



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
OPEN SPACES

Initial Review: Updated Open Spaces Rules and Regulations

October 8, 2024



Timeline:

- **Initial BOCC Review** – Tuesday, October 8th
- **Draft circulation** – Underway
Includes Sheriff's Office, Public Health, Public Works, OS Operations Technicians, local government recreation partners in Arapahoe County
- **Public Outreach**
- **Final BOCC Review** – Monday, November 18th
- **January 1, 2025** – Effective

Background:

- 1996 – 2 parks, totaling 60 acres
 - Arapahoe County Community Park
 - Cheyenne-Arapaho Park
- 2024 – 28 parks, totaling 5,466 acres
- Current Rules and Regulations predate the Open Spaces Department (2003)
- 28 years without any updates





Research of Other Agencies' Rules & Regulations





Example Change

It shall be unlawful to remove, destroy, mutilate, TAG WITH GRAFFITI or deface any structure, EQUIPMENT, poster, FIXTURE, MONUMENT, notice, sign or marker, tree, shrub or other plant or vegetation, or rock or any object of archaeological, ECOLOGICAL, geological or historical value or interest.

Summary – Key Topics

- 1) Allows Director to partially or fully close areas as needed
- 2) Prohibits the release of domestic or exotic wildlife on properties
- 3) Dogs shall be on leashes, unless otherwise noticed
- 4) Pedal assisted electric bikes are allowed
- 5) Default speed limit on trails and pathways set at 15 mph
- 6) Right of way yield expectations (horse, peds, bikes)
- 7) No smoking on our properties
- 8) No consumption of alcohol on our properties
- 9) No glass bottles on our properties
- 10) No dumping waste generated off site
- 11) No use of flotation devices or flying objects unless otherwise posted
- 12) No commercial activities
- 13) Special Use Permits – granted by Board or Director





Feedback from May 21, 2024

- **Accommodate urban vs rural park needs?**
 - Ability to allow for activities in designated areas or if authorized through postings (Ex. Section 4 (B) – hunting and fishing)
 - Special Use Permits
- **Dogs on Leash?**
 - Current rules and regulations quiet on matter
 - Engaged with PWD’s Animal Services Experts
 - Reference to AC’s Animal Services Resolution No. 24-0212
 - Default – dogs on leash unless otherwise noticed. (Section 4 (D))
- **Remote Control Objects?**
 - Current rules and regulations quiet on matter
 - Default – unlawful unless otherwise posted (Section 15 (B))



Feedback from May 21, 2024

- **Pedestrian v. Bike Conflicts**
 - Current rules and regulations quiet on matter
 - Speed limit on trails and pathways – 15 mph (or less depending on what’s reasonable under circumstances) (Section 5 (E))
 - Right of way yield expectations (horse, peds, bikes) (Section 5 (G))
 - Default – Bikes, including pedal assisted electric bikes, are allowed. (Section 5 (B))



Enforcement

- Civil Infraction – SB21-271 (formerly a class 2 petty offense)
- Not more than \$100 (CRS 16-2.3-101)
- “...the board of county commissioners **may adopt a graduated fine schedule** for violations. The graduated fine schedule may provide for increased penalty assessments for repeat offenses by the same person.” (CRS 29-7-101 (2))
- “It is the **duty of the sheriff** and the sheriff’s undersheriff and deputies, in their respective counties, **as well as any county enforcement personnel authorized and appointed** as described in subsection (3) of this section, to enforce rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection (2) and the **county courts** in their respective counties have jurisdiction in the prosecution of any violation of a rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this subsection (2)” (CRS 29-7-101 (2))
- Leading with ‘good norms’. Expectation is that Sheriff’s Office will triage violations in light of their other duties to protect public safety.

Questions?

