Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

PenMet Parks
Parks For All. Parks For Life.

Rules for Park Use

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Policy: Rules for Park Use

Purpose: These Rules for Park Use establish reasonable conditions for the use of parks, trails, shorelines, facilities, and other property owned, managed, or operated by PenMet Parks in order to protect public safety, preserve natural and cultural resources, ensure equitable access, and maintain park quality and enjoyment.

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Section 1. Rules for Park Use

This document constitutes the Rules for Park Use for all parks and facilities owned, managed or operated by the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (“PenMet Parks”).

These rules establish reasonable conditions for the use of PenMet Parks’ owned, managed or operated parks, as defined below, in order to protect public safety, preserve natural and cultural resources, ensure equitable access, and maintain park quality and enjoyment.

These rules have been adopted by the PenMet Parks’ Board of Park Commissioners and are conditions of entry and use of PenMet Parks’ property.

Section 2. Liberal Construction

This document is intended to promote the public peace, health, safety and welfare, and its provisions shall be liberally construed.

Section 3. Definitions

The terms used in this document, unless clearly contrary to or inconsistent with the context in which used, shall be:

"**Aircraft**" means any contrivance now known, or hereafter invented, used or designed for navigation of or flight in the air.

"**Animal**" means any nonhuman mammal, bird, reptile, or amphibian.

"**Camp**" means erecting a tent or shelter or arranging bedding or both, for the purpose of, or in such a way that permits remaining overnight, or parking a trailer, camper, or other vehicle for the purpose of remaining overnight.

"**Director**" means the Executive Director of PenMet Parks or the Executive Director’s designee.

"**Drones**" or "Unmanned Aircraft Systems" (UAS) or "Unmanned Aerial Vehicle" (UAV) means a powered, aerial vehicle that does not carry a human operator, uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift, and can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely. The vehicle may be expendable and recoverable.

"**Fee**" means the currently adopted fee schedule for use of any PenMet Parks’ park.

"**Micromobility device**" means a personal transportation device, such as bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates, roller blades, unicycles, mono wheel devices, surreys, electric personal assistive mobility devices, Class 1 and 2 electric bicycles as defined by RCW 46.04.169, and electric motorized foot scooters. A micromobility device includes all human-powered devices, including devices powered by more than one

person, and devices that are powered by an electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without the assistance of human propulsion. A micromobility device excludes personal transportation devices that contain an internal combustion engine or that use an electric motor capable of propelling the device in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour or provides assistance after reaching a speed of twenty (20) miles per hour. A bike that is powered solely by an electric motor that is capable of propelling the device in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour is not a micromobility device.

"**Park**" means and includes all parks, open spaces, squares, drives, meridians, boulevards, parkways, boulevards trails, linear corridors, docks, piers, moorage buoys and floats, boat-launching ramps, beaches, playfields, golf courses, playgrounds, recreation areas, community centers, and recreation areas and any other facilities either developed or undeveloped, that are owned by PenMet Parks or under the management or control of PenMet Parks.

"**PenMet Parks**" means the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District.

"**Permit**" means any and all permits, licenses, or approvals required by federal, state or local law, or required by PenMet Parks.

"**Person**" means all natural persons, firms, partnerships, entities, corporations, clubs and all associations or combination of persons whenever acting for themselves or through an agent, servant or employee.

"**Regional Trail**" means the Cushman Trail and any other non-motorized, multi-modal network extending into neighboring jurisdictions, serving as recreational and commuter corridors. Regional Trails link parks, open spaces, public facilities, cities and towns, and other destinations of interest.

"**Sound-amplifying device**" is any machine or device for the amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound. "Sound-amplifying device," as used in this section, shall not be construed as including standard radios or similar equipment when used in accordance with Chapter 8.72 of the Pierce County Code, nor warning devices on authorized emergency vehicles nor horns or other warning devices on other vehicles and used only for traffic safety purposes.

