

ORIGINAL

ORDINANCE NO.: 2024-084

Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 15, Parks and Recreation, Sec. 15-1 Prohibited acts in parks and Sec. 15-4 Hours of operation

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 3rd day of December, 2024, that the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 15, Parks and Recreation, Sec. 15-1 Prohibited acts in parks and Sec. 15-4 Hours of operation, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 15-1. Prohibited acts in parks.

It shall be unlawful for any person using the public parks, recreation areas, grounds or facilities of the city (referred to in this chapter as parks) to either perform or allow the performance of any of the following acts, unless such activity is authorized, permitted or supervised by the parks and recreation department of the city:

- (1) *Damaging property.* Willfully mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with, or displace or remove any buildings, bridges, tables, benches, fireplaces, railings, paving or paving material, water lines or other public utilities or parts or appurtenances thereof, signs, notices or placards, whether temporary or permanent, monuments, stakes, posts or other boundary markers, or other structures or equipment, facilities or park property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal.
- (2) *Pollution of waters.* Throw, discharge or otherwise place or cause to be placed in the waters of any fountain, pond, lake, stream, bay or other body of water in or adjacent to any park or any tributary, stream, storm sewer or drain flowing into such waters any substance, matter or things, liquid or solid, which will or may result in the pollution of such waters.
- (3) *Removing soil or plants.* Dig or remove any soil, rock, stones, trees, shrubs or plants, down-timber or other wood or materials, or make any excavation by tool, equipment, blasting or other means, except that digging shall be permitted in areas designated for such purpose.
- (4) *Damaging plants.* Damage, cut, carve, transplant or remove any tree or plant, or injure the bark or pick the flowers or seeds of any tree or plant, nor shall any person attach any rope, wire or other contrivance to any tree or plant. A person shall not dig in or otherwise disturb grass areas, or in any other way injure or impair the natural beauty or usefulness of any area.
- (5) *Littering.* Bring in or dump, deposit or leave any bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, waste, garbage, refuse or other litter, or place refuse or litter in any waters in or contiguous to any park, or anywhere on the grounds thereof, other than in the proper receptacles, where provided.
- (6) *Interference with others.* Endanger the safety of any person by any conduct or act, or prevent any person from using any park or any of its facilities, or interfere with such use in compliance with this chapter and with the rules applicable to such use.
- (7) *Fires.* Build or attempt to build a fire, except at places specifically designated for such purpose or as permitted by the department of parks and recreation. No person shall drop, throw or otherwise scatter lighted matches, burning cigarettes or cigars, tobacco paper or

other inflammable material within any park area or on any highway, road or street abutting or contiguous thereto.

- (8) *Alcohol.* Possess and/or consume beverages, or food items of any type which contain alcohol, beer or wine regardless of the percentage of alcohol contained therein, except within Riverfront Park, Keenan House, Finlay Park, the Eau Claire Print Building next to the Eau Claire Town Hall, Boyd Plaza, Coble Plaza, and Earlewood Community Building and Park, Page Ellington Park, Busby Street Community Center, and the Lincoln Street Tunnel as follows:
- a. At events open to the public involving the assembly or the intention of attracting 100 or more people, for cultural, ceremonial, educational, or celebratory purposes, which generates revenue, regardless of status, to include art exhibits, wine/food tasting events, circuses, fairs, carnivals, festivals, auctions, concerts, and any event which is advertised or marketed in any form including, but not limited to: posters, business cards, internet, and media outlets; serves an entrepreneurial purpose; includes fees/charges for goods/services (e.g. food & drink); and whenever there is an admission fee or leasing fee and when possession and consumption is specifically authorized by resolution of Columbia City Council and the event organizer obtains a permit or license if required by the South Carolina Department of Revenue for the possession and/or consumption of beer, ale, porter, malt or wine only at the event. ***Public events held in Page Ellington Park and Riverfront Park shall end by 9:00 p.m. and service of beer and wine only shall end by 8:30 p.m. Public events held in the Keenan House, Finlay Park, Busby Street Community Center, Eau Claire Print Building, Boyd Plaza, Coble Plaza, Earlewood Community Building and Park and the Lincoln Street Tunnel shall end by 10:00 p.m. and service of beer and wine shall end by 9:30 p.m.;*** or
 - b. At private functions, authorized by the city, for which the South Carolina Department of Revenue does not require a permit or license for the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages, beer or wine. ***Private functions held in Page Ellington Park, Riverfront Park shall end by 9:00 p.m. and service of beer and wine only shall end by 8:30 p.m. Private functions held in the Keenan House, Finlay Park, Busby Street Community Center, Eau Claire Print Building, Boyd Plaza, Coble Plaza, Earlewood Community Building and Park and the Lincoln Street Tunnel shall end by 10:00 p.m. and service of beer and wine shall end by 9:30 p.m.;***
- (9) *Fireworks.* Possess, explode, discharge or ignite fireworks of any kind, unless specifically permitted by the department of parks and recreation and the fire marshal.
- (10) *Parking in unauthorized area.* Park or leave automobiles, trucks, bicycles, unicycles, tricycles, scooters, mopeds, motorcycles, motorbikes, motorized carts or other motorized vehicles in places other than those specifically designated for such purpose.
- (11) *Vending or peddling.* Vend, sell, peddle or offer for sale any commodity or article, except sales conducted by or specifically permitted by the department of parks and recreation.

