

St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Unmanned Aircraft Systems Policy

- I. **Purpose:** Due to the increasing use of Unmanned Aircraft in parks, St. Charles County Parks Department has developed a policy regarding the use of these devices in order to protect park resources and ensure an enjoyable experience for all park visitors.
- II. **Procedure:** St. Charles County Parks and Recreation ordinances prohibit the use of motorized equipment (including UASs) within county parks, preserved areas, or parks in reserve. Therefore, UAS operators are required to apply for permission in advance for a Parks and Recreation Department special use permit to operate within specifically designated zones for approval by the Director of Parks or their designee.
- III. **Policy Statement:** The use of Unmanned Aircraft is allowed subject to the following regulations:
 - A. Users must comply with all state and federal regulations governing the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems.
 - B. FAA regulations restrict UAS use within five miles of an airport. The FAA's B4UFLY app can provide assistance in determining which airports require notification at which park locations.
 - C. Use must be for hobby or recreational purposes – commercial use is prohibited.
 - D. Use for research, natural resource monitoring, or mapping purposes must be approved in advance by the Parks Department Director or designee.
 - E. Use cannot interfere with other park users' reasonable enjoyment of the park or expectation of privacy.
 - F. Users cannot conduct surveillance.
 - G. Users cannot disturb or degrade the park's natural resources, including wildlife nesting and breeding.
 - H. Users must keep their UAS in sight at all times.
 - I. Users must be proficient in the safe operation of their equipment.
 - J. Users cannot fly over or disturb park programs, events being held at the park, large gathering of people, or moving vehicles without written permission from the Parks Department Director or designee.
 - K. Users cannot operate an UAS within 50 feet of historic buildings, restrooms, picnic shelters, or any other park building or structure that could be occupied.
 - L. There will be no organized events or groups utilizing UAS without written permission from the Parks Department Director or designee.
 - M. Users cannot hold St. Charles County Government liable for any damages to or by their equipment while at St. Charles County park locations.
 - N. Retrieval of lost or broken UAS is the sole responsibility of the owner. Owner must receive approval from park staff before entering any part of the park not generally available to park visitors, or before using any extraordinary methods or equipment, to retrieve an UAS.

- O. Some parks may establish designated operational zones and/or designated exclusion zones. Users are responsible for determining if any such zones are in place.
- P. Exceptions to this policy can be granted by Parks Department Director or designee.

Enforcement

Q. Any user of an Unmanned Aircraft System that fails to comply with this policy will be reported to law enforcement officials.

IV. Definitions:

- FAA – Federal Aviation Administration
- Unmanned Aircraft System – a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator to control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

V. Applicability: This policy applies to all park visitors.

VI. Policy Responsibility and Management:

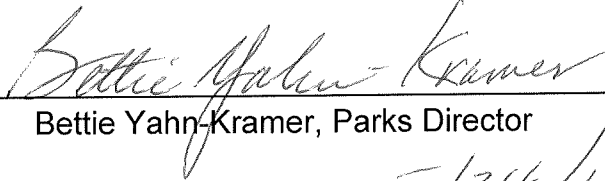
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director, or his/her designee, is responsible for reviewing this policy annually.
- Each Park Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that staff at their park is trained on this policy and any related procedures.
- For questions about this policy contact the park office at 636-949-7535.

VII. Related Policies, Procedures, and Publications:

- N/A

VIII. Appendices: N/A

IX. Policy Adopted: 05-24-2017



Bettie Yahn-Kramer, Parks Director
5/24/17