

Park Administrative Regulations

Park hours.

City of Port Townsend parks shall be closed from sunset to sunrise every day unless otherwise posted by the City. It is unlawful to loiter on, remain in, or otherwise be on park property during closed hours unless written permission is granted by the City manager, a department head, or a police officer of the City.

Fire safety.

1. It is unlawful to build a fire in the City of Port Townsend park except in designated areas, such as barbecue grills.
2. During periods when potential fire danger makes such action necessary, and when there is a county burn ban in place, the City manager (or designee) may prohibit combustion on park lands.

Sanitation required.

1. The City encourages a pack-in/pack out of all garbage. It is required to pack out all oversized garbage that will not physically fit in the provided garbage containers.
2. No person shall leave, deposit, drop or scatter garbage such as; bottles, broken glass, ashes, waste paper, cans, or other rubbish in a park, except in a garbage can or other receptacle designated for such purposes.
3. No person shall deposit household or commercial garbage, refuse, waste, or rubbish, which is brought as such from private property, in a park garbage can or other receptacle designated for such purpose.
4. No person shall drain or dump refuse or waste from a trailer, camper, automobile, or other vehicle in a park, except in designated disposal areas or receptacles, if provided.
5. No person shall clean fish or other food, other than preparing for a picnic or preparing food for an event – or wash any clothing or other articles for personal or household use, or any dog or other animal, or clean or wash any automobile or other vehicle in a park.

Firearms and bows and arrows.

1. No person shall discharge, set off, or cause to be discharged, in or into a park, any firearm (pistol, shotgun, etc.) or bow and arrow, except for the lawful use of a firearm by a law enforcement officer in the performance of their duties
2. Nothing shall abridge the right of the individual guaranteed by Article I, Section 24 of the State Constitution to bear arms in defense of self or others.

Animals.

1. Domestic animals, defined as a service animal, dog, horse, etc., or animals that have been tamed and kept by humans for some purpose, such as work, food, companionship, may be allowed in parks by the City manager (or designee). No animals besides domestic animals, are allowed to be brought into the parks.
2. All domestic animals must be kept on a leash of eight feet or less in length (unless at a designated off-leash dog park), or remain in a receptacle and under the control of the owner or owner's designee at all times while in a park. People must be in control of their horses by rope or reins.
3. No person shall allow their domestic animal to bite or in any way molest or annoy other park visitors. No person shall permit their domestic animal to create excessive noise or otherwise disturb the peace and tranquility of the park.
4. The owner of a domestic animal is directly responsible for the behavior of the animal and shall not allow their domestic animal to create a nuisance to other park users or deface parklands.
5. Domestic animal owners must pick up solid bodily waste from their animals and dispose of it in a waste bag first, then it can be placed in garbage receptacles provided in the park or take it with them when they leave the park. Horse owners must sweep bodily wastes from their horse to the side of all trails, parking lots and areas commonly used for foot traffic.

Motor vehicles.

1. No person shall drive a motor vehicle or any other motorized device (i.e. bicycle, scooter, etc.) within a park at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the traffic on, and the surface and width of the road, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons, property, or wildlife; provided, however, that in no event shall a vehicle be driven at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour in camp, picnic utility, or headquarters area, or in areas of general public assemblage; and provided further, that such vehicles or devices should slow to a walking speed when near pedestrians. Motorized devices used for ADA and/or mobility purposes are allowed under these regulations.
2. No person shall operate a motor vehicle within the boundaries of a park except on roads, streets, highways, parking lots, or parking areas; except motor vehicles conducting park maintenance operations.
3. No person shall operate a motor vehicle on a trail in a park, unless the trail has been specifically designated and posted for such use, except emergency vehicles or motor vehicles conducting trail maintenance operations.

Metal detecting.

1. Any person desiring to use a metal detector on specified City park lands shall apply for a metal detecting permit as follows:

- (a) The issuance of a metal detecting permit is conditioned upon the applicant's agreement to comply with the rules and regulations of this section and accepting all responsibilities set forth therein.
- (b) Upon a determination by the City manager, or their designated appointee, that a metal detecting permit holder has violated any rule or regulation of this section, such permit will be revoked, and they will lose the privilege to obtain a permit in the future.

2. Unpermitted metal detection in City parks is prohibited, with the exception of the beach area at Chetzemoka Park.

Loitering.

Loitering is prohibited in restrooms and other City of Port Townsend park areas and recreation facilities.

Removal of property.

No person shall change the position of or remove any City property, material, or equipment including vegetation and wildlife from its original position in any area under the jurisdiction of the City.

Fireworks.

No person shall possess, discharge, set off, or cause to be discharged, in or into a City of Port Townsend park, any firecracker, torpedo, rocket, firework, explosive, or substance harmful to the life or safety of persons or property, unless so authorized by the department. (PTMC 9.06.020)

Tobacco and related products prohibited.

No person shall light and/or smoke cigarettes, vapor electric cigarettes, cigars, pipes of any kind, including but not limited to hookah pipes, or otherwise use any tobacco products, including but not limited to chewing tobacco, or smoking of legal and illegal controlled substances in any City of Port Townsend park. (PTMC 11.02.025.)

Intoxicating drugs.

It is unlawful to bring into a park or consume by mouth, inhalation or injection, while in a park, intoxicating narcotic or dangerous drugs, including alcohol or to consume by any such method any material or substance (such as glue, for example) capable of producing a state of intoxication or euphoria. Provided, however, that this section shall not be applied to any person consuming a drug obtained by such person by lawful prescription and taken pursuant to the medical direction of a licensed physician or allowed by permit (i.e. beer garden during a festival in a park).

Intoxication.

Being or remaining in, or loitering about in a City park, or recreation area, while in a state of intoxication is prohibited.

Noise.

Activities in public or private areas are also subject to the City's noise ordinance (Chapter [9.09](#) PTMC).

Camping.

Per PTMC 11.02.020 it is unlawful to camp in any park; provided, the public works director may issue temporary permits for camping. (Ord. 3268 § 1 (Exh. A), 2021; Ord. 2964 § 1, 2008).

Kah Tai Nature Park

It is unlawful to swim or allow dogs or other animals to enter the water in the lagoon at Kah Tai Nature Park.

City Code.

Adoption of these administrative regulations for parks are allowed by the City manager, PTMC 11.01.040. These regulations are in addition to the park rules that are codified in PTMC chapter 11.