



GENERAL OPERATIONS			1116.00	
<div><div></div><div>CITY PARKS</div><div></div></div>				
ISSUED: 12-23-1997	EFFECTIVE: 01-02-1998	REVISED: 11-30-2023	REVIEWED: 11-30-2023	PAGES: 5

CONTENTS

This procedure consists of the following numbered sections:

- | | |
|--|--|
| I. GILCHRIST PARK
II. PONCE DE LEON PARK
III. NEW OPERATION COOPER STREET
IV. LAISHLEY PARK | V. ALL PARKS
VI. TRESPASS WARNINGS
VII. EVENT-RELATED NOISE COMPLAINTS |
|--|--|

PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to establish enforcement and patrol procedures for parks located within the City of Punta Gorda.

SCOPE

This procedure shall apply to all Punta Gorda Police Department personnel.

DISCUSSION

The guidelines set forth in this standard operating procedure shall be used in conjunction with the City of Punta Gorda Code of Ordinances – Chapter 16 - Park Regulations. The regulations contained in the Code of Ordinances are necessary for the purposes of avoiding conflicts, preventing acts of vandalism, disturbances of the use and enjoyment of the parks and the imposition of requirements upon adults to control the conduct of juveniles.

PROCEDURE**I. GILCHRIST PARK**

- A. All sworn personnel shall be issued a key for the gate (advised of the combination) at the Gilchrist Park playground. Kiddieland shall be closed at 11:00 p.m. each night and shall be reopened at 5:00 a.m.
- B. Upon securing the playground gates, the zone officer shall make periodic checks of the playground to ensure no one has entered the playground. Anyone found in the secured playground after dark shall be asked to leave and may be issued a non-criminal city ordinance citation under the authority of City Ordinance Chapter 16 - Park Regulations.
- C. An automated dispatch to close Kiddieland Park is generated daily. Communications will dispatch the on-duty squad.
- D. Open fires are prohibited in the park except in man-made receptacles located in designated picnic areas.
- E. Overnight parking is unlawful between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- F. Animals shall not be permitted in the park. Animals are permitted on the Harbor Walk.

II. PONCE DE LEON PARK

- A. An automated dispatch to close and open the park is generated daily. Communications will dispatch the on-duty squad. Officers are to open the park at 5:00 a.m. and to secure the gate each night at 11:00 p.m.
- B. Prior to securing the gate, officers shall drive through the park and ask any individuals present to depart. The officer(s) responsible for opening and closing the park will notify the Communications Section who will log the action.
- C. Persons in the secured park during closed hours shall be asked to leave and may be issued a non-criminal city ordinance citation under the authority of city ordinance Chapter 16 (Park Regulations).
- D. Open fires are prohibited in the park except in man-made receptacles located in designated picnic areas.
- E. Animals shall not be permitted in the park except at the Peace River Animal Shelter.
- F. Any vehicles and/or boats which are located in the park at closing in which owners/operators are not present, shall be called in to communications. The officer shall advise communications of the vehicle tag number or boat FL number and that the vehicle

is being locked in the park. The vehicle tag number and/or boat FL number shall be documented by communications in the automated CAD event.

III. NEW OPERATION COOPER STREET

- A. An automated dispatch to close the park is generated daily. Communications will dispatch the on-duty squad. Officers are to secure the gate and restrooms each night at 11:00 p.m.
- B. Persons in the secured park during closed hours shall be asked to leave and may be issued a non-criminal city ordinance citation under the authority of city ordinance Chapter 16 (Park Regulations).
- C. Open fires are prohibited in the park except in man-made receptacles located in designated picnic areas.
- D. Animals shall not be permitted in the park.

IV. LAISHLEY PARK

- A. An automated dispatch to close the restrooms in the park is generated daily. Communications will dispatch the on-duty squad. Officers are to secure the restrooms each night at 11:00 p.m.
- B. All events at Laishley Park, including nonmusical events, must be completely closed by 10:00 pm unless City Council has provided special approval.
- C. Open fires are prohibited in the park to include outdoor cooking except for designated areas near the pavilions or as part of a special event permitted by the City.
- D. The neighborhood officer shall also conduct periodic inspections of the entire park for possible vandalism violations, etc.
- E. Leashed dogs shall be permitted. However, dogs must be under physical control at all times and shall not interfere with other pedestrians or bicyclists.

V. ALL PARKS

- A. All City Parks should be regularly patrolled during an officer's shift including evening hours. Officers are not required to patrol inside Ponce Park after the park has been secured with the exception of unusual circumstances. Unusual circumstances or activities shall be investigated and, if necessary, documented in a detailed incident

report. Laws should be firmly, fairly and vigorously enforced to ensure a safe environment for those using the parks.

- B. Skateboards, rollerblades, and bicycles shall not be permitted on surfaces not designed for them. In any City park, no person may ride or operate any skateboard, rollerblade, or bicycle, or any similar wheel-driven device, vehicle, toy or equipment, upon any table, bench, stair, stair rail, or other fixture or improvement, except on paved walkways, roadways, and parking areas, and except on specific fixtures designed for such use in an area designated and signed for such activity.
- C. Operation of Motor Vehicles: No motor vehicle may be driven in any City park at a speed in excess of eleven (11) miles per hour, nor in a reckless manner (as defined in Florida Statutes, Section 316.192), nor in a careless manner (as defined in Florida Statutes, Section 316.1925).
- D. Smoking: Smoking is hereby prohibited in the following areas: the Laishley Park Interactive Fountain, Gilchrist Park Kiddieland, Ponce de Leon Park Children's Area and Cooper Street Recreational Center.

VI. TRESPASS WARNINGS: Trespass Warnings shall not be issued to individuals at City Parks and public property unless the trespass warning issuance complies with City Ordinance Chapter 6 – Boats, Docks, and Waterways and Chapter 16 – Park Regulations.

VII. EVENT-RELATED NOISE COMPLAINTS: Officers who respond to City Parks for a noise complaint shall determine whether the noise levels are unreasonably loud, raucous, jarring, or disturbing to a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities. If an officer determines the noise to reach such a level that it violates this standard, the officer shall order the Event Organizer, or any agent thereof, to take all necessary and appropriate actions to prevent further violations of this standard. Should the Event Organizer, or agent thereof, fail to comply with the order of the Officer, the Officer may consult with the Executive Staff in order to consider such failure a violation of Section Florida Statutes 843.02, Resisting an Officer Without Violence.

APPROVED



PAMELA R. SMITH, CHIEF OF POLICE

STAFF REVIEW DATES: 12-23-1997, 04-25-2000, 06-04-2002, 06-03-2004, 08-14-2007, 06-07-2011, 07-03-2013, 09-15-2015, 03-08-2016, 10-01-2017, 05-21-2019, 04-06-2021, 11-30-2023

REVISION DATES: 12-23-1997, 04-25-2000, 06-04-2002, 06-03-2004, 08-14-2007, 06-07-2011, 07-03-2013, 09-15-2015, 03-08-2016, 10-01-2017, 05-21-2019, 04-06-2021, 11-30-2023