

Chapter 80

Parks, Playgrounds and Public Areas

80.01 **Purpose.** The purpose of this Chapter is to regulate public use and promote public enjoyment of Chisago City parks, playgrounds and public areas in such a way as to leave Chisago City's parks, playgrounds and public areas unimpaired and minimize conflicts between users.

80.02 **Penalties.** Any person violating the provisions of this Chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to immediate removal from the park, playground or public area and to other appropriate legal action, including revocation of any permits issued.

80.03 **Definitions.** For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms are defined.

1. **Alcoholic Beverage.** Is defined as set forth in Minnesota Statute 340A.101.
2. **Cache.** Container that is hidden and includes a toy, trinket or similar and a logbook.
3. **Geocaching.** An outdoor recreational activity that involves the use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to find an object or geocache placed at a pre-determined location. The internet is often used to provide the direction and coordinates of the geocache.

80.04 **Public Lands, Parks, and Playgrounds**

1. **Hours.** All Chisago City Parks shall be closed to the public from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am, except as authorized.
2. **Camping.** It is unlawful for any person or group of persons to:
 - (a) Camp in a park except in areas provided and designated for that purpose; or
 - (b) Camp without a permit issued by the City Administrator or designee; or
 - (c) Occupy camp sites in a park contrary to a permit or otherwise violate provisions of a permit; or
 - (d) Operate any vehicle within a campground during posted curfew hours, except in emergencies; or
 - (e) Camp overnight in a park, if under 18 years of age, unless accompanied by parent or legal guardian, or by special permit issued by the City Administrator or designee.
 - (f) Camp in a park campground, or any combination of park campgrounds, for more than seven (7) days in a thirty (30)-day period without written permission from the City Administrator or designee.
3. **Boat Launching.** No person shall launch a boat unless a sign designates such actions.

4. **Swimming.** Swimming in designated areas in Chisago City Parks is permitted according to items A to E.
 - (a) **Lifeguards.** Activities in and upon the beaches and swimming areas shall be under the direction of the lifeguard if one is present.
 - (b) **Designated Swimming Areas.** No person shall swim in or enter a body of water in a City Park not posted for swimming.
 - (c) **Hours.** No person shall enter the water before 6:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., unless authorized by the City Administrator or designee.
 - (d) **Containers.** No person shall possess glass containers in an area designated for swimming or bathing.
 - (e) **Watercraft.** No person shall enter the swimming area with a boat, canoe, or raft; fish; or engage in an activity that is hazardous or could cause injuries to others.

5. **Alcoholic Beverages.**
 - (a) No person shall consume any alcoholic beverages in a public park within the City, unless with written permission by the city.
 - (b) No person shall have in his/her possession or on his/her person while on any public street or highway, public park, public parking lot, or any other parking place within the City, any bottle, receptacle, canister, or other container containing alcohol, which has been open, or the seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed, unless with written permission by the city.
 - (c) Intoxicating liquors are allowed for possession or consumption within a public facility with an appropriate liquor license and city permits.
 - (d) Alcoholic beverages are not allowed for possession or consumption for persons camping in City Parks with the exception of malt liquors containing five (5) percent of alcohol by weight or less and wines. A permit must be obtained by the City Administrator or designee and shall be maintained within the camp or cabin area.
 - (e) Upon application and approval of the City Administrator, the Council may issue a permit to non-profit clubs and organizations for consumption of non-intoxicating malt liquor upon a public park for a specific occasion. In granting such permit the City Council may impose such conditions and restrictions, as they deem proper to preserve the public peace and safety.

6. **Special Events Permit.** Any event requiring additional city staff, public works or police Department assistance. A permit may be required if the applicant requests the exclusive or special use of portions of park areas, buildings, trails and for use of park areas and facilities when they are closed to the public.

7. **Erection of Structures.** No person shall construct or erect any tent, building, or structures of any kind, whether permanent or temporary in character, or run, or string any public service utility into, upon, or across any public park or public land, except with a Special Events Permit issued or as permitted by the City Administrator or designee.
8. **Personal Conduct and Prohibitions.**
 - (a) **Disorderly Conduct.** No person shall engage in disorderly conduct, as provided under Minnesota Statutes, Section 609.72.
 - (b) **Noise.** No person shall make noise reasonably tending to arouse alarm or resentment of others by means of a public address system, radio, stereo, amplifier or power equipment, or by any other means without prior written permission from the City of Chisago City.
 - (c) **Disturbance.** No person shall engage in brawling or fighting, or use of offensive, obscene, or abusive language or engage in boisterous, noisy or threatening conduct reasonably tending to arouse alarm, anger or resentment in others.
 - (d) **Smoking.** Smoking is prohibited in City Parks within five-hundred (500) feet of an educational institution.
9. **Playground and Other Recreational Equipment.** No person shall use playground or recreational equipment in a manner contrary to standard usage or in a manner that is reckless or reasonably tending to cause damage to the equipment or arouse alarm, anger or resentment in others.
10. **Scavenging and Treasuring Hunting.** No person shall engage in scavenging or treasure hunting, with or without the aid of electronic or motorized devices, unless the object or Geocache was placed at a pre-determined location and registered with Chisago City. The displacement of earth or removal of objects from the parks without prior written permission from the City of Chisago City shall be prohibited.
11. **Geocaching.**
 - (a) Geocaching is allowed in City parks and trails. Each cache requires a permit.
 - (b) A cache shall not be buried, nor may vegetation or cultural features be damaged in the process of placing, accessing or maintaining the cache.
 - (c) A cache shall only be placed at locations where they do not negatively impact natural and cultural resources, visitor safety, or other users.
 - (d) A cache shall be in a waterproof container and not exceed 8" x 12" x 4" or 400 cubic inches in capacity.
 - (e) The cache container must be marked with the text "Geocache", and the name of the cache as it appears on the website and City permit form.

