

# Bastrop County Parks Rules and Regulations

## General Regulations

These rules and regulations apply in all parks and/or recreation facilities operated by Bastrop County, Texas, unless otherwise noted.

These rules and regulations are general guidelines for County parks. Please email [county.parks@co.bastrop.tx.us](mailto:county.parks@co.bastrop.tx.us) with any questions.

### SECTION 1 DEFINITIONS

As used in these Rules and Regulations:

- (a) **Abandon** means a person giving up custody of an animal without making arrangements for another person to assume custody.
- (b) **Alcoholic Beverage** means any beverage containing more than one-half of one percent (.5%) of alcohol by volume, which is suitable for use as a beverage, either alone or diluted.
- (c) **Animal** means a domesticated living creature (e.g., cat, dog, chicken, or rabbit) or a Wild-living creature previously captured.
- (d) **Commissioners Court** means the Commissioners Court of Bastrop County, Texas.
- (e) **County** means Bastrop County, Texas.
- (f) **Explosive** means any chemical compound or mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion.
- (g) **Individual** means a human being.
- (h) **Light truck** means any truck with a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity not to exceed two thousand (2,000) pounds and is intended to include those trucks commonly known as pickup trucks, panel delivery trucks, carryall trucks, and vans.
- (i) **Park** means a property owned, operated, or maintained by the County for recreation and enjoyment by the general public.
- (j) **Park Supervisor** means an individual named or designated as a Park Supervisor by the Commissioners Court.
- (k) **Peace Officer** means a peace officer as defined in article 2.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended.
- (l) **Person** means any individual, group of individuals, organization, corporation, or other legal entity, but does not include the County.
- (m) **Pet** means a domesticated animal kept for pleasure rather than utility.
- (n) **Road** means any road maintained or controlled by the County for public passage for vehicles within a park.
- (o) **Special Event** means a non-routine organized activity intended for more than twenty-five (25) individuals to share a common purpose as a group.
- (p) **Truck** means a motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily to transport property.
- (q) **Vehicle** means every device in, upon, or by which any individual or property may be transported or drawn upon a road, except a device moved by human power.

(r) **Weapon** means those objects defined as weapons or prohibited weapons in Chapter 46 of the Texas Penal Code.

(s) **Wildlife** means living creatures that are neither human nor domesticated.

## **SECTION 2 Hours for Use**

All county-owned park facilities shall be open to the public during designated hours posted at each facility entrance. All boat-launch facilities within County parks shall be open 24 hours a day, unless otherwise posted or controlled. It is prohibited for a person to be within the boundaries of any County park outside of the hours posted, unless a Specific Use Permit has been granted. A peace officer has authority to limit or prohibit any activity in a County park they believe to be unsafe or destructive. A peace officer has the authority to ask any person to leave the County park at any time for the safety of others or protection of park property.

## **SECTION 3 Smoking Prohibited**

Smoking and the use of any tobacco product, including chewing tobacco, vaping and snuff, are prohibited within Bastrop County-park buildings.

## **SECTION 4 Motor Vehicle Operation, Speed, and Traffic Control**

### *4.1 Operation*

Motor vehicles, other than County equipment or contractors' vehicles in the employ of the County, shall be restricted to driving and parking on paved or improved driving surfaces and/or designated areas. All motor vehicles operated within a County park must be lawfully licensed, registered, and inspected according to State of Texas statutes, ordinances, or regulations, with the exception of golf carts and other similar personal transportation vehicles.

### *4.2 Speed limits*

The speed limit for vehicular traffic in the County-owned parks is 20 miles per hours unless otherwise posted along park roadways.

### *4.3 Traffic control*

All posted traffic control signage must be followed in County parks, including vehicular routing, stopping, and parking.

### *4.4 Unattended Vehicle*

It is prohibited to leave a vehicle in a County Park outside designated hours of use without a Special Use Permit. Vehicles in violation are subject to being towed at owner's expense.

## **SECTION 5 Glass Containers Prohibited**

The possession of glass containers is prohibited in any County-operated outdoor parks, including open-air pavilions, shelters, and barbecue sheds, unless allowed in a Specific Use Permit.

## **SECTION 6 Alcohol Consumption Prohibited**

All alcohol consumption is prohibited in County parks, except by Special Use Permit (see Section 18).

## **SECTION 7 Firearms and Fireworks Prohibited**

Possession or use of fireworks is prohibited in any County park except as specified in a Special Use Permit. The public display of firearms is prohibited in all County parks, except by Peace Officers and those properly licensed by the State of Texas to openly carry a firearm. The discharge of a firearm is prohibited in all County parks.

## **SECTION 8 Open Fires Prohibited**

Starting or using an open-flame fire on the ground for is prohibited in any County park; fires in stationary grills or stoves provided by the County for cooking or heating such or in portable grills or stoves designed for such purposes are allowed. All ashes must be fully extinguished and properly disposed.

## **SECTION 9 Littering Prohibited**

Littering the grounds of any County-owned park facility is prohibited. Littering is defined as failure to place paper, cans, or other rubbish in a marked trash receptacle. It is also prohibited to deposit household or commercial rubbish in any trash receptacle on County park property.

