



Park Curfew Options

05/12/2025

Introduction

- On November 18, 2024, City Council approved a motion directing the City Attorney to prepare a legal memorandum analyzing whether City Council may amend section 7-1004 of the Commerce City Revised Municipal Code (“CCRMC”) to change the park curfew from 11:00 p.m. to dusk, 9 p.m., or another time that it deems appropriate for purposes of protecting public health and safety.
- On January 27, 2025, City Council directed staff to look into options to change the park curfew.
- On February 18, 2025, PRG staff shared this topic with the Parks, Recreation & Golf Advisory Committee.

Background

- Currently, the park curfew is from 11pm to 5am, daily for all parks, open spaces, and trails.
- During daylight hours, seven days per week, Park Rangers patrol parks, trails, and open spaces and provide education and enforcement of the park rules.
- After hours, PRG contracts with Front Range Patrol to patrol select parks on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

PRG Approach

- Park hours and park curfew should be easy for residents to understand and know, and easy for staff to understand and enforce.
- Ensure residents can enjoy using the parks, open spaces, and trails throughout the day.

Challenges

- Creating different hours for different parks, or hours that change frequently is challenging for residents understand and follow, and for staff to enforce.
- Changing the curfew may not change the behavior of someone who is inclined to break park rules.
- Park Rangers patrol during daylight hours and PRG currently has limited contract patrol services during curfew hours. If curfew hours are extended, there is limited ability to enforce the new curfew.

Current Park Rules

- CCRMC section 7-1005 makes it unlawful for any person to possess any glass container within the boundary of any park;
 - CCRMC section 7-1006 makes it unlawful for any person to deposit rubbish, waste material, garbage, trash, debris or other foreign substance on any park property;
 - CCRMC section 7-1007 makes it unlawful to build, start or light a fire within any park property that is not in an outdoor fireplace or picnic grill;
 - CCRMC section 7-1010 makes it unlawful to camp overnight in a park or to erect any type of tent or other shelter or structure on any park property without prior authorization of the City; and
 - CCRMC section 7-1014 makes it unlawful for any person to smoke in or on certain park property.
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Impacts of Any Curfew Changes

- A marketing and education campaign will be needed to help residents and park users understand the new park hours.
 - Open spaces and trails are used by commuters, and many parks are adjacent to schools where children travel through the parks to get to and from school. Adjusting curfew hours may impact commuters and children's routes to school.
 - Park permitting requests and shelter rentals for the 2025 season are already underway and run through mid-October. If park hours are changed, shelter rental hours may also need adjustment and communications would need to be provided to current permit holders.
 - Currently the CCRMC 7-1004(b) allows curfew exceptions for government employees engaged in official business or when specifically authorized by city. If the curfew changes, this provision should be maintained, and further clarification on authorized activities may be needed.
 - Changing the park signs will cost about \$34,000 (park name signs and park rules signs).
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Recommendation

- Maintain the current park curfew hours of 11pm to 5am for all parks, open spaces, and trails.
- Increase the contract with Front Range Patrol to conduct after-hours patrols of parks seven days per week.
 - This would allow Front Range Patrol to visit parks every night of the week to enforce current park curfew and park rules.
 - Allows for more contact opportunities with park users to help educate users on the rules and enforce the rules.

Alternative Discussions

- Seasonal hours
 - Establish winter hours of 5am – 9pm from November 1 – April 30, and summer hours of 5am – 10pm from May 1 – October 31.
- Sunset to sunrise
- One hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise



Discussion