

RECREATION FACILITY USE GUIDELINES

Library and Community Services
800 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025
tel 650-330-2501



Purpose

The City of Menlo Park strives to provide a safe, welcoming, pleasant, and comfortable environment for all visitors of City facilities. To that goal, all facility visitors are expected to adhere to these Facility Use Guidelines.

We welcome everyone to:

- Learn, discover, play, and enjoy City of Menlo Park facilities within the limits of their intended use
- Find facilities, equipment, and materials in good condition
- Feel safe and welcome
- Respect the rights of others to feel safe and welcome.
- Follow all posted signs and rules

Visiting a City of Menlo Park recreation facility, including the premises and grounds outside a recreation facility, or participating in an event or program constitutes an implicit acceptance of these Guidelines and an acknowledgement of the right of City of Menlo Park staff to take any action they see fit while interpreting these Guidelines.

In case of an emergency, follow staff instructions promptly.

Prohibited conduct and activities

In consideration of all visitors and staff, the following activities are not allowed in City of Menlo Park recreation facilities, including the premises and grounds outside the facilities:

- Leaving a vulnerable adult or a child under the age of 11 unattended.
- Entering vacant classrooms or facility rooms unless approved by staff.
- Disturbing others by talking loudly or with other noisy activity—including any loud sound originating from any electronic device. Please do use headphones when listening to audio on any electronic devices.
- Conversing using a cell phone except in designated areas.
- Sleeping—as a safety precaution sleeping individuals will be awakened.
- Eating—except in the designated areas, or food provided at city-approved events.
- Drinking—except for covered beverages in the designated areas, or beverages provided at Library and Community Services-sponsored events.
- Presenting offensive and pervasive odor or odors that may make the use of the facility difficult for others.
- Bathing, shaving, haircutting, or washing clothes in the public restrooms.
- Leaving or storing personal belongings in program rooms, public spaces, or on the premises or grounds outside of facilities.
- Entering a facility without shoes or adequate clothing, including top and bottom.
- Bringing in animals other than service animals recognized under Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Leaving pets unattended and/or unleashed in outdoor areas near the facility, including but not limited to entryways, pathways, lawns, and outdoor seating areas.
- Bringing carts, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, or similar items into any facility or leaving them at the entrance--except equipment that is designed and is being used for the purpose of assisting the mobility of persons with disabilities and/or equipment designed and being used to carry infants and children.
- Wearing skates or roller blades inside the facility.
- Changing a child's diaper—except in the designated area of the public restrooms.
- Blocking aisles, shelves, or any thoroughfare with personal items, or leaving items unattended at any time--except to use the restroom for a reasonable amount of time.
- Putting feet on facility furniture, rearranging the furniture, or using the furniture for other than its intended purpose.
- For programs that require parents to sign in and out their children, ONLY the parents or guardians (over 18 years old) designated on the program sign up form will be allowed to pick up and/or drop off the child unless otherwise communicated with staff. ID will be required.
- Only participants who are registered for the class or program may be in attendance
- Siblings of a participant may not join the class or program without registering

- Parents are allowed in classroom or program space only if approved by instructor or city staff. Otherwise, parents must wait in designated areas
- Bringing weapons of any kind into the facility.
- Harassing facility users or staff—including physical, sexual, verbal harassment or stalking.
- Selling, soliciting, or using illegal drugs on facility premises.
- Alcohol is prohibited, except at City-approved events.
- Soliciting money, donations or signatures, or the distribution or posting of any printed material without advance written approval of the City.
- Smoking, including using electronic and smoke-free cigarettes (vaping) inside or within 50 feet of the facility building.
- Vandalizing facility facilities, equipment, or materials.
- Removing facility materials from the building without permission from authorized City staff.
- Engaging in sexual conduct or lewd behavior.
- Viewing or displaying inappropriate, sexually explicit, or illegal material in the facility.
- Violation of any federal, state, or local public health orders, restrictions, protocols and/or guidelines
- Illegal activity of any kind will be reported to law enforcement.

Library and Community Services Events

Library and Community Services events are open to the general public. Advance registration may be required for planning purposes or when space is limited. Events may be held on-site, off-site, or virtually. Event participants, whether onsite, offsite, or virtual, must comply with the Recreation Facility Use Guidelines.

Youth events are created for participating youth and their caretakers. Adults who are not accompanying a youth participant may be asked to leave the event.

While hosting a virtual event, Library and Community Services staff may take one or more of the following actions as needed to ensure compliance with these guidelines: mute attendees, lock the event after the program has begun, dismiss participants or take other actions as needed. During virtual events, participants may be asked to turn on their cameras so that staff can identify them. Unidentified or unidentifiable individuals may be removed from the event.

Enforcement

Failure to follow these Guidelines will result in the following actions:

- Individuals will be asked to leave the premises.
- Facility visiting privileges may be suspended for an extended period.
- Facility staff may call local law enforcement to aid in enforcing these Guidelines.
- Illegal activity in any facility may result in arrest and/or prosecution in addition to suspension of facility privileges.
- Customers who return to any City of Menlo Park facility before a suspension has ended may be charged with trespassing.

Additional information

- In case of an emergency, promptly follow all staff instructions.
- Theft or vandalism to City of Menlo Park property, or property of staff, or property of facility visitors is prohibited.
- State law permits staff to search purses, bags, parcels, briefcases, and other packages to prevent the theft of recreation equipment and materials and authorizes the detention for a reasonable period of any person using these facilities who is suspected of committing theft (California Penal Code section 490.5.)

Policy history

Action	Date	Notes
Policy adoption	September 22, 2021	Parks and Recreation Commission recommended
Policy updated	May 25, 2022	Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed
Policy updated	September 16, 2025	Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed
Policy adoption	September 24, 2025	Parks and Recreation Commission recommended