other temporary or permanent Park structures is prohibited. Climbing, sitting, standing, and sliding down the BP Bridge is prohibited.
4. Affixing rope, signs, handbills, or other materials to any trees, shrubs, other landscaping, or other Park property is prohibited.
5. Park visitors shall not cut, break, injure, deface, destroy, mutilate, damage, disturb, or alter any building, fence, monument, sculpture, bridge, sign, or other structure or property in Millennium Park.

**J. Littering and Recycling**

1. All trash must be deposited into the provided receptacles.
2. Recycling bins are located throughout the Park. Park visitors are encouraged to utilize them when disposing of recyclable materials.

**K. Water Features**

1. Park visitors shall not bring glass into Crown Fountain, Wrigley Square, or the Lurie Garden Seam.
2. Park visitors may enter the Crown Fountain and put their feet in the Lurie Garden Seam.
3. Park visitors shall not stand, walk, wade, or swim in the Lurie Garden Seam or the fountain at the Millennium Monument in Wrigley Square. Park visitors shall not float items in the Lurie Garden Seam, or attempt to remove coins or other material from the water.
4. Irrigation pipes run throughout the Lurie Garden. Park visitors are prohibited from touching, moving, or picking them up. Park visitors are also prohibited from touching the green circular irrigation covers.

**L. Closed or Prohibited Areas and Capacity Control**

1. Park visitors may not enter areas closed to the public, whether for private events or otherwise, without invitation or authorization.
2. If any area or portion of Millennium Park reaches maximum safe capacity, Millennium Park staff may close such area or portion to additional visitors and/or direct persons to other areas of the park to ensure safe capacity is not exceeded.

**M. Event Rules**

1. It is important to maintain safety and security in Millennium Park. In order to ensure that events in the Park are enjoyable for all attendees, a security perimeter with metal detecting wands and bag check will be in place for all Jay Pritzker Pavilion events and select other events held in Millennium Park. Park visitors attending any event will be subject to bag search at security perimeters. Bags and coolers brought to events must be smaller than 26 inches long by 15 inches wide by 15 inches high.
2. The following items shall not be allowed at Millennium Park programs or performances unless otherwise provided for in these Rules:  

pets; hammocks; flags; banners; lawn stakes; tents; canopies; shade structures; staked or golf umbrellas; balloons; noise makers; laser pointers; all metal knives and cutlery (though corkscrews and plastic or compostable cutlery are allowed); motorized toys; walkie-talkies or portable radios (which does not include, for the avoidance of doubt, cellular phones); unauthorized/unlicensed vendors; unauthorized distribution of materials including, but not limited to, stickers, samples, and commercial giveaways; illegal and illicit substances of any kind including drugs or drug paraphernalia; firearms; weapons of any kind (including, but not limited to, pocket knives and pepper spray); fireworks and any other explosive; open flames; and any other items deemed dangerous by Millennium Park Security or the Chicago Police Department.
3. Visitors shall relinquish held space or seats at the request of Millennium Park Staff.
4. Weather: Concerts and performances in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion may be cancelled for severe weather warnings and/or the occurrence or imminent threat of lightning in the area. Weather-related announcements may be transmitted on Twitter @Millennium\_Park.
5. Small umbrellas may only be used in inclement weather and extreme heat.
6. Professional video, audio, and photography equipment are not allowed except for previously approved media professionals.
7. Any taping of performances without prior, written permission of the performers is prohibited.



## **N. Rules Specific to the Jay Pritzker Pavilion and the Great Lawn**

1. Visitors may not engage in conduct that disrupts a performance or event. Disruptive visitors will be asked to leave and will be escorted out of the Park.
2. In addition to the prohibitions stated for events in Section M(2) of these Rules, oversized blankets and any kind of staked item is prohibited on the Great Lawn. So as not to obstruct people's views, signs are not allowed during performances.
3. Due to public safety concerns, concert attendees may not stand or dance in the aisles, walkways, and ramps unless permitted at the discretion of Park Management. The concrete pad in the rear of the seating area is available for those who wish to dance if there is appropriate space for emergency access as determined by Park Management.
4. Park visitors may save no more than one seat in the Pavilion, such privilege being subject to revocation by Millennium Park staff as needed for the accommodation of people.
5. The Great Lawn will be closed except immediately prior to and during programs or performances. Parties wishing to access the Great Lawn for First Amendment activity may do so from the time the protective ropes surrounding the Great Lawn come down until 15 minutes prior to the published start time of a program or performance.