- (12) *Violation of rules and regulations of parks and recreation department.* Violate any rule or regulation promulgated by the parks and recreation department of the city.
- (13) *Improper use of park equipment and furniture.* It shall be unlawful for any person to recline upon any seat, table, bench, or in any location not intended for occupancy.
- (14) *Exclusive minor child play zones.* The director of parks and recreation shall designate exclusive minor child play zones within such city parks as deemed appropriate to enhance the safety of minor children at play and limit the use of playground equipment to age appropriate users
- a. No persons over the age of twelve years are allowed in exclusive minor child play zone areas unless such persons are the parents, legal guardians or authorized temporary custodians caring for the minor child or minor children playing within the area or family members of the minor child or minor children playing within the area.
 - b. Authorized temporary custodians for the purpose of this subsection (14) are any person who has a minor child or minor children in his or her care and custody with the consent of the minor child or minor children's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
 - c. The boundaries of exclusive minor child play zones shall be clearly designated by the placement of fencing or other discernable barriers along with the placement of signage.
 - d. Prior to implementing exclusive minor child play zones within any park, the parks and recreation director shall request that the designation be placed on city council's agenda for public input and for approval by a majority vote of members of city council present at the meeting.
 - e. This subsection does not apply to special authorized events held within the city parks.
- (15) *Concealable weapons.* Openly carry a concealable weapon.
- (16) *Firearms.* At events subject to the provisions of Sec. 15-1(8), possession of firearms within the boundaries of the areas in which the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Sec. 15-4. Hours of operation.

(a) *Hours closed to public.* Except as otherwise provided herein, all city parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, ball diamonds, tennis courts, athletic or recreational facilities, greenbelts or any other areas, real property or other premises designated for public recreational use by the city (recreational facilities) shall be closed daily to the general public from official sunset to official sunrise. Official sunrise to sunset as defined by the National Weather Service for Columbia, South Carolina and published by The State Newspaper.

The director of parks and recreation shall cause notice to be placed at the main entrances of recreational facilities notifying the general public of the hours that the recreational facility is open for use by the general public as follows:

- (1) *Tot lot/playgrounds.* Sunrise to sunset. These facilities include the following:

Anna Mae Dickson Mini Park
Elmwood/Roy Lynch Park
Fairwold Park
Hollywood/Rosehill Park
Isaac McClinton Park
Realtors Park

- (2) *Neighborhood Centers/Parks.* Unless otherwise noted the hours shall be from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Summer) and 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. (academic year) These facilities include the following:

Busby Neighborhood Center
Emily Douglas
Hampton
Heathwood

Kathryn M. Bellfield-Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center. Hours of operation

Monday – Friday – 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday - 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

Mays Park
Melrose Park
Pacific Park
Rosewood Park
St. Anna's Park
Sims Park
South Edisto Neighborhood Center

- (3) *Neighborhood Parks.* Sunrise to sunset.

Busby Neighborhood Park
Emily Douglas Park
Hampton Park
Heathwood Park
Lester Bates Park
Lincoln Park
Marshal Park
Mays Park
Melrose Park
Pacific Park
Rosewood Park
St. Anna's Park
Sims Park
South Edisto Discovery Park

- (4) *Play fields/athletic fields.* These facilities include the following:

Columbia Tennis Center—6:00 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Thomas S. Martin and Valencia Park 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

(5) *Community centers/parks.* 2:00 p.m. 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. These facilities include the following:

Ben Arnold Center

Drew Wellness Center—Hours of operation:

Monday—Thursday: 5:30 a.m.—10:00 9:00 p.m.

Friday—5:30 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Greenview

Hyatt

Lorick

M.L. King

Pinehurst

Woodland

(6) *Community parks.* 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. These parks include the following:

Drew Park

Earlewood Park

Greenview Park

Greenview Pool—Seasonally as posted

Hyatt Park

Lorick Park

M.L. King Park

Maxcy Gregg Park—Sunrise to sunset

Maxcy Gregg Pool—Seasonally as posted

Pinehurst Park

Woodland Park

(7) *Regional parks.* 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. These facilities include the following:

Boyd Plaza

Coble Plaza

Finlay Park

Granby Park. Sunrise to sunset.

Memorial Park

Owens Field Park

Page Ellington Park

Riverfront/Canal Park

Saluda River

Southeast Park

(8) *Premier rental facilities.* 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. These facilities include the following:

Busby Neighborhood Center

Earlewood Community Building

Keenan House

Eau Claire Print Building

(b) *Unlawful acts.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to remain upon the premises of any recreational facility during the hours that such are closed to the public after being warned to leave by an officer of the Columbia Police Department.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to enter upon the premises of any recreational facility during the hours that such are closed to the public after having been warned to leave any recreational facility within six months preceding the date of the offense.

(c) *Exceptions.* This section shall not apply to:

(1) Persons whose presence is authorized by city by contract, agreement, lease or otherwise or by a permit issued by the director of parks and recreation, or his designee, in compliance with all other city ordinances, rules or regulations;

(2) Persons remaining in the recreational facility after the time for closing who are participating in or attending events, activities or programs previously scheduled or authorized by the parks and recreation department because the event, activity or program has not concluded;

(3) Persons making use of any public way located through a recreational facility; however, such persons must confine themselves to the limits of the public way;

(4) Persons who are actually engaged at such time in the official business of any city, county, state or the United States or any agency or department thereof.

Requested by:


Assistant City Manager Simons


Mayor


Approved by:


Chereasa Biplitson
City Manager

Approved as to form:


City Attorney

ATTEST:


Tuka M. Hammond
City Clerk

Introduced: 11/19/2024

Final Reading: 12/03/2024