

# INSANE BYLAWS THAT CAN RUIN YOUR VISIT TO OUR PARKS

DURHAM - Oshawa passed some of the most insane bylaw practically making visiting a city park impossible. From time limits to how long you can be at the park. To how many people you can host the park.

Oshawa Parks and Facilities By-law 83-2000 regulates public spaces, prohibiting activities like unauthorized structures, alcohol, fires, and certain commercial activities without permits. Key restrictions include no overnight camping, tree climbing, or operating motor vehicles off designated paths. Recent updates also restrict large gatherings, specific event permits in Memorial Park, and limit tobogganing to designated areas.

On to of this. Now they will charge for parking. Insane. Key Prohibitions under By-law 83-2000 (and amendments).

**Structures & Camping:** Erecting tents, shelters, or structures of any kind is prohibited, along with camping, except with authorized permits.

**Events & Gatherings:** Recent 2026 restrictions at Memorial Park prohibit general use of open park space for events, limiting use only to Cenotaph ceremonies and specific band-shell performances.

**Food and Alcohol:** Bringing personal barbecues (propane/charcoal) is banned in certain areas, and alcohol is prohibited without a permit.

**Commercial Activity & Solicitation:** Soliciting or selling goods is forbidden. Permits are now required for groups to disperse food or clothing in parks.

**-Safety & Behaviour:** Climbing trees, discharging firearms/fireworks, and unauthorized, dangerous behavior is prohibited.

**-Winter Activity:** Tobogganing, skiing, and snowboarding are illegal in parks except in designated areas (Knights of Columbus Park and Grandview Village Park). **Pets:** Pets must be leashed at all times and are restricted from public beach areas.

**Permit-Based Access**  
**Construction Access:** Accessing property through a city park for construction (e.g., pool installation) requires a temporary permit, only valid between May 15

and October 15.

**Event Permits:** Large group gatherings require permits and, per recent changes, are restricted in certain historic locations.

For the most up-to-date enforcement, refer to the full text of By-law 83-2000. **Mar 23, 2026** — The city has recently implemented new restrictions on what events can take place at \* The Jubilee Pavilion has sole concession rights at Lakeview Park. Groups cannot use outside food services at Lakeview Park.

**Apr 13, 2021** — The recent amendments to By-law 83-2000 included clarifications to address the responsibilities of event organizers and activities...

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**Dec 10, 2025** — In Oshawa, climbing trees in public parks is strictly prohibited to ensure safety and protect the trees from damage.

Just this week Scugog released its own reminders of how to enjoy public lands. Scugog — Ahead of the warm weather, the Township of Scugog wants to remind residents and visitors of Bylaw rules and regulations relevant to the Spring season. Please keep these regulations in mind when visiting public areas within Scugog.

There is no camping or fishing in Scugog Boat Launch areas.

The Boat Launch Parking Lot off of Old Rail Line is open to the public. Parking permits must be acquired if you have a trailer. Permits can be purchased through Honk Mobile. Seasonal permits are also available through our Seasonal Parking Pass form.

Fires are not permitted in Scugog parks or recreation areas. BBQ Permits are required if looking to cook in any park. There is no camping in Scugog parks or recreation areas.

Waste must be placed in the proper receptacles. There are multiple receptacles in each park as well as along the sidewalks on Queen Street. Smoking is not permitted in Scugog parks. Gatherings in Scugog parks with over 25 people require a permit.

Anyone found in violation of Scugog Bylaws may be subject to fines.

On weekends, Bylaw staff are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with these hours being subject to change.

In Oshawa bylaws have become so ridiculous that the public are prohibited from feeding the poor at large.

There is no Oshawa by-law that explicitly uses the language "prohibiting feeding or issuing water to people." However, By-law 83-2000 (Parks and Facilities) and By-law 33-92 (Highway Vending) were amended in 2021 to effectively restrict these activities by requiring a permit and insurance to distribute food or clothing on city parks and sidewalks.

Critics and some city councillors have described these regulations as a "targeted attempt" to stop Good Samaritan groups from handing out food and water to vulnerable residents in public spaces.

**Key Restrictions Impacting Food/Water Distribution**

**Permit Requirements:** Any group or organization must obtain a permit from the city to disperse food, water, or clothing in a park or on a sidewalk.

**Insurance Mandate:** Groups are required to hold insurance to distribute these items.

**Location Restrictions:** As of March 2026, the city has further tightened criteria for Memorial Park, restricting events primarily to memorial ceremonies and performing arts, which has blocked long-standing community groups from providing aid at that central location.

Failure to follow these permit requirements can lead to fines. While administrative penalties for some park violations can be around \$125, escalating fines for persistent by-law offenses can reach significantly higher amounts.

**Note on Wildlife:** For clarity, Nuisance By-law 65-2009 does strictly prohibit feeding wild animals or leaving food that attracts them, as this is considered a public nuisance. Oshawa bylaw prohibits feeding homeless people in public.

Remember one fundamental reality. You may be in a public place but the lands are deemed private property as they are owned by the municipality. Caution of Trespass orders...

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