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**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR COUNTY PARKS**

**IN KERR COUNTY, TEXAS**

Section 1. **Authority.** These rules and regulations are adopted by the Commissioners Court of Kerr County, Texas, acting in its capacity as the governing body of Kerr County, Texas. These rules and regulations are authorized by Chapters 316, 320, and 331 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended, for all public parks, owned, operated, or maintained by Kerr County. Commissioners Court may grant temporary exceptions to these Rules and Regulations. .

Section 2. **Area Covered.** Except as expressly exempted in these rules and regulations, they shall apply to the Kerr County parks – Flat Rock Park, Lions Park (Center Point) and Ingram Dam and boat ramp.

Section 3**. Definitions.** As used in these rules and regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *"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;

(b) *"Commissioners Court"* means the Commissioners Court of Kerr County, Texas;

(c) *"County"* means Kerr County, Texas;

(d) *"Explosives"* means any chemical compound or mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion;

(e) *"Park"* means a park owned, operated, or maintained by Kerr County for recreation and enjoyment by the general public;

(f) *"Park Maintenance Supervisor"* means the individual named or designated by the Kerr County Commissioners Court as a responsible person for the parks;

(g) *"Person"* means any individual, group of individuals, organization, corporation or other legal entity, but does not include Kerr County;

(h) *"Pet"* means a domesticated animal kept for pleasure rather than utility;

(i) *"Road"* is any road for public passage for vehicles within a county park;

(j) *"Special event"* means a special, organized activity intended for more than fifty (50) individuals to share a common purpose as a group;

(k) *"Motor 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;

 (l) *"Wildlife"* means living things that are neither human nor domesticated.

Section 4. **Hours Open.** No person shall enter into or remain within a park at any time other than during such time as the park is open to the public. Park hours are 6:00am to 11:00pm., unless otherwise designated on a sign posted at or near the entrance of the park.

Section 5. Motor **Vehicles.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle within a park except on or in close proximity to the roads or parking lots within the park. This provision does not apply to park maintenance or patrol vehicles.

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle in a park at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour. (e) No person shall cause a vehicle to remain within a park after hours or in excess of twenty-four (24) hours at any given time, Vehicles remaining within a park for which approval has not been granted may be towed at the owner's expense.

Section 6. **Wildlife.**

(a) No person, except duly authorized personnel, shall willfully harm, harass, trap, confine, catch, or possess any wildlife within a park.

(b) Fishing in accordance with State of Texas laws and regulations shall be permitted within all parks, except as specifically prohibited.

Section 7. **Plant Life.** No person shall willfully destroy or remove any tree, shrub, vine, wildflower, grass, fern, moss, leaves, cones, or dead or downed wood within a park.

Section 8. **Fires.** Except in designated areas, no person may light, build, or maintain a fire within a park other than within a camp stove or barbecue pit.

Section 9. **Animals.** No person may bring into or possess in a park any animal other than a dog or domestic cat. Any person bringing a dog or domestic cat into a park shall keep the dog or domestic cat confined to a vehicle or secured by a leash unless in a designated “pet area” and shall pick up any solid waste deposited by the animal.

Section 10. **Use of Loudspeakers**. The use of amplified sound or other loud or unusual activities is prohibited. Park users are expected to be respectful of nature and neighbors.

Section 11. **Dumping and Littering.** The following are prohibited: The disposal of rubbish in any manner other than by depositing it in trash cans provided for this purpose; the willful destruction of or damage to or theft of county property; the creation of any hazard to persons or things; and the climbing upon plant bedding areas or any part of a public building. No person shall bring into a park any trash, refuse, or waste material to be deposited in park.

Section 12. **Solicitation and Sale of Goods and Services.** The solicitation or the sale of goods and services within a park are prohibited unless the person receives the prior written approval of the Commissioners Court.

Section 13. **Camping.** No person shall engage in overnight camping in a park.

Section 14. **Special Events.** No person shall solicit for, hold, or sponsor a special event in a park or park facility without the prior approval of Commissioners’ Court

Section 15. **Park Use.** No person shall use any area or facility or a park for any purpose other than for the purpose for which it was designed or designated.

Section 16. **Effect on Existing Law.** These rules and regulations are in addition to, and not in lieu of, all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations applicable within a park.

Section 17. **Enforcement.** The Kerr County Sheriff or his 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, criminal charges may be filed against a violator.

Section 18. **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 to the remaining portions, regardless of the invalidity of any part.

Section 19. **Amendments.** These Rules and Regulations may be reviewed and amended from time to time by the Commissioners Court.

Section 20. **Posting.** These Rules and Regulations or a summary thereof shall be conspicuously posted at or near the entrance of all County parks and contact information for obtaining additional information.

Section 21. **Offense. In** accordance with Texas Local Government Code §331.007 and §320.045, a violation of these Rules and Regulations is an offense punishable under the Texas Penal Code.

Section 22. **Effective Date.** These Rules and Regulations shall become effective on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2015. All previously adopted Rules and Regulations are superseded and repealed effective the same date.