

**NORTH ANNVILLE TOWNSHIP
ORDINANCE NO. 2-2023**

AN ORDINANCE, OF THE NORTH ANNVILLE TOWNSHIP, LEBANON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF OUTDOOR FIRING RANGES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH ANNVILLE INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BACKSTOPS, FILING OF PLANS, AND OTHER REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF OUTDOOR FIRING RANGES.

WHEREAS, North Annville Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors have received complaints about property damage and bullets entering and passing through properties from members using an outdoor firing range; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Supervisors and Planning Commission endeavor to protect the health, safety and welfare of Township residents which necessitates the adopting of this Ordinance to protect Township residents from stray range fire and excessive disturbance due to the use of firearms on firing ranges as defined in this ordinance.

AND NOW, on the 11 day of December, 2023, **IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the North Annville Township Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. This Ordinance shall be known as the North Annville Township Outdoor Firing Range Ordinance.
2. Definition: An *outdoor firing range* is defined as one that is operated as a private for-profit business or non-profit club, or any entity, including but not limited to a corporation, partnership, or association, that operates an outdoor area for the discharge of firearms on its premises. This Ordinance does not apply to private property and residential target practice. This ordinance is not intended to infringe upon the right to bear arms as the right is defined either by the U.S. Constitution or the laws of the Commonwealth of Pa.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the safety of all persons and property in North Annville Township and to create an environment where outdoor firing ranges are operated in a manner which does not endanger the public health, safety and welfare of Township residents.

4. Requirements

An outdoor firing range shall not be permitted except by the approval of the Township Supervisors or their authorized representative who shall only issue a permit for an outdoor firing range in accordance with the regulations defined

herein, and after the filing of a Plan with the Township Secretary demonstrating full compliance with the following regulations:

a. All back stops behind all targets and the perimeter of all open deployment areas must be a minimum of 25 feet in height from base of target.

1. The back stops must consist of ground free from rocks or other objects that can ricochet bullets.
2. The base of target must not be more than 10 feet from the beginning of back stop base.
3. The building, grounds and method of operation must conform to any applicable federal, state and local standards for operation of an outdoor range including requirements for safety, noise abatement, lead and other waste management.
4. The design and construction of the range must confine all projectiles and ammunition rounds within the site and in a controlled manner.
5. An architect or engineer licensed and registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall sign and certify any plan filed in accordance with this ordinance and said certification shall specifically certify the following:
 - a. The plan shall include specifications in the construction of bullet traps, archery areas, back stops, storage buildings and other amenities.

- b. If applicable, the certified plan must state what type and caliber of ammunition the shooting range is designed to totally confine.
 - c. The active area of the firing range shall be a minimum of 1,000 feet from any occupied structure existing at the time of the filing of the plan.
 - d. It shall be demonstrated by the plan filed with the township that the range is designed to promote safety including but not limited to adjacent property owners. This may be accomplished by showing that the range shall be constructed in accordance with National Rifle Association Safety Guidelines for the construction of firing ranges.
 - e. The plan shall demonstrate how the range is to be constructed to secure against unauthorized entry by unauthorized individuals.
6. No ammunition shall be discharged on this firing range that exceeds the certified design and construction specifications of the shooting range.
7. Firearms and ammunition shall not be stored on the premises unless stored in a locked gun safe or other secure locked storage container.

8. Onsite range safety supervision must be supplied at all times of range operation the range owner or his authorized agent or representative. The range owner and/or his agent or representative shall be responsible for the conduct and safety of the patrons and the orderly conduct of parties using the range in a manner which enhances safety of all people.
9. Onsite supervision must be always supplied by an adult who is an experienced range operator. The range operator shall be responsible for the conduct, safety, and order of patrons at his or her range.
10. Individuals under the age of 18 shall not be allowed in/on the range areas unless accompanied by an adult who has completed range safety training. This provision is not intended to prohibit minors from participating in a firearms safety class which is supervised by an adult instructor.
11. The active area of all outdoor shooting ranges must be a minimum of 1,000 feet from any occupied structure existing at the time of the establishment of the shooting range.
12. All firing stations and buildings shall be a minimum of 100 feet from any adjacent lot line.
13. The applicant shall demonstrate that the range is designed to promote the safety of all persons on the premises or on abutting

property when the range is being used. The applicant may meet its burden by showing compliance with applicable National Rifle Association or other generally recognized guidelines for range design and safety or by submitting evidence from persons with experience and expertise in range design and safety.

14. Owners must have a minimum \$1,000,000.00 in liability insurance.
15. Normal hours of operation shall be 8:00 a.m. to dusk with nighttime shooting limited to specified training courses with no live fire after 9:00 p.m.
16. Existing fire ranges must not increase firing stations which would result in an increase in the intensity of use and must comply to this Ordinance.
17. To the extent that any provision, section, paragraph or subsection is declared unconstitutional or unenforceable, such declaration shall not affect the remainder of this ordinance and this ordinance shall continue in full force and effect.
18. This ordinance shall become enforceable as defined by applicable law.

ADOPTED this 11 day of December, 2023.

ATTEST:

By Adam D. Wolfe
Secretary

**NORTH ANNVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**

By Randall H. Lewis
Chairman

By Clyde E. Meyer
Vice Chairman