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[Commission Agenda & Minutes](#) | [Staff Phone and E-mail Contacts](#) | [Links](#)**Marin County Parks
Rules and Regulations**

Rules and regulations have been established to protect visitors and park resources. Please respect the rights of others using Marin County parks and open space.

DOGS IN PARKS: Dogs are permitted in certain signed areas of McInnis Park. Please obey all regulatory signs. Dogs are not permitted at Stafford Lake, McNear's Beach or Paradise Beach Parks.

MARIN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CODE**Title 10 Parks and Open Space Chapters:**

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10.01.010 Scope of This Code. This document shall be known as "Marin County Parks Code" and may be referred to as such. This code shall apply to management, administration, use and protection of Marin County department of parks and open space and the use of county parks as defined in section 10.01.030.. This code does not apply to lands and facilities operated by the Marin County open space district as the use of these lands and facilities is governed by the Marin County open space district code. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (part, 1996))

10.01.020 Purpose. This code is adopted to assure appropriate management and administration of the Marin County department of parks and open space. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (part), 1996)

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10.01.030 Definitions.

- (a) "Board" means the board of supervisors of the county of Marin..
- (b) "Board of Directors" means the board of directors of the Marin County open space district..
- (c) "Commission" means the Marin County parks and open space commission.
- (d) "Department" means the Marin County department of parks and open space.
- (e) "Director" means the director of Marin County department of parks and open space the general manager of the Marin County open space district.
- (f) "Open space" means open space lands as defined in section 1.01.040 of the Marin County open space district code..
- (g) "Parks" as referred to in this code means any park, playground, bicycle and multi-use path, recreation center or any other area of facility owned or managed by the county and devoted to active or passive recreation..
- (h) "Permission" as referred to in this code means written permission granted by an authorized representative of the Marin County department of parks and open space.
- (i) "Person" as referred to in this code means any natural person, firm, corporation, club, municipality, district or publicagency, and all associations or combinations of persons whenever acting for themselves or any agent, servant or employee. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (part), 1996)

10.01.040 General Regulations. From time-to-time, the board may promulgate rules and regulations pertaining to parks, and, by resolution, adopt such policies as it sees fit to ensure appropriate management and administration of the department. All persons entering upon lands or using facilities managed by Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services shall comply with applicable federal, state, county and local laws and regulations and with posted signs. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (part), 1996)

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10.01.050 Enforcement. Any department employee or designee or any peace officer shall have the authority to enforce these regulations and to eject any person acting in violation of these regulations from lands or facilities managed by parks or otherwise revoke their permission to use such lands or facilities. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (part), 1996)

10.01.060 Lands and Facilities Open to the Public. Parks are open to the public for use during daylight hours, or as otherwise permitted, in accordance with the provisions of these regulations. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (part), 1996)

10.01.070 Closure of Lands and Facilities. Parks may be closed to the public or have public uses restricted during an emergency or for health, safety, maintenance or management purposes. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (part), 1996)

10.01.080 Permits, Licenses and Fees. The department may issue permits and licenses and may charge fees for use of parks. Charges for permits, licenses and fees shall be determined by resolution of the Board from time-to-time, and may include admission fees, parking fees, park use fees, facility use fees, and charges for expenses incurred by the department, such as labor, equipment costs, overhead, etc. Permits are not transferable and may be revoked for failure to comply with any provision of the permit or applicable portions of these regulations. When issued, permits must be carried as directed at all times when using parks. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (part), 1996)

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10.01.090 Misdemeanors and Infractions. Violation of the following regulations is a misdemeanor:

- A. Section 10.03.020, remaining on or reentering park lands after consent has been withdrawn;
- B. Section 10.03.030, damaging park property;
- C. Section 10.03.050, misconduct of minor children;
- D. Section 10.03.060, participating in miscellaneous activities;
- E. Section 10.03.070, use, possession or discharge of firearms, traps and other weapons;
- F. Section 10.03.080, Noise disturbance;
- G. Section 10.03.120, dumping of garbage, refuse and trash;
- H. Section 10.03.130, structures, encroachments and signs;
- I. Section 10.03.140, abandoned and unattended property;
- J. Section 10.03.150, commercial activists;
- K. Section 10.03.160, disorderly conduct;
- L. Section 10.03.170, alcoholic beverages;
- M. Section 10.03.180, introduction of organisms;
- N. Sections 10.04.010, 10.04.020, 10.04.040, and 10.04.050, damaging park resources;