"Trail" means:

A. Any way identified as a "trail" or "path" at paved or graded prepared entrance points; or

B. Any way that is not marked parking area or highway as defined in Title 46 RCW; or

C. Any way not of sufficient width or grading to permit its safe use by standard passenger automobiles moving in both directions simultaneously along its entire length.

"Vehicle" shall have the meaning set forth in RCW 46.04.670 as currently enacted or hereafter amended, and shall also include (1) trailers, including trailers designed to be towed behind any vehicle, (2) golf cars, (3) off road vehicles including wheeled all-terrain vehicles as set forth in RCW 46.09.310, all-terrain bikes powered by an electric motor that is capable of propelling the device in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour, and similar devices intended for off-road use, and (4) any personal transportation device such as bicycle, scooters, skateboards, unicycles, surreys, or mono wheel devices that are powered by an internal combustion engine that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion. A “micromobility device” is not a “vehicle”.

"Watercraft" means any floating device, powered by internal combustion engine, battery, wind or human power, capable of traveling on or under water.

Section 4. Permit Required Activities

A. The following shall not be allowed in any park, without first securing a permit from the Director:

1. Use a public address system or other sound amplifying device;

2. Use, place or erect any signboard, sign, billboard, bulletin board, post, pole or device of any kind for advertising in any park or to attach any notice, bill, poster, sign, wire, rod or card to any tree, shrub, railing, post or structure, or erect a structure of any kind;

3. Sell refreshments or merchandise or engage in any business or occupation;

4. Use any park for the purpose of having any watercraft for hire;

5. Launch motorized waterborne craft from any shoreline except from specifically designated areas or with a specific permit;

6. Take up collections or to act as or apply the vocation of a solicitor, agent, peddler, beggar, strolling musician, organ grinder, exhorter, barker or showman within a park;

7. Hold any organized runs, walks, races, trials, or competitions;

8. Hold any shows, festivals, fundraisers, carnivals, parades, or similar activities;

9. Host organized activities, rallies, demonstrations, or other organized activities that:

   a. Involve more than twenty-five (25) persons; or

   b. Utilize amplified sound; or

c. Obstruct or interfere with pedestrian or vehicular access, circulation, or use of park; or

d. Utilize a substantial portion of a park area or restrict or require exclusive use of park property.

10. Host commercial activities that charge for services, such as lessons or clinics;

11. Sailboard, other than in designated areas;

12. Operate drones, aircraft, model aircraft, model rockets, or hot air balloons;

13. Parachute;

14. Hang glide;

15. Parasail;

16. Moor watercraft, other than in designated areas;

17. Engage in paint balling or survival games;

18. Participate in archery, other than in designated areas;

19. Engage in disaster drills;

20. Operate any vehicle other than in designated areas;

21. Metal detect, excavate, remove, or deface any historical, archaeological, or cultural resource; or

22. Commercial photography or filming that involves the use of props, sets, staging, models, large equipment, tripods, lighting, drones, exclusive use of space, or that otherwise interferes with public access or PenMet Parks' operations.

B. If the Director finds that the safety, comfort, and convenience of the public in the use of a park, or in the use of the area adjacent to the park, would be unduly disturbed, the Director may deny the permit application, impose restrictions upon the permit or issue a permit for a different date, time, park, or park area to alleviate such disturbance.

C. The Director may issue a permit for use of a park during hours when the park is closed.

D. All permits issued hereunder shall also be subject to applicable federal, state and local laws, codes, ordinances and regulations. The persons to whom such permits are issued ("permittees") shall be bound by said law, code, ordinance and regulation as though the same were fully stated in such permits. A permittee shall be liable for any loss, damage, or injury sustained by any person by reason of the negligence, unlawful or wrongful conduct of the permittee, as well as for any breach or violation of the permit conditions, or any applicable laws, codes, ordinances, or regulations, to the person or persons suffering a loss, damage, or injury as a result.

