

Chapter 17 - PARKS AND RECREATION^[1]

Footnotes:

--- (1) ---

Cross reference— Amusements, Ch. 3; reservation of land in subdivisions for parks and recreation areas, § 25-38; open space in subdivisions for recreational purposes, § 25-39; damaging trees or other vegetation in parks; § 29-2.

State Law reference— Authority of county to establish parks, recreation facilities and playgrounds, Code of Virginia, § 15.2-1806.

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

Sec. 17-1. - Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words or phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

Park or recreation area means all land owned or leased by the County or operated by the County as a park or recreation area and open to the general public for park or recreation purposes.

Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program means the program approved and implemented by the County, as authorized by the County Executive or his/her designee, which employs specified activities to reduce deer-human conflict, including archery hunting of deer on select County-owned lands.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-1; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12; Ord. No. 17-40, Attch., 6-20-17)

Sec. 17-2. - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 12-27, Attachment, adopted June 5, 2012, repealed § 17-2, in its entirety and enacted new provisions to read as herein set out. Prior to this amendment, § 17-2 pertained to "Park authority." See Code Comparative Table for derivation.

Sec. 17-3. - Enforcement of chapter, other ordinances and state laws in parks.

It shall be the duty and responsibility of all duly authorized County employees to enforce all state laws, this chapter and other county ordinances and regulations within the limits of all parks.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-12; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-4. - Violations of chapter.

Any person violating any provision of this chapter or any regulation duly adopted hereunder shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor, unless otherwise specifically provided. In addition, such person may be ejected from the park wherein the violation occurred.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-12)

Secs. 17-5—17-15. - Reserved.

ARTICLE II. - PARK REGULATIONS

Sec. 17-16. - Hours when open.

- (a) Parks shall customarily be open to the public from sunrise to sunset, unless the County shall otherwise provide.
- (b) Park patrons shall observe special posted hours at parks designated to open and close at specific times.

(Code 1965, §§ 13.2-7, 13.2-9; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-17. - Entering park when closed for public safety, health or welfare.

No unauthorized group or individual shall enter upon any part of any park which has been closed by the County in the interest of public safety, health or welfare.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-10; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-18. - Erection of structures, signs, etc.; utility permits or easements.

- (a) No person shall erect a temporary or permanent structure, directional sign or improvement on County park land, unless authorized by the County Executive or his/her designee with regard to this section.
- (b) Authorized permits or easements must be obtained from the County before permanent or temporary public utilities are placed on or over park lands.
- (c) A violation of this section shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-3; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-19. - Excavations.

No person shall excavate, by tool, equipment or hand, any soil, rocks, inorganic or organic materials on park property, or remove the same from park property.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-3)

Sec. 17-20. - Use permit for reservation of facilities.

Park picnic pavilions and other facilities may be reserved by any person by obtaining a park use permit from the County Executive or his/her designee for purposes of this section on such terms and conditions as he/she may deem appropriate. Failure to observe the park regulations and the provisions of the permit may result in revocation of a park use permit.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-2; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-21. - Traffic generally.

The traffic laws and ordinances of this county and applicable state vehicle laws shall apply in all parks. The maximum speed limit within a park shall be as determined by the County Executive or his/her

designee for the purposes of this section and posted therein, unless streets in parks are part of the state system of highways. In addition thereto, the traffic regulations contained in this article shall be applicable.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-13; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Cross reference— Motor vehicles and traffic, Ch. 13.

Sec. 17-22. - Traffic to use regularly designated paved or improved roads; exception.

Only regularly designated paved or improved roads or driveways shall be used by vehicular traffic in a park, except when otherwise directed by a police officer or park employee.

(Code 1965, §§ 13.2-14, 13.2-23)

Sec. 17-23. - Bicycles to be ridden only in designated areas.

No person shall ride a bicycle in a park, except in areas designated for such use.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-23)

Cross reference— General regulations on riding bicycles, § 13-375 et seq.

Sec. 17-24. - Permitted vehicles.

- (a) Only passenger cars, trucks, licensed motorcycles, commercial vehicles or buses actively engaged in the transportation of persons to a park for recreational purposes shall be permitted within the park. Special permission from the County Executive or his/her designee for the purposes of this section must be obtained before entry by any other motor vehicle is permitted.
- (b) The operation of unlicensed motorcycles, trail bikes, mini-bikes, go-carts or similar motorized vehicles shall not be permitted in a park.

(Code 1965, §§ 13.2-15, 13.2-24; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-25. - Parking of vehicles.

- (a) No person shall park a vehicle, including a bicycle, at any place on park property, other than in the regular designated facilities provided for parking, unless directed otherwise by police officers or park attendants. Signs, as posted, shall be observed.
- (b) No vehicle shall be parked on any roadway, parking area or other part of a park after the park closing hours, except in areas designated for such purposes, such as camping sites and other such areas.

(Code 1965, §§ 13.2-8, 13.2-16, 13.2-23)

Cross reference— General parking regulations, § 13-313 et seq.

Sec. 17-26. - Repairing, washing, etc., vehicles.

No person shall change any parts of or repair, wash, grease, wax, polish or clean a vehicle on any park lands, roadways or parking lots, except in areas which may be designated for that purpose.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-17)

Sec. 17-27. - Commercial activities generally.

Nothing shall be offered for sale or sold, rented or traded, in or upon public park land or facilities, except by the County or through regularly licensed concessionaires acting with the permission of the County Executive or his/her designee for the purposes of this section.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-28; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-28. - Commercial solicitations.

There shall be no commercial solicitation of any kind on public park land or within public park facilities.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-29)

Cross reference— Peddlers and solicitors, Ch. 18.