O. Section 10.06.030, animals at large;
 P. Section 10.08.010, creation of fire hazards, and section 10.08.020, possession or discharge of fireworks;
 Q. Continuing to use parks lands in an illegal manner once a park employee, designee or law enforcement official has directed that such an activists be stopped.
 Violation of any park regulation not mentioned in this section is an infraction. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.01.100 Separate offenses. Any violation of these regulations occurring on more than one calendar day shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.01.110 Impoundment. The department may impound any animal, property or equipment found to be in violation of these regulations. Items shall be disposed of in accordance with law. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.01.120 Exemptions. These regulations shall not apply to employees and agents of the department or the County of Marin engaged in and acting within the scope of their authorized duties and responsibilities. The department, at its sole discretion, may grant written exemption to all or any portion of these regulations by temporary or special permit, license, contract, lease, etc.; however, exemptions shall be limited to uses which do not violate any Federal or State law. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.01.130 Parks Fund. There shall be a nonreverting parks fund to serve as a depository for all moneys received for park purposes from the proceeds of gifts, legacies or bequests, and all moneys derived by the county from fees for parks and recreational services. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.01.140 Severability. The provisions of the ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any chapter, section, sub-section, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, or clause of this code is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the board declares that this code, including each chapter, section, sub-section, paragraph, sentence and clause, would have been adopted regardless of any findings of invalidity or unconstitutionality. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

Chapter 10.02 Parks, Open Space and Cultural Commission Sections:

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10.02.010 Commission. There shall be a commission of nine members, known as the "Marin County parks and open space commission."

10.02.020 Administrative liaison. The director shall act as administrative liaison to the commission and shall provide all necessary administrative services that the commission may require to discharge its duties described in this chapter. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.02.030 Appointment of members.

A. Five members of the commission shall be generally representative of the five supervisorial districts, with each supervisor nominating one member, not necessarily from his/her district, for appointment by the board.

B. Four members of the commission shall be representative of the entire county and shall be nominated and appointed at large. When considering appointees to the commission, the board shall endeavor to appoint two at-large members with a demonstrated interest in parks programs and facilities and two at-large members with a demonstrated interest in open space programs and facilities..

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10.02.040 Compensation. All members of the commission shall serve without compensation. Members may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred, including travel, lodging and meals, while on official business of the commission, when such business has been authorized by the board. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.02.050 Terms. Terms of commission members shall be four years, except in the case of members appointed at large, whose terms shall be two years. All vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled in a manner which retains the composition of the commission as outlined in section 10.02.030. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.02.060 Meetings. The commission shall meet regularly at meetings generally scheduled once a month on a regular date and time to be fixed by the members. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.02.070 Quorum. Five members shall constitute a quorum of the commission for the transaction of business with a quorum needed to approve any actions. A lesser number than a quorum may adjourn a meeting. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.02.080 Termination of membership. In the event that a member of the commission ceases to be a resident of Marin County, or fails to attend three consecutive regular commission meetings without an excused absence, his/her membership shall automatically terminate, and a successor shall be appointed as provided in the case of vacancies. In addition, a member of the commission may be removed from office by a four-fifths vote of the board. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.02.090 Powers and duties. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:
 A. Study, formulate, and recommend plans and strategies to the board and board of directors related to the acquisition, development and funding of county parks, open space and trail systems.
 B. Study, formulate, and recommend policies, procedures, rules, and regulations to the board and board of directors to facilitate the management and operation of county parks, open space, and trails.
 C. Formulate a mission and develop policies, procedures, rules, and bylaws related to the conduct of the commission's business.
 D. Encourage the donation of funds for parks and open space purposes from private sources.
 E. Establish ad-hoc committees as needed to assist the commission in its duties. The composition of the committees shall be determined by the commission.

