

**AN ORDINANCE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, NC
TO REGULATE
RECREATION PARKS & FACILITIES**

A. Title: This Ordinance shall be known as the “Parks and Recreation Ordinance” of Washington County, NC and is sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “Ordinance”.

B. Purpose and Intent:

- i.* This Ordinance is intended to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public and to implement the County’s conduct regulations for the orderly and controlled use of the County’s parks and recreation properties and facilities.
- ii.* The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate, restrict, and monitor the public’s safety and general well-being pursuant to § 160A-353 while using the parks and recreation facilities.

C. Definitions: The following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

- i. County.* Washington County, NC
- ii. Director.* The Recreation Director employed by Washington County or other individual designated in writing by the County Manager to serve in such capacity for purposes of this ordinance. This person is immediately in charge of any park area or recreation facility and oversees all park attendants of the area.
- iii. Park.* A park, reservation, playground, beach, recreation center or any other area in the county, owned or used by the county and devoted to active or passive recreation of any kind.
- iv. Person.* Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
- v. Vehicle.* Any wheeled conveyance, whether motor powered, animal drawn or self-propelled. The term shall include any trailer in tow of any size, kind or description. Exception is made for baby carriages and vehicles in the service of the county parks.

D. Regulation of Parks and Recreational Facilities: It shall be unlawful on Washington County Parks and Recreation Facilities for any person to:

- i. Use or trespass on recreation facilities when closed to the public
- ii. Erect advertising or signs of any type
- iii. Possess or discharge, shoot, fire, or explode any firearm, ordinance, deadly weapon, also including but not limited to; throwing or propelling any dangerous projectiles, and the use of fireworks without a permit or the hitting of golf balls
- iv. Permit dogs, horses, or other animals to run at large or ride horses within county recreation facilities, except by permit. (Exclusive of working animals)
- v. Permit a vehicle to be left unattended for more than 12 hours or overnight, except by permit.
- vi. Use or operate bicycles, roller skates, roller blades, skateboards, and scooters except in areas so designated and only with a helmet.
- vii. Possess, consume, and display any alcoholic beverage or any substance included in NC Controlled Substance Act without a proper prescription.
- viii. Litter or dispose of household or business garbage in recreation facility garbage containers.
- ix. Operate a motor vehicle within a recreation facility during the hours posted that the facility is closed. (Exclusive of County vehicles or government agencies in the performance of their duties.)
- x. No registered sex offender shall enter into or upon any public park or recreational facility operated by Washington County.
- xi. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, destroy, mutilate or deface any structure, monument, statue, planter, fountain, wall, fence, railing, sign, vehicle, bench, trees, plants, or any other property in any park, facility or County recreational property.
- xii. No person shall operate a vehicle or motor vehicle, including bicycles, minibikes and motorcycles, within the area designated as a county park or recreational facility, except within the confines of public streets, parking areas, roads, trails or alleys provided for such purpose; provided that authorized county vehicles and motor vehicles may be operated in any other areas of all county parks for any County purpose including without limitation for the purpose of grass cutting and maintenance of such parks by county employees or county designated contractors.
- xiii. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in soliciting, peddling, begging or selling, or to ply the vocation of a solicitor, agent, peddler, beggar, or salesman of any description with the parks, unless written authority be given by the County Manager or other individual designed thereby in writing for such purpose.

- xiv. It shall be unlawful for any person to use any boisterous, profane, vulgar or insulting language or to be guilty of disorderly conduct of any kind, which results in an immediate breach of the peace in any county park or recreation area.

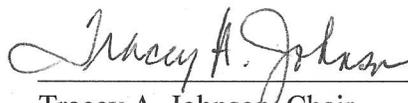
E. Penalties

- i. Any willful violation of this ordinance may result in being permanently banned from use of parks and recreation facilities.
- ii. Any willful violation of this ordinance of Washington County may constitute a criminal misdemeanor and shall be punishable as provided by law.

F. Other Provisions

- i. **Effective Date:** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by the Washington County Board of Commissioners.
- ii. **Severability:** If any provision(s) of this ordinance shall be deemed by a court of law having jurisdiction over such matters to be unenforceable, invalid, or unconstitutional for any reason, such determination shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part hereof that is not specifically determined and declared thereby to be unenforceable, invalid, or unconstitutional.
- iii. **Conflict of Laws or Ordinance Provisions:** Whenever the regulations of this ordinance conflict with one another, or with the requirements of any other statute, the more restrictive regulation shall be deemed to control and govern.

THIS ORDINANCE ADOPTED this the 7th day of October, 2019



Tracey A. Johnson, Chair

Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCCCC

Clerk to the Board

