

BYLAW 1668/25
REGULATION OF PARKS
STURGEON COUNTY, ALBERTA

A BYLAW OF STURGEON COUNTY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, FOR THE PURPOSES OF REGULATING THE USE OF STURGEON COUNTY PARKS.

WHEREAS, section 7(b) of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26 (the Act) and amendments thereto provides that a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes in relation to “people, activities, and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public”;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of Sturgeon County has deemed it desirable to put in place regulations for the use of County Parks;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of Sturgeon County, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Title

- 1.1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the “Parks Bylaw”.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this Bylaw is to establish regulations for the use of Parks in Sturgeon County.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. “Acceptable Fire Pit” means an Acceptable Fire Pit as defined in the Sturgeon County Burning Bylaw.
- 3.2. “Aircraft” means any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air, encompassing both traditional aircraft and remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS). This definition includes Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (drones) and hot air balloons, that is operated by a pilot who is not on board and includes an unmanned air vehicle and a remotely piloted aircraft as defined in the Canadian Aviation Regulations SOR/96-433.
- 3.3. “Approval” means any form of written permission by Sturgeon County, including a permit, license, agreement, authorization, consent, or other form of concurrence that is or may be issued or otherwise given pursuant to this Bylaw, but does not include disposition.
- 3.4. “Business” means any trade, industry, employment, occupation, activity, or special event carried on in a Park for profit, gain, commercial promotion or fundraising, including those taken on by an organization, charitable organization or individual on a non-profit basis.

- 3.5. "Chief Administrative Officer" or "CAO" means the Chief Administrative Officer of Sturgeon County or their designate.
- 3.6. "County" means Sturgeon County.
- 3.7. "Designated Area" means an area developed, maintained and indicated through signage by the County for a specific activity such as picnic sites, swimming, skating, launching of watercraft, off-leash and equestrian uses. This may include the whole or part of a Park.
- 3.8. "Domestic Animal" means those animals, that have been domesticated and are kept as pets, and shall include, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, dogs, cats, rabbits, pigeons, pheasants, goats, horses, or pigs.
- 3.9. "Camping" means locating, erecting, or using a camping accommodation unit for the provision of sleeping accommodations, and includes overnight or any portion thereof.
- 3.10. "Enforcement Officer" means a Bylaw Enforcement Officer appointed by Sturgeon County pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* to enforce Sturgeon County Bylaws, or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- 3.11. "Firearm" means a Firearm as defined under section 2 of the Criminal Code as a barrelled weapon capable of discharging projectiles that could cause serious bodily harm or death, including any frame, receiver, or anything that can be adapted as a firearm.
- 3.12. "Fireworks" means both Low Hazard Fireworks and High Hazard Fireworks as defined in the Sturgeon County All Class Fireworks Bylaw.
- 3.13. "Fire Ban" means an order issued by the Minister responsible for the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, or an order issued pursuant to the Burning Bylaw for the use of "Acceptable Fire Pits."
- 3.14. "Motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle means a motor vehicle as defined under the *Traffic Safety Act*.
- 3.15. "Municipal Violation Tag" means a County-issued notice that alleges an offence and provides a person with the opportunity to pay an amount to the County in lieu of prosecution in court for the offence.
- 3.16. "Municipal Violation Ticket" means a ticket issued pursuant to Part II of the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act*, as amended and any regulations thereto.
- 3.17. "Off-Highway vehicle" (OHV) means an Off-Highway Vehicle as defined in the *Traffic Safety Act* and regulated under the Sturgeon County Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw.
- 3.18. "Park" means land owned or controlled by the County that is open to the public, whether such land is improved in whole or in part or remains in its natural state and for