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10.03.010 Compliance with All Laws, Regulations and Signs. No person shall violate or fail to comply with any provision of Federal, State or County laws, regulations or posted signs. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.020 Use Restrictions. No person shall enter any parks that are closed to the public, nor use any area of parks for an unauthorized purpose. No person shall remain on or reenter parks after an authorized department employee or law enforcement official has specifically withdrawn consent to use such parks. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.030 Care of Property and Facilities. No person shall damage, deface, paint, tamper with or remove any parks property or parks facilities, including buildings, signs, gates, fences, equipment, markers, trash receptacles, paving material, utilities or water lines. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.03.040 Group Use. No group, school, club or similar organization, whether formally organized or not, shall hold or conduct any activity within parks with 20 or more participants without prior written approval from the department. Group use of parks is subject to prior reservations, conditions and charges. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.050 Responsibility for Conduct of Minors. Parents and guardians shall be responsible for the conduct of their minor children and shall not permit such minor children to do any act within parks prohibited by these regulations. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.060 Miscellaneous Activities. No person using parks shall engage in activities which endanger property, public safety or environmental resources. Non-permitted activities include, but are not limited to:

A. Operating or landing aircraft of any nature;

B. Hang-gliding, paragliding or parachuting, except in areas specifically designated for such use;

C. Hitting golf balls;

D. Operating self-propelled model airplanes, boats, automobiles or other model craft;

E. Participating in any activity or operating any device in such fashion which endangers property, public safety or environmental resources. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.03.070 Firearms, Traps and Other Weapons. No person shall possess, use, carry, discharge or cause to be discharged any gun, firearm or weapon while on lands or within parks, including any air or gas weapon, spring gun, spear, bow and arrow, crossbow, sling shot, animal trap, knife with blade over 5 inches long, explosive or any other form of weapon potentially dangerous to wildlife or human safety. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any firearm or weapon onto or across parks from outside parks boundaries. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.080 Noise and Audio Devices. No person using parks shall make or cause to be made any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitivity. Except for radios and similar devices operated at levels which do not disturb others using lands and facilities managed by the department, no person shall operate or possess any public address system, amplified musical instrument or other noise-producing or transmitting device without written permission from the department. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.090 Sanitation. No person using parks shall do any of the following:

A. Urinate or defecate other than at restrooms provided;

B. Fail to cooperate in maintaining restrooms in a neat and sanitary condition;

- C. Use restrooms set apart for the opposite sex;
 D. Fail to cleanup feces deposited by their pet. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.03.100 Swimming. No person shall bathe, swim, wade, wash or otherwise enter any water or waterways within parks in areas posted against such use. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.110 Littering. No person shall throw, drop, place, deposit or sweep any object, including, but not limited to paper, food scraps, bottles, bottle caps, cans, fish or fish parts, soil or rocks onto lands, reservoirs, lakes, streams, waterways and facilities within parks, except in trash receptacles. Where trash receptacles are not provided or are full, all such matter shall be carried away by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.120 Garbage, Refuse and Trash. No person shall bring garbage, refuse, trash or yard clippings onto parks, nor dump or deposit such garbage, refuse, trash or yard clippings within parks. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.130 Unauthorized Structures, Encroachments and Signs. No person shall erect any temporary or permanent obstruction, structure, monument, facility, physical improvement, encroachment or sign within parks. Any such item may be impounded or demolished by the department. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.03.140 Abandoned and Unattended Property. No person shall abandon or leave unattended or without permission any personal property or device within parks for a period longer than 12 hours. Any property or device so abandoned or unattended may be impounded and disposed of in accordance with law. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.150 Commercial Activities. No person shall do any of the following within parks::

- A. Sell, hawk, or otherwise peddle any goods, merchandise or services;
- B. Station or place any stand, cart or vehicle for display of goods, merchandise or services;
- C. Distribute, circulate or post any handbill, pamphlet or other advertisement regarding sale of goods, merchandise or services;
- D. Conduct any commercial filming or photography or activity related to commercial filming or photography except by written permission from the department;
- E. Conduct any activity of a commercial nature except by written permission from the department. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.160 Prohibited Conduct. No person shall do any of the following on lands within facilities managed by the department:

- A. Harass or otherwise disturb others;
- B. Accost another person for the purpose of begging or soliciting;
- C. Be under the influence of intoxicating liquor or dangerous drugs in such a condition that the individual is unable to exercise care for their own safety or the safety of others;
- D. Engage in loud or disturbing conduct or any act tending to a breach of the peace;
- E. Appear in a state of dress or undress in which the pubic hair, genitals, buttocks or any portion of the female breast below the top of the areola are exposed. In addition, no person shall do any thing defined as "Disorderly Conduct" as outlined in Section 647 of the California Penal Code. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.03.170 Alcoholic Beverages. The department may regulate the use, possession and transportation of alcoholic beverages within lands and facilities managed by the department. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.03.180 Introduction of Organisms. No person shall introduce, cause to be introduced or otherwise disperse on lands or within facilities managed by the department any organism, living or dead, including native or nonnative plants, animals, fish, insects or bacteria, except as necessary for fishing bait and as permitted in the California Fish and Game Code. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.04.010 Water Resources. No person shall do any of the following while parks:

