

CHAPTER 95

PARKS AND RECREATION

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Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission

95.010 Definitions. As used in sections 95.010 to 95.100, inclusive:

1. "Director" means the director of the county parks and recreation department or his designee.
2. "Facilities" means any recreational or park property under the jurisdiction and control of the board of county commissioners.
3. "Commission" or "park commission" means the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission.
4. "Commissioner" or "park commissioner" means a member of the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission.
['2, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. Nos. 713, 1203]

95.020 Park commission: Creation; name. Pursuant to the power granted the board of county commissioners by NRS 244.308 to 244.3091, inclusive, there is hereby created a county park commission to be known as the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission.
['1, Ord. No. 116] + ['3, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. No. 1203]

95.030 Park commission: Number and selection of members. The park commission shall be composed of nine members, all of whom shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners from residents of the county at large with reference to their fitness for office.
[Part '7, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. No. 327]

95.040 Terms of office; vacancies; compensation and expenses of park commissioners.

1. All commissioners shall be appointed for terms of 4 years.
2. The terms shall be staggered in such manner as to provide that no more than three vacancies will occur in any year.
3. Commissioners shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified.
4. Any vacancy in the office of commissioner shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.
5. Commissioners shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to the same travel expenses and subsistence allowances as county officers.
[Part '7, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. Nos. 327, 713]

95.050 Oaths of office of park commissioners; no bond required. Within 10 days after their appointment, park commissioners shall qualify by taking the oath of office. No bond shall be required of them.
[Part '8, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. Nos. 248, 283]

95.060 Officers; term.

1. The commissioners shall elect a chairperson, vice chairperson, and such other officers as are necessary from among their members during the first regularly scheduled meeting of the commission in January, and annually thereafter at the first regularly scheduled meeting in January.

2. The term of office shall be 1 year.

3. The director shall act as ex-officio secretary of the commission.

[Part '8, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. Nos. 248, 283, 713]

95.070 Meetings; records; quorum.

1. The commission shall hold at least nine meetings each year and shall keep a complete record of all its transactions. A commissioner's absence from a meeting of the commission may be authorized in advance by the chairman. Three consecutive unauthorized absences from meetings of the commission by any commissioner shall automatically result in a vacancy in the office of that commissioner.

2. Five commissioners constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

3. Any resolution or motion may be adopted or other action ordered taken by a majority of the commissioners forming a quorum.

[Part '8, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. Nos. 248, 283, 713]

95.080 Powers of the commission. The powers of the park commission are:

1. To act in advisory capacity to the board of county commissioners in promoting, aiding and encouraging public recreation including the development of recreation and park facilities.

2. To act in an advisory capacity to the director in maintenance, development and operation of all county-owned or operated recreation areas and facilities and to develop rules and regulations governing the use of those facilities.

3. To establish general procedures to carry out the purpose of the commission and recommend rules and regulations to the board of county commissioners as it may deem necessary to facilitate the carrying on of a recreation and park system.

4. To study and make recommendations on the department's operating procedures and policies, fiscal policies and plans, and acquisition and development plans and policies.

5. To interpret the recreation program to public officials and to the general public in order that the recreation and park program may receive adequate support from public and private sources.

6. To consult with the director on methods of financing a county-wide parks and recreation program, and make recommendations thereon.

7. To make recommendations to the board of county commissioners on deviations from, alterations to, or additions to the master plan for parks and recreation.

8. To make recommendations to the board of county commissioners on a schedule of priorities for acquisition and development of park property in accordance with the master plan.

9. To recommend to the board of county commissioners a time schedule for acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities.

10. To review and recommend annual budgets to the board of county commissioners.

11. To recommend to the board of county commissioners, rates, tolls and charges for services and the use or availability of facilities.

12. To recommend to the board of county commissioners the purchase, lease or exchange of lands for recreation or park purposes.

13. To review and recommend contemplated contracts to the board of county commissioners for the operation, construction and development of park and recreation facilities.

14. To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be delegated by the board of county commissioners.

['4, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. No. 713]

95.081 Citizens' committee. The commission shall have the authority to appoint citizens' committees to assist the commission in making recommendations to the board of county commissioners concerning the matters set forth in section 95.080 of this code. Membership in citizens' committees shall be subject to the approval of the director. A commissioner shall be delegated to attend meetings of the citizens' committee. The citizens' committee shall report its recommendations directly to the commission.

