

Here is a list of the powers and duties of a township park commission under Township Parks and Places of Recreation, Act 157 of 1905:

- **Authority of Township Park Commission:** “The township park commission shall have authority to *acquire, maintain, manage, and control township parks and places of recreation*, including bathing beaches, and shall have authority, in the name of the township, to condemn land for those purposes, in accordance with the condemnation laws of this state.” MCL 41.426a (emphasis added). Additionally, “[t]he township park commission may accept, in the name of the township, gifts, grants, and devises of land suitable for parks and places of recreation, and gifts and bequests of money. That money shall be held in trust and used for the acquisition and improvement of land suitable for parks and places of recreation.” *Id.* Note that we authored a separate opinion regarding the sale of lands previously owned by the Township at the time the Park Commission was established and the Township’s authority to maintain the right to devise, sell or put them to other use.
- **Duty to Submit Annual Budget to the Township Board:** “The township park commission shall submit to the township board a detailed budget covering the cost of maintenance of the township parks and places of recreation of the township for the ensuing year. The budget shall not exceed 1 and 1/2 mill on the assessed valuation of the township . . . Expenditures from this fund shall be on vouchers approved by the township park commission.” MCL 41.426c.
- **Duty to Submit Detailed Annual Report on Parks:** “The township park commission shall make a detailed annual report concerning township parks and places of recreation to the township board and to the state treasurer, in the form and containing information that the state treasurer directs.” MCL 41.426f.
- **Request Acquisition of Parks:** “The township park commission may request that the township board submit to the voters of the township the question of the issuance of township bonds, the proceeds of which shall be used in the acquisition of lands for township parks and places of recreation.” MCL 41.426d.
- **Township Park Commission May Sell Park Lands With Township Board Approval:** “If land is, or has been, *acquired under this act by a township park commission*, the commission, subject to approval of the township board, may sell and

convey the portion or portions not needed on terms the township board considers proper.” MLC 41.426e.

- **Subject to FOIA and OMA:** As a public body, a township park commission is subject to the requirements of the FOIA and OMA.
- **Park Commissioners are Elected for 4 Year Terms:** “Township park commission as determined under subsection (1) shall be elected for terms of 4 years each.” MCL 41.426(2).
- **Park Commissioner Compensation:** The members of the township park commission shall receive compensation as fixed by the township board. The township park commission may employ clerical assistance and incur other expenses that are authorized by the township board. Compensation and expenses shall be paid from the park maintenance fund (the park maintenance fund is derived from the annual budget required under MCL 41.426(c) as explained above).