

**BAKER COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 2017-01
RULES & REGULATIONS FOR BAKER COUNTY PARKS**

Section 1. Generally.

It is the general purpose and intent of this Policy to establish uniform procedures for the administration of park and recreational facilities in Baker County including the St. Mary's Shoals Park; to establish a system of regulations and rules governing the activities within the park and recreational facilities; and to declare certain activities as violations.

Section 2. Definitions

Alcoholic beverages include any beer, wine, liquor or alcoholic beverage as defined by Ch. 561, F.S.

All Parks refers to parks under the supervision of the Baker County Parks and Recreation Department, including:

- Knabb & Minger Sports Complex
- Equestrian Complex
- Veterans Park
- Olustee
- King Ruise Park (Margaretta)
- Taylor
- Cuyler
- Jonesville
- St. Mary's Shoals Park

Appointee means a park ranger, individual, or other authorized personnel with the responsibility for the enforcement of the parks rules and regulations. The appointees shall have the authority to eject and expel any person for violation of any park rule or regulation and to report the violation of any regulation to the proper law enforcement office.

Closing hours means that time period, as posted at the entrances of the park, during which time the park or recreational facility is not open to the general public.

Designated area means that geographical area established by the County for a specific activity or activities within the park or recreation area.

Hunting means shooting, shooting at, trapping, pursuing, taking, attempting to take, or killing any animals or birds; searching for or attempting to locate or flush any animals or birds; luring, calling or attempting to attract animals or birds; hiding for the purpose of taking or attempting to take animals or birds; or walking, crawling, or advancing toward wildlife while possessing any implement or equipment useful in the taking of any wildlife.

Law Enforcement means the County Sheriff and deputies of the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Section 3. All Parks

a) Areas designated for specific activities.

The County Manager, Parks and Recreation Director, or other authorized designees shall have the power to designate areas and facilities in all parks for specific activities and to prohibit certain activities within the designated area. The County Manager shall be the official custodian of a list and/or maps of all areas that are designated for specific activities.

b) Emergency exclusion of public.

In an emergency, when the County Manager or designee shall determine that the public interest, public health, public morals, or public safety require such action, any or all of the park or any part thereof may be closed and all persons may be excluded from such area.

c) Violations and penalties.

It is unlawful to violate any section or rule set forth in this policy. Violation of this policy may result in removal from the property, a trespass warning issued which is a misdemeanor pursuant to § 125.69, Florida Statutes punishable under said section by imprisonment for up to sixty (60) days, or a fine of up to \$500.00, or both such imprisonment and fine. Violation of a trespass warning may result in your arrest.

d) Interference with personnel.

Any person who interferes with, hinders, or opposes any officer, agent, or employee of the County or any law enforcement officer in the discharge of his or her duties or obstructs the enforcement of any park regulation or rule shall be in violation of this policy.

e) Trespass.

No person shall enter or remain in any park except during the posted hours of operation without special permission of the County Manager or designee. Park hours are posted at all entrances to the parks. No person shall enter or remain in the parks after such person receives notice of the closing hours from a county employee, appointee, or a law enforcement officer.

f) Remaining on property after request to leave.

No person who violates a park rule shall remain in the park after a county employee, appointee, or law enforcement officer requests such person to leave or vacate the park. Violations may result in arrest.

g) Alcoholic beverages.

No alcoholic beverages, illegal narcotics or drug paraphernalia may be brought onto park property nor consumed within the park boundaries in accordance with Ordinance 2006-37.

h) Defacing, tampering with buildings, trails and other property.

No person shall willfully mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with, displace or remove any building, bridges, tables, benches, fireplaces, railings, trails, paving or paving material, or parts or appurtenances thereof, signs, notices, or placards whether temporary or permanent; monuments, stakes, posts, or other structures or equipment, or any part of any aforesaid facilities, park property, or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal without the permission of the County Manager or designee. Any violator of this section shall also be liable for actual damages caused to county property in addition to the other penalties provided hereafter.

i) Water activity.

No person shall swim, dive, scuba or use boats in any area unless such area is specifically designated for such purpose.

j) Off-highway vehicle activity.

No Off-highway vehicles may be ridden on roadways or trails, except within areas expressly designated and marked for such purposes.

k) Fires.

No person shall ignite, set, or maintain any fire for cooking or any other purpose unless such fire is in a park provided grill and within an area designated for such purpose.

l) Hunting, molesting wildlife.

The County may sanction some hunting within the parks of nuisance wildlife or to control populations according to best practices of park management. However, unless so sanctioned:

- 1) No person in shall hunt, catch, harm, kill, trap, chase, tease, shoot, or throw missiles at any animal, reptile or bird. No person shall remove, possess, or molest the young of any wild animal or eggs or nest or young of any reptile or bird.
- 2) The abandonment of any animal, domestic or wild in County parks is prohibited.
- 3) The prohibited activities set forth above shall not apply to a person participating in a program authorized by the Board of County Commissioners and abiding by the rules and regulations set forth for such program.
- 4) These prohibitions are also not applicable to any person performing official duties requiring the discharge of firearms or the use of hunting or trapping devices.

