



**General Rules and Regulations for
Parks, Trails and Open Space within
South Suburban Park and Recreation District
Revised and Board Adopted: October 2018**

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INTRODUCTION

The following are general rules and regulations that govern the public use of property owned and or managed by South Suburban Park and Recreation District (SSPRD) with regards to Parks, Trails and Open Space and non-golf activity on district golf courses.

The intent of the general rules and regulations is to set parameters in which Parks, Trails and Open Space property shall be used by the public. While we encourage open public use there needs to be a balance between the wide variety of activities and protection of public assets managed by the District.

Other specific rules, regulations and/or procedures may be developed and approved by the Executive Director or his designee for special use areas such as sport courts, athletic fields, skate parks, dog parks, disc golf, swimming pools, etc.

Alcohol:

Alcohol is prohibited in all parks, trails, open space, and water bodied areas unless specifically allowed by reservation and permit. Additional fees may be incurred through the reservation/permit process. Glass containers are prohibited.

Bicycles and E-Bikes:

Cyclists must yield right-of-way to pedestrians and horses, obey all traffic signs and signals, ride to the right, use proper hand signals when turning and give audible warning before passing on the left. Groups of cyclists must ride single file when passing or being passed.

An e-bike shall be defined as a two-wheel or three-wheel vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 h.p.), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden is less than 20 mph. Maximum speed allowed on SSPRD trails is 15 mph.

Camping:

Camping is prohibited in all park, trail and open space areas unless otherwise posted or approved through the permitting process.

Debris:

It is prohibited to dump any trash or debris on District-owned or managed property. This includes but is not limited to the following; tires, lumber, concrete, electronics, construction debris, grass clippings, yard waste, tree branches or other landscape material.

Destruction of Public Property:

Destruction, damage or abuse of public property is prohibited by C.R.S. 18-9-117.

Dogs:

Dogs must be on a leash not to exceed six (6) feet in length. Dogs must be under the control of the owner or person handling the animal. Dogs are only allowed off-leash in approved off-leash areas. Persons handling the dog are responsible for cleaning up all dog waste from the animal.

Encroachments:

Any encroachment onto District-owned or managed property is prohibited unless approved by a special use permit.

Equestrian:

Horses are permitted on designated soft surface trails. All horses shall wear manure bags to prevent excrement from falling on the trails. Groups of riders must ride single file when passing or being passed.

Horseback riding is allowed within 30 feet on either side of the Mary Carter Greenway Trail, and on established services roads within South Platte Park unless they enter designated wildlife

areas or are marked for vehicles only. Speed is limited to a trot or lope. Horses are not allowed in the river.

Hoofed animals are prohibited on irrigated turf and natural open space areas unless approved through a special use permit.

Firearms:

The open carry of firearms is prohibited on all District-owned or managed property unless authorized by local law enforcement through local ordinances. Concealed carry is allowed with a valid concealed carry permit (C.R.S. 18-12-214) issued by a state approved law enforcement agency in Colorado and all rules for such carry are being followed.

Fires:

Charcoal fires are permitted within charcoal burning grills at park shelters. Hot coals from charcoal grills must be thoroughly extinguished before leaving the site. Local fire bans may prohibit any fires, including charcoal fires, during drought or dry conditions.

Propane gas fires contained within a propane gas grill or deep fryer are allowed as long as there is a shut off valve to immediately extinguish the flame during an emergency. Any oils used with frying food must be properly cleaned up and removed from the site by the park user. Failure to do so may result in additional fees or fines being assessed to the permit holder.

Fireworks:

Fireworks are prohibited unless approved through a special use permit.

Geocaching, Letter boxing, Scavenger hunts, Pokémon:

Geocaching, letter boxing, other scavenger hunt-type activities are allowed as long as no damage is done to any District-owned or maintained property and the activities are not conducted in any restricted areas closed to the public. Organized gatherings of over 15 people require a permit.

Golf Course Use:

Non-golf activity is permitted only when the course is not open for public play and only on established roads and paths and only between the hours of 5:00am and 11:00pm. Unauthorized motor vehicles are prohibited on golf course property.

Golfing:

Hitting golf balls or practicing golf is prohibited in any park, trail or open space area. PGA Golf activities are allowed only at golf courses within the District.

