



AGENCY RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Overview

Dorchester County herewith promulgates and publishes the following rules and regulations for the use, protection, regulation and control of all of its parks, facilities and services. Amendments may be made to these rules and regulations from time to time by Resolution of County Council.

WHEREAS, the public need and demand for the use of park and recreation facilities owned and operated by the Dorchester County has dramatically increased; and

WHEREAS, Dorchester County desires to provide for efficient operation and control of its park and recreation facilities while providing a recreation environment which is free from unreasonable hazard or danger; and

WHEREAS, Dorchester County finds that it is essential to implement uniform policies and procedures for the administration of its facilities; and

WHEREAS, Dorchester County finds it necessary and useful to designate certain areas for specific activities and to prohibit certain conduct and activities within certain areas;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Section 1 – POLICY

It is the general purpose and intent of this Resolution to establish uniform procedures for the administration of park and recreation facilities in Dorchester County; to establish a system of regulations and rules governing the activities within the parks and recreation facilities; to declare certain activities as being violations of the regulations; to allow expulsion from a park or recreation facility for violation of a rule and to provide a procedure for establishing permits for activities within designated areas; and to set methods for the administration of parks and recreation facilities.

Section 2 – DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Resolution the following definitions shall apply in the interpretation, execution and enforcement of this Resolution. When not inconsistent with the context, words in the plural include the singular, words in the present tense include the future, words in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory, not merely directory.

AGENCY

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES means any beer, wine, fortified wine, liquor or alcoholic beverage.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES means all drugs defined in S. C. Code as “Illegal Controlled Substances or any schedule thereof”.

CLOSING HOURS means that period which a park or recreation facility is closed to the general public.

COUNTY means the County of Dorchester, State of South Carolina.

DESIGNATED AREA means any area within a park which has been designated by the Director of Parks and Recreation wherein a specific activity or activities within a park or recreation area has been permitted or prohibited.

DIRECTOR means the Director of the Dorchester County Parks and Recreation Department.

FIREWORKS means any combustible or explosive composition or substance or combination of substances, or except as hereinafter provided, any article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation.

GUN means any instrument capable of firing a projectile or bullet or shot at a high velocity, including but not limited to, any firearm, air gun, “BB Gun”, pellet gun, sling or slingshot. Included are bow and arrows.

PARK means a park, playground, recreation center, boater access, natural area or other land area owned, leased, or used by the Dorchester County Park and Recreation Department and devoted to active or passive recreation.

PARK MANAGER means the person who has the responsibility for the management of a park or recreation facilities.

PASS means an authorization to enter a county park.

PERMIT means a written document issued by the Director or his/her duly appointed designee granting permission for a specific activity.

PERSON means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, entity, or organization of any kind.

RECREATION FACILITY means a facility for recreation purposes on property owned, leased, or operated by Dorchester County.

REGULATION means a regulation approved by County Council which governs the use of park and recreation facilities, the violation of which may subject the offender to ejection or expulsion from park or recreation facilities

RULE means a rule approved by County Council which governs the use of park or recreation facilities, the violation of which may subject the offender to ejection or expulsion from park or recreation facilities.

VEHICLE means any wheeled conveyance, whether motor powered or animal driven, including but not limited to golf carts, motorbikes, mopeds, and motorcycles; except self-powered bicycles, wheel chairs and similar vehicles, baby carriages, and vehicles in the service of the County.

Section 3 – REGULATIONS AND RULES

County Council, by Resolution, shall adopt Rules and Regulations governing the use of parks and recreation facilities owned, leased or operated by Dorchester County, which include but are not limited to the use of supplies and equipment, the charge and payment of fees, the hours of operation, the use and parking of vehicles, the conduct and overall safety of persons within the park and general use of parks and recreation facilities for each such park and recreation facility as may be necessary.

Any person violating a Rule or Regulation may be expelled or ejected from any park or recreation facility, as determined by the Park Manager or his/her designated representative. At the discretion of the Director, Park Manager, or his/her designated representatives an individual may be denied entrance privileges.

Section 4 – PARK RULES

The County hereby adopts rules for parks and recreation facilities as follows.

Reservations

Any group or organization seeking the use of any park or recreation facility shall normally be required to be reserved in advance following the operational procedure applicable for the desired facility.

Organized Activities

No person shall play or participate in any league organized or sponsored activity including but not limited to football, baseball, basketball, soccer, or any such game, in any park or recreation facility except in areas designated by the Director for such use.

Temporary Closure, Change in Operating Hours

The Director or his/her authorized representative may order temporary closure or change in operating hours of facilities and exclude the public from any park areas, buildings, facilities, or program events. Such closure or change in operating hours may be required as the result of renovation and/or construction projects, public interest, public health, public safety, weather emergency, or other operational situation, and shall not be considered a permanent change in the operating hours.