Section 5. Permit Administration and General Requirements

A. Any person who has obtained a permit from the Director must produce and exhibit such permit upon request.

B. No person under the age of 21 may sign for a reservation or obtain a permit.

C. The Director reserves the right to cancel a permittee's activity or revoke a permit for any reason.

D. All permittees must leave the park in a condition considered satisfactory to the Director. No group shall conduct activities causing extra custodial or grounds maintenance work unless a prior agreement has been made to pay for such work.

E. At all assemblies that include persons under 18 years of age, responsible adults must be present throughout the entire event.

F. A person using a park, or a portion thereof, by reservation or agreement may be required to indemnify, protect and hold PenMet Parks, its elected and appointed officials and employees harmless from and against all claims, demands, and causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, due to personal injury, death, or damage to property in any way arising out of the acts or omissions of the person and/or their agents, employees, or representatives. Users of any park do so at their own risk. PenMet Parks assumes no liability or responsibility due to accidents or injury through authorized or unauthorized use of a park.

Section 6. Prohibited Activities

It is prohibited for any person to:

A. Cut, remove, damage, destroy, mutilate, mark, or deface any turf, tree, plant, shrub, flower, structure, monument, statue, vase, fountain, wall, fence, railing, vehicle, bench, utility system, irrigation system, facilities, or other property in any park, except when such activity is expressly authorized by PenMet Parks as part

of a volunteer activity, or conducted under similar oversight and approval by PenMet Parks.

B. Leave any rubbish in a park except in a garbage can or other receptacle designated for such purposes;

C. Deposit any household or commercial garbage, refuse, waste or rubbish which is brought from any private property in any garbage can or other receptacle designated for such purpose located within a park;

D. Drain or dump refuse or waste from any trailer, camper or vehicle except into disposal areas or receptacles designated specifically for that purpose;

E. Pollute or in any way contaminate by dumping or otherwise depositing any waste or refuse of any nature, kind or description, including human waste or bodily waste, in any park and/or any stream, river, lake or other body of water running in, through or adjacent to any park;

F. Clean fish or other food or wash any clothing or other articles for personal or household use or bathe any dog or other animal except in areas in the park designated specifically for that purpose;

G. Clean or wash any vehicle in any park except in areas designated specifically for that purpose;

H. Possess, discharge, set off or cause to be discharged in or into any park, any firecracker, torpedo, rocket, firework, explosive or other substance harmful to the life or safety of persons or property. Legal fireworks as part of a permitted function which are licensed and in compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws may be discharged in a manner meeting all safety requirements if authorized by the Director and if handled by a licensed professional;

I. Discharge across, in or into any park any weapon including, but not limited to, a firearm, air or gas weapon, slingshot, beanshooter, paintball gun or similar implement or equipment, or any device capable of injuring or killing any person or animal or damaging or destroying any public or private property;

J. Annoy, bother, molest, insult or offer an affront to any other person within a park;

K. Play in an aggressive or unsafe manner that puts self or others at risk;

L. Play games, sports, or horseplay in parking lots and roadways;

M. Practice or play golf, baseball, cricket, lacrosse, polo, archery, hockey, tennis or other games of like character or to hurl or propel any missile except at places designated specifically for that purpose;

N. Smoke or vape any product derived from or containing nicotine within a park, unless the product has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration as a tobacco cessation product, such as transdermal nicotine patches, nicotine gum and nicotine lozenges, or for other medically approved purposes and is being used for that approved purpose. For the purposes of this Section, "smoke" or "smoking" means the carrying, holding, or smoking of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or any other object that is used for smoking.

O. Display, possess or consume alcoholic beverages in a park, except that such beverages may be opened, served and consumed at designated locations within a park by persons who have obtained all requisite permits including, but not limited to, the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board Banquet permit, comply with all federal, state and local laws applicable to alcoholic beverages, and have approval from the Director;

P. Open a package containing cannabis, useable cannabis, cannabis-infused products, or cannabis concentrates, or consume cannabis, useable cannabis, cannabis-infused products, or cannabis concentrates, in a park. "Cannabis" means cannabis as defined by RCW 69.50.101 as now or hereafter amended.

