

CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE FOR REGULATIONS GOVERNING Cove City, Creekside, Latham-Whitehurst Nature, Rocky Run and West Craven Parks

SECTION 1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Alcoholic beverage means any beer, malt, wine, spirit, liquor or other beverage whose sale is regulated and licensed by the state alcoholic beverage control board.

Department means the county recreation and parks department.

Footpath means any path or trail maintained for pedestrians.

Motor vehicle means any motorized conveyance including automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, motorbikes, all-terrain vehicles, mini bikes, go-carts, recreational vehicles, golf carts or any other self-propelled motorized vehicle.

Pedestrian means a person afoot.

Public recreation area means any public park, recreation center, playground, ball field, tennis court, or any other recreation facility and their parking facilities owned or controlled by the county.

SECTION 2. Scope.

This chapter shall regulate the use and occupancy and the conduct of persons in or upon all public recreation areas owned by the county.

SECTION 3. Hours of operation.

It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain in any public recreation area except during those hours of operation that it is open to the general public, unless express permission has been obtained from the county.

SECTION 4. Rules and Regulations.

All persons must comply with posted rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. Vehicles in public recreation areas.

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (a) Drive any motor vehicle on any area except designated roads or parking areas, or such areas as may on occasion be specifically designated as temporary areas.
- (b) Park a motor vehicle in other than a designated or established parking area.
- (c) Leave a motor vehicle standing or parked in designated or established parking areas or elsewhere in the public recreation areas during hours when the public recreation area is closed.
- (d) Fail to obey such persons being authorized and instructed to direct traffic wherever and whenever needed in the parks.
- (e) Fail to observe carefully all traffic signs indicating speed, direction, caution, stopping or parking and all others posted for proper control and to safeguard life and property.

SECTION 6. Personal conduct.

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (a) Engage in disorderly conduct of any kind.
- (b) Engage in any activity which may constitute a hazard to the safety of himself or other persons.
- (c) Dispose of lighted or unlighted matches, cigars, cigarettes or any flammable material or substance in other than trash receptacles or ash cans.
- (d) Engage in threatening language or play loud music of any kind at any time that it unreasonably disturbs other patrons.
- (e) Throw rocks or objects of any kind. This does not include balls in practices and games used in athletic events when used in a reasonable manner and in such a way that they do not become hazards to other park patrons.
- (f) Interfere with or in any manner hinder any county employee in the performance of his or her duties.

SECTION 7. Destruction of public recreation area property.

It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, destroy, mutilate, damage or deface any structure, monument, planter, fountain, wall, fence, railing, vehicle, bench, tree, plant, pavings or paving materials, signs, notices or placards, whether temporary or permanent, stakes, posts, or other boundary markers, or other structures or equipment, facilities or property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal. It shall be unlawful for any person to dig or otherwise disturb grass areas, or in any other way injure or impair the natural beauty or usefulness of any area.

SECTION 8. Fires.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make or kindle a fire, except in a regularly constructed fireplace or grill provided or approved by the county. It shall be unlawful for any person to leave any fire unattended, or to fail to completely extinguish a fire and all the embers thereof before leaving such fire.

SECTION 9. Selling items prohibited.

Except as part of an approved event, it shall be unlawful for any person to solicit, peddle or beg within any park or sell any merchandise or wares, provided that this section shall not apply to (a) any concession granted by the county or department for a recreation facility; or (b) any solicitation or sale of goods by nonprofit or civic groups, provided that permission is obtained in advance from the department.

SECTION 10. Dogs and other animals.

- (a) Dogs must be restrained by a leash not exceeding 6' in length at all times. Dogs are NOT allowed in the following areas: on or near athletic fields, picnic shelters, restroom/concession buildings and playgrounds.
- (b) Dogs are permitted in established classes offered by the recreation & parks department. While in the class, dogs must be restrained by a leash not exceeding 6' in length and under the control of the owner at all times.
- (c) Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs.
- (d) No other animals are permitted in the parks.

SECTION 11. Picnic area; camping; hunting; fishing; swimming.

It shall be unlawful to:

- (a) Picnic in a place other than one designated for that purpose.
- (b) Leave a picnic area before the grill is completely extinguished and before all trash in the nature of boxes, papers, cans, bottles, garbage and other refuse is placed in receptacles provided. If no such trash receptacles are available, refuse and trash shall be carried away from the park area by the user to be properly disposed of elsewhere.
- (c) Camp in any area without permission of the director of the parks and recreation department. No person shall set up tents, shacks or any other temporary shelter for the purpose of overnight camping, nor shall any person leave in any park after closing hours any movable structure or special vehicle to be used or that could be used for such purpose, such as a camper-trailer, house trailer or the like without permission of the director of the parks and recreation department.
- (d) Hunt, trap, shoot, kill, wound, molest, capture, chase, willfully frighten, or attempt to harm any wildlife, except as undertaken by authorized personnel in the exercise of a bona fide wildlife management practice.
- (e) Fish without a state fishing license, except as provided for in state fishing regulations.
- (f) Swim or wade in a public recreation area, except when permitted as a special program or by posted regulation.

SECTION 12. Littering.

It shall be unlawful for any person to bring in, dump, deposit or leave any bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, wastes, garbage or refuse, or other trash. Such refuse, rubbish and waste shall be deposited in receptacles so provided. Where receptacles are not provided, all such refuse, rubbish or waste shall be carried off site by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere.

SECTION 13. Alcoholic beverages & Illegal drugs.

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, consume, display or sell any alcoholic beverage or illegal drug upon the premises of or within a public recreation area.

SECTION 14. Smoking.

Smoking only allowed in parking lots.

SECTION 15. Firearms, golf balls, bicycles, skateboards, fireworks, etc.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, except law enforcement officers in the course of their duty, to carry, use or possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon of any nature, including but not limited to air rifles, BB guns, toy pistols, toy guns, or other toy arms designed to forcibly hurl a projectile or missile at any time or under any circumstances, within a public recreation area.
- (b) No golfing is allowed at any park, other than the designated area at West Craven Park. No golfing is allowed at any time on or near athletic fields.
- (c) No bicycles, skateboards, hand scooters, roller skates, in-line skates or other non-motorized equipment is allowed on walkways, tennis courts, around concession/restroom buildings or under/around picnic shelters.
- (d) The use of fireworks of any type is expressly prohibited except at approved and permitted events.

SECTION 16. Advertising, etc.

It shall be unlawful for any person to place or erect any structure, sign, bulletin board, post, pole, or advertising device of any kind whatever, or to attach any notice, bill, poster, sign, wire, rod or cord to any tree; shrub, fence, railing, post or structure within any public recreation area, except such persons as are authorized by the director of the parks and recreation department.

SECTION 17. Closing when necessary.

Any section or part of any public recreation area may be declared closed to the public by the director of the parks and recreation department at any time and for any interval of time, either temporarily or at regular and stated intervals (daily or otherwise), and to certain uses.

SECTION 18. Authority to eject disorderly persons.

Any authorized recreation & parks department employee, or any law enforcement official shall have the authority to eject from any public recreation area any person acting in violation of this chapter or in violation of rules and regulations enacted pursuant to this chapter.

SECTION 19. Enforcement.

In addition to any other penalty provided herein, violation of any provision of this Chapter shall constitute trespass.

ADOPTED the 1st of June, 2009