



# Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency



## MEMORANDUM

To: Cherokee County Board of Commissioners  
CC: Jerry Cooper, County Manager  
From: Bryan Reynolds, CRPA Director  
Date: May 19, 2015  
RE: Summary of Proposed Ordinance Changes

CRPA staff recently completed a review of our county ordinances as they apply to our parks and recreation system. The last significant update appears to have been in 1987. Staff reviewed our current parks system, received input from the advisory board and reviewed similar ordinances in neighboring communities. The proposed changes were also reviewed internally by the county manager, county marshal and animal shelter staff. They have been reviewed by the county attorney. The advisory board reviewed and discussed them at both their February and April 2015 meetings. Following the discussion in April, they voted unanimously to recommend the changes to the Board of Commissioners. In addition to the public hearing scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>, public input was available at each advisory board meeting.

The proposed amendments for Chapter 42, Article II – Use of Parks and Recreation Facilities are significant. Suggested changes regarding alcohol in parks and smoking in parks also led to proposed amendments for Chapter 6, Section 21 and Chapter 2, Article I, Section 5. Following is a brief summary of the proposed changes.

### New Sections

- Added a section defining frequently used terms and phrases within the ordinance.
- Added a section clarifying that any authorized law enforcement officer may enforce the ordinances.
- Added a section outlining a process for issuing permits for certain uses of parks.
- Added a section on animal control in parks that provides requirements and restrictions on domestic animals in parks.
- Added a section on dogs in off-leash areas to provide requirements for any future dog parks.
- Added a section that regulates commercial activity in parks (i.e. concessionaires, fitness training, sports instruction, etc.) through a permit process.
- Added a section to regulate golfing in parks.
- Added a section regulating the use of fireworks in parks.
- Added a section regulating smoking, including e-cigarettes, and tobacco use in parks. The county's no smoking ordinance is also recommended for amendment to include e-cigarettes.
- Added a section regulating the use of detection devices in parks.
- Added a section regulating the use of model airplanes, rockets and drones in parks.
- Added a section regulating the use of skateboards, scooters, skates and bicycles in parks.

### **Changes to Existing Sections**

- The section on penalties is unchanged except for an increase in the maximum fine for littering from \$100 to \$1,000.
- The section on alcohol in parks is unchanged. However, section 6-21c has been changed to delete the Union Hill Community Center as a location that permits alcohol under certain circumstances.
- The section on camping in parks has been modified to allow overnight camping only in areas designated by the county for such purpose and only with a permit.
- The section on firearms in parks retains the prohibition on discharging a firearm in a park; removes the director's ability to grant permission for such and moves fireworks to a different section. This is based on a unanimous recommendation from the advisory board.
- Added language to the section on fires in parks to require they are not left unattended and they are extinguished before leaving the area.
- The section on hours of operation has been modified to include facilities which require staffing and whose hours change seasonally; i.e. the aquatic center, recreation center, splash pad, Union Hill Community Center, etc.
- The only change in the littering section is to add language requiring trash be carried away when public receptacles are not provided.

I am available if you have any questions. Thank you.