

**TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**FROM: DAREN ANDERSON DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**DATE: AUGUST 27, 2019**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) discuss the proposed amendments to the Park and Open Space Regulations (Attachment A).

### **BACKGROUND**

An interdepartmental Building Regulations Committee was created by the City Manager in August 1997. The charge of this committee was to develop regulations for the use of City facilities by the public. These regulations were deemed necessary since facilities were at times being used by some members of the public in ways that interfered with the mission and function of City programs and services, resulting in complaints from the public at large. A set of defined and enforceable regulations has helped City staff respond to complaints and work with facility visitors to encourage appropriate conduct and use of City facilities.

On June 24, 2002, regulations were adopted governing the appropriate use of park and open space facilities. Staff committed to keeping these rules and regulations current and relevant to park use patterns and emerging recreational needs. The rules have been periodically updated as needed.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Commission Ad Hoc Committee and staff recommend updating the Park and Open Space Regulations in order to keep them relevant and reflective of City policies. The revisions proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee and staff include new regulations to address emerging issues, edits designed to make regulations easier to understand, references to the municipal code so that readers can see how the regulations are connected to the municipal code, and wording changes to reflect current City policy. Attachment A contains the regulations with the changes marked in "Track Changes".

R1-10A (F) was edited to require that canopies used at Lytton, Cogswell, and King Plaza be weighted or anchored to prevent them from blowing over and potentially harming visitors.

R1-10A (M) was added to require a permit to have open flames at Lytton, Cogswell, and King Plaza. This regulation will assist staff in keeping the plazas clean and safe. Staff have found food grease and coals (from portable stoves and BBQs), candle wax, and other related debris at the plazas.

R1-11 (A – G) was edited to change tennis court usage regulations to be inclusive of pickleball, which reflect recent policy changes.

R1-11 (H) was added to designate dual-use court use hours and dedicated priority hours for tennis play and pickleball play, which reflect recent policy changes.

R1-18 (A) was edited to include scooters in the list of prohibited coasting devices on unpaved trails in Foothills Park. Park Rangers have experienced a rise in scooters being used on unpaved trails at Foothills Park.

R1-21 was edited to require permit holders for either commercial activities or solicitation to comply with applicable laws and City municipal code.

R1-21(A) was edited to allow an exemption for small photo and film events, consisting of a single photographer or videographer with a group size of no more than 24 persons. The intent of this change is to allow small photo or film activity that will have little to no impact on other park visitors or park resources.

R1-26 was edited to expand the litter ban to include garbage generated outside of parks and open space and restrict litter to only be deposited in designated receptacles. Parks staff has experienced an increase in people bringing household waste to parks.

R1-30 (D) was edited to require that pets must be kept on leash that can be extended no further than six feet while in open space lands. Park Rangers have experienced a rise in dogs on long, extended leashes allowing them to wander significantly off trail and impact wildlife.

R1-31 was edited to require people with leashed pets in playgrounds to ensure that their pets do not impact children's use of the playground and to remove their pets from the playground if requested by other playground users. Parks staff have received requests from playground users to prohibit dogs from playgrounds. The proposed edit is intended to balance the concerns of people who don't want dogs in playgrounds with people who would like to take their child and dog on leash to a playground, as long as the dog isn't disturbing other playground users.

R1-37 (E) was edited to include hoverboards and skateboards in the regulations of motor vehicle operations.

R1-39 was added to ensure that people using exercise equipment in playgrounds do not inhibit children from using the playgrounds or damaging the playground equipment or surfacing. Parks staff have observed an increase in people exercising in playgrounds.

R1-40 was edited to remove the community garden regulations that merely provided details of the community garden program. The Ad Hoc Committee and staff have created a draft of a new document, the Community Garden Guidelines, which include the details of the community garden program. The guideline will be sent to all participants in the City's community garden program and included in the community garden license agreement. The draft guidelines are currently being reviewed by the City Attorney's Office and will come to the Commission for review at a

subsequent Commission meeting. The community garden regulations that pertain to the general public have been included in this revision of the Park and Open Space Regulations.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Revised Park and Open Space Regulations