Q. Interfere with any PenMet Parks' personnel in the exercise of his, her or their official duties;

R. Have open fires, portable units using flammable material, fireplaces, fire rings, barbeques or grills, except in areas designated specifically for that purpose or with the written approval of the Director;

S. Blow, spread, or place any nasal or other bodily discharge, or spit, urinate, or defecate on the floors, walls, partitions, furniture, fittings, or any portion of a park, except directly into the particular fixtures provided for that purpose;

T. Go out onto ice in or from a park, except in areas designated specifically for that purpose. This includes ice on lakes, ponds, wetlands, streams, rivers, and other natural bodies of standing water;

U. Make any public disturbance noise, or public nuisance noise as defined in Chapter 8.72 of the Pierce County Code unless such noise is necessary to a permitted activity or function;

V. Jump, dive, or swim from any dock, pier, bridge or trestle located in a park.

W. Knowingly move on a trail other than by human power or an authorized micromobility device. PenMet Parks-owned or operated vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles as defined by RCW 4.04.040 are exempt from this subsection. Movement on the trail for the sole purpose of crossing the trail when

such movement is made in the most direct and safe manner possible is exempt from this subsection.

X. Moor or secure any vessel to any dock, except with the written approval of the Director. Any vessel moored in violation of this Section may be subject to immediate removal at the registered owner's expense.

Y. Erect, install, or place any structure within a park, except as provided herein. “Structure” means any structure or shelter, including but not limited to any temporary makeshift dwelling units, tents, lean-tos, shacks and/or trailers, comprised of tree branches, wood, plastic, metal, nylon, tarp or any other materials. This section shall not apply to any structure erected installed or placed within a park by PenMet Parks or with the written approval of the Director.

Section 7. Animals

A. Animal Control. Any animal in a park is subject to Title 6 of the Pierce County Code. Animals must always be under the physical control of the owner, except in a designated off-leash area. The following additional requirements apply:

1. Dogs, pets, or domestic animals shall be kept on a leash no longer than 8 feet or confined and under control at all times, except within a designated off-leash area, where subsection C of this Section shall apply.

2. It is prohibited for a person accompanied by an animal in a park to fail to provide for, remove and properly dispose of their animal's fecal matter.

B. Animals are restricted from any golf course, public building, environmentally sensitive areas, and other areas deemed inappropriate for animals. Users shall follow posted signs.

1. No horses shall be permitted in any park except where designated and posted to specifically permit such activity or as permitted by the Director.

2. No person shall ride any horse or other animal in such a manner that might endanger life or limb of any person or animal, and no person shall allow a horse or other animal to stand unattended or insecurely tied.

3. Owners of dogs or other animals damaging or destroying a park will be held liable for the full value of the property damaged or destroyed, in addition to impounding fees and the penalty imposed for violation of these provisions.

4. Service animals, as defined by RCW 49.60.040, are permitted in all areas open to the public.

C. Designated Off-Leash Areas. Areas for off-leash dogs are provided in some parks, which allow dogs, under verbal/voice control of their handlers, to be off-

leash within the designated confines of the off-leash park. All other provisions of this document shall apply within off-leash areas. The following additional provisions shall also apply within off-leash areas:

1. Off-leash areas are for use by dogs only; all other animals are prohibited. Micromobility devices are prohibited.

2. Dogs who are aggressive, sick, unlicensed, in heat, and puppies under four months of age are prohibited.

3. Owners or handlers are legally responsible for the behavior and any damage caused by their dog.

4. Dogs shall always be within visual range of their owner/handler and under verbal/voice control.

5. Dog handlers shall be at least 16 years of age, and children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.

6. Owners or handlers shall carry one leash for each dog in their care.

D. Fish and Shellfish:

1. All federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations relating to seasons, limits and methods of fishing are applicable to fishing or gamefish, and taking shellfish or fish food in a park.

