Welcome to Texas State Parks

Park rules and regulations not only protect our natural and cultural resources, but also help preserve the safety and security of our visitors while on-site. Please take the time to familiarize yourself and other members of your group with park rules.

The goal of the State Park Law Enforcement Program is to provide a safe and secure environment for visitors and employees while protecting the environment within state parks. These objectives are met with professional law enforcement services through education and enforcement actions that accomplish the goals and objectives of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. State park law enforcement officers fulfill these responsibilities through educating the public about various laws and regulations, preventing violations by conducting high-visibility patrols, and apprehending and arresting violators. Officers who assume this duty carry full statewide jurisdiction that allow them to carry out law enforcement actions across the state of Texas. All other applicable state and federal laws are also enforced.

These regulations were adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on January 21, 2016. Parks and Wildlife Code, §13.101 (granted by Acts 1975, 64th Legislature, regular session, Ch. 545) provides the commission authority to promulgate regulations governing the health, safety and protection of person and property in state parks, historic sites, scientific areas, or forts, including encompassed waters, under the control of the department.

GENERAL

62.061 HUNTING IN STATE PARKS.

Except as authorized by the commission under Sec. 62.062, et seq., no person may hunt a wild animal, wild bird, or wild fowl in a state park, fort, or historic site under the jurisdiction of the department.

13.108 REMOVAL FROM PARK.

(a) Any person directly or indirectly responsible for disruptive, destructive, or violent conduct which endangers the health, safety, or property of persons or animals may be removed from a park, historical park, scientific area, or fort for a period not to exceed 48 hours.

(b) Prior to removal under this section, the person must be given notice of the provisions of this section and an opportunity to correct the conduct justifying removal.

(c) A court of competent jurisdiction may enjoin a person or a similar device, or operate a motorized ski device on lakes of less than 650 surface acres located in a state park;

(d) engage in water skiing, surf boarding while being towed, towing a person or a similar device, or operate a motorized ski device on lakes of less than 650 surface acres located in a state park;

(e) enter water or swim in an area closed for that activity;

(f) swim at night unless otherwise posted;

(g) introduce, carry into, or possess, throw, or abandon any glass container in the water of a swimming area, swimming pool, or in the beach area adjacent to the water of a swimming area;

(h) deposit waste water, sewage, or effluent from sinks, toilets, or other plumbing fixtures directly on the ground or into the water;

(i) deposit water waste, sewage, or effluent from sinks, toilets, or other plumbing fixtures directly on the ground or into the water;

(j) deposit fish parts at any location except park fish cleaning facilities;

(k) discard, deposit, or dump garbage in a state park, except for:

(l) garbage generated inside the park during the course of park visitation;

(m) carry, introduce, or possess any exception to Texas State Depository Law, or any other object between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., except in mooring areas designated by the director; or

(n) moor, dock, or berth a commercial vessel at any part of a state park except by permit from the director.

(o) Water, Wastewater, Sewage, and Garbage. It is an offense for any person to:

(p) introduce, carry into, or possess, throw, or abandon any glass container in the water of a swimming area, swimming pool, or in the beach area adjacent to the water of a swimming area;

(q) deposit waste water, sewage, or effluent from sinks, toilets, or other plumbing fixtures directly on the ground or into the water;

(r) deposit fish parts at any location except park fish cleaning facilities;

(s) discard, deposit, or dump garbage in a state park, except for:

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(y) deposit waste water, sewage, or effluent from sinks, toilets, or other plumbing fixtures directly on the ground or into the water;

(z) deposit water waste, sewage, or effluent from sinks, toilets, or other plumbing fixtures directly on the ground or into the water;

{[831x251]Class C Parks and Wildlife Misdemeanors: up to $500.}

13.109 ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS.

Regulations adopted under this subchapter may be enforced by any peace officer, including those employees of the department commissioned as peace officers under Section 11.109 of this code. A notice to appear may be issued by a peace officer for violation of a regulation on a form prescribed by the commission.

13.112 PENALTY.

A person who violates a regulation adopted under Subchapter B of this chapter commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor. [Pursuant to this section, the Parks and Wildlife Commission has adopted the following penalties for violations of the succeeding regulations] Class C Parks and Wildlife Misdeemans: up to $500.

Rules and Regulations

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(b) Prior to removal under this section, the person must be given notice of the provisions of this section and an opportunity to correct the conduct justifying removal.

(c) A court of competent jurisdiction may enjoin a person from reentry to the park, scientific area, site, or fort, on cause shown, for any period set by the court.

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any species of animal that a person may not legally possess. (b) The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(A) Arm—A hand, arm, arrow, or bolt is fixed by the force of an explosion, compressed air, or mechanical means, to a firearm, bullet, rifle, shotgun, air rifle, pellet gun, longbow, cross bow, sling shot, blow gun, or dart gun.

