

Resolution 2-2025

A Resolution of the Borough Council of Tunkhannock Borough to Temporarily Close Riverside Park During Specified Weekend Hours and at Other Times at the Discretion of the Borough Mayor in Consultation with the Chief of Police and the Borough Park Committee Due to Public Health, Safety, and Welfare Concerns

WHEREAS, the Borough of Tunkhannock is responsible for maintaining the **public health, safety, and welfare** of its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, **Riverside Park** (hereinafter "the Park") has experienced a significant increase in usage during weekend hours, specifically from **Saturday noon through Sunday at 4:00 PM**; and

WHEREAS, this increased usage has led to demonstrable **sanitation issues**, including but not limited to, **overwhelmed and unsanitary restroom facilities** and **widespread littering**, posing a risk to public health; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received numerous reports of **disorderly conduct**, including large and unruly crowds, excessive noise from loud music, traffic congestion in and around the Park, instances of public nudity, and a general lack of compliance with park rules and regulations during these peak weekend hours; and

WHEREAS, these conditions have created an environment that is disruptive to residents, diminishes the enjoyment of the Park for other users, and places an undue strain on Borough resources, including law enforcement, which has limited availability to adequately address these concerns during these times; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that a temporary closure of the Park during these specified weekend hours is necessary to address these urgent **public health, safety, and welfare concerns**, allow for proper sanitation, and deter disorderly conduct; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Borough Code explicitly grants the Mayor emergency powers to address situations threatening public safety and welfare. **Section 10A06(b)** provides that the Mayor may prevent and suppress mobs, riots, and unlawful assemblies to preserve public peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Tunkhannock Borough as follows:

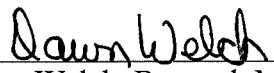
1. **Park Closure on Weekends: Riverside Park** shall be temporarily closed to the public each weekend, commencing at **12:00 PM (noon) on Saturday** and reopening at **4:00 PM on Sunday**. This closure shall be effective beginning **August 2, 2025**.

2. **Closure at Discretion of Mayor:** The **Tunkhannock Borough Mayor** shall be authorized to temporarily close the park following consultation with the chairman of the **Tunkhannock Borough Park Committee** and the **Chief of Police** at such other times that conditions have created an environment that is unsanitary, disruptive to residents, diminishes the enjoyment of the Park for other users, and places an undue strain on Borough resources, including law enforcement.
3. **Purpose of Closure:** The purpose of the temporary closures is to **mitigate sanitation issues** by allowing for thorough cleaning and maintenance of facilities, **reduce overcrowding**, prevent disorderly conduct, alleviate traffic problems, and ensure the safety and well-being of the community.
4. **Enforcement:** The **Tunkhannock Borough Police Department** is hereby authorized and directed to enforce this resolution. Any person found in the Park during the hours of closure shall be deemed to be **trespassing** and subject to applicable penalties under applicable law.
5. **Signage and Public Notice:** The **Borough Manager or her designee** is directed to install appropriate signage at all entrances to **Riverside Park** notifying the public of the closure. Furthermore, public notice of this resolution shall be disseminated through the Borough's official website, social media channels, and any other appropriate means.
6. **Review and Reassessment:** The Borough Council shall review the effectiveness of this temporary closure and reassess the need for its continuation or modification no later than **September 30, 2025**.
7. **Severability:** If any provision of this Resolution is declared to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.
8. **Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

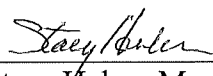
DULY ADOPTED this 1st day of August, 2025, by the Borough Council of Tunkhannock Borough.

Attest:

Tunkhannock Borough Council:

BY: 
Dawn Welch, Borough Manager

BY: 
Benjamin Barziloski, Council President

BY: 
Stacy Huber, Mayor