- A. Pollute or in any manner contaminate any reservoir, lake, stream, waterway or other body of water;
- B. Possess or apply any pesticide, herbicide, fungicide or other poison. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.04.020 Botanical Resources. No person shall damage, injure, collect, eat or remove any plant, tree or other type of vegetation, whether living or dead, including, but not limited to, flowers, mushrooms, bushes, vines, grass, turf, cones, or wood within parks. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.04.030 Wildlife and Animal Resources. No person shall hunt, molest, disturb, injure, trap, take, net, poison, harm or kill any kind of animal or the eggs of any animal, whether living or dead, nor remove, destroy or in any manner disturb the natural habitat of any animal within parks. Fishing or taking of fish is permitted as regulated in Chapter 10.07. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.04.040 Geological Resources. No person shall damage, injure, collect, remove or disturb soil, earth,

rocks, sand, gravel, fossils, minerals, features in caves, or any articles or artifact of geological interest or value located on lands or within facilities managed by the department. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.04.050 Archeological and Historical Resources. No person shall damage, injure, collect, remove or disturb any object of paleontological, archaeological or historical interest or value within parks. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.05.010 Motor Vehicles. No person shall operate or possess any motor vehicle or motor driven vehicle, including, but not limited to cars, trucks, motorcycles, motorbikes or similar vehicles within parks, except upon public roads or parking lots. For the purposes of this section, battery-powered wheelchairs are exempted. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.05.020 Bicycles. No person shall operate any bicycle or similar vehicle within parks except upon paved roads, fire protection roads, designated bicycle pathways or public roads not signed against such use. Furthermore, no person shall operate or possess any bicycle or similar vehicle elsewhere within parks, including trails, unless signed specifically to permit such operation. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.05.030 Boats. No person shall place, operate or possess any motorized vessels, including boats, rafts, or similar watercraft, in reservoirs, lakes, streams, waterways or other bodies of water within parks, except on bay and tidal waterways, subject to applicable State and local laws. Motorized vessels, including boats, rafts and similar watercraft, including personal watercraft (jet skis, etc.), shall maintain a distance of at least 300 feet from all beaches and fishing piers. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.05.040 Speed Limits. No person shall operate any land vehicle, including bicycles, at speeds in excess of 15 miles per hour within parks, unless otherwise posted. No vehicle shall be operated at a speed greater than is reasonable for safe operation, nor in any manner which may endanger the safety of others or the protection of facilities and environmental resources. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.05.050 Parking and Vehicle Removal. No person shall park, leave, abandon, possess or otherwise store any vehicle on lands managed by the department, except in locations designated for such use. No person shall park any vehicle within parks during periods when parking areas or lands are closed nor in the following locations:

- A. Within the traveled portion of any road;
- B. On any service road or trail;
- C. In front of any gate;
- D. On any undisturbed or natural hillside;
- E. In areas designated for disabled or handicapped persons without appropriate authorization;
- F. In more than one parking space per vehicle;
- G. Within posted "no parking" areas;
- H. In a manner which obstructs the free flow of traffic;
- I. Except in designated overnight parking areas, no person shall park any vehicle for more than twelve consecutive hours. Any enforcement officer mentioned in California Vehicle Code section 22651 is authorized to remove any vehicle parked in violation of this section. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.05.060 California Vehicle Code. Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, the provisions of the California Vehicle Code shall be applicable to the operation of vehicles within parks.