(B) Automobile—A vehicle propelled by internal combustion engine and having two or more wheels, any one of which is driven by an engine, and having a seating capacity of eight or more persons (exclusive of the driver).

(C) Bike—A self-propelled vehicle designed for personnel transportation with no motor and a speed capability not exceeding five miles per hour.

(D) Bicycle—A device that a person may ride, that is propelled by human power, and has two or more wheels at least one of which is more than 14 inches in diameter.

(2) Pocket bike or mini-motorbike, as defined in Transportation Code, §551.301;

(3) Artifacts—Objects used or modified by humans, including, but not limited to, arrow points, dart points, slate, stone, shell implements or any other prehistoric or historic objects.

(3) Wildlife. It is an offense for any person to:

(a)GMT—ride, drive, lead, or keep an equine or llama, except in designated areas;

(b)DNR—release or introduce any species of animal life within a park (including wildlife, or portions of wildlife from a unit of the state park system, except by a person over the age of 17 years; the person furnishes written consent of a parent or legal guardian to park, or the person furnishes written consent of a person with legal or other responsible power to act on behalf of the person who is under the age of 17 years; or the person is participating in an authorized, supervised recreational or educational activity; or the person has prior permission from the director or he has prior permission from the director; or the person is participating in an authorized, supervised recreational or educational activity; or the person has prior permission from the director or he has prior permission from the director; or

(c) Department—cabinets, screened shelters, recreation hall, group barracks, and lodges; and

(d) Rock—a pocket bike or mini-motorbike, as defined in Transportation Code, §551.301;

§59.131. Definitions.

(1) Ride, drive, lead, or keep an equine or llama, except in designated areas;

(2) Noisy, vicious, or dangerous pet, or a pet which creates a disturbance or hazard to a state park;

(3) Firewood—exceed the established limitations.

(4) Possess within a state park any fireworks, explosives, or similar devices except by permit issued by the director.

(5) Trail use. It is an offense for any person to:

(1) Equine or llama. It is an offense for any person to:

(2) Bicycle—A device that a person may ride, that is propelled by human power, and has two or more wheels at least one of which is more than 14 inches in diameter.


§59.135. Fees.

(1) Operation. It is an offense for any person to:

(2) Parking. It is an offense for any person to:

(3) Wildlife. It is an offense for any person to:

(4) Trade. It is an offense for any person to:

(5) Artifacts. It is an offense for any person to:

(6) Rock—release or introduce any species of animal life within a park (including wildlife, or portions of wildlife from a unit of the state park system, except by a person over the age of 17 years; the person furnishes written consent of a parent or legal guardian to park, or the person furnishes written consent of a person with legal or other responsible power to act on behalf of the person who is under the age of 17 years; or the person is participating in an authorized, supervised recreational or educational activity; or the person has prior permission from the director or he has prior permission from the director; or

(7) Night—Any time from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.

(8) Bicycle—A device that a person may ride, that is propelled by human power, and has two or more wheels at least one of which is more than 14 inches in diameter.

(9) Pocket bike or mini-motorbike, as defined in Transportation Code, §551.301;

(10) Plant life. It is an offense for any person to willfully mutilate, injure, destroy, deface, tamper with, or disturb any rock, earth, soil, gum, mineral, water, tree, shrub, or vegetation, except by permit issued by the director.

(11) Trail use. It is an offense for any person to:

(12) Campfire—Any fire burning for a purpose other than cooking or warming purposes and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(A) Acquiring a species of animal belonging to the Family equidae, including horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules.

(B) Artifacts—Objects used or modified by humans, including, but not limited to, arrow points, dart points, slate, stone, shell implements or any other prehistoric or historic objects.

(8) Golf cart, as defined in Transportation Code, §502.001;

(9) Motorized mobility device—A device designed for transportation of persons with physical disabilities that:

(10) Motorized vehicle—A vehicle subject to the weight limit, which is capable of speeds exceeding eight miles per hour.

(11) Plant life. It is an offense for any person to willfully mutilate, injure, destroy, deface, tamper with, or disturb any rock, earth, soil, gum, mineral, water, tree, shrub, or vegetation, except by permit issued by the director.

(12) Motorized device—A device designed for personnel transportation of persons with physical or mental capabilities.

(13) Wildlife. It is an offense for any person to:

(14) Any species of animal that a person may not legally possess. (b) The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(A) occasioning a camping facility; and

(B) occuring to aingredient for any purpose contrary to its designated purpose; or

(C) Artifacts—Objects used or modified by humans, including, but not limited to, arrow points, dart points, slate, stone, shell implements or any other prehistoric or historic objects.

§59.133. Exceptions to Rules of Conduct in Parks.

§59.132. General Prohibition Against Possession, Transportation, and Use of Arm, Arrow, or Bolt.

(2) Any motorized vehicle—A vehicle subject to the weight limit, which is capable of speeds exceeding eight miles per hour.

(3) Any motorized device—A device designed for personnel transportation of persons with physical or mental capabilities.

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