## **O. Permits**

1. Permits and approval are required for the performance of professional services and activities in the Park and may be acquired from the Park Management Office at 201 East Randolph Street. Food vendors, caterers, photographers, videographers, and exhibitors all need permits to operate in the Park, as do the producers of television, film, music, and events. For more information go to:  
[https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/rates\\_for\\_film.html#mp](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/rates_for_film.html#mp)
2. Prior approval of any professional use of the Park for any purpose must be provided by Park Management, DCASE, and any artist, architect, or that creative person's representatives for: the Lurie Garden, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the Crown Fountain, Cloud Gate, and any other temporary or permanent art or structure installed in the Park unless it is specifically acknowledged to be in the public domain.
3. The sale of any goods, printed or written material, or services is prohibited without a permit.
4. A Millennium Park Assembly Permit ("Permit") is required for any assembly of the public involving more than fifty individuals (excluding festivals, other events

involving large gatherings of people sponsored or curated by DCASE, or licensed rental events) pursuant to the following procedures:

- a. Any persons seeking the issuance of a Permit shall file a written application on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of DCASE thirty days prior to the proposed assembly, or as soon as practicable if the event is of a spontaneous or urgent nature.
- b. Applications for Permits shall be processed in order of receipt. One or more designated DCASE employees shall be assigned to review and decide Permit applications.
- c. Applications shall be granted or denied within fourteen days of receipt, or ten days before the proposed assembly, whichever is later, and shall be communicated to the applicant by email to the address given in the application.
- d. Issuance or denial of a Permit shall not be based on, or in any way take into account, the content of any speech, expression, or other communicative content relating to the proposed assembly.
- e. Applications for Permits shall be evaluated with reference to the following exclusive factors: (i) the specific location within Millennium Park in which the proposed assembly is to occur; (ii) any other City-sponsored activities planned for that location during or near the time sought which do not reasonably allow for the multiple occupancy of the relevant location(s); (iii) any other Permits already approved or previously submitted and expected to be approved for that location during or near the time sought which do not reasonably allow for the multiple occupancy of the relevant location(s); (iv) the number of persons anticipated to participate in the assembly; and (v) the proximity of permanent or temporary art installations or structural and landscape architecture, including flower plantings, the peaceful viewing of which would be materially impacted by the assembly.
- f. Notice of denial of an application for a Permit shall clearly set forth the grounds upon which the Permit was denied and, where feasible, shall contain a proposal for measures by which the applicant may cure any defects in the application for Permit or otherwise procure the Permit. Where an application for a Permit is denied because of other scheduled large gatherings, assemblies, or events which do not reasonably allow for multiple occupancy of the relevant location(s), DCASE shall propose an alternative place, if available for the same time, or an alternative time, if available for the same place.
- g. To the extent permitted by law, DCASE may deny an application for a Permit if the applicant or the person on whose behalf the application is made has on prior occasions made material misrepresentations regarding the nature or scope of an event or activity previously

permitted, or has otherwise violated the terms of prior permits. DCASE may also deny an application for a Permit on the following grounds:

- i. the application, including any required attachments and submissions, is not fully completed and executed;
  - ii. the application contains a material misrepresentation or falsehood;
  - iii. the applicant is legally incompetent to contract or to sue or be sued;
  - iv. the applicant or the person on whose behalf the application is made has on prior occasions damaged Millennium Park property and has not paid in full for such damage;
  - v. the use or activity intended by the applicant would present an unreasonable danger to the health or safety of the applicant, or other users of Millennium Park, or Millennium Park staff, or the public;
  - vi. the use or activity intended by the applicant is prohibited by law or by these Rules;
  - vii. the use or activity intended by the applicant would conflict with previously planned programs organized and conducted by DCASE and previously scheduled for the same time and place;
  - viii. a fully executed prior application for Permit for the same time and place has been received, and a Permit has been or will be granted to a prior applicant authorizing uses or activities which do not reasonably permit multiple occupancy of the particular park or part hereof.
- h. Any amendment or revision of an application for a Permit shall for purposes of determining the priority of the application, and for purposes of the time by which the application is to be granted or denied, shall be computed from the date of the amendment or revision.
- i. Any applicant who is denied a Permit may, within seven business days of the service of notice of such determination, file a written appeal from such determination with the DCASE Commissioner. Any appeal from a denial of an application for a Permit shall state succinctly the grounds upon which it is asserted that the determination should be modified or reversed, and should be accompanied by copies of the application for the Permit, the written notice of determination, and any other papers material to the determination. Any appeal shall be filed no later than seven days before the proposed assembly. The Commissioner shall decide the merits of any such appeal in which to serve upon the applicant a notice if the denial is affirmed, modified, or reversed within

