
Sec. 38-25. Recreational activities and facilities in park areas.

(a) *Priority of use.*

- (1) Persons desiring to use a park facility or area for the specific purpose for which the facility or area is designated shall have priority of use over persons using the facility or area for non-designated purposes.
- (2) Persons who possess a permit or who have previously reserved the use of a park facility or area with the Department shall have priority of use over persons who do not have a permit or who have not previously reserved use of such park facility or area.

(b) *Athletic fields, playgrounds and recreational facilities/complexes.*

- (1) The playing of games such as, but not limited to, football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, rugby, cricket, lacrosse, tennis, badminton and volleyball are limited to the areas, fields, courts or facilities that are specifically designated for such games or for such types of games by the Department.
- (2) Designated athletic fields, courts, recreational facilities or complexes may be reserved by obtaining the appropriate permit from the Department.
- (3) Field, court, playground and recreational facilities/complex lights will be turned on and off at the discretion of park officials.
- (4) Fields, courts, playgrounds, recreational facilities and/or complexes may be closed at the discretion of park officials for maintenance or in the event of inclement weather or if use of such area/facility may present a danger to the public's health, safety and/or welfare.
- (5) All persons must abide by all rules and regulations established by the Department governing the use and operation of such fields, courts, playgrounds, recreational facilities and complexes.

(c) *Bicycles and other self-propelled vehicles.*

- (1) The operation of bicycles, tricycles and other self-propelled vehicles are limited to roads, trails and other areas designated for such type of vehicles unless otherwise authorized by the Director or his/her designee. This prohibition shall not apply to personal assistive mobility devices and law enforcement personnel or park officials who use such transportation in the normal course of their duties.
- (2) No person shall ride a bicycle, tricycle or other self-propelled vehicle on any grassy area, path, or walkway designated solely for pedestrian use. This prohibition shall not apply to personal assistive mobility devices and law enforcement personnel or park officials who use such transportation in the normal course of their duties.
- (3) No person shall operate any self-propelled vehicle (other than a bicycle) at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour while in the parks or on park property.
- (4) All persons operating bicycles or any other self-propelled vehicle shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing the use and operation of such vehicles.
- (5) All persons operating bicycles, tricycles or other self-propelled vehicles must wear helmets and/or other safety gear in accordance with Florida Statutes. This provision does not apply to personal assistive mobility devices unless otherwise provided for in the Florida Statutes.
- (6) When not in use, bicycles must be placed in designated bicycle racks where available.
- (7) No person shall leave a bicycle, tricycle or other self-propelled vehicles in any place where other persons may trip over or be injured by it.

(d) *Bicycle paths and multi-use paths/trails.*

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- (1) No person shall operate a motorized vehicle, go-cart or skateboard on any bicycle path/trail or multi-use path/trail unless the path/trail is specifically designated for such use. This prohibition shall not apply to personal assistive mobility devices and law enforcement personnel or park officials who use such transportation in the normal course of their duties.
 - (2) No person shall hold any competitive event on any bicycle trail or multi-use path/trail without a permit issued for such use.
 - (3) Bicycle paths/trails and multi-use paths/trails may be closed at the discretion of park officials in the event of inclement weather or if use of such paths/trails may present a danger to the public's health, safety or welfare.
- (e) *Skating, skateboards, in-line skating and roller-blading.* Skating, skateboarding, in-line skating, roller-blading and freestyle bicycling is limited to areas specifically designated for such activities by the Department and all participants must comply with all rules and regulations established by the Department and all applicable laws governing these activities, including, but not limited to, laws related to the wearing of safety equipment.
- (f) *Motorized vehicles.*
- (1) The term "motorized vehicle(s)" as used in this section, shall have, but is not limited to, the following meaning: Any all-terrain vehicle, motorized scooter, motorized bike, motorized skateboard, go-cart, golf cart, electrical cart or any other motorized vehicle that is not licensed for use on public highways.
 - (2) No person shall operate or drive a motorized vehicle within the parks or on park property. This prohibition shall not apply to personal assistive mobility devices and law enforcement personnel or park officials who use such vehicles in the normal course of their duties.
- (g) *Remote-controlled vehicles/vessels.*
- (1) All persons using or operating remote-controlled vehicles/vessels in the parks or on park property must have a permit from the Department for the use and operation of such vehicles or vessels.
 - (2) All persons using or operating remote-controlled vehicles/vessels in the parks or on park property must use or operate such vehicle or vessel in the area or facility specifically designated for such use by the Department and/or the Director or his/her designee.
 - (3) All remote-controlled vehicles/vessels being used or operated in the parks or on park property must comply with all laws and County regulations governing their use and operation, including, but not limited to, such vehicle/vessel being equipped with the correct muffler and/or other sound deadening devices.
- (h) *Boating.* In addition to the provisions set forth in F.S. Ch. 327, the following regulations shall apply to recreational bodies of water within the parks:
- (1) No person shall bring in to, launch or operate any boat or vessel on any park property, watercourses, bays, lagoons, lakes, canals, rivers, ponds, sloughs, or any other body of water located within the parks except at such places as are or may be specifically designated by the Department for such use or purpose.
 - (2) Any person operating boats or vessels shall comply with any and all boating rules and regulations established by the Department and all other federal, state and local laws related to boating and the use of such boats or vessels.
 - (3) Boating is prohibited in all park waters and areas designated for swimming.
 - (4) All docks and ramps located within the parks must be kept clear of all equipment and gear.
 - (5) Sanitary facilities on boats/vessels which discharge overboard must not be used while the boats/vessels are in park waters.

