

Chapter 3. Park Regulations

Article 1. General Provisions

Sec. 9-3.101. Purpose.

This Chapter regulates and shall apply to management and administration of County Parks, as defined herein, by the Parks Division of the Yolo County General Services Department. Unless expressly stated otherwise, the restrictions on certain activities and uses do not apply to the Parks Division when managing County Parks.

Sec. 9-3.102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) “Community Park” means a category of park that serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood, or mini park. These parks are designed to engage families and visitors for an entire day with multiple and diverse activities and amenities throughout.

(b) “Department” means the Yolo County Department of General Services.

(c) “Director” means the Director of the General Services Department and, unless otherwise expressly stated, shall include their authorized designee(s).

(d) “Discretion” shall mean, in reference to authority granted to the Director, the exercise of judgment and experience to determine the appropriate course of action in specific situations that are not directly addressed in this Chapter, considering public health and safety, the need to safeguard County property, protection of environmental resources, and other matters consistent with the public interest.

(e) “Drone” means a small, unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) weighing under 55 pounds, as defined by the Federal Aviation Administration, that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.

(f) “Electric Bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts per the California Vehicle Code.

(g) “Motorcycle” means any motor vehicle, other than a tractor, having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground and weighing less than 1,500 pounds, except that four (4) wheels may be in contact with the ground when two (2) of the wheels are a functional part of a sidecar.

(h) “Motor Vehicle” means a device by which any person or property may be propelled, moved or drawn over land, excepting a device moved by human power.

(i) "Off-Highway Vehicle" shall have the meaning set forth in section 38006 of the California Vehicle Code, and shall include motorcycles designed for off-road use, sand buggies, dune buggies, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), jeeps, go-carts, and other similar vehicles.

(j) "Open Space Park" means a designated park that has areas of essentially undeveloped natural landscape, such as ridges, streams, hillsides, canyons, riparian areas, and grasslands that are under management and control of the Parks Division.

(k) "Park" shall refer to and include every Open Space Park, Community Park, and other public facility under the management and control of the Parks Division.

(l) "Park Authority" means the employee of the Parks Division designated by the Director to exercise such powers and perform such duties to enforce the regulations herein.

(m) "Park waters" means any lake, reservoir, pond, river, stream, or other body of water within a Park or under the management, protection, or control of the Parks Division.

(n) "Permission" as referred to in this Code means written permission granted by the Director or their designee.

(o) "Person" means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, trust, or organization of any kind.

(p) "Take" or "Taking" means but is not limited to hunting, pursuing, catching, capturing, possessing or killing, or attempting to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, possess or kill any wild bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian or parts thereof.

(q) "Valid Permit" or "Permit" means a permit issued by the Director, subject to revocation, suspension, or modification, that gives the organization or person(s) named on the permit permission to engage in some activity, use, or event. Valid permits have a date or date range during which the permittee may engage in the listed activity, unless the permit is revoked, suspended, or modified by the Director. The expiration of such date range renders the permit void. References to "Valid Permit" or "Permit" shall not be deemed to indicate that such permissions are generally available upon proper application; their availability may be limited to specific locations, seasons, or other conditions in the Discretion of the Director. "Permit" shall also include any management or restoration plan approved by the Director or the Board of Supervisors.

Article 2. Parks General Rules and Restrictions and Personal Conduct

9-2.201. Enforcement of Rules and Regulations.

(a) The Yolo County Sheriff's Office shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter or any other local, state, or federal law or regulation within a Park.

(b) The Director is authorized to enforce this Chapter and to remove any Person acting in violation of this Chapter or any other provision of the Yolo County Code from Parks or otherwise revoke their Permission or Permit to use such lands or facilities.

(c) The Yolo County Board of Supervisors additionally authorizes the Director, any Deputy Director with responsibility for Parks, and any Park Authority to issue citations for misdemeanors or infractions committed within Parks and within their presence pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5380.

9-2.202. Penalty.

With the exception of matters that constitute a misdemeanor or felony under California law, any person violating any provision of Chapters 1-2 of Title 9 shall be guilty of an infraction and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable as set forth in Section 25132 of the California Government Code.