seven days from the date on which the appeal was received. Such notice shall be deemed served upon the applicant when it is sent by email to the applicant at the address provided in the application unless another email address is identified in the appeal.

- j. Any denial of an appeal under this section may be appealed in accordance with applicable law.

## **P. Disruptive Interactions**

In addition to the limitations imposed by other Millennium Park Rules, visitors are prohibited from doing the following:

1.
  - a. Handing out or distributing, or attempting to hand out or distribute, unrequested physical objects, items, or materials to another person anywhere in Millennium Park after the person to whom the item is offered has once unambiguously declined it.
  - b. Handing out or attempting to hand out any “commercial advertising matter,” as defined in Section 10-8-320(a) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, anywhere in Millennium Park. This subparagraph does not apply to matter distributed by or on behalf of paid sponsors at Millennium Park events or, apart from events, at specifically designated places and times pursuant to sponsorship agreement. Area restrictions as described within subsections P(1)(c), P(1)(d) and P(1)(e) are still to apply for sponsor activity.
  - c. In consideration for the unique environmental characteristics and physical configuration of Lurie Garden and the Boeing Galleries, including the aesthetic and other value of physical artistic property in City care within these areas (including temporary thematic exhibits and installations), as well as the narrow pedestrian walkways, handing out or distributing, or attempting to hand out or distribute, any physical objects, items or materials in these specific areas.
  - d. In consideration of the unique characteristics of Cloud Gate Plaza, including the specific design of the reflective Cloud Gate sculpture as the focus of the space, handing out or distributing, or attempting to hand out or distribute, any physical objects, items or materials on the Plaza. This subparagraph does not apply to Chase Promenade Central which immediately abuts Cloud Gate Plaza.
  - e. In consideration of the unique characteristics of the Crown Fountain, handing out or distributing, or attempting to hand out or distribute, any physical objects, items or materials within the Fountain itself while the water feature of the Fountain is operational. This subparagraph applies only to the pavers, water feature and artwork immediately within the

Fountain area. It does not apply to the seating area surrounding the fountain.

- f. The restrictions on handing out or distributing, or attempting to hand out or distribute, physical objects, items or materials, as set forth in this Rule P(1) and its subsections, apply whether the objects, items or materials are intended to be kept by the recipient or handed back to the offeror.
2. Generating noise or use of any device or instrument that creates or amplifies sound at louder than average conversational level at a distance of 100 feet or more, measured vertically or horizontally, from the source.
3. Generating noise that interferes with a previously scheduled curated, sponsored, or permitted activity or program, such that it interferes with its provision of public benefit.
4. Any behavior that actively disrupts a previously scheduled permitted activity or program, such that it interferes with the peaceful, safe, and effective execution of its set-up, production, viewing, or provision of public benefit.
5. The prohibitions of this Section P shall be applied without regard to the expressive or communicative content, if any, of the objects, items, materials, or audible sound involved.

#### **Q. Training**

All Millennium Park personnel and staff, including, without limitation, DCASE employees and employees of any real estate or security contractor or subcontractor, shall undergo training in the content of these Rules, with particular attention to Rules O and P, including, without limitation, that those rules are to be applied completely without regard to any communicative content. Such training shall take place for every employee as soon as practicable upon time of hire and in any event before such time that such new employee is charged with applying the Rules to Park visitors, and periodically thereafter at least every six months, and promptly after any material amendment of these Rules.

#### **R. Rules subject to public health orders**

These rules, including, without limitation, the terms of any permits issued hereunder, shall be subject to the requirements of any duly authorized executive order by the Governor of Illinois or the Mayor of Chicago pertaining to public health practices in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic or any other public health emergency. Park hours may be adjusted for reasons consistent with those public health orders.

Effective this date: 19 of May 2022

*Erin Harkey*

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Erin Harkey, Commissioner  
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events