

VILLAGE OF MONROE
INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 6 OF 2026
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 150 ARTICLE 1, DEFINITIONS
AND GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE VILLAGE CODE

Section 1. Title.

This Local Law shall be known and may be cited as the “Municipal Pond Regulation Law.”

Section 2. Legislative findings and purpose.

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Monroe finds that Ponds, contained within the bounds of Village owned Parks, including but not limited to, the Millponds at Crane Park may contain steep or unstable embankments, submerged structures, fluctuating water levels, poor or variable water quality, thin or unstable ice, and other latent or apparent hazards, and;

Moreover, Millponds at Crane Park have not traditionally been host to recreational swimming, boating, or other recreational use, nor is the water monitored or treated for the same.

The Board of Trustees further finds that swimming, boating, fishing, ice skating and other recreational activities in or upon such water bodies may endanger participants and others; interfere with drainage, stormwater management, water-quality protection, maintenance and other municipal functions; damage Village property and environmental resources; and create unnecessary risks to the public and the Village.

The purpose of this Local Law is therefore to protect the public health, safety and welfare by entirely prohibiting recreational activities in and upon ponds, within the bounds of Village owned Parks, including but not limited to the Millponds at Crane Park except for authorized governmental, maintenance, scientific and emergency activities. This is to preserve the environment and character of the ponds and their surrounding areas and also ensuring that those who enjoy the Ponds and the surrounding areas do so safely without causing harm to themselves or the aquatic environments thereto.

Section 3. Amendments

Section(s) 150-1 and 150-2 of the Village of Monroe Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 150-1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

FACILITIES

Any and all buildings, structures or improvements now existing or hereinafter constructed within a Village park, including, but not limited to, playing fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, racquetball courts, picnic areas, playgrounds, bleachers, pavilions, concession stands and parking lots.

PARK COMMISSION

Monroe Joint Parks and Recreation Commission.

PERMIT

A permit issued by the Village Board of Trustees or the Park Commission, as the case may be, permitting the use of a Village park for a special event.

PERSON

Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, association or legal entity or its legal representative, acting individually, jointly or in a representative capacity.

PONDS. Any pond, lake, reservoir, basin, detention basin, retention basin, stormwater management facility, drainage facility, impoundment, wetland mitigation area or other natural or artificial body or accumulation of water that is owned, leased, operated, maintained or controlled by, or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Village of Monroe and within the boundaries of any Village owned Park, including the Millponds at Crane Lake.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY. Any activity undertaken for leisure, entertainment, sport, exercise or personal enjoyment, whether organized or informal, including, without limitation, swimming, bathing, diving, wading, boating, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, rafting, tubing, sailing, fishing, ice fishing, skating, walking or traveling upon ice, sledding onto ice, or the use of any flotation device.

RESIDENT

Any person who resides within the Village of Monroe or the Town of Monroe.

TOWN

The Town of Monroe.

VILLAGE

The Village of Monroe.

VILLAGE PARK

Ford Dally Airplane Park, Crane Park (aka Millpond Park), including the 9/11 Memorial Park and Crane Park Peninsula, and Smith's Clove Park.

WATERCRAFT. Any boat, vessel, canoe, kayak, raft, paddleboard, sailboat, personal watercraft, flotation device or other apparatus designed, intended or capable of transporting or supporting a person on or in water.

§ 150-2. General provisions applicable to all Parks within Village.

A. Unless special permission is granted by the Village Board, no one shall enter upon or remain within a Village park or its structures therein from dusk to dawn. For the purpose of this section, public sidewalks are excluded.

B. The foregoing shall not apply to Smith's Clove Park where the Park Commission has established regular operating hours or has granted special permission or when the Park

Commission has established different opening and closing times for specific designated areas, or at any other time that Smith's Clove Park is closed by the Park Commission, the park security or any member of the Monroe Police Department.

C. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs shall not be permitted. Chapter 67, Article I, Open Containers, shall be enforced.

D. Smoking shall not be permitted.

E. No temporary or permanent structure shall be permitted to be placed on, underneath or above the grounds of any Village park except in conjunction with an event authorized by the Village Board of Trustees or, in the case of Smith's Clove Park, the Park Commission. Nothing shall be done to disturb or deface any trees, planting or foliage in a Village park, such as attaching signs, ropes, wires, etc. No person shall injure, deface, disturb, befoul or in any manner destroy or cause to be destroyed any part of or any facility building, sign, structure, equipment, utility or other property found thereon.