(i) *Fishing.*

- (1) No person shall fish in park waters, either fresh or salt, by use of hook and line, seine, net, trap, spear, gig, or other device except at such places and in such areas as have been specifically designated by the Department for such use or purpose.
- (2) No person shall buy or sell fish within parks or park property.
- (3) All persons fishing within the parks or on park property must comply with all rules or regulations established by the Department.
- (4) All applicable state and local laws, including, but not limited to, laws and regulations pertaining to fishing licensing, shall be enforced within park property.
- (5) In certain parks, a permit will be required for after hours fishing.

(j) *Water-skiing.*

- (1) Water-skiing is permitted in areas designated for such purpose by the Department.
- (2) All persons engaged in water-skiing activities must take all appropriate and necessary safety precautions to ensure the safety of participants and patrons using the area and shall not water ski in such a manner as to endanger bystanders, swimmers, other skiers or occupants of other vessels.
- (3) Swimming and wading is prohibited in all park waters and areas designated for boating.

(k) *Swimming and bathing.*

- (1) No person, regardless of age, sex or manner of dress, shall swim or wade in park waters, areas or pools except in waters or areas specifically designated for swimming by the Department.
- (2) Swimming and wading is prohibited in all park waters and areas designated for boating.
- (3) All persons engaged in swimming activities shall comply with the rules and regulations established by the Department for designated swimming areas, including, but not limited to, hours of use and safety regulations governing such use.
- (4) All persons engaged in swimming activities must wear a bathing suit or appropriate clothing so as to prevent any indecent exposure of such persons.
- (5) No person shall dress or undress on any park property except in bathing houses, or other structures as may be provided and maintained by the Department for that purpose. No person shall dress or undress in any vehicle, toilet, rest room, beach, or other park area, except as provided herein.
- (6) No person shall enter or be in the water at any bathing or swimming area wearing, carrying, pushing, or towing any inflated inner tube, raft, rubber boat, or other similar floatation device, except in areas where the use of such devices is permitted.
- (7) No person shall possess, carry or transport any glassware, glass bottles, or any other potentially dangerous or sharp objects into any areas designated for swimming, bathing or wading by the Department.
- (8) No person or domestic animal shall wash or be washed with soap or other cleansers in any park waters designated for swimming, bathing or wading by the Department.
- (9) No person shall erect or cause to be erected any tent, shelter or structure on or in any beach or water area within the parks in such a manner that requires guy wire, rope, extension, brace or support connected or fastened from any such tent, shelter or structure to any other structure, stake, rock or other object.

(l) *Picnic areas and cooking.*

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- (1) Certain designated picnic shelters/areas will require a permit for use.
 - (2) No person shall picnic or cook in any park area not specifically designated for and regulated by the Department for such activities.
 - (3) Picnic areas, including individual picnic tables and associated benches, grills and/or fireplaces are available on a "first come first served" basis with the exception of certain designated areas which require a permit for use.
 - (4) If a person or group has reserved a picnic area by obtaining a permit from the Department, then such person or group must have the permit in their possession at the time the picnic area is being used by such person or group in order to verify the reservation with a park official.
 - (5) Park officials shall regulate activities in picnic areas to prevent congestion and to secure the maximum use of park facilities for all patrons. If the facilities become so crowded that there are multiple persons/groups waiting to use the facilities, then persons/groups holding picnics in such areas shall not occupy such facilities to the exclusion of others for an unreasonable time. The determination of what constitutes an unreasonable time shall be at the sole discretion of the park official on duty.
 - (6) Domestic animals and other animals are not allowed to be on top of picnic tables.
 - (7) Fires are permitted within parks, only where the park is equipped for such purpose, and only if contained within a fireplace, fire pit, or grill constructed for such purpose. Such grill and/or fireplace may either be installed by the Department, or brought to the designated park area by park patrons.
 - (8) No person shall build, light or cause to be lighted, any fire upon the ground or other object in any park area unless the park is equipped for such purpose, and only if such fire is built, lit, or caused to be lit in a Department-installed grill, fire pit, stove, fireplace or other similar container. Any person who builds, lights or causes to be lighted, any fire as provided above, shall extinguish the fire before leaving the immediate area.
 - (9) No person shall use a grill, stove, fireplace or other similar device in such a manner as to burn, char, mar, blemish or otherwise damage any bench, table or other object of park property.
- (m) *Kitchen use.* Any and all kitchens located in the parks and/or in park facilities shall only be used for warming and/or arranging food that is already prepared. Any use of the kitchens that involve cooking food or any other use other than warming and arranging already prepared food must have a permit from the Department.
- (n) *Camping.*
- (1) Certain designated park areas will require a permit for use.
 - (2) No person shall camp within any parks or on park property except in areas designated by the Department for such purpose.
 - (3) The Department may establish rules and regulations for designated camping areas within park property and all persons using such camping areas must comply with such rules and regulations.
 - (4) All persons or groups camping on park property must be under adequate supervision, and children under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult.
 - (5) Overnight camp is permitted in certain designated areas within certain parks. The only type of overnight camping permitted in the parks and on park property are as follows:
 - a. Camping in permanent cabins constructed by the Department;
 - b. Camping in privately owned trailer units; and
 - c. Camping in tents erected under Department permit.