Right of Entry

County staff shall have the right at all times to enter the premises of any building, structure or enclosure of any park or recreation facility including such grounds, buildings, structures or enclosures as may be permitted, set aside for the private or exclusive use of any individual or group.

Commercial Activity

Generally, commercial activity involving the sale of goods or services for profit is not permitted in parks and recreation facilities. Such commercial activity is allowed, however, in conjunction with activities conducted by not-for-profit organizations or activities sponsored by the County with any permit which may be applicable.

Smoking

Smoking and/or vaping is prohibited in designated areas.

Fees

County staff is authorized to permit the use of County property and charge a fee for the use thereof to individuals, private or public organizations. County Council will approve fee schedules through the annual budget process and also designate the authority to approve some minor fees to the County Administrator.

Section 5 – REGULATIONS

County Council hereby adopts Regulations for park and recreation facilities as follows:

Aircraft, Parachuting, & Drones

No person shall ascend or land any aircraft, glider, drone, or parachute over or into any park or recreation facility unless such activity is being conducted by a governmental entity for a public, not for profit purpose. As far as practicable, such activity shall be coordinated with the Director.

Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances

Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed in any area where such consumption is prohibited. Service of alcohol to others requires a permit. No illegal controlled substance may be possessed in any park or recreation area.

Building and Other Property

No person in any park or recreation facility shall willfully mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with, misplace or remove any building, bridge, table, bench, fireplace, railings, paving or paving materials, water lines, or other public facilities or parts appurtenances thereto, signs, notices, or place-cards, whether temporary or permanent monuments, stakes, posts or other structures or equipment or any part of any aforesaid facilities, park property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal, in any park or recreation facility.

Fire

No person, in any park or recreation facility shall ignite, set or maintain any fire for cooking or any other purpose in areas where prohibited. Any ashes from fires must be safely and properly disposed of.

Guns

No person in any park or recreation area shall carry, fire, or discharge any unlawfully possessed gun. No person shall fire or discharge any lawfully possessed gun.

Fireworks

No person shall possess or discharge any fireworks, rockets, sparklers, or anything of a similar nature as defined by South Carolina law unless such activity is being conducted or sponsored by a governmental entity for a public, not for profit purpose. As far as practicable, such activity shall be coordinated with the Director.

Fishing

No person shall fish in any park or recreation area where such is prohibited. Staff may regulate size and creel limits.

Hunting

No person in any park or recreation area shall hunt, catch, harm, kill, trap, chase, tease, shoot, or throw objects at any animal, reptile, or bird, save and except fishing may be allowed. No person in any park or recreation area shall remove or have in his possession the young of any wild animal or eggs or nest of young of any reptile or bird.

Interference with Personnel

Any person who interferes with, hinders, or opposes any officer, agent or employee of the County in the discharge of his/her duties or with the enforcement of the park regulations and rules shall be subject to removal from park and recreation facilities.

Literature

No person in any park or recreation area shall distribute any handbill, circular, booklet, leaflet, flyer, card, pamphlet, written or printed matter unless conducted by a governmental entity for a public purpose, not for profit.

Meeting

No person shall conduct or participate in any public meeting, assemblies, entertainment, tournaments, religious gatherings, demonstrations, parades, processions, or meetings on any subject, religious, social, political, or otherwise in any park or recreation area unless a permit has been issued for such meetings, assemblies, entertainment, tournaments, religious gatherings, demonstrations, parades, processions or meetings.

Pollution

No person in any park or recreation area shall throw or place or cause to be thrown or placed, any dirt, filth, or foreign matter into the waters of any lake, pond, pool, river, tank or reservoir in any park or recreation facility.

Noise

No person shall use any loudspeaker, public address system or other amplifying equipment nor shall any person play any loud musical instrument in any park or recreation area after 10:00pm and the use of amplified noise in contravention of this policy is strictly prohibited. In no event shall the use of any loudspeaker, public address system or other amplifying equipment occur after 10pm. Further, unreasonably loud noise is prohibited pursuant to the code of ordinances, Dorchester County 28-2.

Disorderly Conduct

Any person(s) who shall engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, wanton, obscene or otherwise disorderly conduct tending to create a breach of the peace or to disturb or annoy others, , shall be subject to immediate removal from the use of park and recreation facilities.

Removal of Natural Resources

No person in any park or recreation facility shall remove any rock, stone, plant, wood, artifact, or other materials or make any excavation by tools, equipment, blasting or other means or agency.

Rubbish

No person in any park or recreation facility shall throw, place, cast, deposit, dump or cause to be thrown, any ashes, refuse, offal, vegetables, garbage, dross, cinders, shells, straw,

shavings, paper, scrap, dirt or like matter, filth or rubbish of any kind in any park, playground, roads, ground, recreation area, except to place the same in cans or receptacles provided for such purpose.