- recreational purposes and shall include river valleys, ravines, and publicly maintained areas that the County administers including playing fields, tennis courts, outdoor rinks, outdoor concessions, Pathways, trails, and anything incidental to their use, such as all park furniture including playground equipment, benches, picnic tables and fire pits.
- 3.19. "Pathway" means any single or multi-use trail, pathway or sidewalk owned by the County including any bridge or structure with which it is contiguous, that is set aside for use by pedestrians, cyclists and persons using Wheeled Conveyances, and is improved by asphalt, concrete, shale or any other surface.
- 3.20. "Park Roadway" means a designated carriageway owned and operated by the County including any bridge or structure which is contiguous and intended for normal vehicular traffic conveyances and designated to provide access to visitors, and is improved by asphalt, or granular."
- 3.21. "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or society, but does not include the County, or any of their employees who are acting within the course and scope of their employment.
- 3.22. "Special Event" means a Special Event as defined in the Sturgeon County Special Events Bylaw.
- 3.23. "Unimproved Trail" means a development that includes an identifiable path, track or public right of way intended for use that has a natural surface and is not developed and/or maintained by the County.
- 3.24. "Vegetation" means all trees, fungi, shrubs, plants, flowers, grasses and any other vegetative ground cover, whether it is in its wild or natural state, or has been intentionally planted.
- 3.25. "Vehicle" means a vehicle as defined in the *Traffic Safety Act*, or other such legislation that may be enacted by the Province to regulate vehicles.
- 3.26. "Watercraft" means any waterborne vessel or vehicle designed to travel across or through water bodies, which includes, but is not limited to motorized boats, trailered boats, non-motorized boats (such as kayaks and canoes), and inflatables (such as rafts, kayaks and paddleboards).
- 3.27. "Wheeled Conveyance" means any human powered or electric motorized vehicle to be permitted on a Pathway defined as a Class 1 bicycle under the *Traffic Safety Act*.
- 3.28. "Wildlife" means wildlife as defined in the *Wildlife Act*.

4. General Provisions

- 4.1. All County Parks shall be open from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily unless otherwise posted.
- 4.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the CAO may approve temporary closure of a park or portions of a park to public use or make adjustment to park hours.
- 4.3. When a “park closed” or “closed sign” is erected by the County and posted in a Park, only authorized personnel shall enter therein.
- 4.4. All Pathways are open 24 hours a day unless otherwise posted.
- 4.5. Any duties delegated by this Bylaw to the CAO may be exercised by the CAO or a designate.

5. Activities within Parks

- 5.1. No Person shall act in a manner which is dangerous to life or property, or which is detrimental to the use and enjoyment of a Park by others.
- 5.2. No person shall vandalize, graffiti, damage, or deface Park property.
- 5.3. Dogs must be on a permitted leash in Parks designated under the Sturgeon County Dog Control Bylaw.
- 5.4. No person shall operate a watercraft in drainage facility.
- 5.5. No Person shall engage in any of the following activities except in Designated Areas:
 - (a) Operate, drive, or park an Off-Highway vehicle;
 - (b) Play or practice golf;
 - (c) Ride, walk, or otherwise bring a horse into a Park;
 - (d) Use archery equipment or slingshots;
 - (e) Operate, launch or remove a watercraft on, into, or from any waterbody; and
 - (f) Swim, bath or wade.
- 5.6. No Person shall engage in any of the following activities in a Park without Approval by the CAO:
 - (a) Build, erect or develop a structure or amenity;
 - (b) Clean clothing, cooking or eating utensils, vehicles, or any other items in or near any body of water, drinking fountain, well, or pump;
 - (c) Discharge a firearm or any other projectile device;
 - (d) Discharge fireworks;
 - (e) Host a Special Event;
 - (f) Leave or place any sign;

- (g) Overnight Camp;
- (h) Operate a motor vehicle, except on a Roadway or parking area;
- (i) Operate a business, including any commercial activities including the display, sale of goods or services;
- (j) Operate a motorized boat that is gas or electric;
- (k) Operate and land Aircraft;
- (l) Overnight parking;
- (m) Store equipment, trailers, docks, boats, and other materials;
- (n) Trap, snare, or attempt to capture Wildlife;
- (o) Dig in the earth, landscape or remove and plant Vegetation or dirt, gravel, rocks or natural features;
- (p) Injure, damage or destroy any tree or other Vegetation;
- (q) Prune any tree or other Vegetation;
- (r) Disturb or tamper with Wildlife, including nests, eggs, or young animals;
- (s) Feed Wildlife;
- (t) Alter the grade level or drainage pattern to interfere with the access of water, air or nutrients to any tree or other Vegetation;
- (u) Remove or interfere with any protective barrier placed around any Vegetation;
- (v) Commence any work or activity liable to interfere with the root system of any tree or other Vegetation;
- (w) By any means, affix or attach a sign or poster to any tree;
- (x) Cut, harvest, graze, irrigate, spray or apply any substance, including pesticides and fertilizers, to Park Vegetation;
- (y) Hunt, tease, molest or injure any Wildlife in any Park nor throw any substance at or near Wildlife in a Park in such a way to cause alarm, possible injury or death to Wildlife including by a Domestic Animal under the care of a Person;
- (z) Bring and release invasive species including Vegetation, aquatic, fish and Wildlife in a Park;
- (aa) Engage in Wildlife research; and
- (bb) Use a watercraft in a river, lake or pond unless the watercraft has been cleaned, drained and dried beforehand.