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- (6) No person shall bring into the parks and/or use for overnight occupancy any house trailer, camp trailer, camp wagon, or any other form of movable structure or vehicle, except in areas designated for that purpose by the Department.
 - (7) All persons camping in the parks or on park property must properly dispose of litter and debris in accordance with this article, keep the camping area clean and leave the camping area in the same condition it was in prior to such person's use.
 - (o) *Golfing.* No golf activities are permitted on any park property unless they are activities or events scheduled through the Department.
 - (p) *Horses and horseback riding.*
 - (1) No person shall engage in horseback riding within any parks or park property except in areas designated for such activities by clearly marked bridle paths, trails, and other necessary features.
 - (2) All horses must be thoroughly broken, properly restrained and prevented from grazing and straying unattended.
 - (3) All horses shall be thoroughly controlled and ridden with due care and due diligence.
 - (4) All riders age 15 and under are required to wear a helmet pursuant to F.S. § 773.06 and violations will be prosecuted in accordance with that statute.
 - (5) All riders must carry proof of their horse's negative Coggins test.
 - (6) The Department may take such action and implement such policies as may be necessary and proper for the control, suppression, eradication and prevention of the spread of contagious, infectious and communicable diseases pursuant to F.S. § 585.145.
 - (7) All persons owning and/or riding a horse located on park property must comply with all rules and regulations established by the Department and all applicable federal, State and local laws governing the ownership, possession and use of such horses.
 - (q) *Paintball.* Paintball activities are prohibited in all parks and on all park property.
 - (r) *Geocaching.* Geocaching is permitted within the parks. However, such activities must not:
 - (1) Disturb other park patrons;
 - (2) Interfere with other patrons' use and enjoyment of the park;
 - (3) Damage park property and/or habitat; and
 - (4) Disturb the park's wildlife.
 - (s) *Treasure hunting.* Treasure hunting is prohibited in all parks and on all park property.
 - (t) *Aircrafts.* No person operating, directing, or responsible for any aircraft, seaplane, helicopter, glider, balloon, dirigible, parachute or other aerial apparatus shall take off from or land within the parks or park property, except in emergency law enforcement situations, medical/EMS emergency situations or when prior written permission has been obtained from the Director or his/her designee.
 - (u) *Hunting and firearms.*
 - (1) Hillsborough County recognizes the preemption of firearm regulation by the State legislature. The possession and discharge of firearms in parks and park property is regulated, and shall be enforced, pursuant to State law.
 - (2) Bows and arrows may be used at designated areas provided that such use is in compliance with rules and regulations established by the Department and all applicable federal, State and local laws.

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- (3) All persons using any archery range facilities located in the parks shall abide by all rules and regulations established by the Department and all applicable federal, State and local laws governing such range activities and the use and ownership of such weapons. The Department's rules and regulations governing range activity will be available at the applicable ranges.
 - (4) No person shall hunt, trap or pursue any animal or wildlife by any means or method except with prior written approval of the Director or his/her designee and in areas designated for such activities. Any such activities shall be in compliance with rules and regulations established by the Department and all applicable federal, State and local laws.
 - (v) *Fireworks and explosives.*
 - (1) No person shall bring into, or have in his possession, or set off or otherwise cause to explode or discharge or burn, in any park area any firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets, toy firearms, cannons, or other fireworks or explosives of or containing flammable material or any substance, compound, mixture, or article which in conjunction with any other substance or compound, may explode, discharge or burn, unless he/she first obtains a permit from the Department.
 - (2) All persons who receive a permit to use and/or discharge fireworks or explosives must comply with all rules and regulations established by the Department and all applicable Federal, State and local laws governing the ownership, possession and/or use of such fireworks or explosives.
 - (3) Parents and/or guardians shall be held responsible and accountable for the actions of minors in regards to the prohibitions set forth in this section as provided by law.

(Ord. No. 08-17, § 8, 8-8-2008; Ord. No. 10-18, §§ 2—4, 9-24-2010; Ord. No. 11-15, § 1, 10-7-2011; Ord. No. 14-10, §§ 1—3, 3-7-2014; Ord. No. 14-11, § 13, 4-3-2014)