

Mayor
John Murray
Mayor Pro Tem
John Grego
Councilmembers
Mary Hornsby
Ed Martin
Willard Rodarmel



**Parks & Recreation
Department**
Located at: 435 "C" St.
Mail to: 119 Fox Street
Lemoore • CA 93245
Phone ♦ (559) 924-6767
FAX ♦ (559) 924-6772

Staff Report

To: Lemoore City Council **Item** 7

From: Joe Simonson, Parks & Recreation Director

Date: September 2, 2008

Subject: Public Parks Ordinance

Discussion:

City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Department staff are requesting guidance from the City Council to explore options for drafting an ordinance on certain issues pertaining to rules and standards for park and recreational use within City Parks.

Staff has met to discuss the following areas of concern that were determined to need clarification and regulation from the City Council: operation of vehicles within parks, towed in BBQ's, alcohol use, bounce houses, amplified music, hours of park operation and hours of specified lighted areas.

- a) Some of the issues that City Staff noted were the vehicles driving and towing BBQ's in the grounds area of the park posing a risk for children playing in the park as well as damage to the irrigation systems.
- b) Currently alcohol in City Parks is prohibited completely. Staff discussed options for alcohol use within the parks under certain restrictions, in designated parks, during certain times and/or uses with permits issued through the Police Department.
- c) "Bounce Houses" have become common for parties within our parks. We have experienced damage due to lack of regulations that have hampered staff from enforcement of loading & unloading, placement of setup and type of bounce house.
- d) The music amplification, park operation hours and facility lights (pavilions, tennis and basketball courts, etc...) issues need clarification and uniformity.
- e) There are many other existing policies that need to be clarified and placed into one uniform document.

We are looking to provide citizens with direct guidelines for park use and staff with enforceable rules to keep the parks safe and enjoyable for all of the community.

Budget Impact:

None at this time. There is the potential for savings from damage to the irrigation systems.

Recommendation:

That City Council direct staff to draft an ordinance specifying enforceable guidelines and regulation use within the City Parks and Recreation areas.