



Info

Release

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Parks and Recreation revises ordinance to increase protections to the environment, animals and park users

To fully meet the needs of the community and the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD), the Martin County Board of County Commissioners recently adopted Ordinance 1035 revising Chapter 17, Parks and Recreation, General Ordinances, Martin County Code.

“The revisions to Chapter 17 were made with the goal of protecting the environment, improving and maintaining the safety and security of our parks and park users, and providing a clear and transparent document. We hope the changes will lead to more satisfied park users, an improved overall customer experience and an enhanced park system,” said Kevin Abbate, Martin County Parks and Recreation Department Director for Martin County.

Major changes fall under three categories – **environmental protections, safety and security, and clarity.**

Environmental protections increase safeguards for our treasured assets, improve the quality of our parks system, ensure the habitat and wildlife in our parks are better preserved and protected, and minimize damage to park property.

- Conservation lands added
- Protections for sea turtles and other wildlife added
- Destroying, removing, damaging natural resources expanded
- Domestic and wild animals provisions enhanced

Other revisions allow County staff to closely monitor and permit activities, enhancing overall safety of park users and increasing clarity for ease of understanding.

- Sale of alcoholic beverages added
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages enhanced
- Full-service beach parks, camping facilities, loitering, and unattended personal property regulations updated
- Section on definitions updated
- Section on animals created
- Language throughout document clarified

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MARTIN COUNTY

Highlights of revisions to safeguard citizens, wildlife, and natural resources include, but are not limited to the following:

- Consumption of alcohol in parking lots, play areas, athletic fields, and pavilions requires a permit. Consumption of alcohol in restrooms is prohibited.
- Removal of live shellfish is prohibited without proper authorization from the state.
- Casting a net on any seagrass or leaving behind organic matter from a cast net is prohibited.
- Display, release, or distribution of balloons in any outdoor area of a county park is prohibited.
- Fishing is prohibited within 50 feet of the boundaries of a full service beach park. Shark fishing is prohibited within 1,000 yards of the boundaries of a full service beach park.
- Using county property to access an area within 50 feet or 1,000 yards of the boundaries of a full service beach park to fish or shark fish is prohibited.

To view the ordinance in its entirety, visit [Ordinance 1035](#). Follow Martin County Parks on Facebook for more information and details about what's happening in your Martin County Parks at <https://www.facebook.com/MyMCParks>.

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