

FLATHEAD COUNTY WEED/PARKS/RECREATION & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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CONRAD ATHLETIC COMPLEX 758-5805

Handbook of a Parks Advisory Committee, March 2016

In 1975 the Park Board was granted permission to appoint advisory committees from local residents throughout the County who would act in a counseling capacity and assist in implementing programs in their specific communities/region. The committees were to range from 3 to 5 people with their duties to be established by the Board.

The Weed/Parks/Recreation Board is the sole governing body established by law, and park advisory committees answer directly to them. Park advisory park committees have no official status, or authority, other than to act in an advisory capacity to the Board. It is the Weed/Parks/Recreation Board that sets all policies, rules, regulations, duties, responsibilities, and limits of each committee.

Toward this effort, the Advisory Park Committee can play a vital role in the development of quality parks and recreation in the community, but only if the members are truly dedicated enough to give concrete, open-minded and non-contentious input about the areas of need in their locality. Regular meetings to discuss particular needs and to fairly determine a plan of progress without personal bias is a valuable asset to the Board. Input and suggestions are carefully considered.

Organization

- Each advisory committee should elect their own chairperson, who shall attend monthly Weed/Parks Board meetings if there is something to report – written reports are acceptable.
- Advisory Committees shall meet at least once a month to discuss ongoing programs, requests, and/or possible future projects.
- Advisory Committee members shall relay the Desirable Board Objectives to all user groups.
- A general record of the outcome of these meetings shall be kept and a report given to the Weed/Parks/Recreation Board.
- Term of appointment shall be 3 years.
- Solicit other community groups for input regarding potential projects in the community/region; evaluate, then submit to the Board.
- Community groups or individuals who initially approach the Board will be directed to contact the Advisory Committee to help evaluate requests.

- Communication is imperative between the Advisory Committees and the Board

Guidelines to assist in the realization of Advisory Committees' full potential:

1. Get to know other members of the Advisory Committee.
2. Become familiar with all aspects of the community.
3. Remember that members of Advisory Committees have a responsibility to represent the best interests of the total community, rather than a particular segment.
4. Promote teamwork.
5. Ensure all facts are gathered before being called upon to render an opinion/decision.

Helpful factors to consider when presented with requests or projects:

1. Consider the number of people served in relationship to the cost or effort involved.
2. Financing
3. Does this facility/program/project have the benefit of multiple uses?
4. Are all segments of the population able to use this facility/program/project?
5. What does this facility/program/project entail in future maintenance and renewal?
6. Get feedback from others in the community
7. Assist in raising funds for any requests made.
8. Understand the Department operates with a 'pay to play' management style.

Desirable Board Objectives

Due to the increasing population growth, it is the goal of the Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation Board to develop a comprehensive long range County Parks Master Plan which will address the demand and need of its citizens. As the County continues to grow, valuable land is being developed. It is the intent of the Board to preserve parkland that is accessible and a valuable part of its community while continuing to maintain these areas with quality care; for example, parks with water access.

Specific objectives include:

- Location of facilities where they will be most used.
- Make the best use of available resources and assist in ideas to increase income from park rentals.
- Retain natural areas.
- Promote reservation of open space.
- Retain natural beauty and environment.
- Develop children's playgrounds and neighborhood parks, especially in cooperation with school districts and churches, always seeking any available funding sources.
- Solicit and consider suggestions from residents of all areas of the County from persons and organizations interested in any practical type of public recreation.
- Encourage and develop public access to rivers, lakes and streams; and to the public-owned lands of the State and federal government.

- Preserve open play areas in every neighborhood which may develop a high residential concentration.
- Encourage private gifts and legacies by interested individuals.

The Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation Board typically meets the first Monday of every month at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room of the Weed/Parks/Recreation shop at 309 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana. The public is welcome to attend. Special meetings of the Weed/Parks/Recreation Board may be called in special situations that require immediate action. When this occurs, Advisory Committees may be notified in order to provide input in some decisions.

County Parks Rules and Regulations follow:

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ORDINANCE NO. 4 - PARK RULE ENFORCEMENT
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section Number	Bond Fees
0-1 No person shall discharge any fireworks, firearm, air or gas weapon (this includes paintball guns), or arrow from a bow on or over either land or water.	85.00
0-2 No person shall permit a pet animal to run at large in a designated public recreation area, but must restrain all pet animals and keep them under control on a leash at all times.	125.00
0.2.1 No dogs shall be allowed at Conrad Complex or Hillcrest Park in Kalispell, Carlyle Johnson Park in Bigfork, and Volunteer Park in Lakeside, or ballparks in general.	
On leash	85.00
Off leash	125.00
0-3 No motor vehicle shall be driven off authorized roads, except into parking areas provided.	85.00
0-4 No motor vehicle shall be driven at a speed greater than the posted speed.	85.00
0-5 No person shall park any vehicle, trailer, camper, boat, or other vehicle except in designated parking areas.	85.00
0-6 No person shall camp overnight in any County owned or County administered shelter building.	85.00
0-7 No person shall build or maintain a fire in any designated recreation area.	85.00
0-8 No person shall destroy, deface, injure, remove, or otherwise damage any natural or improved property or shall willfully or negligently cut, destroy, or mutilate any tree, shrub, or plant.	85.00
0-9 No person shall disturb or remove the topsoil cover. This prohibits digging for worms, burying of garbage, allowing pets to dig holes, or prospecting.	85.00
0-10 No person shall permit livestock to graze in any area properly fenced to restrict the passage of livestock unless the area is specifically leased to the owner grazing.	100.00
0-11 No person shall enter upon any portion of any area posted as restricted to public passage.	85.00

