

Some area parks ban drones, other motor propelled devices

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(Photo: File)

Before heading out to the local park to fly a new Christmas toy like a remote control airplane or drone, you might want to check the rules.

There are some park districts that restrict the use of any motor propelled devices except those used to transport people to and from the parks.

The Cincinnati Park District and Anderson Park District are two such entities where these types of toys are prohibited.

Interim Business Services Manager for Cincinnati Park Board confirmed that no flying apparatus are allowed within Cincinnati Parks. She said she doesn't know why the rule is in place, but Park Board Rule No. 32 addresses "Flying Apparatus and Motor Propelled Vehicles."

Per the rule: "Except as expressly set forth in these Regulations, no person shall operate, fly, launch, drive, or use any motor propelled vehicle, or flying apparatus or other vehicle (except motor vehicles driven on roadways designed for that purpose subject to any separate regulation thereof) on or over park property, including but not limited to airplanes, balloons, gliders, hang-gliders, boats, snowmobiles, go-karts, rockets, powered model planes, motorbikes, motorcycles, or automobiles, except with the written permission of the park board and except within such areas as may be designated by the park board and except in compliance with any reasonable safety regulations set by the park board and made a condition of any consent."

Anderson Park District has similar rules in place, and this summer added drone to the list.

"As far as remote control planes, helicopters, things like that, we don't permit them in the parks," executive director Ken Kushner said. The Anderson Park District's policy provides an opportunity for the parks director to grant permission. For reasons of surveying property or a search, for examples, Kushner said he would consider making an exception. But if the device is being used purely for recreational purposes, it's not permitted in the Anderson Parks.

Overall, Kushner said the parks haven't had a problem. If someone is discovered violating the policy, they are respectful once informed, he said.

Not all parks prohibit drones or other motor propelled devices. There are no rules banning them in communities such as the Village of Evendale, Pierce Township or in Sycamore Township. There really hasn't been a problem with drones, Sycamore Township Administrator Greg Bickford said.

"If and when it becomes an issue I am sure we will take a look at it," he said.

Tips on flying a drone

Dr. Jim Schmidt of [PCS Edventures!](http://t.sidekickopen32.com/e1t/c/5/f18dQhb0S7IC8dDMPbW2n0x6l2B9nMJW7t5XX48q-8mHVfmMl22zhHhHW1pgD5R56dGL6f6fMcrb02?t=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.edventures.com%2F&si=4794103402856448&pi=84eef961-a2d4-486a-8860-2d397550fe8d) (<http://t.sidekickopen32.com/e1t/c/5/f18dQhb0S7IC8dDMPbW2n0x6l2B9nMJW7t5XX48q-8mHVfmMl22zhHhHW1pgD5R56dGL6f6fMcrb02?t=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.edventures.com%2F&si=4794103402856448&pi=84eef961-a2d4-486a-8860-2d397550fe8d>) Provides these tips on piloting your drone for the first time:

- Make sure you are in an approved area for flying a drone.
- Respect your surroundings and privacy of people in the area.
- Check all parts to insure that they are all in working order.
- Always remember that you must have direct line of sight with your drone.
- Practice hovering before you attempt actual flight exercises.
- Start by practicing small maneuvers with your controller to insure that you familiar with its sensitivity.

Recently, PCS launched its latest app, [Droneology](http://t.sidekickopen32.com/e1t/c/5/f18dQhb0S7IC8dDMPbW2n0x6l2B9nMJW7t5XX48q-8mHVfmMl22zhHhHW1pgD5R56dGL6f6fMcrb02?t=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.edventures.com%2Fdroneology&si=4794103402856448&pi=84eef961-a2d4-486a-8860-2d397550fe8d) (<http://t.sidekickopen32.com/e1t/c/5/f18dQhb0S7IC8dDMPbW2n0x6l2B9nMJW7t5XX48q-8mHVfmMl22zhHhHW1pgD5R56dGL6f6fMcrb02?t=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.edventures.com%2Fdroneology&si=4794103402856448&pi=84eef961-a2d4-486a-8860-2d397550fe8d>), a web series of instructional videos on how drone users, beginners to advanced, are educated on how to properly fly your very own drone while being safe and having fun.

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