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## PARKS AND RECREATION

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**TITLE** Use of Drones/Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

**POL #:** PRDW-67

**Effective Date:** 05/13/2026

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### PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly referred to as drones, in City parks managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The objective of this policy is to ensure safe, responsible, and lawful operation of UAVs in City parks while preserving the natural environment, public safety, and the enjoyment of park visitors.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to all individuals or entities wishing to operate UAVs within the City's parks and recreational areas. The use of UAVs for recreational, commercial, or any other purpose is governed by this policy and all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

### DEFINITIONS

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV): Any aircraft that is operated without a human pilot aboard, commonly referred to as a drone, and is either remotely controlled or autonomously operated.
- Permit Holder: The individual or entity that has received authorization through the Parks and Recreation permit process to operate a UAV in specified City parks.
- Operator: Individual or individuals who control the UAV prior to, during, or after flight
- Parks: Any specified park or recreational area approved for UAV use and managed by the City's Parks and Recreation Department.
- Commercial use: Is flying your drone for any purpose other than recreational use. Posting images or videos to the internet likely qualifies as commercial use.

### POLICY

#### *Application*

- This policy applies to all individuals or entities wishing to operate UAVs within the City's parks and recreational areas. The use of UAVs for recreational, commercial, or any other purpose is governed by this policy and all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

### *Rules and Regulations*

- UAV operators must comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to:
  - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations
  - Local airspace restrictions or Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)
  - Henderson Municipal Code (HMC) noise ordinances and park rules
- UAVs must be operated in a manner that does not interfere with other park visitors or activities.
- The use of UAVs is considered secondary to other uses in the park unless the facility was reserved for the primary use of a UAV activity or event. If the secondary UAV use conflicts or interferes with the primary use, the UAV use must stop.
- Operators must always maintain a line of sight with their UAV during flight.
- The operation of UAVs near wildlife or within sensitive natural areas must avoid disruption or harm to wildlife and the environment.
- Non-commercial filming and photography is prohibited in restrooms, locker rooms and changing rooms.
- Permit holders are responsible for all costs associated with any damage caused by their activity.
- The City is not liable for any damage to UAV equipment.

### *Designated Parks for UAV Operation*

- Permit holders are only permitted to operate UAV takeoff and landing in designated parks.
- A current list of parks eligible for permit is maintained at <https://www.cityofhenderson.com/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-and-trails>, in the section for Unmanned Aircraft. Parks are selected based on factors such as park size, safety concerns, the potential impact on other park users and proximity to areas with restrictions to fly.
- The following activities are expressly prohibited under this policy:
  - Flying UAVs over or near people, unless explicitly approved through a commercial use permit. This applies to individuals at the park or crowds of people at sporting or other community events.
  - Operating UAVs under the influence of drugs or alcohol or otherwise impaired.
  - Use of UAVs for harassment, surveillance, or violation of privacy rights.

### *Permit Requirement*

- All individuals or entities wishing to operate UAVs within designated City parks must obtain a Parks and Recreation UAV Permit prior to operation.
  - The fee is advertised at <https://www.cityofhenderson.com/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-and-trails>, in the section for Unmanned Aircraft.
    - Recreational pilots are eligible for annual permits.
    - Commercial use permits are issued per event.

- The permit application process will include an acknowledgement to comply with all relevant laws (including FAA regulations), and the terms and condition outlined in this policy and the permit form.
- Permits are non-transferable and are valid only for the individual or entity to whom they are issued.
- A UAV permit grants the operator permission to take off from and land at designated parks only.
- Commercial permits may grant use for additional locations. Depending on the location, an [Application to Operate Drone Near City Critical Facility](#) may be required. For more information refer to <https://www.cityofhenderson.com/government/departments/emergency-management/environmental-services/drone-safety>, the FAA and HMC references in the reference section of this policy.
- Activities must be conducted within the posted hours of the park.

#### *Operator Requirements*

- UAV operators must be at least 18 years of age to apply for a permit. Individuals under 18 can pilot the UAV with a permitted adult supervising the activity at the pilot's location.
- Operators must possess a valid Federal Aviation Administration Remote Pilot Certificate if operating for commercial purposes.
- The operator must have possession of the permit and present it upon request by City staff or law enforcement.

#### *Liability and Insurance*

- The permit holder agrees to assume all liability for damages or injuries resulting from the operation of UAVs in City parks.
- Commercial UAV operators must provide proof of required insurance as requested by the City. Insurance must cover and hold harmless any City employee or elected official and cover liability for property damage, personal injury, and environmental damage.

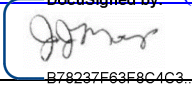
#### *Enforcement*

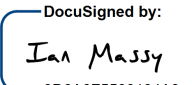
- Violations of this policy may result in the revocation of the UAV permit, a fine, or legal action in accordance with applicable HMC ordinances and regulations.
- Parks and Recreation staff may order the immediate suspension of UAV operations. Law enforcement, or other authorized City personnel, are authorized to address violations from operators who violate this policy, including:
  - Issuance of citations.
  - Confiscation of UAV equipment for violation of park regulations.

By obtaining a Parks and Recreation UAV Permit, the permit holder acknowledges they have read, understand, and agree to comply with all terms and conditions outlined in this policy. This policy will be reviewed every two years, and modifications may be made based on operational needs, safety considerations, or changes to local, state, or federal laws. Questions on using UAVs in City parks can be referred to the Department's Outdoor Recreation office.

**REFERENCES**

- [Annual UAV Permit Request Form](#)
- [Application to Operate Drone Near City Critical Facility](#)
- [Federal Aviation Administration – Drones](#)
- [Henderson Municipal Code 2.27.030\(Y\) – Regulation of unmanned aircraft in designated parks](#)
- [Henderson Municipal Code 8.10 – Special Events](#)
- [Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle \(sUAV\) Policy – Administrative Policy B-22](#)

**Approved By:**  **Date:** 05/19/2026 | 7:42 AM PDT  
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