9-2.203. Authority of Parks Division – Closing or restricting use of parks and facilities.

Parks may be closed to the public or have public uses restricted during an emergency or for health, safety, maintenance, or management purposes in the sole Discretion of the Director.

9-2.204. Lands and facilities open to the public.

Parks are open to the public for use during daylight hours, or as otherwise permitted, in accordance with this Chapter. Generally, open space parks will be open during daylight hours, and Community Parks may be open until 9:00 p.m. The Director is authorized in their sole Discretion to revise the hours during which any park and internal building, road, ground, or other facility is open to the public. Notice of the hours for each Park shall be prominently posted at each public entrance, or in any other manner reasonably determined by the Director to afford notice to the public.

9-2.205. Parks in general.

All persons entering a Park must follow the Park's rules and regulations, the laws of the State of California, and all applicable provisions of this Chapter and the Yolo County Code. While in the Park, visitors must also follow the instructions of the Director and Park Authority and comply with any rules that are clearly posted.

9-2.206. Dumping, littering, and cleanliness.

No person shall:

(a) Dispose of bottles, broken glass, ashes, wastepaper, or other rubbish except in designated receptacles;

(b) Place garbage, including garbage generated outside the Park, in receptacles not authorized for such use;

(c) Dispose of household waste, including appliances, on Park grounds or in Park receptacles;

(d) Dump or abandon any other waste matter, including dirt, rocks, vegetation, or debris, in any Park.

9-2.207. General cleanliness of campsites and picnic areas.

Each person shall keep campsites and picnic areas in an orderly and clean state, free from rubbish and litter of any kind at all times.

9-2.208. Camping.

Other than designated camping areas, no person shall camp or park motor vehicles overnight within Park without a Permit.

9-2.209. Vandalism prohibited.

No person shall damage, deface, paint, tamper with or remove any Park property or facility, including buildings, signs, gates, fences, equipment, markers, trash receptacles, paving material, utilities, or water lines.

9-2.210 Use of restrooms.

No person shall deposit any bodily waste within any Park except in a public restroom. No person shall occupy or use any public restroom within any Park for a period of time in excess of thirty minutes during any consecutive two-hour period.

9-2.211 Unauthorized structures, encroachments and signs.

No person shall erect any temporary or permanent obstruction, structure, monument, facility, physical improvement, encroachment or sign at or within any Park. Any such item may be impounded or demolished by the Parks Division in accordance with County policy.

9-2.212. Abandoned and unattended property; Pet remains.

No person may abandon or leave unattended or without permission any personal property or device within any Park for a period longer than twelve hours. Any property or device so abandoned or unattended may be impounded and disposed of in accordance with the law. The burial or other disposal of pet remains, including but not limited to ashes, is prohibited in County parks.

9-2.213 Commercial activities.

No person shall do any of the following within a Park without a valid permit or other authorization:

- (a) Sell, hawk, or peddle any food, goods, merchandise or services;
- (b) Station or place any stand, cart or vehicle for display of food, goods, merchandise, or services;
- (c) Distribute, circulate or post any handbill, pamphlet or other advertisement regarding sale of goods, merchandise or services;
- (d) Conduct any commercial filming or photography or actively related to commercial filming or photography except by written permission from the Director;
- (e) Conduct any activity of a commercial nature except by written permission from the Director or concessionaire agreement.

9-2.214. Fires; Fireworks.

Fires shall be strictly prohibited in all Parks except as follows:

- (a) If specifically permitted, in a camp stove or fireplace provided in areas designated for such purposes.
- (b) All campfires must be extinguished before leaving any park area.
- (c) No fires shall be made during a red flag warning day as defined by the National Weather Service.
- (d) In their sole discretion, the Director may restrict or prohibit fire use in Parks where fires may otherwise be allowed. Each person in a park area shall comply with these restrictions.
- (e) No person shall possess or use any fireworks or pyrotechnic device of any kind in any park area, except by valid permit issued by the Director.

9-2.215. Permits and fees.