## **SECTION 10 Overnight Camping Prohibited**

Overnight camping is prohibited in County parks, unless a park is specifically designated and operated as a campground or camping area, or over-night camping is allowed in a park or portion of a park by Special Use Permit. Email [county.parks@co.bastrop.tx.us](mailto:county.parks@co.bastrop.tx.us) for Special Use Permit information. Those who wish to leave a vehicle in the designated parking area of a County Park for overnight parking (for camping or kayaking purposes only) should register for a Special Use Permit that can be displayed in their windshield. Special Use Permits for overnight parking can be obtained from the County Judge's office or through a local vendor authorized to issue said parking permit. Unregistered vehicles left in the parking areas of County Parks may be towed at owner's expense.

## **SECTION 11 Firewood Cutting Prohibited**

Cutting down or breaking down living or dead trees, shrubs, other plants in County parks, by any person other than County personnel or contractors as part of routine or special maintenance, is prohibited.

## **SECTION 12 Grills Prohibited on Wooden Surfaces**

Portable cooking devices such as charcoal grills are prohibited on wooden surfaces in County parks.

## **SECTION 13 Unattended Personal Belonging**

It is prohibited to leave personal belongings, including chairs, umbrellas, fishing tackle, picnic equipment, coolers, grills, toys, etc., unattended within the boundaries of any County park for more than 15 minutes. The County is not responsible for unattended personal belongings.

## **SECTION 14 Prohibited Activities**

Defacing County property in any way, including graffiti, is prohibited.

## **SECTION 15 Horses**

Riding or leading a horse is prohibited in County-owned parks except in designated and marked equestrian arenas or trails, or unless otherwise arranged through Special Use Permit.

## **SECTION 16 Dogs and Other Animals**

Dogs and other animals must be kept controlled **on leash** within County-owned parks except during organized training events or animal shows pursuant to a Special Use Permit. No animals other than service animals are allowed within County park buildings. Animal owners must collect and properly dispose of animal waste. It is prohibited to abandon an animal in a County park.

## **SECTION 17 Aluminum Retrieval Prohibited**

It is prohibited to enter or look through garbage receptacles, turn over such receptacles, or use probes or other tools to search through receptacles for the purpose of retrieving aluminum cans or other materials in County parks.

## **SECTION 18 Use of County Parks by For-Profit Entities**

For-profit businesses must obtain a Special Use Permit from Bastrop County to benefit from use of a County Park. Bastrop County reserves the right to charge a fee to business entities that use the County Parks.

## **SECTION 19 Special Use Permit**

Any user wishing to engage in activities prohibited or limited by these Rules and Regulations may request a waiver by a Special Use Permit. Such permit may be sought through the County Judge's office by email at [county.parks@co.bastrop.tx.us](mailto:county.parks@co.bastrop.tx.us).

During the time and activities allowed by it, a Special Use Permit must be available for review by any Peace Officer or any other person upon request. Issuance of a Special Use Permit is at the sole discretion of Bastrop County

**SECTION 20 Effect on Existing Law**

These rules and regulations are in addition to and not in lieu of, all federal, state, and municipal laws rules and regulations applicable within a park.

**SECTION 21 Enforcement**

Law Enforcement or their designee shall be authorized to remove any person who violates any of these rules and regulations from the park. In addition to removal from the park charges may be filed against a violator under Section 24.

**SECTION 22 Severability**

The provisions of these rules and regulations are severable. If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, section, provision, or part of these rules and regulations should be held invalid or unconstitutional, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, and it is hereby declared to be the intent of the Commissioners Court that these rules and regulations would have been adopted as the remaining portions regardless of the invalidity of any part.

**SECTION 23 Commissioners Court**

These rules and regulations may be amended at any time at the discretion of the Commissioners Court.

**SECTION 24 Authority**

In accordance with Section 320.0455 of the Texas Local Government Code, a violation of these rules and regulations is an offense punishable as a class C misdemeanor.

# Park-Specific Regulations

## A. Stoney Point Park

The soccer field is available for group play on a first come first serve basis. If a group is waiting to use the soccer field, users must limit their time of use to two (2 hours). Sharing of this area is encouraged.

## B. Colorado River Nature Park

Outdoor classrooms are available on a first come, first served basis, unless reserved through a special use permit or a prior written License Agreement with the County.

Canoe and kayak users may park vehicles in the designated parking areas at any time of the day or night without violation of Section 2 – Hours of Use - if a Special Use Permit for parking has been issued.

Commercial river outfitters may have access to the Park to service customers under a Special Use Permit.

## C. Cedar Creek Park

Sports fields are available on a first come, first serve basis, unless reserved through a Special Use Permit or a prior written License Agreement with the County

The pavilion is available on a first come, first serve basis. If a group is waiting to use the pavilion, users must limit their time of use to two (2 hours). Sharing of this area is encouraged.

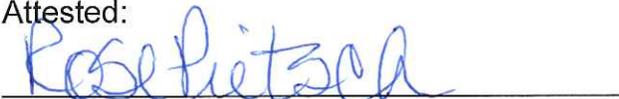
Approved by Bastrop County Commissioners Court on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

Signed:



Paul Pape, Bastrop County Judge

Attested:



Rose Pietsch, County Clerk