['2, Ord. No. 713]

95.085 Duties of director. The director shall attend meetings of the commission and shall make such reports to the commission, to the county manager, or to the board of county commissioners as shall be required of him. All recommendations of the commission made to the board of county commissioners shall first be submitted to the director and his approval or disapproval shall be a part of or accompany any such recommendation.

['3, Ord. No. 713]

95.090 Responsibility for facilities. The jurisdiction of the commission includes, in addition to those enumerated, responsibility for study, analysis and recommendations for all existing and all future facilities when requested by the board of county

commissioners.

['5, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. No. 713]

95.100 Financial support. It shall be the policy of the county, to the extent allowed by law, to credit moneys received from or generated by park facilities for the use and benefit of those facilities.

['6, Ord. No. 116; A Ord. No. 713]

Department of Regional Parks and Open Space

95.105 Department of regional parks and open space: Creation; director of department of regional parks and open space; position created; appointments; term; staff.

1. There is hereby created, pursuant to the provisions of NRS 244.195, the Washoe County department of regional parks and open space.

2. The position of director of the department of regional parks and open space is hereby created. The director shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners upon the recommendation of the county manager and serves at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners.

3. The director shall appoint, pursuant to any applicable provisions of law regulating county personnel, such technical, clerical and operating staff as the execution of the duties of the director and operation of the department may require.

['6, Ord. No. 650; A Ord. No. 1251]

95.107 Powers and duties of department.

1. The department shall administer, protect and develop the county park system for the use and enjoyment of the public.

2. The department may establish rules and regulations not inconsistent with law for the government and administration of the county park system.

['7, Ord. No. 650]

Use of County Park System Facilities

95.110 Definitions. As used in sections 95.110 to 95.500, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Camping" means to erect a tent or shelter or use any motor vehicle for the purpose of, or in such a way as will result in, overnight occupancy thereof in any county park.

2. "County park" includes any area designated by the board of county commissioners as a public park, playground or recreational

facility.

3. "Department" means the department of regional parks and open space.

4. "Director" means the director of the department or his designated representative.

5. "Facility" means any part of a county park.

['1, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713, 1251]

95.130 Fires: Designated areas; regulation.

1. No person may build, light, use or maintain a fire within any county park except in a camp stove, pit or fireplace provided, maintained or designated for such purposes or in portable camp stoves and lanterns.

2. No person may leave a county park before extinguishing any fire which he has built, lighted or maintained in such a park, nor may any person leave a fire unattended within any county park. Children under the age of 10 years are not qualified to tend a fire.

3. Upon existence of extreme fire danger, the director may prohibit smoking or fires in designated areas within any county park or may close such areas to the public.

['3, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.140 Leash law; animal control.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may:

(a) Bring an animal into, permit an animal to enter or remain in, or possess an animal in any county park unless the animal is on a leash of no more than 6 feet in length and under the immediate control of that person or is confined in a vehicle.

(b) Bring a dog into, permit a dog to enter or remain in, or possess a dog on any beach adjacent to any body of water within any county park except in areas designated for dogs. Animals are prohibited in the water in any bathing or swimming area.

(c) Keep any noisy, vicious or dangerous animal, or one which is disturbing to other persons, in any county park, or remain therein with the animal after he has been asked to remove the animal by a park ranger or other county parks department officer or employee.

(d) Lead or possess any animal, with or without a leash, while he is attending a conducted tour of an historic area or grounds within any county park.

2. The director may, upon proper posting, prohibit animals in certain areas of county parks which are extensively used by the public.

3. The provisions of this section do not apply to any visually handicapped person who uses a guide dog specially trained by a guide dog school to assist him as an aid to his mobility.

['4, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.150 Horseback riding: Designated areas. No person may ride, lead or keep a saddle horse or other animal in any county park, except on roads, beaches, trails or areas designated and posted for such purposes. ['5, Ord. No. 229]

95.160 Animal molesting or harming. No person may molest, hunt, disturb, injure, trap, take, net, poison, harm or kill any kind of animal or fish, or attempt to do so, except that fish may be taken other than for commercial purposes in accordance with state fishing laws and regulations. ['6, Ord. No. 229]

95.170 Plant molesting or harming. No person may willfully or negligently pick, dig up, cut, mutilate, destroy, injure, disturb, move, molest, burn or carry away any tree, plant or portion thereof, including foliage, flowers, berries, fruit, grass, turf, humus, shrubs, cones and dead wood, except in specific portions of county parks and upon authorization by the director. ['7, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.180 Excavation or disturbing features of historic site. No person may knowingly and willfully excavate upon, or remove, destroy, injure or deface, any historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, archeological or paleontological site, or inscriptions on such sites, in or on any county park. ['8, Ord. No. 229]

95.190 Landing of aircraft. Except in emergency situations, no person may land any aircraft on or take off in any aircraft from any area in any county park not specifically designated for such purposes without a written permit from the director. ['9, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.200 Property defacement. No person may:

1. Disturb, destroy, remove, deface or injure any property in any county park.
2. Cut, carve, paint, mark, paste or fasten on any tree, fence, wall, building, monument or other property in any county park any bill, advertisement or inscription without a written permit from the director.

['10, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.210 Depositing rubbish; littering. No person may:

1. Leave, deposit, drop or scatter bottles, broken glass, ashes, wastepaper, cans or other rubbish in any county park, except in a receptacle designated for that purpose.
2. Import any rubbish, or import and deposit any rubbish, into

or in any county park from other places.

['11, Ord. No. 229]

95.220 Firearms, archery devices: Possession or discharge in county parks.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may possess or discharge any weapon from which a projectile may be propelled by means of explosive, spring, gas, air or other force in any county park.

2. The provisions of this section relating to possession or discharge of firearms do not apply if the firearm or archery device is possessed or discharged:

(a) At a designated shooting or archery facility owned and operated by the county; and

(b) Under the supervision and control of the range master at the facility.

3. Each range master may, upon approval of the director, adopt reasonable rules governing the possession and discharge of firearms and archery devices at the facility of which he is in charge, and all persons using the facility shall adhere strictly to those rules.

['12, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.230 Firecrackers prohibited. No person may possess, discharge, set off or cause to be discharged in or into any portion of a county park any firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets, fireworks, explosives or other substance harmful to the life or safety of any person, without a written permit from the director.

['13, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.240 Park closing hours.

1. The director may establish closing hours for county parks. Park closing time shall be posted in a conspicuous place at each county park.

2. No person, except county employees or peace officers on official business, may enter or be present in any county park after closing hours or in areas designated as closed.

['14, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.250 Disturbing the peace, trespassing.

1. Except when authorized by the director to do so, no person may:

(a) Operate any electrically-powered or gasoline-powered device in any county park in such a manner as to disturb the peace in the park at any time.

(b) Conduct himself in such a manner as to disturb the peace in any county park at any time.

2. A person violating any provision of this section shall be ordered to immediately cease the violation. Failure to comply with

the order constitutes a violation of sections 95.110 to 95.500, inclusive, and constitutes grounds for the imposition of the penalty specified in section 95.500.

3. The director or his designee may order any person violating any provision of this code, or any applicable city ordinance or state or federal law to immediately leave the facility. Refusal or intentional failure to comply with such order shall constitute trespassing.

['15, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.255 Radios, tape players; noise levels. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code and in addition thereto, it is unlawful for any person to permit or cause any noise, sound, music or program to be emitted from any radio, tape player, tape recorder, record player or television set or similar device outdoors on or in any park when such noise, sound, music or program emitted therefrom is audible to a person of normal hearing sensitivity within a distance of 100 feet. As used in this section, "a person of normal hearing sensitivity" means a person who has a hearing threshold level of between 0 decibels and 25 decibels HL averaged over the frequencies 500, 1,000 and 2,000 Hertz.

['4, Ord. No. 713]

95.260 Abusive language; disturbances. No person may:

1. Use threatening, abusive, boisterous, insulting or indecent language or make indecent gestures in any county park.

2. Conduct or participate in a disorderly assemblage.

['16, Ord. No. 229]

95.270 Nudity and disrobing. No person may publicly appear nude or disrobe while in any county park, except in authorized areas of buildings set aside for that purpose.

['17, Ord. No. 229]

95.275 Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any can, bottle or other receptacle containing any alcoholic beverage which has been opened or the seal broken in any area of a county park facility which has been posted as a nonalcoholic area.

2. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or use any controlled substance prohibited by NRS chapter 453 in any county park facility.

['5, Ord. No. 713]

95.280 Smoking prohibited in designated areas. No person may smoke in posted areas of any county park where smoking is prohibited.
['18, Ord. No. 229]

95.290 Sewage dumping; sanitation.

1. No waste, water, sewage or effluent from sinks, portable toilets or other plumbing fixtures may be deposited directly upon or into the surface of the ground or water in any county park.

2. To maintain the sanitation and orderly appearance and for the protection of the natural resources of a county park, the director may specify the size, type and arrangement of camping equipment and the number of persons permitted in a park under his control.

['19, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.300 Games and playing in certain areas. No person may play ball games, horseshoes, or participate in other similar activities in picnic areas, campgrounds, beaches or turf areas, except in areas designated for such games and at specified times.

['20, Ord. No. 229]

95.310 Curfew limitations.

1. The director may set a curfew for persons under 18 years of age in any county park, upon finding that conditions therein are such as to warrant special measures for the protection of juveniles and others, and for the safety and welfare of the general public.

2. When a curfew has been set, no person under 18 years of age may, during the curfew period, remain or be in the park unless he is:

- (a) Accompanied by his parent or guardian;
- (b) Part of a group permitted to occupy a county park and is supervised by at least one responsible adult per 15 juveniles; or
- (c) Camping after having furnished written consent of his parent or guardian, with the inclusive dates for which permission is granted to camp at the park involved, including the name, address and telephone number of his parent or guardian.

['21, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.320 Vehicle operators.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may operate any motor vehicle in any county park unless he complies with the general requirements of chapter 483 of NRS relating to licensing of persons who operate motor vehicles.

2. The director may permit operation of certain vehicles in county parks by persons who do not meet the requirements contained in subsection 1. The nature and extent of permitted operation of such vehicles by unlicensed operators shall be posted in a conspicuous

place at each affected park.

['22, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.330 Registered vehicles required.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may operate any motor vehicle in any county park unless the vehicle is registered in compliance with chapter 482 of NRS relating to registration of motor vehicles.

2. The director may permit operation of unregistered motor vehicles in county parks when he deems it to be in the public interest to do so. The nature and extent of permitted operation of such vehicles shall be posted in a conspicuous place at each affected park.

['23, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.340 Speed limit. No person may:

1. Drive a vehicle, motorcycle or motor bike within any county park at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent, having due regard for the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the road.

2. Drive a vehicle in a county park at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour, except where otherwise posted.

['24, Ord. No. 229]

95.350 Roads; parking. No person may drive, tow, ride or park:

1. Any automobile, truck, trailer, bicycle, motor bike or other vehicle in a county park, except on roads and parking areas provided for such purposes.

2. Any type of motor vehicle on any walk, path, trail, bike path, service road or other area under the control of the department, except where such areas have been officially designated for use by motor vehicles.

['25, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 572]

95.360 Bicycles and other operator-propelled vehicles. No person may operate or ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or other operator-propelled vehicle or device in any county park when the director has determined that conditions are unsafe for the operation of the vehicle or device and has issued an order prohibiting such activity.

['26, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.365 Unauthorized use of bicycle trails. It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(a) Operate any motorized vehicle, including, without limitation, motorcycles, trail bikes, or motorized bicycles upon any bicycle trail except as necessary to cross a street, driveway or access road intersection without authorization from the director;

(b) Hold any competitive event on any bicycle trail without

authorization from the director or ride a bicycle on a designated off-street bicycle trail in excess of 15 miles per hour, except during authorized competitive events, or in a manner which is unsafe or which may be injurious to the rider or other persons.

['6, Ord. No. 713]

95.370 Payment for use of facilities.

1. No person shall use, occupy or be within the boundaries of any facility for which a fee has been established by the board of county commissioners or the county manager without having first paid the required fee.

2. The fees may be collected by a park ranger, park staff or other authorized personnel in the manner prescribed pursuant to the provisions of section 95.380 of this code.

['27, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 512, 713, 1161]

95.380 Fees; method of establishment and collection.

1. The director shall submit to the board of county commissioners a schedule which defines categories and time limits of use facilities within the county park system and which sets forth proposed fees for each category of use. The categories, time limits and fees shall become effective upon entry of an order of the board of county commissioners.

2. For marketing or promotional purposes only, the county manager or designee shall have discretion to reduce fees, provide for group rates and membership packages for use of the county facility and to establish new fees for short term programs or exhibits that may occur within the department.

3. The director may provide to the board of county commissioners a schedule of proposed fees for the sale or rental of personal property intended for use within a facility of the county park system. The fees shall become effective upon entry of an order of the board of county commissioners.

4. The director shall also submit a proposed method of collection of fees, which method will minimize collection costs and maximize revenues.