6. Cannabis Use, Smoking, Vaping and Alcohol Consumption

- 6.1. No Person shall possess open liquor while in a Park.
- 6.2. No Person shall consume alcohol in a Park.
- 6.3. Notwithstanding Clause 6.1 and 6.2, a Person may consume alcohol:
 - (a) in a Designated Area with an Approval, or
 - (b) at a Special Event with an Approval for the consumption of alcohol.
- 6.4. No Person shall smoke or vape any substance within 5 meters of playgrounds, sports or playing fields, outdoor swimming area, Pathways, off-leash areas, Designated Areas or the location of an approved Special Event.

7. Fishing

- 7.1. All anglers must obtain any required Alberta fishing licence before engaging in fishing activities within Parks.
- 7.2. Anglers must properly dispose of fishing lines, hooks, and other waste in a designated waste receptacle.

8. Geocaching

- 8.1. Any cache placed in a Park:
 - (a) will not be physically attached to any structure;
 - (b) must be removed by the owner of the cache if they are no longer actively promoting and or maintaining it;
 - (c) must not obstruct a Pathway or Park Roadway, or access to a Pathway or Park Roadway;
 - (d) must not be placed in a manner that disturbs or damages vegetation, such as through digging holes or altering the environment in any way;
 - (e) shall include a method to contact the owner, such as through phone or email; and
 - (f) May be removed at any time by the County at the County's sole discretion.

9. Fires

- 9.1. The lighting or burning of a fire in a Park is only permitted in County provided Acceptable Fire Pits and is subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) No Person shall leave a fire unattended or allow it to spread;
 - (b) No Person shall deposit or dispose of hot coals, ashes, embers or other burning or smoldering material in a place other than Acceptable Fire Pits;
 - (c) No Person shall leave a fire, hot coals, embers or other burning or smoldering material unattended;
 - (d) Notwithstanding clause 9.1. (a) an employee, agent or contractor of the County, in carrying out their duties in a Park may, upon obtaining a valid fire permit, conduct a prescribed burn when it is necessary for Park maintenance, development or improvement; and
 - (e) Where the Fire Chief is of the opinion that a fire hazard exists in a Park, the County may, by erecting signs and notices for the purpose, prohibit the setting, lighting or maintaining of fires in all or part of the Park.

10. Waste Management

- 10.1. No Person shall leave any garbage, litter, refuse, or other material in a Park except in a receptacle designed and intended for such use.
- 10.2. In areas in a Park where waste disposal receptacles are not provided, all users shall carry any waste produced by them out of the area for proper disposal.
- 10.3. No Person shall dump waste or other materials in any water body in contravention with the Sturgeon County Surface Drainage Bylaw.
- 10.4. All Persons having care or control of a Domestic Animal must immediately collect and remove any defecation from a Park.

11. Wheeled Conveyances (including Bicycles, E-Bicycles and E-Scooters)

- 11.1. No Person shall operate a Wheeled Conveyance unless it is equipped with a working bell, horn, or other audio signal and hand brake.
- 11.2. No Person shall operate a Wheeled Conveyance between sunset and sunrise, unless it is equipped with a forward-facing white light and rear red reflector.

12. Enforcement and Penalties

- 12.1. Where an Enforcement Officer believes that a Person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw, the Enforcement Officer may commence proceedings against the Person by issuing a Municipal Violation Ticket and Municipal Violation tag pursuant to the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, RSA 2000, c P-24, as amended from time to time.
- 12.2. Where a specified penalty exists for an offence, as listed in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw, that is the amount to be charged as a penalty for the offence.
- 12.3. Notwithstanding section 12.2 or the specified and minimum penalties set out in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw:
 - (a) The penalty for a second or subsequent offence within two (2) years shall be double the amount of the first offence.

13. Implementation

- 13.1. The CAO is authorized under this Bylaw to create policies and procedures for Approvals.
- 13.2. This Bylaw will be reviewed every five (5) years to assess its effectiveness and make necessary amendments.

14. Severability

- 14.1. If any portion of this Bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed, and the remainder of the Bylaw is deemed valid.