2. No person may fish for or possess any fish taken from any dam, dike, bridge, dock, boat landing or beach which is posted with a sign prohibiting fishing.

3. The Director may, upon a finding of good cause, close certain areas for specific periods of time to fishing and/or the taking of shellfish. Such closed areas shall be posted with appropriate signs.

E. Molesting or Feeding Animals. No person shall molest or harass any wildlife or non-domesticated animal in a park. It shall be unlawful for any person to give, offer, or attempt to give to any wildlife or non-domesticated animal within a park any tobacco, drink, or other substance known to be dangerous or noxious to wildlife or non-domesticated animals. It is also unlawful to feed any wildlife or non-domesticated animal in a park, except with the written approval of the Director.

Section 8. Regulation of Outdoor Rental Areas

A. Group Picnic Areas and Other Reservable Areas. PenMet Parks will make available a list of outdoor areas for reservation. Use of picnic shelters and other

outdoor reservable areas may be available by reservation. If reservation of such areas is not required or a reservation is not held for that time, use of such areas is on a first-come, first-served basis.

B. Camping:

1. Camping is not allowed in any park unless as part of a permitted event wherein camping is a permitted use and user fees are paid.

2. Camping shall be permitted only in areas specifically designated and/or marked for that purpose and as specified in the event permit.

3. Camping occupancy shall only be permitted for the duration of the event or the amount of time specified in the permit.

C. Outdoor Cooking. Outdoor cooking utilizing charcoal or wood pellets may only take place in areas designated specifically for such use and that are also equipped with hot coal disposal containers. Outdoor cooking utilizing compressed gas such as propane or liquid gas equipped with an on/off switch is allowed in areas designated specifically for such use.

Section 9. Regulation of Vehicles and Micromobility Devices

A. Parking:

1. No operator of any vehicle shall enter a park unless the operator is using the area for an authorized and designated recreational purpose.

2. Vehicles shall only be parked in any area designated specifically for parking. No vehicle may be parked in violation of signs or pavement markings, or where prohibited by signs or pavement markings, except with the written approval of the Director.

3. No person shall park, leave standing or abandon a vehicle after park closing time except with the written approval of the Director.

4. Any vehicle found parked in violation of this Section may be cited and/or towed away at the owner's or operator's expense.

B. Operation:

1. No person shall operate any vehicle in a park unless such park has been specifically designated and posted for such use. Subject to the provisions of this document, no person shall operate a vehicle within a park except on roads, streets, highways, parking lots or parking areas; provided, that traveling upon such roads, streets, highways, parking lots or parking areas has not been prohibited by proper posting.

2. Use of authorized micromobility devices is permitted on roads, sidewalks, paths, or trails in a park, unless otherwise prohibited. Users shall follow posted signs.

C. Speed:

1. Parks: No person shall drive a vehicle or micromobility device within any park at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour (mph) unless otherwise posted, having due regard for the traffic and the surface and width of the travel way, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons, property or wildlife.

2. Trails: No person shall operate a micromobility device on a regional trail at a speed greater than 15 mph, or any other trail at a speed greater than 10 mph, unless otherwise posted, having due regard for the traffic and the surface and width of the travel way, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons, property or wildlife.

D. It is prohibited to enter or leave a park other than by established entrances and exits.

E. The washing and servicing of vehicles is prohibited, including oil changes, other than emergency repairs.

F. Individuals are not authorized to engage in, conduct, or hold any trials or competitions for speed, endurance, or hill climbing involving any vehicle or micromobility device without a permit.

G. Except where specifically amended by this document, all vehicle and micromobility device regulations contained in this document or the Revised Code of Washington shall apply to all roads, highways, parking lots, or parking areas within a park.

