



# MEDIA RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

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### Grand Junction City Council Approves Updates to City Park Rules

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. May 16, 2024** – Grand Junction City Council has approved updated city park rules that will go into effect on May 22, 2024. A redesign of the signage in city parks will help provide increased clarity regarding the rules and those signs will be placed in all 35 parks.

Park rules are updated every couple of years and their main focus is to ensure the effectiveness and safety of the city's 35 developed parks for all residents and visitors.

“The intent of the updated park rules is to increase safety for park users and our city staff who routinely interact with those who visit our parks,” stated Abram Herman, Mayor of Grand Junction. “While the new rule about not allowing tents in our parks is challenging for some, it is not intended to push those who are unhoused out of the parks but instead increase the opportunity for the entire community to feel safe using our parks.”

“City parks already don’t allow overnight camping. Those needing shelter are encouraged to go to the Resource Center during the day for services and support or one of the area’s local shelters at night,” continued Herman.

The park rules encourage recreational use for those who share the parks that are intended for all community members and visitors to gather and enjoy. The updated rules ensure that these spaces are preserved for day usage. City parks continue to be closed overnight as designated by an ordinance adopted in 2019.

#### Updated Park Rules

1. Allowed:
  - a. Park usage during designated hours by any resident or visitor is encouraged
  - b. Paid reservations have priority; other uses are first come, first served
  - c. Pets must be leashed at all times. Pet waste must be cleaned up
  - d. Pre-authorized commercial sales (GJMC 12.04.020) are allowed
  - e. Recreational equipment such as sports nets, goals, and open sided shade shelters are allowed
2. Allowed by permit only:
  - a. No structure or enclosure is to be constructed, erected, installed, attached or staked in any park facility, without an event or commercial activity permit. This includes but is not limited to: tents, enclosed booths, monuments, artwork, and other similar furnishings, whether temporary or not. Recreational equipment such as sports nets, goals and open sided shade shelters are allowed
  - b. Lines (ropes, strings, webbing, cords or straps) shall not be attached to trees or other park equipment/infrastructure without a permit. Slack lines are to be used only on slack line posts.
  - c. Bump and Jumps / bounce houses require a permit.

**continued**

**3. Prohibited:**

- a. Glass containers and fires are prohibited. Cooking fires permitted only in city provided grills (GJMC 12.04.020)
- b. All city parks are smoke free. Tabacco, marijuana, and vaping are prohibited.
- c. Overnight camping, tents without an event or commercial activity permit, littering, golfing, and possessing stolen property are prohibited
- d. Items left unattended after hours will be considered abandoned

Effective May 22, 2024, violations of law or park rules may result in being trespassed by the City Parks and/or citation (s) for the offense (s) being issued.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board along with City Council, city staff, and community members provided input on the updated rules to meet one of the city's strategic goals to create a Welcoming, Livable, and Engaging community.

For questions regarding the update to the park rules or any other parks and recreation issue, contact Grand Junction Parks and Recreation at 970-254-3866.

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