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9.30.010 Title of chapter.

This chapter may be known and cited as the “Mercer Island park code.” (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.020 Police power.

This chapter is declared to be an exercise of the police power of the city for the public peace, health, safety and welfare and its provisions are to be liberally construed. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.030 Definitions.

The terms used in this chapter unless contrary to or inconsistent with the context in which used shall be construed as follows:
A. “Director” means the director of the park and recreation department of the city.

B. “Park” means and includes all city parks, public squares, public drives, parkways, boulevards, golf courses, park museums, pools, bathing beaches and play and recreation grounds under the management and control of the park and recreation department. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.040 Posting signs, posters and notices.

A. It is unlawful for any person, without prior written permission of the director, to attach any notice, bill, poster, sign, wire, rod or cord to any tree, shrub, railing, post or structure within any park; provided, that the director may permit the erection of temporary signs, decorations or temporary stands and buildings on occasions of group or public celebrations and picnics.

B. It is unlawful for any person, without prior written permission of the director, to use, place or erect any signboard, sign, billboard, bulletin board, post, pole or device of any kind for advertising in any park, or to place or erect in any park a permanent or temporary structure of any kind; provided, that before granting any such permit, the director shall establish general rules and regulations pertaining hereto, including provisions pertaining to removal, protection of the city park department and its employees, protection of the interests of the general public, and of persons using said park. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.050 Injury to park property unlawful.

It is unlawful for any person to remove, destroy, mutilate, injure, cut, disturb or mark or write upon any structure or building, or any part of any structure or building, or any fixture therein, or attached thereto, or any monument, statue, vase, fountain, wall, fence, railing, vehicle, bench, lighting system or sprinkling system, or any other property lawfully located within any park, or to pick, cut, or remove any tree, shrub, bush, plant or flower. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.060 Horses.

It is unlawful for any owner or other person having control thereof to allow or permit any horse to enter or remain upon any public park property, except upon bridle trails or other areas designated for horseback riding by the director. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.070 Explosives.

It is unlawful to possess, use or explode any fireworks, firecrackers or explosives of any kind in any park except as part of a duly authorized public fireworks display. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).
9.30.080 Teasing, annoying or injuring animals prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person in any park, in any manner, to tease, annoy, disturb, molest, catch, injure or kill or to throw any stone or missile of any kind at, or strike with any stick or weapon, any animal, bird or fowl. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.090 Certain vocations prohibited.

It is unlawful in any part to solicit or ask for any payment or gift of money or to sell, offer, or solicit for sale any goods, services or merchandise without the written permission of the director or a concession contract issued by the city. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.100 Loudspeakers and sound amplification.

It is unlawful to operate or use any loudspeaker or mechanical means of amplifying sound in any park without the written permission of the director, provided, that before granting any such permit, the director shall establish general rules and regulations pertaining thereto. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.110 Permit for assemblies required.

It is unlawful for any person to hold, sponsor or participate in any organized assembly without first giving to the director, notice thereof and obtaining therefrom, his written permission to do so. Such notice shall be given at least 72 hours prior to the date established for such assembly. Pursuant to MICC 9.30.220 the director is ordered to establish forthwith such rules and regulations pertaining to the issuance of assembly permits as shall permit the fullest peaceful utilization of the parks by all the general public including such persons attending such assemblies and such other persons utilizing the park, but not in attendance at such assembly as shall be reasonably possible and consistent with the health, safety and general welfare. In this connection, and in addition to the conduct requirements of this chapter, such rules and regulations may require the deposit of “cleanup” undertakings, the furnishing of waste and sanitary conveniences and effective plans for traffic and crowd control and management. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.120 Circus, carnivals and similar activities.

It is unlawful to operate or conduct any circus, carnival or similar exhibition except as part of an organized recreation program of the parks and recreation department. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.130 Distribution of literature.

It is unlawful for any person to distribute literature of any kind in any park without first obtaining a written permit to do so from the director. The director
shall establish, pursuant to MICC 9.30.220, rules and regulations relating to the issuance of such permit which may prohibit the distribution of literature of a purely commercial advertising nature and shall require the deposit with the city of a litter cleanup deposit in an amount to be determined by the director prior to the issuance of any such written permit. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.140 Watercraft.

A. It is unlawful for any person to have, keep or operate any boat, float, raft or other watercraft in any lake, within the limits of any park; or to land the same at any point on the shore bordering upon any park, except at places designated for such purposes by the director or except in an emergency.

B. It is unlawful for any person to land or dock a boat at any swimming dock or float, nor shall any boat be allowed within 100 yards lakeward from any public swimming area except in an emergency involving rescue or lifesaving, or authorized patrol craft. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.150 Vehicles.

It is unlawful to ride or drive any bicycle, motor vehicle, motorcycle or motor-driven cycle over or through any park except along and upon the public roads, streets or other designated areas therein or to operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of the posted speed limit. Both the operator or driver of such motor vehicle, motorcycle or motor-driven cycle and such vehicle shall be properly licensed if required by state law. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.160 Camping areas.

It is unlawful for any person or group of persons to camp out in any park except at places set aside for such purposes by the director and so designated by signs. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.170 Building fires.

It is unlawful for any person to build or kindle any fire in any park except in such areas as may be designated by the director. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).


It is unlawful to practice or play golf, baseball or other games of like character in any park except at places designated by the director for such purposes. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).
9.30.190 Depositing refuse and litter.

It is unlawful for any person to throw or deposit any refuse, litter, garbage, broken glass, crockery, shrubbery, yard trimmings, junk, advertising matter or other waste materials in any park except in designated receptacles. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.200 Intoxicating liquors and drugs prohibited.

It is unlawful to bring into any park or consume by mouth, inhalation or injection, or possess while in any park, any wine, beer or other alcoholic beverage, narcotic or dangerous drugs; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to any person consuming a drug obtained by such person by lawful prescription and taken pursuant to the medical direction of a licensed physician. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).


It is unlawful to remain in any park after the posted closing time. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).

9.30.220 Adoption of rules and regulations by director.

The director shall have the power to promulgate and adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to the operation, management and use of the parks, and shall post the same in conspicuous places in the parks. Such rules and regulations shall include a procedure for granting blanket permits encompassing any particulars of this chapter to locally and nationally recognized organizations or associations. Such rules and regulations may include the establishment of hours during which any park or portion thereof, as designated by signs located within the designated portion, shall be closed to the general public; such closures may be for reasons of public safety, welfare and convenience, or for reasons of park maintenance. It is unlawful for any person to violate or fail to comply with any park rule or regulation duly adopted and posted by the department of parks and recreation. (Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).


Every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter or of any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the authority granted by this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, except that in the case of children under 18 years of age, the juvenile offender will be referred to the juvenile court for appropriate action; provided, however, that any parking violation occurring within a recreational area shall be designated as an infraction and subject to the penalties provided by law. (Ord. 95C-111 § 1; Ord. A-91 § 1, 1991).