Hours of Operation:

Parks, Trails and Open Space areas shall be open daily year round. Park hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. with the exception of South Platte Park, which will have hours of sunrise to sunset.

Litter and Recycling:

Litter and recycle containers are provided in most park areas. Park users are expected to dispose of their litter, trash and/or recyclable items in the proper container. If no container is provided in the park, trail or open space area the park user is expected to carry their litter, trash and or/recyclable items out with them. At no time is it allowed to leave, throw or dispose of litter, trash and or recyclables on the ground or in any water body or landscape planting.

Metal Detecting:

The use of a metal detector is allowed as long as there is no damage to any District-owned or maintained property. Participants can only use small handheld garden tools to uncover their find and cannot dig deeper than 6 inches nor wider than 6 inches. All areas must be immediately restored and no digging is allowed on any athletic/sports field or high traffic area.

Motorized Vehicles:

No motorized vehicles are allowed on trails, walks, irrigated lawn areas or non-roadway areas unless required for District maintenance, District business or have been issued a permit allowing such use.

Natural Open Space Areas:

Unless signed otherwise natural open space areas are for the protection of wildlife and are intended for passive recreational use as well as pass through opportunities for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists. Trail users must stay on the trail and keep all pets leashed at all times on a leash no longer than six (6) feet.

Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD):

OPDMD are allowed on District maintained property as allowed and defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Part 35. All OPDMD must follow all park and trail use rules.

Permits:

Permits are necessary for any activity which requires special planning or scheduling, impacts departmental norms, displaces other uses, requires an exemption from any rules or regulations, requires any type of reclamation, or alters conditions from typical visitor expectations. Camping requires a permit regardless of the number of people. All organized sport use of an outdoor park must obtain a permit for practice, games, tournaments or any special event. Permits are required for organized activities and groups of more than 15 people, for races, for river use, or where any fee for participation is paid. This might include event entry fees, private guides, course fees, training subscriptions, or contracted instructors.

At South Platte Park, educational groups with an established instructor must complete a permit application but may have permit fees waived. This might include public school classrooms, scout groups, birding clubs, daycare field trips, and academic institutions that are not contracting an outside guide or instructor for the event.

Special events are defined as any event with an organized gathering of people. Examples of Special Events include but are not limited to: all types of races (i.e. running, cycling), bike rides, river use, company picnics, birthday parties, homeowners' association events, commercial vendor events, etc. Special events shall require a permit and associated fees for reserved use of owned or managed property within the District. Fees are set annually through the budget process.

A Certificate of Insurance naming South Suburban Park and Recreation District as an additional insured is required for organized events such as, but not limited to, Adult and Youth Sport Groups, leagues, tournament hosts, camp providers, fitness groups, vendors, special events, homeowners' associations, special districts, organizations both for profit and non-profit, etc. Individuals seeking a permit do not need a certificate of insurance.

Amplified sound systems may be allowed in conjunction with a park or shelter rental and must be identified on the permit application.

Temporary access needs for local municipalities, utility companies, special districts, contractors and residents require a permit and associated fees in order to access SSPRD-owned or managed property.

Ponds and Water Bodies:

The following activities are prohibited unless otherwise posted or approved through the permitting process: swimming, bathing, wading, use of watercraft or flotation devices.

The South Platte River is an exception where water contact for tubing, wading and recreational water sports is allowed.

Reservations:

Reservations are allowed for most shelters and parkland by permit only. Permits need to be secured through the South Suburban Park and Recreation District Permit Office, online at www.ssprd.org/Rentals or in-person at 5500 Boatworks Dr, Littleton, CO 80126. Permits for the use on the South Platte River and portions of South Platte Park must be obtained from the Carson Nature Center located at 3000 W. Carson Drive, Littleton, CO 80120.

Trail Use:

Proper trail etiquette shall be followed at all times while using the trails within SSPRD. It is the responsibility of the trail users to stay current on local, state and national trail etiquette. Maximum speed allowed on SSPRD trails is 15 mph unless otherwise posted. Authorized vehicles on the trail include maintenance vehicles, law enforcement, District personnel, local government jurisdictions, utility company vehicles and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices.

Tree Houses, Forts and Rope Swings:

Tree houses, forts, foxholes and rope swings are prohibited.

Weapons:

Possession or discharge of a firearm (including handguns, rifles, shotguns, automatic weapons, paint ball guns, pellet guns and BB guns) or projectile weapons (bow and arrow, cross bows, slingshots, etc.) including those powered by gunpowder, gas, compressed gas or pumped air are prohibited.