- 0-12** No person shall dump fish or animals or parts thereof, human excrement, refuse, rubbish, or wash water (except in receptacles provided for this purpose) nor pollute or litter in any manner a public recreational area. **85.00**
- 0-13** No commercial or political signs shall be posted. **85.00**
- 0-14** No boats shall be launched from any boat trailer, car, truck or other conveyance except at an established launching area if such a facility is provided. **85.00**
- 0-15 No person shall use these lands for any commercial purpose without first securing permission from the County Park Board and/or its Supervisor and meeting any necessary insurance standards or liability risks. Upon approval, the County will charge according to comparative prices of the private sector, whenever possible.
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|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1st offense | 85.00 |
| 2nd offense | 170.00 |
| 3rd offense | 255.00 |
- 0-16 Disorderly conduct such as drunkenness, use of vile or profane language, fighting, indecent exposure or operation of a motor vehicle in a manner as to create a nuisance or annoyance to others, or loud or noisy behavior during the hours of darkness is prohibited; and in addition to any other penalty provided, the participant may be expelled from the area, and/or subject to any penalties enforced by the sheriff's office. **100.00**
- 0-17 Swimming areas, when designated, are limited to red and white buoys, or blue and white buoys. No person shall swim from such designated swimming area to any area beyond that which is so marked or limited. No person shall disturb, deface, remove or relocate such buoys unless authorized by the County Park Board. No boat shall be operated within fifty (50) feet of the exterior boundary of a designated swimming area. **85.00**
- 0-18 No power boat shall be operated or beached within a designated swimming area nor shall be operated with its motor in operation so that any portion of such boat approaches closer than fifty (50) feet to any swimmer in the water. The term "swimmer" as used herein shall not mean any water skier then engaged in water skiing and using said boat as towing power. This regulation is applicable only in water areas which are within one hundred (100) feet of the nearest shoreline and shall not apply to emergency or lifesaving situations. **85.00**
- 0-19 No operator of a power boat shall tow any water skier so that such water skier is caused to approach within fifty (50) feet from any swimmer in the water. No water skier, while afloat on water skis, shall approach any swimmer in the water within fifty (50) feet or ski within the bounds of any designated swim area. **85.00**

- 0-20 No group of more than twenty (20) people shall use a County administered recreation area except with prior permission by the Superintendent or his agent. User permit must be in possession. **85.00**
- 0-21 No person shall operate over the snow equipment on any County owned or County administered recreation area. **85.00**
- 0-22 No person shall camp overnight in a County administered recreation area unless one has prior approval from the Superintendent. **85.00**
- 0-23 The hours of public use for all County recreation facilities are from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Public use is prohibited from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified by Board and/or its Supervisor, or Board of Commissioners. Varying hours may be put into effect by the Board of Directors. **85.00**

SECTION FOUR - PENALTIES

The penalties for violation of this Ordinance or any part thereof, including the specific rules and regulations as promulgated herein, shall be a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or six (6) months imprisonment, or both, for each separate offense. All fines collected pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance are to be paid to the County Treasurer for application to the County General Fund.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Board of County Commissioners. Board of Commissioners shall mean the Board of Commissioners of Flathead County, Montana.
- B. Camping Site. Camping site, when used in this Ordinance, shall be a duly designated and posted overnight camping site.
- C. County Park Board. County Park Board shall mean the duly appointed county Board of Park Commissioners as provided for in Title 7, Chapter 16, part 23, of the Montana Code Annotated.
- D. Swimming Area. Swimming area shall mean the duly designated area within a lake or other body of water which shall be marked by red and yellow buoys and within said buoys shall be the designated swimming area and outside of said buoys shall not be a designated swimming area.
- E. Power Boat. Power boat shall mean any boat powered by a gasoline powered or electrically powered motor or engine.
- F. Warden. Warden, when used in this Ordinance, shall mean the Flathead County Park Warden or Park Ranger employed by the county Park Board and as authorized under Section 7-16-2322 (2) (b), M.C.A.
- G. Water Skier. Water skier shall include an individual water skier or water skiers being towed by a power boat and shall also include a person or persons being towed by a power boat upon any type of device such as a surfboard, inner tube, or other floating device. Water skiers shall also include any sailboat and any board-sailing device.

May 10, 2012