- (f) Food and any hazardous materials or items are not allowed in the containers.
- (g) Chisago City retains the right to remove, or have removed a cache for any reason at any time. Geo caching in public parks is a privilege, not a right. The City will remove caches if it feels is in an inappropriate location, is causing undo impact on forest resources or for other reasons deemed inconsistent with any local, state or federal regulations.

12. **Pets.**

- (a) **Restraint and Attendance.** In Chisago City Parks no person shall allow a dog, cat or other pet animal, except a service animal, to enter a building or beach or any area designated for swimming and bathing. A dog, cat, or other pet animal shall be restrained. Pet animals shall be personally attended at all times and shall be effectively restrained by a portable enclosure or by a leash not exceeding ten (10) feet in length, and animals shall not disrupt other persons or deprive them from using an area.
- (b) **Pet Waste.** Removal of pet waste from Chisago City Parks shall be in compliance with Section 151.07 (e) 2 of the Chisago City ordinances.

13. **Fires.** No person shall build or maintain a fire in a Chisago City Park except in a grill, fireplace or fire ring provided for that purpose. It is unlawful to disobey a Chisago City representative or police officer when ordered to extinguish a fire in any location at any time. Hot coal disposal anywhere in Chisago City Parks, except in special containers for that purpose or other sites approved by Chisago City, is prohibited.
14. **Refuse.** No person shall place refuse anywhere within city parks or public land except where receptacles provided. If no receptacle is available, the refuse shall be removed from the park. It is unlawful to place refuse generated outside the park into park receptacles.
15. **Vegetation.** No person shall pick or cut any wild or cultivated flower or cut, break or in any way injure or deface any tree, shrub or plant or otherwise disturb or disrupt the soil or grounds of such public areas. No person shall plant or cause to be planted any wild, cultivated or exotic tree, shrub or plant except in specifically designated areas with the written permission of the City Administrator or designee. No person shall climb any tree, pick any flowers, fruit or vegetables that are not self grown, or trample any flowers, tree seedlings, flower beds, vegetable gardens or new turf seedlings. No person shall hitch any animal or fasten, anchor or otherwise attach any wire, rope, cable, signs, posters or other article to any tree, shrub or plant. No person shall remove any device, apparatus or material installed for the protection, support or preservation of any tree, shrub or plant.
16. **Wildlife.** No person shall kill, pursue, injure, molest, disturb or have in possession any species of wildlife including birds, waterfowl or other animals found within the confines of the park. No person shall rob, disturb or molest the nest, eggs or young of any birds or other animals found within the park.
17. **Signs.** No person shall place or erect any sign or advertisement on any park land, trees, structures or equipment located therein, unless permission is granted by the city.

18. **Picnicking.** No person or group of persons shall unreasonably exclude others from a picnic area, amphitheater or shelter, except when it has been reserved with the written consent of Chisago City.
19. **Motor Vehicles.** Motorized vehicles, including but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, dune buggies, motorcycles, mini bikes, golf carts, snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles (OHMs), off-road vehicles (ORVs), and all terrain vehicles (ATVS) are prohibited in Chisago City Parks without prior permission from Chisago City or Lakes Area Police Department.
20. **Peddling and Soliciting.** No person shall engage in or solicit business of any nature whatsoever from parks visitors, or post signs, handbills, or advertisements, except for authorized concessions, without the prior written consent of Chisago City.
21. **Public Safety.**
 - (a) **Weapons.** No person shall fire off, discharge, explode, use, display or carry any weapon, including but not limited to a pistol, rifle, shotgun, air gun, air rifle, spring gun, slingshot, bow and arrow, switchblade knife, knife with a blade 4" or longer in length, trap, or spear in Chisago City Parks without prior written permission from Chisago City and/or a valid state permit or license to carry and discharge such weapons.
 - (b) **Fireworks.** No person shall possess or explode fireworks of any kind in Chisago City Parks without prior written permission from Chisago City.

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