Disorderly conduct as defined in C.R.S. 18-9-106 is prohibited (Attachment A)

Violations of any of the above mentioned rules and regulations are considered unlawful conduct on public property as provided in C.R.S. 18-9-117. (Attachment B)

Attachment A

COLORADO REVISED STATUES

18-9-106 Disorderly Conduct

(1) A person commits disorderly conduct if he or she intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly:

(a) Makes a coarse and obviously offensive utterance, gesture, or display in a public place and the utterance, gesture, or display tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace; or

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2000, p. 708, § 39, effective July 1, 2000.)

(c) Makes unreasonable noise in a public place or near a private residence that he has no right to occupy; or

(d) Fights with another in a public place except in an amateur or professional contest of athletic skill; or

(e) Not being a peace officer, discharges a firearm in a public place except when engaged in lawful target practice or hunting or the ritual discharge of blank ammunition cartridges as an attendee at a funeral for a deceased person who was a veteran of the armed forces of the United States; or

(f) Not being a peace officer, displays a deadly weapon, displays any article used or fashioned in a manner to cause a person to reasonably believe that the article is a deadly weapon, or represents verbally or otherwise that he or she is armed with a deadly weapon in a public place in a manner calculated to alarm.

(2) Repealed.

(3) (a) An offense under paragraph (a) or (c) of subsection (1) of this section is a class 1 petty offense; except that, if the offense is committed with intent to disrupt, impair, or interfere with a funeral, or with intent to cause severe emotional distress to a person attending a funeral, it is a class 2 misdemeanor.

(b) An offense under paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of this section is a class 3 misdemeanor.

(c) An offense under paragraph (e) or (f) of subsection (1) of this section is a class 2 misdemeanor.

Attachment B

COLORADO REVISED STATUTES

18-9-117 Unlawful Conduct on Public Property

(1) It is unlawful for any person to enter or remain in any public building or on any public property or to conduct himself or herself in or on the same in violation of any order, rule, or regulation concerning any matter prescribed in this subsection (1), limiting or prohibiting the use or activities or conduct in such public building or on such public property, issued by any officer or agency having the power of control, management, or supervision of the building or property. In addition to any authority granted by any other law, each such officer or agency may adopt such orders, rules, or regulations as are reasonably necessary for the administration, protection, and maintenance of such public buildings and property, specifically, orders, rules, and regulations upon the following matters:

- (a)** Preservation of property, vegetation, wildlife, signs, markers, statues, buildings and grounds, and other structures, and any object of scientific, historical, or scenic interest;
- (b)** Restriction or limitation of the use of such public buildings or property as to time, manner, or permitted activities;
- (c)** Prohibition of activities or conduct within public buildings or on public property which may be reasonably expected to substantially interfere with the use and enjoyment of such places by others or which may constitute a general nuisance or which may interfere with, impair, or disrupt a funeral or funeral procession;
- (d)** Necessary sanitation, health, and safety measures, consistent with section 25-13-113, C.R.S.;
- (e)** Camping and picnicking, public meetings and assemblages, and other individual or group usages, including the place, time, and manner in which such activities may be permitted;
- (f)** Use of all vehicles as to place, time, and manner of use;
- (g)** Control and limitation of fires, including but not limited to the prohibition, restriction, or ban on fires or other regulation of fires to avert the start of or lessen the likelihood of wildfire, and the designation of places where fires are permitted, restricted, prohibited, or banned.

(2) No conviction may be obtained under this section unless notice of such limitations or prohibitions is prominently posted at all public entrances to such building or property or unless such notice is actually first given the person by the officer or agency, including any agent thereof, or by any law enforcement officer having jurisdiction or authority to enforce this section.

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection (3), any person who violates subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor.

(b) Any person who violates any order, rule, or regulation adopted pursuant to paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor

and shall be assessed a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars and not greater than one thousand dollars. The fine imposed by this paragraph (b) shall be mandatory and not subject to suspension. Nothing in this paragraph (b) shall be construed to limit the court's discretion in exercising other available sentencing alternatives in addition to the mandatory fine.

(c) Any person who violates any order, rule, or regulation adopted pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section concerning funerals or funeral processions is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor.