

ORDINANCE 419

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING SPECIFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF CITY PARKS AND REPEALING ORDINANCES 377 AND 401

WHEREAS, the health and safety of both the citizens of Stilwell and municipal employees is of paramount importance,

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this Council that adequate guidelines are essential for the efficient and effective use of the City Parks,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STILWELL, OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. Parks

The City of Stilwell has:

- 1 Four Recreation Park areas: Adair Park, Fletcher Park, D. B. Gaines Park, and C. J. Carson Lake, and
- 2 One Sports Park Complex: Edna M. Carson Park.

SECTION 2. Hours and Public Use

The rules set forth in this ordinance shall pertain to the use of all City Parks, unless otherwise noted.

- 1 Hours of operation for City Parks is 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- 2 No person shall:
 - a. Enter a City of Stilwell park outside of the hours of operation, which are 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. without permission from the City Council for a specific event or purpose, with the exception of Adair Park that allows camping, see Section 4 below;
 - b. Stay in a City of Stilwell park after the hours of operation, without permission from the City Council for a specific event or purpose; and
 - c. Enter a City of Stilwell park when the park is closed by the City for any reason and the park is posted as such.
- 3 Edna M. Carson Park Splash Pad hours of operation shall be from Memorial Day through Labor Day from the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily except for those times reserved through City Hall for private usage.

SECTION 3. Fees and Charges

- 1 Day use of the parks is free for all visitors to enjoy;
- 2 Special Event scheduling will be handled through the Mayor's Office or their designee and fees for the event will be in accordance with the fee schedule for special events, which can be found in the most current version of Ordinance 385; and
- 3 Fees for camping, which is only authorized in Adair Park, will be in accordance with the most current version of Ordinance 385.

SECTION 4. Camping

- 1 Camping is only allowed in Adair Park;
- 2 Adair Park camping is only allowed in designated areas;
- 3 Campers will be required to obtain a permit for camping and pay in advance;
- 4 The permit obtained must be prominently displayed at the campsite at all times; and

- 5 Campers are allowed to be in the park after hours of operation, however campers:
 - a. Need to limit their activities to their designated camping area or the restroom facilities; and;
 - b. Noise must be kept to a respectful level.

SECTION 5. Fishing

- 1 Fishing is allowed at CJ Carson Lake and Adair parks;
- 2 Persons fishing do have to abide by all State of Oklahoma licensing rules and regulations;
- 3 No person can place items in the water to attract fish or create “spawning areas” without permission from the City;
- 4 Any tournament, or derby at Adair Park must be approved in advance by the City Council; and
- 5 Any tournament, or derby at C. J. Carson Lake must be approved in advance by both the City Council and the Stilwell Utility Board.

SECTION 6. Trash

There are trash receptacles located at each park. The receptacles are for trash created while at the park. No dumping of trash, refuse, or debris is allowed at any park.

SECTION 7. Motorized Vehicles

Motorized vehicles are to be operated on maintained roads only. No off road vehicles are to be operated within the limits of the park. Trails leading off of the roads are for pedestrian traffic only.

SECTION 8. Boating

Boating is allowed on C. J. Carson Lake and in the Adair Park Lake. A boat is defined as any vessel or watercraft, including, but not limited to any boat, raft, barge, canoe, skiff, dinghy, kayak, rowboat, sailboat, sailing vessel, yacht, motorboat, or motor vessel.

- 1 No boats with internal combustion motors are allowed at either location;
- 2 Electric trolling motors are authorized for use in both locations;
- 3 Boats are to be launched at the designated areas only to avoid damage to the shore line and the associated vegetation of the shore line.
- 4 Operation of all boats shall be in accordance with the Oklahoma State Wildlife rules and regulations, to include the requirements for life jackets, operating while intoxicated, and registration of the boat.

SECTION 9. Swimming

- 1 There are no life guards at any of the City operated parks.
- 2 Swimming is not permitted without a lifeguard present.

SECTION 10. Campfires

There are five levels of fire danger in the State of Oklahoma:

- 1 Low Fire Danger – color code is green.
- 2 Moderate Fire Danger – color code is blue.
- 3 High Fire Danger – color code is yellow.
- 4 Very High Fire Danger – color code is orange.
- 5 Extreme Fire Danger – color code is red.

Campfires are allowed at Adair and C. J. Carson Park provided they meet the following requirements:

- 1 Fires can only be done within designated areas of the park and then only within the designated fire ring areas (to avoid ground scarring and wildfires);
- 2 Campfires are not allowed on any day where there is a fire risk above moderate;
- 3 Campfires are not allowed when the wind or wind gusts exceed 15 mph;
- 4 Proper fire suppression, (example: a fire extinguisher or sufficient water to completely extinguish the fire) must be available;
- 5 Fires must be attended at all times;
- 6 Firewood cannot be brought from outside the park (this is done to avoid the spreading of any bugs or diseases);
- 7 Wood, if available, will be located in a marked bin near the camping area or designated areas where fires are permitted; and
- 8 No person is allowed to take the wood outside of the park, it is there solely for use at the park.

SECTION 11. Drones

Drones are allowed at Adair Park, Edna M. Carson Park and C. J. Carson Lake only under the following guidelines:

- 1 They must be flown in the areas that are marked for drone usage;
- 2 Harassing of other patrons or their pets is strictly forbidden; and
- 3 Drones can only be flown during hours of daylight.

SECTION 12. Geocaching

“Geocaching” is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world.

Geocaching is only authorized in any city park with approval from the Mayor or their designee. This is done to ensure any items in any park are removed in a timely manner and do not become unattended debris.

SECTION 13. Snakes

Snakes are a sign of a thriving ecological system. If you cross paths with a snake back away. Do not attempt to capture or play with the snake. If a snake is in an area that is designed for recreational use please contact Animal Control, for the safe removal and relocating of the snake.

SECTION 14. Pets/Livestock

Pets are allowed at all parks provide the following requirements are met:

- 1 All pets must be on a leash no longer than six (6) feet at all times and under the physical control of the handler;
- 2 All pet waste must be immediately picked up, bagged or placed in a sealable container and disposed of in a proper trash receptacle;
- 3 All pets must have rabies and DHPP vaccinations and the owner must be able to show proof of vaccination when requested by a City official;
- 4 No aggressive animals are permitted in the parks; and
- 5 Livestock is not permitted in City Parks unless approved for special events in advance by the City Council.

SECTION 15. General Rules of Conduct

Persons enjoying the park should not be exposed to language and/or actions by any person or group that can be deemed offensive, foul, obscene, threatening, insulting or abusive. This would include during any organized sporting event. Violations of this can result in the removal of the individual and/or group from the park and banning from future use until authorized by the Mayor or their designee.

- 1 No Littering;
- 2 No illegal drugs or drug usage with a prescription that would interfere with others in the area;
- 3 Smoking is only allowed in designated areas of the parks and not inside any facility including the restrooms;
- 4 No glass containers;
- 5 No fireworks; and
- 6 No bicycles or other vehicles on any playing surfaces

SECTION 16. Facilities and Scheduling

Park areas and buildings can be rented out under the following guidelines:

- 1 Fees for the rentals will be in accordance with the current version of Ordinance 385 as amended;
- 2 Scheduling procedure of the park areas and facilities:
 - a. All scheduling will be done through City Hall;
 - b. Any needed keys will be picked up no earlier than one day prior to the event and must be returned at the conclusion of the event;
 - c. The facility and/or park area will be inspected prior to the renting person departing the area to ensure the facility or park area is clean and free of any damage;
 - d. The scheduled use of the park will be posted in the affected park;
 - e. Stilwell Schools will have priority in scheduling of Edna M. Carson Park facilities upon timely presentation to City Hall of a firm schedule for each activity.
- 3 Restroom facilities are shared in the park areas and will not be limited to a reserved party or individual;
- 4 Security will sometimes be required for renting or use of a facility, in which case security fees will be in accordance with the most current version of Ordinance 385; and
- 5 Tournaments shall be scheduled at least two weeks, preferably more, prior to the event. Any and all exceptions to this (i.e.: fundraisers) will require Mayoral approval.

SECTION 17. Enforcement

Violations of this ordinance can be handled through the City Police Department, and/or the Community Development Department. Persons, firms or corporations in violation of this ordinance may be fined in accordance with the current municipal code, plus court costs and may be banned from the park(s)

SECTION 18: Repeal and Severability

1. Existing Ordinances 377 and 401 are hereby repealed.
2. Any and all other existing ordinances or portions thereof in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.
3. The provisions of this ordinance shall be severable and, if any of the provisions shall be held in contravention of the Constitution and laws of the State of Oklahoma, the decisions of the court shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

4. It is the intent of this ordinance that the same would have been adopted had such unconstitutional or unlawful provisions, if any, not been included herein.

PASSED by the City Council this 2nd day of September, 2021.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 2nd day of September, 2021.

ATTEST:

Jean Ann Wright, Mayor

Larry A, Nettles, City Clerk-Treasurer