15. Effective Date

- 15.1. This Bylaw shall come into force and take effect on the date that it is passed.

Read a first time this 15th day of July, 2025.

Read a second time this 9th day of September, 2025.

Read a third time this 9th day of September, 2025.

“Original Signed”

MAYOR

“Original Signed”

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

September 9, 2025

DATE SIGNED

Schedule "A" Penalties

Section	Offence	Penalty
5.2.	Vandalize, graffiti, damage, or deface Park property	\$200
4.1, 4.3.	Entering parks outside of operational hours or entering areas prohibited by County signage	\$200
5.5. (a)	Operate, drive, or park an Off-Highway vehicle	\$200
5.5. (b)	Play or practice golf	\$200
5.5. (c)	Ride, walk, or otherwise bring a horse into a Park	\$200
5.5. (d)	Use archery equipment or slingshots.	\$200
5.5. (e)	Launch or remove a watercraft	\$200
5.5. (f)	Swim, bath or wade	\$200
5.6. (a)	Build, erect or develop a structure or amenity	\$500
5.6. (b)	Clean clothing, cooking or eating utensils, vehicles, or any other items in or near any body of water, drinking fountain, well, or pump	\$100
5.6. (c)	Discharge a firearm or any other projectile device	\$500
5.6. (d)	Discharge fireworks	\$1000
5.6. (e)	Host Special Events	\$500
5.6. (f)	Leave or place any sign	\$200
5.6. (g)	Overnight Camp	\$200
5.6. (h)	Operate a motor vehicle, except on a Roadway or parking area	\$500
5.6. (i)	Operate a business, including any commercial activities including the display, sale of goods or services	\$500
5.6. (j)	Operate a motorized boat that is gas or electric	\$300
5.6. (k)	Operate and land Aircraft	\$300
5.6. (l)	Overnight parking	\$200
5.6. (m)	Store equipment, trailers, docks, boats, and other materials	\$300
5.6. (n)	Trap, snare, or attempt to capture Wildlife	\$300
5.6. (o)	Dig in the earth, landscape or remove and plant Vegetation or dirt, gravel, rocks or natural features	\$300
5.6. (p)	Injure, damage or destroy any tree or other Vegetation	\$300
5.6. (q)	Prune any tree or other Vegetation	\$300
5.6. (r)	Disturb or tamper with Wildlife, including nests, eggs, or young animals	\$300
5.6. (s)	Feed Wildlife	\$300
5.6. (t)	Alter the grade level or drainage pattern to interfere with the access of water, air or nutrients to any tree or other Vegetation	\$300
5.6. (u)	Remove or interfere with any protective barrier placed around any Vegetation	\$300
5.6. (v)	Commence any work or activity liable to interfere with the root system of any tree or other Vegetation	\$300
5.6. (w)	By any means, affix or attach a sign or poster to any tree;	\$100

5.6. (x)	Cut, harvest, graze, irrigate, spray or apply any substance, including pesticides and fertilizers, to Park Vegetation	\$300
5.6. (y)	Hunt, tease, molest or injure any Wildlife in any Park nor throw any substance at or near Wildlife in a Park in such a way to cause alarm, possible injury or death to Wildlife including by a Domestic Animal under the care of a Person	\$300
5.6. (z)	Bring and release invasive species including Vegetation, aquatic, fish and Wildlife in a Park	\$300
5.6. (aa)	Engage in Wildlife research	\$300
5.6. (bb)	Use a watercraft in a river, lake or pond unless the watercraft has been cleaned, drained and dried beforehand	\$500
6.3. (a) (b)	Possess open liquor or consume alcohol outside of designate area or Special Event with no Approval	\$300
6.4	Smoke or vape any substance within 5 meters of specified locations	\$300
7.1.	No Alberta fishing licence	\$100
7.2.	Not properly disposing of fishing lines, hooks, and other waste	\$100
9.1.	Lighting or burning of a fire outside Acceptable Fire Pits and or not adhering to other conditions	\$500
10.1, 10.2.	Leave garbage, litter, refuse, or other material not in a receptacle	\$200
10.3.	Dump waste or other materials in any water body	\$500
10.4.	Having care or control of a Domestic Animal and not immediately collecting and removing any defecation from a Park	\$100
11.1, 11.2.	Operate a Wheeled Conveyance unless it is equipped with a working bell, horn, or other audio signal and hand brake, lights and rear red reflector	\$100