Signs

No person shall post or affix to any tree, shrub, plant, fence, building, structure, monument, wall, table, apparatus, bridge, post, bench, gate or any other physical object, any sign, poster, or other printed or written matter in any park or recreation area.

Sleeping, Camping, Lodging

No person shall sleep, camp, lodge, or park a vehicle overnight in any park or recreation area except in such areas as designated by the Director for such purposes, and then only with a permit.

Traffic

- A. No person shall operate, drive, or park motor vehicles except upon roads, driveways, and parking areas. No person shall cause any vehicle for hire to stand upon any part of a park or recreation area for the purpose of soliciting passengers.
- B. No person shall leave any vehicle standing or parked except in areas designated for such purposes. No vehicles shall be parked overnight.
- C. No person shall drive a vehicle at a rate of speed exceeding five (5) miles per hour in any County park unless the roadway has a sign posting a greater speed limit. No person shall disobey traffic signs.
- D. No person shall enter or exit from any park or recreation facility in any vehicle except on entrances and exits established for such purpose.
- E. Any vehicle parked or standing in violation of existing parking rules may be towed and/or impounded at the owner's/operator's expense.
- F. When a motor vehicle is found parked in a County park or recreation area, the registration plate displayed on the vehicle shall constitute prima facie evidence that the owner of the vehicle was the person who parked it on the location where found.

Trees and Vegetation

No person in any park, or recreation area shall remove, damage, cut, carve, or transplant,

any tree, shrubbery, lawn, plant or injure the bark thereof or pick flowers. No person shall attach any rope, wire, or other contrivance to any tree or plant in any park or recreation facility.

Trespass

No person shall enter or remain on park or recreation facilities without pass or permit as applicable during closing hours, if the closing hours are posted at the entrance of the park or recreation facility. No person shall enter or remain on park or recreation facilities without a permit or pass after such person receives notice of the closing hours from a County employee.

Violation of Rules and Regulations

No person who has violated a Rule and/or Regulation shall remain in a park or recreation facility after a designated employee or law enforcement officer requests such person to leave or vacate a park or recreation facility.

Water Activity

No person shall swim, dive, use boats, or other watercraft in any park or recreation area where prohibited.

Section 6 – PARK ENTRANCE FEES

No one shall enter a park or recreation facility without first obtaining an entrance pass or paying the proper fee, where required.

Section 7 – PERMITS

The Director or his/her designee may issue a Special Event Permit or a Private Event Permit as applicable when it has been established that:

1. The proposed activity will occur within an area which is proper for that activity to occur;
2. The proposed activity or use will not unreasonably interfere or detract from the general public enjoyment of the park or recreation area;
3. There are adequate facilities, equipment, and personnel in the proposed areas so that the proposed activity will not impair the health, safety, welfare, or recreation of the general

public;

4. That the desired facility, equipment, or program has not been reserved for other use at the time requested; and,
5. When the applicant has completed the applicable permit and had deposited the appropriate fee.

In the event any applicant is refused a permit, the Director shall notify the applicant within a reasonable time period of the reason for refusing such permit.

The Director or his/her duly authorized representative shall have the authority to revoke a permit upon finding a violation of any rule or regulation.

Section 8 – ANIMALS

It shall be unlawful to have animals in the areas of County parks where animals are expressly prohibited. The term “animals” includes but is not limited to dogs, cats, primates, snakes, rodents, members of the ferret and weasel family, swine, and any other animal kept in domestication. All snakes, ferrets and rodents must be kept in proper cages at all times. All other animals allowed in parks shall be attended and on a leash not more than six (6) feet long except for dogs in an officially designated “off-leash” area. This section does not apply to service dogs, seeing-eye dogs or guide dogs for the visually impaired. This restriction shall not apply to County employees/volunteers/contractors conducting educational programs or dogs in officially designated “off-leash” areas. Dogs in off-leash areas shall be attended by the owner and are subject to operational rules established by the Department for the designated area. All dogs using off-leash areas must be current on all standard vaccinations and owner must be able to provide proof of current rabies vaccination upon request. Animal excrements shall be properly disposed of by its owner or agent. Any animal found not in the possession or immediate control of its owner or the owner’s agent, or any animal creating a disturbance or nuisance, may be removed from the park.

Section 9 – PARK ADMINISTRATION

Park Personnel

The Director and/or the Park Manager shall appoint park personnel who shall be responsible for the enforcement of park rules and regulations and shall have the power to eject and expel any person from a park or recreation facility for violation of any park rule or regulation and report the violation of any federal, state, or local law to the proper law enforcement officers.

Section 10 – SEVERABILITY

In the event any section, paragraph or phrase of this Policy is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such section, paragraph, or phrase shall be deemed a separate provision and shall not affect the validity of other parts.