

**ORDINANCE NO. 1607**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ZILLAH, WASHINGTON, REPEALING AND REPLACING ZILLAH MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 12.16 WITH A COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CODE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Zillah operates a growing system of parks, splash pads, open spaces, trails, and recreational facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, existing ZMC 12.16 no longer provides adequate provisions to govern use, safety, protection, and operation of these facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds it necessary to adopt an updated and comprehensive set of regulations;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Zillah, Washington, do ordain as follows:

**Section 1. ZMC Chapter 12.16 Repealed and Replaced**

Chapter 12.16 of the Zillah Municipal Code is repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**Chapter 12.16 – CITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CODE**

**12.16.010 – Purpose and Scope**

- A. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the use, operation, protection, and management of all property comprising the City of Zillah parks system.
- B. This chapter applies to all parks, splash pads, playgrounds, trails, open spaces, athletic fields, community facilities, parking areas, natural areas, and any other outdoor recreational properties owned or managed by the City.
- C. This chapter is adopted pursuant to the City’s police powers to promote public health, safety, welfare, and preservation of public property.

**12.16.020 – Definitions**

For purposes of this chapter:

- 1. **“Park”** means any publicly owned or managed park, playground, splash pad, plaza, trail, open space, natural area, community facility, athletic field, or related property.
- 2. **“Director”** means the City of Zillah Public Works Director or designee.
- 3. **“Camp,” “camp facilities,” and “camp paraphernalia”** include any equipment, structure, or item used for temporary habitation, including tents, tarps, bedding, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, or vehicles used as temporary lodging.
- 4. **“Wildlife”** means all non-domestic animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.

**12.16.030 – Protection of Park Property**

- A. It is unlawful for any person to damage, destroy, deface, remove, or tamper with park property, vegetation, buildings, structures, signage, irrigation, or equipment.
- B. No person shall place or add sand, mulch, dirt, sawdust, or similar materials on any turf, field, or play surface without written authorization from the Director.

**12.16.040 – Animals in Parks**

- A. All pets must be leashed and under the control of a handler at all times unless in an area posted as off-leash.
- B. Pets are prohibited in playgrounds, splash pads, and inside park buildings unless posted otherwise.
- C. Pet owners must remove and properly dispose of pet waste.
- D. These restrictions do not apply to law-enforcement K-9 units or service animals as defined by law.

#### **12.16.050 – Wildlife Protection**

- A. Harassing, disturbing, injuring, capturing, feeding, or killing wildlife in any park is prohibited.
- B. This section does not apply to City-authorized wildlife management or humane abatement.

#### **12.16.060 – Fireworks, Weapons, and Fires**

- A. Fireworks, explosive devices, and similar materials are prohibited unless authorized by a City permit.
- B. Brandishing or displaying a weapon in a manner that causes public alarm is prohibited.
- C. Open flames, campfires, and charcoal fires are prohibited except in designated or City-approved areas.

#### **12.16.070 – Commercial Use; Vendors; Solicitation**

- A. No person may sell or offer goods or services, conduct business activity, or solicit within a park without a City-issued permit or concession agreement.
- B. Vendors must comply with all City licensing and health regulations.

#### **12.16.080 – Alcohol and Controlled Substances**

- A. Alcohol possession or consumption is prohibited unless authorized through a City-issued permit and compliant with state law.
- B. The use or possession of illegal drugs is prohibited.

#### **12.16.090 – Littering and Waste Disposal**

- A. Dumping or abandoning any trash, yard debris, construction material, or other waste in a park is prohibited.
- B. Waste generated off-site may not be disposed of in park receptacles.

#### **12.16.100 – Camping and Storage of Personal Property**

- A. Camping is prohibited in all City parks except in areas posted or designated for that purpose.
- B. Storing personal property in parks—including tents, bedding, carts, tarps, or similar items—is prohibited without authorization.

#### **12.16.110 – Park Hours and Restricted Areas**

- A. Unless otherwise posted, all parks are closed **from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise**.
- B. The Director may set seasonal or location-specific hours.
- C. Entering or remaining in a park during closed hours is prohibited unless part of a permitted activity.
- D. The Director may close any park area for safety, maintenance, or environmental protection.

#### **12.16.115 – General Park Rules**

The following rules apply in all city parks:

- A. **Park hours** are as stated in ZMC 12.16.110.
- B. **Littering** is prohibited.
- C. **Pets** must remain leashed, and owners must remove pet waste.
- D. The following activities are prohibited:
  - 1. Smoking or vaping;
  - 2. Camping or overnight lodging;
  - 3. Fireworks;
  - 4. Alcohol or controlled substances without a permit;
  - 5. Use or possession of illegal drugs.
- E. **Permits** are required for all special events, commercial uses, tournaments, or organized group activities.
- F. **Vehicles** must remain on designated roadways or parking areas unless authorized.

G. **Damage to vegetation or park property** is prohibited.

H. **Violators** may be fined up to **\$350** or as otherwise provided in the Zillah Municipal Code.

I. Park areas may be monitored **by video surveillance**.

#### **12.16.116 – Splash Pad Rules**

A. **Hours of Use.** Splash pads shall be open from **10:00 a.m. to dusk** unless otherwise posted or closed for safety, maintenance, or weather.

B. **Activation.** Users may activate water only through the designated activation button.

#### **C. Prohibited Behaviors and Items.**

1. No glass containers in or around the splash pad.
2. No running, pushing, or horseplay.
3. No food or drink in the splash pad water area.
4. Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs are prohibited from using the facility.

#### **D. Health Requirements.**

1. Persons with a communicable disease, or who have experienced vomiting or diarrhea within the previous two weeks, may not use the splash pad.
2. Children age **two and under**, and any child not toilet-trained, must wear a **swim diaper with protective covering**.

#### **E. Compliance.**

1. Users must follow all posted rules and staff instructions.
2. Individuals refusing to comply may be removed from the facility and subject to penalties under this chapter.

F. Splash pad areas may be monitored **by video surveillance**.

#### **12.16.130 – Loitering in Facilities**

Loitering in or around restrooms, maintenance buildings, community rooms, or other park facilities in a manner that interferes with use of the facility is prohibited.

#### **12.16.140 – Expulsion from Parks**

A. The Director or law enforcement may expel a person from any park for up to **30 days** for:

1. Disruptive, threatening, or abusive behavior;
2. Damage to property;
3. Violations of this chapter.
  - i. Expulsion may be imposed for up to **one year** for:
4. Repeated violations;
5. Violence or threats;
6. Weapon-related violations;
7. Alcohol or drug violations;
8. Multiple violations within a 12-month period.

#### **12.16.150 – Enforcement and Penalties**

A. Violations of this chapter constitute a civil infraction unless otherwise specified.

B. Penalties may include fines, trespass orders, removal from city property, or criminal prosecution.

C. Enforcement of this chapter does not limit other legal remedies available to the City.

#### **12.16.160 – Administrative Rules**

The Director may adopt administrative rules for management of park facilities, field scheduling, event permitting, safety protocols, and related operational matters. Rules must be publicly posted or made available to the public.

**Section 2. Severability**

If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected.

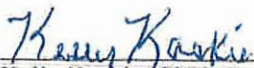
**Section 3. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect five days after publication.

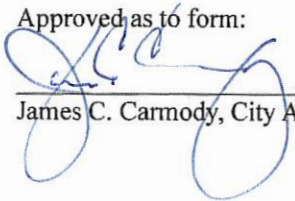
**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL** for the City of Zillah, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.

  
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Dr. Scott Carmack, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Koskie, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as to form:

  
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James C. Carmody, City Attorney