Sec. 17-29. - Public meetings or parades.

Public meetings or parades shall not be held within parks, without the written permission of the County Executive or his/her designee for the purposes of this section.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-26; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-30. - Noise control.

Loudspeakers, electric noise devices, noisemaking equipment or radios, record players or other sound-producing devices shall be used in parks only in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the County. Excessive noises which disturb the peace and tranquility of a park will not be tolerated. Permission of the County Executive or his/her designee for the purposes of this section must be obtained for the use of such devices.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-27; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Cross reference— Noise generally, Ch. 14.

Sec. 17-31. - Restrictions on playing games, ball, etc.

Games or activities involving thrown or otherwise propelled objects, such as balls, stones, arrows, javelins, golf balls, model airplanes or rockets, shall be played or engaged in on park property only in areas set apart for such forms of recreation. Practicing or playing golf, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse, archery, hockey, tennis or other games of like character shall be permitted only on the fields, courts and areas specifically provided for the purpose. Scheduled times for play in specific areas shall be observed.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-19)

Sec. 17-32. - Swimming, wading or bathing.

No person, regardless of age, sex or manner of dress, shall swim, wade or bathe in waters or waterways in or adjacent to any park, other than at such places as are provided for such activities.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-20)

Sec. 17-33. - Fishing.

- (a) Fishing in park waters shall be permitted only in those areas specifically designated for that purpose by the park authority.
- (b) No person shall fish in park waters by use of a trotline, seine, net, trap, spear, gig or other device.
- (c) All applicable federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the taking of fish must be complied with.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-21; Ord. No. 92-39, 4-7-92)

Sec. 17-34. - Picnicking.

Picnicking and lunching in a park shall be confined to those areas designated for the purpose.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-22)

Sec. 17-35. - Fires.

No person shall kindle a fire in a park, except in facilities specifically provided for that purpose. Authorized fires must be attended at all times and fully extinguished before being left.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-18)

Cross reference— Fire prevention and protection, Ch. 9.

Sec. 17-36. - Restrooms, bath houses, etc.; use by person of wrong sex or loitering around.

No person over the age of five years shall use the restrooms, dressing rooms or bath houses designated for the opposite sex in a park, and no person shall loiter in or around any restroom, dressing room or bath house in a park.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-17)

Sec. 17-37. - Intoxicated persons prohibited.

No intoxicated person shall be permitted entry to parks or recreation areas and, if discovered therein, shall be ejected forthwith. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any property which is leased and the terms of the lease specifically state that such provisions shall not apply, in total or in part, according to the terms of such lease. Nothing herein shall be preclude prosecution for public drunkenness or any other offense.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-17)

Cross reference— Public intoxication, § 16-14.

Sec. 17-38. - Gambling.

Betting or gambling in any form upon the premises of any county park land or facility shall be prohibited.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-17)

Sec. 17-39. - Littering.

No person shall deposit, dump, drop or place any refuse, including bottles, broken glass, paper, boxes, building products, cans, dirt, rubbish, waste, garbage, tobacco products or containers or foil, upon the ground of a park or in or on any other park property, except in the receptacles provided for trash disposal.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-6)

Sec. 17-40. - Pollution of water.

Using the fountains, ponds, creeks or any other bodies of water within parks, or the tributaries, storm sewers or drains flowing into them, as dumping places for any substance or matter or thing which will or may result in the pollution of such water shall be unlawful.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-5)

Sec. 17-41. - Discharge of fireworks.

- (a) The use or discharge of fireworks, firecrackers, explosives or rockets of any kind is prohibited in any park or recreational area, unless the activity is sponsored by the park authority and is conducted in accord with the provisions of Article V of Chapter 9 of this Code.
- (b) A violation of this section shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-17)

Sec. 17-42. - Carrying or discharging weapons.

- (a) The discharging, in any park, of any firearm, air gun, gas gun, spring operated gun, BB gun, slingshot, dart device or bow and arrow is prohibited, except as:
 - (1) Expressly authorized by and in compliance with the Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program;
 - (2) Specifically authorized by the County Executive or his/her designee for purposes of this section in connection with a supervised recreational activity; or
 - (3) May be carried by a duly authorized law enforcement officer.
- (b) A violation of this section shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-17; Ord. No. 04-39, 6-22-04, effective 7-1-04; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12; Ord. No. 17-40, Attch., 6-20-17)

Sec. 17-43. - Molesting, hunting, etc., wildlife.

- (a) No person shall molest, harm, frighten, kill, net, trap, snare, hunt, chase, or shoot or throw or propel by any means missiles at, any wildlife creature, be it animal, bird or reptile, on park property; provided that, this shall not apply to any law enforcement officer in the performance of his official duties.
- (b) Section 17-42(a) shall not apply to any person expressly authorized by the Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program ("Program"), as defined in Section 17-1, and participating in such Program in compliance with the terms and conditions of such Program.
- (c) A violation of this section shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-4; Ord. No. 92-61, 6-23-92; Ord. No. 17-40, Attch., 6-20-17)

Cross reference— Animals and fowl, Ch. 4.

Sec. 17-44. - Abandoning animals or fowl.

No person shall abandon or leave any animal, reptile or bird, either wild or domestic, at any park or zoo, unless permission has been granted by the County Executive or his/her designee for the purposes of this section.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-4; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Cross reference— Animals and fowl, Ch. 4.

Sec. 17-45. - Control of pets.

All pets shall be kept on a leash and under control while on public park lands, except dogs may be kept off-leash while within the confines of any dog park designated by the County.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-30; Ord. No. 03-96, 10-7-03; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-46. - Horseback riding.

Horseback riding shall be allowed in a park only in areas specifically designated for that purpose.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-25)