F. No motorized vehicle of any type shall be operated within any Village park, except for emergency vehicles and vehicles owned by the Town of Monroe, Village of Monroe and the Park Commission.

G. Properly registered motor vehicles may operate only upon the area paved for use of motor vehicles to gain access to facilities and for the purpose of ingress and egress.

H. Parking shall be prohibited within the boundaries of any Village park except in an area designated for parking. Any vehicle in violation of this provision shall be removed by the Police of the Village of Monroe or any member of the New York State Police, and owners shall be responsible for the reasonable costs of removal and storage.

I. Any person who knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in or upon any Village park or recreation area maintained by the Village shall be guilty of trespass.

J. No person shall engage in, attempt to engage in, cause, permit or assist another person to engage in any of the following activities in, upon or immediately adjacent to a Village pond contained in any Village owned Park:

(1) Swimming, bathing, diving, wading or otherwise entering the water.

(2) Launching, placing, operating, occupying or using any watercraft or flotation device.

(3) Fishing, ice fishing, trapping or taking aquatic wildlife by any means.

(4) Skating, walking, standing, playing, traveling or otherwise entering upon ice covering any Village water body.

(5) Sledding, skiing, riding or otherwise descending onto or across a Village water body or the ice covering it.

(6) Permitting any animal under such person's ownership, custody or control to enter or swim within a Village water body.

(7) Conducting any other recreational activity in or upon a Village water body.

(8) Entering or remaining within any fenced, barricaded, posted or otherwise restricted area surrounding a Village water body, except upon lawful Village business or as expressly authorized under

K. Signs, Fences and Barriers

(1) The Village may erect and maintain signs, fences, gates, barricades or other barriers at or near a Village water body. Signs may state "NO SWIMMING," "NO BOATING," "NO FISHING," "NO SKATING," "NO RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES," "KEEP OUT," or other substantially similar language.

(2) No person shall remove, damage, deface, alter, cover, obstruct or pass around or through any sign, fence, gate, barricade or barrier placed pursuant to this chapter. Doing so shall subject said person to the fines delineated in Section 150-2(M) of this chapter.

(3) The absence of a sign, fence, gate, barricade or barrier, or the damage or removal thereof, shall not constitute a defense to a violation of this chapter.

I. Any person convicted for an activity declared illegal by the laws of the State of New York or the Village, when such activity is engaged in within the confines of a Village park, shall be deemed a violation of the provisions of this chapter.

M. Enforcement. The Police Department of the Village of Monroe shall see to the enforcement of all laws and regulations and rules related to Smith's Clove Park. This chapter may be enforced by the Village of Monroe Police Department, the Building Inspector, any Code Enforcement Officer, and any other officer or employee designated by the Village Board of Trustees.

N. Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall forfeit and pay as a minimum penalty for such violation the following sums:

(1) For the first offense, a minimum fine of \$100.

(2) For the second offense within a period of six months from the first offense, a minimum fine of \$225.

(3) For a third offense within a period of one year from the first offense, a minimum fine of \$350 and suspension and/or revocation of any permit issued for an event or use of a Village park.

O. Exceptions.

The prohibitions contained in Section 150-2(J) shall not apply to:

(1) Village officers, employees, contractors, consultants, engineers or agents performing authorized inspection, construction, maintenance, testing, environmental, drainage, stormwater-management or other official duties.

(2) Police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and other emergency responders acting within the scope of their official duties.

(3) Federal, state, county or other governmental personnel acting within the scope of their lawful authority.

(4) A person acting pursuant to express written authorization issued by the Village Board of Trustees for a governmental, scientific, environmental, educational or maintenance purpose. No authorization shall be issued for private recreational use.

(5) This law shall not supersede any duly granted and lawful easement, license, right of way, or right of access, present in real property deeds related to the underlying park lands and Ponds upon presentation of proof of such right.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law is adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Local Law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment is rendered.

Section 5. Supersession.

This Local Law is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by the Municipal Home Rule Law and other applicable law. To the extent permitted by law, any inconsistent provision of special or general law is hereby superseded.

Section 6. Code Preparation.

The Town's Code preparation contractor is authorized, without further action of the Town Board, to correct typographical errors, numbering and other related technical changes that do not affect or alter the substantive provisions of this local law.

Section 7. Effective date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law.