- 5) This policy shall not be construed to prohibit citizens from lawfully carrying licensed concealed firearms or securely encased firearms within the interior of a private conveyance on or in the park, in accordance with Florida Statutes.

m) Pollution.

No person shall throw or place or cause to be thrown or placed, any dirt, filth, chemical or foreign matter into the waters of any lake, pond, pool, river, inlet, tank or reservoir.

n) Garbage.

No person shall throw, place, cast, deposit, dump or cause to be thrown, any ashes, refuse, offal, vegetables, garbage, dross, cinders, shells, straw, shavings, paper, scraps, dirt or like matter, filth or garbage of any kind, except to place the same in cans or receptacles provided for such matter.

o) Removal of natural resources.

No person shall remove any beach or shoals sand, whether submerged or not, any soil, rock, stones, plants, wood, or other materials, or make any excavation by tool, equipment, blasting or other means or agency.

p) Protection of trees and vegetation.

No person shall remove, damage, cut, carve, or transplant, any tree, shrubbery, lawn, or plant or injure the bark or pick the flowers thereof. No person shall attach any rope, wire, or other contrivance to any tree or plant.

q) Sleeping, camping, and lodging.

No person shall sleep, camp, lodge or park a vehicle overnight in County parks, except in such areas as are designated for such purposes or by permission of the County Manager or designee.

Section 4. Additional Rules and Regulations for St. Mary's Shoals Park

a) Generally.

In addition to the policies listed under Section 3 “All Parks”, the purpose and intent of this section is to provide for the administration of St. Mary’s Shoals Park; penalties for violation of the regulations; to allow expulsion from the park for violation of certain provisions; and to provide a procedure for establishing permits for County-approved activities within designated areas.

b) Definitions

Off-highway vehicles means any vehicle manufactured, designed, or constructed exclusively for off-highway operation, including but not limited to all-terrain vehicles (ATV), motorbikes (dirt bikes), motorcycles, or utility-type vehicles (UTV).

St. Mary’s Shoals Park refers to the County park with entrances located at 7777 Odis Yarborough Road, Macclenny, Florida 32063 and 9316 Odis Yarborough Road, Macclenny, Florida 32063.

Vehicle includes any wheeled conveyance, whether powered, animal drawn, or self propelled. The term shall include any trailer in tow of any size, kind, or description.

c) Fees

The County is authorized to charge a fee for the use of St. Mary’s Shoals Park property, park trails and equipment, and for the use of such facilities by individuals, private, or public organizations. The Baker County Board of County Commissioners established a schedule of such charges and fees for the use of park facilities per Ordinance 2017-02. Entering the park without paying the proper fee constitutes trespassing.

d) Equestrian activity.

Horseback riding and all equestrian activities are prohibited within the park except on roadways and trails within areas designated specifically for this purpose. No horseback riding shall be permitted in the park after regular operating hours, unless special permission is granted by the County Manager or designee. It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to maintain control of any horse while riding in the

park or to ride a horse in a reckless manner within the park. Equestrian visitors under the age of 16 must wear a helmet in accordance with Nicole's Law.

These prohibitions are not applicable to any person performing official or law enforcement duties.

e) Off-highway vehicle activity.

No Off-highway vehicles may be ridden on roadways or trails within areas except as expressly designated and marked for such purposes. No person shall be permitted to ride an off-highway vehicle in St. Mary's Shoals Park after the regular operating hours unless special permission is granted by the County Manager or designee. It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to maintain control of an off-highway vehicle when riding in the Park or to ride an off-highway vehicle in a reckless manner.

These prohibitions are not applicable to any person performing official or law enforcement duties.

f) Protection of trees and vegetation.

No person in St. Mary's Shoals Park shall remove, damage, cut, carve, or transplant, any tree, shrubbery, lawn, or plant or injure the bark or pick the flowers thereof. No person shall attach any rope, wire, or other contrivance to any tree or plant in St. Mary's Shoals Park.

The County is authorized to harvest, replant or clear trees using best forest management practices.

Section 23. Traffic.

(a) The state uniform traffic control laws, Ch. 316, F.S. are incorporated by reference and made a part of this policy and shall apply to the operation of all motor vehicles on streets and roads in St. Mary's Shoals Park, unless modified herein. County employees and law enforcement officers are hereby authorized to direct traffic whenever necessary.

(b) No person shall operate, drive, or park any motor vehicle or other vehicle upon any road, driveway, path, parking area or other area unless such road, driveway, path, parking area or other area has been designated by the County for such purpose.

(c) No person shall park any vehicle in other than areas designated for such parking.

d) No person shall enter or exit from St. Mary's Shoals Park except by the entrance(s) and exit(s) established by the County.

Section 24. Disabled Vehicles.

Vehicles that are disabled in St. Mary's Shoals Park, because of malfunction shall be removed within 24 hours of breakdown. If the 24 hour period is exceeded, the County or designee may authorize a towing company to remove the vehicle at owner's expense. County is not held responsible for any damages to property left over night.

Section 25. Ticketing Revenue.

Any revenue derived from ticket violations within St. Mary's Shoals Park shall be deposited in General Revenue or St. Mary's Shoals Park designated revenue.

This policy shall become effective _____

Kennie Downing, County Manager