

Subj: Braden Park

It has been reported that large crowds have been seen using Braden Park on the weekends. After checking with our office staff to see if anyone had park use permits, it was discovered that no permits were issued. Turns out, these folks who were using the park and facilities were from out of state, many with NJ or NY license plates. We believe these folks are using our park as an alternate to Penn Pump Park (also along the Bushkill Creek) after large crowds from out of state descended upon it and literally “trashed it” a few years ago. Palmer Township recently restricted access to the park on the weekends during the summer to permit holders only. To preserve our park and protect it from potential vandalism, overcrowding and other issues experienced in Palmer Township, the following changes have been approved by Borough Council and are effective immediately:

1. The park will be closed and locked on the weekend through at least Labor Day. The main entrance gate will be closed at 8PM on Friday evening, and reopened on Monday morning by 8AM. Unfortunately, this means the parking lot at Braden Park will be unavailable for anyone using the Trail on the weekend.
2. Use of the park will be by permit only. As has always been our policy, permits will only be issued to Tatamy residents. Permit holders are required to sign the application acknowledging responsibility for the park and ensuring their guests adhere to all our park rules. They also are required to be present for the entirety of the event they are sponsoring. Permits are issued free of charge; however, we do impose a nominal key and cleaning deposit that will be returned to the permit holder when they return the keys and the park is inspected to ensure nothing was left out of order. Permit applications are available at the Borough Office during normal hours or on our website at this link: <http://tatamypa.com/pdf/bradenparkpermit20.pdf>
3. Keys will be issued to permit holders no earlier than 48 hours prior to your scheduled event. If you need to make alternate arrangements to pick up the keys please call the Borough Office.
4. Anyone experiencing issues with uninvited guests should notify Northampton County Dispatch at 610.759.2200 or dial 911 if it is a true emergency. Your call will be logged and the appropriate authorities will be dispatched. Because Braden Park is actually in Forks Township, more than likely Forks Township Police will be responding to the issue.

The last thing we ever wanted to do is restrict access to our parks. They’re an important part of our community and should be available for everyone to enjoy. Unfortunately, past history and lessons learned from our neighboring communities require us to take this step. We do this to ensure our parks are protected and preserved.