

Public Safety Department

Stark Park Rangers exist not only to protect parkland and wildlife, but also park visitors. Park Rangers strive to keep Stark Parks a safe and enjoyable place to visit, and do so by being certified peace officers through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA). They are sworn and commissioned officials. Each Ranger goes through multiple months of field training to learn specific job duties pertaining to park policing. They have the ability to enforce state laws, including wildlife, watercraft, and traffic laws, as well as Stark County Park District ordinances.

Park Rangers are also trained in ice water rescue and general first-aid and CPR. You may see Rangers working closely with other police departments in Stark County as we have a mutual-aid agreement with law enforcement entities across the county.

Natural Resources Department

The Natural Resources Department is dedicated to the conservation and management of native wildlife and their habitat through research, education, and quality animal care. Annual projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Prairie/Grassland Restoration
- Forest Restoration
- Invasive Species Management
- Water Quality
- Bioswale Installations
- Wildlife Surveys



Don't Litter
Take trash with you or discard it in the appropriate receptacles.

Respect Wildlife
Don't feed wildlife and never approach an animal. If you come across an injured animal, call the Wildlife Conservation Center (330) 477-0448.

Be Cautious on the Trails
Respect the rights of the neighbors and stay on the designated trails.
Travel at a safe pace.
Keep trails clean and travel single file.
Stay to the right and pass on the left using audible warning.

SAFE PARKS

Leash Your Pooch
Always keep control of your pet. If you see a yellow ribbon, give the pup some needed space.

Pick Up Poop
Carry a waste bag or take one from the pet stations provided. Take all waste with you or discard in the appropriate receptacles.

Horses Have the Right-of-Way
Move to the side. Control pets.

If you see something, say something! Don't wait.



**NATURAL
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT**

www.StarkParks.com



SAFE PARKS

POISONOUS PLANTS



STARK PARKS

Wild Cherry (Prunus avium)

The leaves and twigs of this tree contain prunasin, which can release cyanide under certain circumstances. This can be fatal if ingested.



Poison Hemlock (Conium Maculatum)

The whole plant is toxic if ingested through eyes, mouth, or cuts and can be fatal.



Horse Nettle (Solanum carolinense)

Horse nettle fruit is toxic to humans and livestock if ingested.



Nightshade (Solanaceae)

The leaves and berries on this plant are considered toxic. It has been said that eating as little as six berries can result in paralysis.



Stinging Nettle (Urtica dioica)

Touching this plant can cause a skin irritation.



Mushrooms

Avoid touching any mushrooms or fungi. It is difficult to decipher the poisonous from non-poisonous and they can be extremely toxic.

Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron radicans)

Poison Ivy is well known for causing an itchy rash on most people who touch it. Depending on the age of the plant, it can vary in color and sheen. It grows on the forest floor and up trees.



Poison Sumac (Toxicodendron vernix)

All parts of poison sumac are toxic and can produce a burning, itching rash lasting several days.



Pokeberry (Phytolacca)

All parts of the pokeberry plant are toxic to humans, pets, and livestock. The toxicity increases with maturity.



Help Stark Parks Stay Safe Parks

**Always dial 9-1-1
in emergencies**

Store the ranger number in your phone (330) 353-2377.

Keep aware of your surroundings and take note of locations.

Do not take nature with you. Leave it in the park.