For events and uses that will not damage Park resources or otherwise cause any detriment, the Department may issue permits for special events and uses and may charge fees in connection with such matters. The Director may impose any conditions that are, in their sole discretion, reasonably necessary for the protection of the Park or considerations of public health, safety, and welfare. Charges for permits shall be determined by adopted fee schedule, and may include admission fees, parking fees, facility use fees, and charges for expenses incurred by the Department, such as labor, equipment costs, overhead, etc. Permits are not transferable and may be revoked for failure to comply with any provision of the permit or applicable portions of these regulations. When issued, permits must be carried as directed at all times when using Parks.

9-2.216. Firearms, traps and other weapons.

No person shall possess, use, carry, discharge or cause to be discharged any gun, firearm or weapon while within parks, including any air or gas weapon, spring gun, spear, bow and arrow, crossbow, sling shot, animal trap, knife with blade over five inches long, explosive or any other form of weapon potentially dangerous to wildlife or human safety except by Valid Permit issued by the Director. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any firearm or weapon onto or across parks from outside park boundaries. Authorized use of the archery range at Grasslands Regional Park is covered by a concessionaire agreement and, for so long as such agreement remains in effect, such use is not subject to the restrictions in this section.

9-2.217. Motor vehicles and off-highway vehicles.

(a) In accordance with Yolo County Code Chapter 12, except as authorized by sections 10-12.103(b) and 10-12.104(b), no person shall operate a motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle on the beds of Cache Creek. Notice of this prohibition shall be posted at legal public access points to Cache Creek.

(b) No person shall operate a motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle within any Park except to access public roads, internal roads established and maintained for public vehicular use, and parking.

(c) For the purpose of this section, emergency vehicles and County maintenance vehicles, battery-powered wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices being used by individuals with mobility disabilities are exempted, subject to limitations and regulations on their use in accordance with legitimate safety requirements.

9-2.218. Bicycles and similar vehicles.

(a) Park trails and roads may be used by any person possessing or operating a bicycle, including an electric bicycle, in the manner consistent with the posted designation. Unless specifically designated by a posted sign, motorcycles are prohibited on Park trails and roads.

(b) The Director may temporarily prohibit the operation of any type of bicycle on any Park trail or road.

(c) No person shall operate or possess a bicycle or Electric Bicycle within any Park Area except:

(1) For bicycles, on trails and roads designated for such use or with other similar signage or symbol;

(2) For Electric Bicycles, on trails and roads where appropriate signage allows for such use.

(d) No person shall operate or possess any type of bicycle in any Park Area in a manner that is:

(1) Negligent, unsafe, or reckless, or in any way that endangers any person or property;

(2) At a speed greater than 15 miles per hour;

(3) At a speed which is greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, a road or bicycle trail or at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property; or

(4) In violation of any applicable provision of the California Vehicle Code.

(e) Pursuant to California Vehicle Code section 21212, persons under the age of 18 operating any type of bicycle, non-motorized scooter, or skateboard must wear an ANSI or other state-approved helmet for head protection in all Parks.

(f) A person operating a bicycle, Electric Bicycle, non-motorized scooter, rollerblades, roller skates, skateboard, or other non-motorized device in a Park Area shall yield to all equestrians, pedestrians, and hikers. When approaching equestrians, pedestrians, or hikers from the rear, the person operating the bicycle, Electric Bicycle, non-motorized scooter, roller skates, rollerblades, skateboard, or other non-motorized device shall audibly warn of their presence and shall exercise due care when passing.

9-2.219. Equestrian use on trails.

No person shall ride, lead, or leave standing any horse or animal-pulled cart or wagon on any trail or in any Park other than in areas or on trails authorized for such use.

9-2.220. Drones and unmanned aircraft

The recreational flying and operation of drones and other unmanned aircraft in County Parks is allowed except where prohibited by a posted order [at the entrance to a Park or nearby parking or access point](#). Small drones less than 55 pounds can be flown recreationally when following 49 USC 44809, and is subject to [California Civil Code section 1708.8](#), and the Federal Aviation Administration rules and regulations. Commercial or other uses are not allowed except by written authorization or by permit by the Director. At no time shall pilots operate a drone that presents a nuisance to others or wildlife.

