



parks · recreation · cultural services

Policies and Procedures

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to standardize uses of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (also known as drones) in Colorado Springs Parks, Trails and Open Spaces.

II. Definitions

1. **Drone:** Or Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) is an aircraft without a human pilot onboard and is instead controlled by an operator on the ground.

III. Policy

According to City Code §9.9.412, it is unlawful for any unauthorized person to operate any rockets, drones, model airplanes, or radio controlled aircraft in any park except in areas set apart for these forms of recreation. Drone use on Department property is ONLY permitted with expressed written consent and a Commercial Film Permit. Commercial use refers to operating an unmanned aircraft for money-making purposes, in furtherance of a business, or incidental to a person's business. This includes video or photos that produce revenue, real estate photography, news media, telecommunications or other commercial uses.

IV. Provisions for All Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

1. The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Department reserves the right to approve or deny any permit application at its sole discretion.
2. Commercial General Liability Insurance that names as Additional Insured, "The City of Colorado Springs, its elected officials, employees and volunteers" and any other public entities impacted by the event is required for all permits. The policy must be for a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 with an aggregate amount of \$1,000,000.00.
3. The entire Application and Permit Packet must be on the premises during filming and presented to any City Employee upon request.
4. All park rules and regulations apply.
5. **All provisions related to a Commercial Film Permit also apply to Drone Film Permits.**

V. Provisions for Garden of the Gods Park

Additional regulations for filming in Garden of the Gods Park exist to protect the natural attributes of the park, as well as the experience of its visitors.

1. Drone Film Permits will not be issued during peak visitor season or breeding season for nesting raptors. Permits will only be issued from November 1 through April 30. No more than 50 permits will be issued each season.
2. Drone photography is only permitted Monday-Friday during the hours of 6:00-10:00 am and 3:00-5:00 pm.
3. Scouting, set-up, tear-down and filming may only be conducted during park hours, 5:00 am – 9:00 pm from November 1 through April 30.
4. Drones may not disturb birds or wildlife or their natural habitat within the park.
5. Drones may not come in to any physical contact with red rock formations.

VI. Federal Regulations

Federal Regulations for Commercial Drone Use must be followed at all times. Federal regulations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Operators must pass an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center
2. Operators must be at least 16 years old
3. Operators must pass TSA vetting
4. Aircraft must be less than 55 lbs.
5. Aircraft must be registered if over 0.55 lbs.
6. Aircraft must undergo pre-flight check to ensure drone is in condition for safe operation
7. No careless or reckless operations
8. Other operating rules, including but not limited to:
 - Must not fly over people
 - Must fly during the day
 - Must yield to manned aircraft
 - Must fly under 400 ft.
 - Must keep the drone in sight
 - Must fly under 100 mph.
 - Must not fly from a moving vehicle