Section 10. Aircraft

A. No aircraft shall land or take off from any body of water or land area in a park not specifically designated for landing aircraft. All landings must be by permit and with the written approval of the Director.

B. Model aircraft, drones, and rockets:

1. Individuals are not permitted to operate motorized model aircraft, drones, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) except where specifically designated for that use or with the written approval of the Director.

2. The operation of drones or unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) shall comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

3. All engines over .25 cubic inches used in model aircraft shall be muffled.

4. All persons flying model aircraft shall abide by the official American Model Academy (AMA) safety code.

C. No person shall fly or land a hot air balloon, sky lantern or other device that uses a flame for lift or propulsion or other similar implement, in a park except with the written approval of the Director.

Section 11. Trail Use

A. No person shall travel on a trail at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent based on current trail conditions. Speed shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with others. In no event shall speed exceed 15 mph on regional trails or 10 mph on all other trails unless posted otherwise.

B. No person shall travel on a trail in a negligent manner. For the purposes of this Section, "travel on a trail in a negligent manner" shall be construed to mean any form of travel on a trail in such a manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any persons, property or wildlife.

C. For the purposes of this Section, "travel" shall be construed to include all forms of movement or transportation on a trail including, but not limited to foot, horse, or micromobility device.

D. Travel on trails is restricted to the designated use.

E. Vehicles are prohibited on trails except with the written approval of the Director.

F. Off-road vehicles, including devices powered by an electric motor that are capable of propelling the device in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour, are prohibited on trails except with the written approval of the Director.

G. Various trail users may be encountered on multi-use trails. Trail users with dogs shall yield to all other trail users. Cyclists shall yield to hikers and equestrians. Hikers shall yield to equestrians. Equestrians should make every effort to communicate with hikers and cyclists about how best to pass.

H. Every person traveling on a trail shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device applicable thereto and placed in accordance with applicable laws unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

I. Every person who shall use or travel on a trail shall follow the posted signage.

Section 12. Park And Trail Hours; Emergencies

A. Parks are considered open from dawn until dusk, unless otherwise expressly determined by the Director or otherwise posted at the park. Any person entering or remaining in a park when it is closed and without a permit is subject to arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass. Any vehicle remaining in a park when the park is closed and without a permit may be impounded and any personal property or structure remaining in a park when the park is closed may be removed.

B. The Director may extend open hours for prearranged, special group activities or regularly established concessions or activities.

C. Vehicular gates are open from 7 a.m. to dusk unless posted otherwise.

D. In case of an emergency, or in case where life and property are endangered, all persons, if requested to do so by the Director or other PenMet Parks' employee or a first responder, shall depart from the portion of the park specified by the Director, such employee or officer, and shall remain off the same until permission is given to return. Any person who remains within a park after being required to leave by the Director, a PenMet Parks' employee or by a police officer, or who returns to the park without permission, will be considered trespassing.

Section 13. Authority to Adopt Procedures and a Code of Conduct

The Director is hereby authorized to create, approve and maintain procedures designed to carry out the intent of this document. The Director is hereby further authorized to create, approve and maintain a code of conduct that regulates any activity or behavior in parks to protect the public's health and safety, to promote respect for the rights and needs of others, and to preserve park property. The use and enjoyment of parks are enhanced when patrons abide by a code of conduct that promotes health and safety, that requires respect for the rights and needs of others, and that requires respect for the park property.

Section 14. Violation – Penalty

Any person who violates any provision of this document or applicable provisions of the Revised Code of Washington while in a park may be subject to immediate ejection from the park. The Director, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, the Gig Harbor Police Department, and any other law enforcement agency with jurisdiction are authorized to enforce the provisions of this document. Nothing herein limits the authority of fire districts or other first responding agencies to control emergency scenes or exercise their lawful authority as provided by state law.

Section 15. Severability

If any provision of this document or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this document or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

PenMet Parks' Rules for Park Use is current through Resolution RR2026-002 passed on April 21, 2026.