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10.06.010 Dogs and Other Animals. Dogs and other domestic animals are not allowed within parks, except in areas designated otherwise. Where permitted, dogs and other domestic animals must be fastened to and restrained by a chain or leash not exceeding six feet in length except in areas exclusively used for dog parks. Dogs and other domestic animals must be under the direct and immediate control of a responsible person. No person shall do any of the following within parks:

- A. Allow any dog or other domestic animal to enter environmentally sensitive or restricted areas;
- B. Allow any dog or other domestic animal to interfere with, bother or disturb others;
- C. Allow any dog or other domestic animal to hunt, pursue or harass other animals or wildlife;
- D. Bring or keep a noisy, vicious or dangerous dog or other animal;
- E. Tie or hitch any dog or domestic animal to a tree or plant;
- F. Bring or keep a dog four months of age or more without proof that the dog has a valid rabies inoculation or a valid license;
- G. Leave a dog or other animal in an unattended vehicle without adequate ventilation, or in such manner as to subject the animal to extreme temperatures which adversely affect the animal's health or welfare;
- H. Fail to promptly remove from parks any dog or other domestic animal after being ordered by department personnel to do so. Dogs and other animals, other than dogs and animals which assist disabled or handicapped persons, are not permitted in buildings managed by the department. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.06.020 Horses and Saddle Animals. Horses and saddle animals are not permitted within parks, except in areas designated otherwise. When permitted, horses and saddle animals must remain on trails, service roads and other areas not signed against such use. No person shall do any of the following within parks:

- A. Ride, drive, lead or keep any horse or saddle animal at such speed or in such manner which may endanger the safety of others, other animals or the protection of environmental resources;
- B. Allow any horse or saddle animal to stand unattended or insecurely tied;
- C. Tie or hitch any horse or saddle animal to a tree or plant;
- D. Permit any horse or saddle animal to swim in any reservoir, lake, stream or waterway. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.06.030 Animals at Large. No person shall do any of the following within parks without written permission from the department:

- A. Permit any cattle, sheep, goat, horse, dog, cat or other animal to graze or run at large;
 - B. Abandon a dog, cat, fish, fowl or other animal.
- Any domestic animal found at large within parks may be turned over to the County pound keeper for disposition as outlined in the Marin County Code. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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10.07.010 Fishing Regulations and Enforcement. All fishing within parks is subject to the California Fish and Game Code, the rules and regulations of the California Department of Fish and Game and these regulations. Department employees, California Department of Fish and Game officials and other law enforcement personnel are authorized to issue citations for violations, confiscate fish and impound fishing gear upon violation of regulations. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.07.020 Cleaning of Fish. No person shall clean, gut or scale any fish within parks except in areas designated for such use. No person shall dispose of dead fish or fish parts in any fresh waters within parks, except in trash receptacles. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.07.030 Boat Docks. No person shall fish from a boat dock in a manner which interferes with or disrupts boats using such facilities. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.07.040 Areas closed to fishing or clamming. The department may close areas to fishing or clamming for health, safety or maintenance purposes. No person shall fish or clam from areas that are posted closed to fishing or clamming. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.07.050 Fishing Piers. No person . (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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1.07.040 Areas Closed to Fishing or Clamming. The department may close areas to fishing or clamming for health, safety or maintenance purposes. No person shall fish or clam from areas which are posted closed to fishing or clamming. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.07.050 Fishing Piers. No person shall do any of the following on fishing piers within parks:

- A. Fish with more than two rods at a time;
- B. Use set line or lines;
- C. Carve, slice, cut or otherwise break up fishing bait, except on bait boards provided for such use;
- D. Dock, anchor, tie up or otherwise restrain vessels, nor use the pier for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers;
- E. Permit a boat, raft, canoe, personal watercraft or similar vessel to come within 300 feet of any pier;
- F. Run on the pier;
- G. Build, light or maintain a fire of any nature, including barbecues;
- H. Fail to remain inside pier railings at all times. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

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- 10.08.020 [Fireworks](#)
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10.08.010 Fires. No person shall build, light or maintain a fire of any nature within parks, except in permanent fixed barbecues, campstoves or fireplaces established by the Department. The use of portable barbecues and campstoves is prohibited except in designated areas. Barbecues and stoves shall be operated at all times in a manner which does not endanger facilities. In addition, hot coals must be disposed of in a designated manner. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.08.020 Fireworks. No person shall possess, bring onto, set off or otherwise cause to explode within parks any firecrackers, skyrockets or other fireworks or explosives. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)

10.08.030 Smoking. Smoking is permitted in designated areas only. (Ord. 3235 § 2 (park), 1996)



The contact for this page is: parksandopenspace@co.marin.ca.us

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