9-2.221. Prohibited Conduct

No person shall do any of the following within parks;

- (a) Harass or otherwise disturb others;
- (b) Be under the influence of intoxicating liquor or substances in such a condition that the individual is unable to exercise care for their own safety or the safety of others;
- (c) Engage in disorderly conduct as outlined in Section 647 of the California Penal Code;
- (d) Play any music or percussion instrument, television, radio, or bring or operate any sound amplifying equipment, loudspeaker, or microphone, except in accordance with a permit issued by the Director;
- (e) Smoke, to include vapes and e-cigarettes.

Article 3. Natural Resource Protection.

9-3.301. Introducing or gathering plants, wood, or any other vegetation is prohibited.

- (a) No person shall gather flowers, foliage, berries, herbs, fruit, seeds, or cut, break, dig up or in any way mutilate, injure, or transplant any tree, shrub, plant, fern, grass, turf, landscaping, natural feature, railing, seat, fence equipment, structure, or other object or device within any Park, except by permit issued by the Director.
- (b) No person shall introduce or abandon any plant or plant parts in any park area except by permit issued by the Director.

9-3.302. Injuring, killing or harassing animals.

- (a) No person shall injure, take, kill or harass any bird, mammal, fish, reptile or any other animal or disturb its habitat including its nest and/or eggs in any Park except by permit issued by the Director. This section does not apply to fish or other aquatic forms permitted to be taken under section 9-3.307.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Taking of any bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, or parts thereof by any person or persons duly appointed and authorized by the County to perform such services to control disease or prevent other similar harm, prevent excessive damage to Park facilities, for the wellbeing of the animal taken, or for other good cause, and where such taking occurs while said person or persons are acting within the course and scope of the authorized services.

9-3.303. Removing materials.

No person shall:

- (a) Dig up or remove any dirt, stones, sand, rocks, minerals, or other materials or substance whatever, or make any excavation, quarry any stone or lay or set off any blast or explosion or cause or assist in doing any such activity within any park except by permit issued by the Director.
- (b) Disturb, remove or destroy articles or artifacts of a historical, archaeological, cultural or paleontological nature in, or from any park, except by permit issued by the Director.

9-3.304. Pets and animals in parks.

No person shall be permitted to bring, carry, entice or transport a dog, cat or other animal into the park unless such animal is securely leashed on a maximum six (6) foot leash and in immediate control by the person at all times. An animal is securely leashed within the meaning of this section when said animal is securely tied or otherwise fastened, or attached to one end of a chain, cord, rope, strap or other restraint, the other end of which is securely retained in the possession of a person and animal is prevented from running at large. A dog may be permitted to be off-leash in areas which are officially set aside for that purpose provided that the person

or keeper of the dog keeps it under control at all times, does not allow the dog to go beyond the boundary of the set aside area, and follows posted rules at all times.

- (a) No person shall bring or keep a noisy, vicious or dangerous dog or animal or one which is disturbing other persons in the park and remain therein after the owners have been asked by the Park Authority to leave;
- (b) No person shall leave or deposit dogs, cats, or other animals, fish or birds within the boundaries of the park;
- (c) No person shall bring a dog into, permit a dog to enter or remain, or possess a dog in the park unless the person presents proof that the dog has a valid rabies inoculation or the person presents a valid license for the dog;
- (d) All persons in possession of an animal at the parks shall immediately clean up any animal waste produced;
- (e) No person shall feed or provide care for any animal, bird, or fish that occurs or exists within the boundaries of the park.

9-3.306. Harassing livestock prohibited.

No person shall harass, injure, or kill livestock in any part or portion of any park area. No person who brings a dog or any animal to any park area shall permit their dog or animal to harass, injure, or kill livestock in any part or portion of any park area.

9-3.307 Hunting prohibited.

No person shall hunt in the parks.

9-3.308 Fishing permissions and restrictions

A person authorized by the state of California to fish are permitted to fish in parks and park waters, except where fishing is expressly prohibited or limited as indicated on conspicuously posted signs or per local, state, and federal laws. When fishing is authorized within a park or park waters, each person fishing must fully comply with all local, state, and federal laws regulating or prohibiting a taking regardless of any indication of the presence of such protected species or habitat.