['28, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 315, 512, 713, 1161]

95.390 Camping: Designated areas; limitations. For purposes of sections 95.390 to 95.420, camping shall mean setting up or leaving equipment designed or intended for use for sleeping or cooking for any period in excess of 8 daytime or 3 nighttime hours.

1. No person may camp in any county park except in areas designated and marked for that purpose.

2. No person under the age of 18 years may camp in any county park unless he is:

(a) Accompanied by his parent or guardian;

(b) Part of a group permitted to occupy a county park and is supervised by at least one responsible adult per 15 juveniles; or
(c) Camping after having furnished to an authorized department employee written consent of his parent or guardian, with the inclusive dates for which permission is granted to camp at the park involved, including the name, address and telephone number of his parent or guardian.

['29, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.400 Number of persons occupying campsites. Except by express authorization of the director or authorized department employee:

1. The number of persons occupying a campsite shall not exceed 10.

2. The number of vehicles occupying a campsite shall not exceed 1.

['30, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.410 Time limits on camping. In order to afford the general public the greatest possible use of all county parks, no person may continually camp in any county park for more than 7 days within any 30-day period, unless written permission has been granted by the director.

['31, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 393, 437]

95.420 Occupancy right of campsites.

1. A campsite is considered occupied when it is being used or has been reserved for camping purposes by any person who has paid the daily use fee within the applicable time limits.

2. No person may take possession or maintain possession of a campsite when he has been informed by an authorized department employee that the site has been reserved or when a person authorized to occupy the campsite has shown evidence of his right to occupy the campsite.

['32, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.440 Food and beverages at historical units. No person who is a visitor may possess, carry or consume food or beverages or smoke while attending a conducted tour of any historic exhibit or area.

['34, Ord. No. 229]

95.460 Special events.

1. Special events are activities which are not normally conducted in units of the county park system. They generally are supervised activities involving a great number of participants or spectators.

2. The director may approve and issue a permit for any special event when it is found to be in the best interest of the residents

of the county and is conducted by a sponsoring agency approved by him.

['36, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.470 Concession operation. No person may operate any concession or vending machine, engage in the business of soliciting, selling or peddling any food or drink, distribute circulars, peddle or vend any goods, wares, merchandise or services, or set up or use a public-address system in any county park without specific written authority from the director.

['37, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.480 Filming with professional cast. No person may participate in motion picture filming or photography involving the performance of a professional cast in any county park without written permission from the director.

['38, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. No. 437]

95.490 Posting of signs and notices: Compliance required; prohibition against posting. No person may be or remain in any county park unless he complies with all officially posted signs and notices, nor may any person disturb, alter, create or erect signs or markers of any type without a written permit from the director.

['39, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

95.500 Compliance with code, rules and regulations; penalty. Any person who:

1. Enters or remains at any county park in violation of any provision contained in sections 95.110 to 95.500, inclusive, or in violation of any permit issued or rule adopted by the director; or
2. Enters or remains at any shooting facility in violation of any rule adopted by the director or the facility's range master, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 125.050.

['40, Ord. No. 229; A Ord. Nos. 437, 713]

Names of Washoe County Parks and Recreation Facilities

95.510 Pioneer Park. Galena Creek Park on the slopes of Mount Rose is renamed the Pioneer Park in memory of those early pioneers who settled that region of Washoe County in the early days.

[County commissioners' minutes, Book O, p. 319, October 29, 1939]

95.520 Crystal Peak Park. The county park in Verdi, Nevada, acquired from the department of highways of the State of Nevada in

1961 is named the Crystal Peak Park.

[County commissioners' minutes, Book V, p. 328, November 6, 1961]

95.530 Clarence K. Bath Memorial Arena. The horsemen's arena at Hidden Valley is named the Clarence K. Bath Memorial Arena.

[68-118]

95.540 Martin Luther King Memorial Park. The county park in Black Springs is named the Martin Luther King Memorial Park.

[70-835] + [70-884]

95.550 Audrey Harris Park. The Windy Hill Park on Lakeside Drive is renamed the Audrey Harris Park.

[76-527] + [76-693]

95.560 Sierra Sage Golf Course. The Stead Golf Course is renamed the Sierra Sage Golf Course.

[74-75]

95.570 Nevada State Fairgrounds. The name of the Washoe County Fairgrounds is changed to the Nevada State Fairgrounds in order to support the efforts of the board of directors of the Nevada State Fair.

[79-893]