SUMMARY: An ordinance amending Washoe County Code by revising provisions of Chapter 95 relating to Parks and Recreation.

BILL NO. ____
ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 95 OF THE WASHOE COUNTY CODE RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATION BY REPEALING CERTAIN SECTIONS RELATING TO PARKS COMMISSION AND USE AND NAMES OF PARKS FACILITIES, BY ADDING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REMOTE/RADIO CONTROLLED DEVICES AND THE USE OF FOOD STORAGE LOCKERS AND AMENDING GENERAL PROVISIONS AND POWERS FOR PARKS COMMISSIONS AND THE USE OF PARKS INCLUDING ADDING POWERS TO ISSUE NOTICES OF VIOLATION AND CITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS CHAPTER 95 AND PROVIDING OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHOE DO ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Sections 95.030 to 95.110, Section 95.260, Section 95.440 and Sections 95.510 to 95.570 are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. Chapter 95 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding thereto the new provisions set forth in sections 3 and 4 of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. 95.XXX Electrically-powered, gasoline-powered, remote/radio controlled devices
1. The use of remote/radio controlled, electrically-powered or gasoline-powered devices is prohibited in all county parks except in areas designated for such purpose.
2. No person may operate any electrically-powered, gasoline powered, remote/radio controlled device in any county park in such a manner as to disturb the peace or endanger the public.

SECTION 4. 95.XXX Use of Food Storage Lockers
No person occupying an individual or group camp site may leave the site unoccupied or retire for the night without first placing all food and beverage items in the provided animal resistant food storage locker or inside a vehicle.
SECTION 5. Section 95.010 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

General Provisions

95.010 Definitions. As used in sections 95.010 to 95.4500, inclusive:

1. "Department" means the Community Services department of regional parks and open space.
2. "Commission" or "park commission" means the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.
3. "Commissioner" or "park commissioner" means a member of the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.
4. "Director" means the director of the department of regional parks and open space or his designee.
5. "Employee" means any person employed by the Community Services Department of regional parks and open space.
6. "Enforcement Officer" means a peace officer or park employee specifically designated by the director under NRS 171.17751, and as further described in Chapter 125, to investigate observed or reported violations and to issue oral or written warnings or citations to enforce county park ordinances or rules.
7. "Volunteer" means someone who gives his or her time, talent, energy, skills and experience for which he receives no pay or compensation.
8. "Person" means individuals, public or private corporations, unincorporated associations, partnerships, government or governmental instrumentality, or non-profit entity.
9. "Park Resources" means any natural, cultural or human made structure or feature of a county park.
10. "Facilities" means any recreationally or park property under the jurisdiction and control of the board of county commissioners.
11. "County park" includes any area designated by the board of county commissioners as a public park, playground, special use, or recreational facility or open space.
12. "Camping" means to erect a tent or shelter or use any motor vehicle for the purpose of, or in such a way as will result in, overnight occupancy thereof in any county park.
13. "Aircraft" means any device carrying or capable of carrying one or more persons through the air including airplanes, gliders, helicopters, balloons and other lighter than aircraft, parachutes and any other similar device.
14. "Trail" means any paved or unpaved pathway not designed for motor vehicles.
SECTION.  Section 95.020 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

95.020  Park commission:
1.  Creation; name.  Pursuant to the power granted the board of county commissioners by NRS 244.308 to 244.3091, inclusive, there is hereby created a county park commission to be known as the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.

2.  Park commission: Number and selection of members. The park commission shall be composed of nine members, all of whom shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners from residents of the county at large with reference to their fitness for office.

3.  Terms of office; vacancies; compensation and expenses of park commissioners.
   a) All commissioners shall be appointed for terms of 4 years.
   b) The terms shall be staggered in such manner as to provide that no more than three vacancies will occur in any year.
   c) Commissioners shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified.
   d) Any vacancy in the office of commissioner shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.
   e) Commissioners shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to the same travel expenses and subsistence allowances as county officers.

4.  Oaths of office of park commissioners; no bond required. At the first park commission meeting after their appointment, park commissioners shall qualify by taking the oath of office. No bond shall be required of them.

5.  Officers; term.
   a) The commissioners shall elect a chairperson, vice chairperson, and such other officers as are necessary from among their members during the first regularly scheduled meeting of the commission in July, and annually thereafter at the first regularly scheduled meeting in July.
   b) The term of office shall be 1 year.
   c) The Director shall act as ex-officio secretary of the commission.
6. Meetings; records; quorum.
   a) The commission shall hold at least four meetings each year and shall keep a complete record of all its transactions. A commissioner's absence from a meeting of the commission may be authorized in advance by the chairman. An unauthorized absence from a meeting of the commission by any commissioner may result in a vacancy in the office of that commissioner.
   b) Five commissioners constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
   c) Any resolution or motion may be adopted or other action ordered taken by a majority of the commissioners forming a quorum.

7. Powers of the commission. The powers of the park commission are to act primarily in advisory capacity to the board of county commissioners in promoting, aiding and encouraging public recreation and natural resource management including the development of recreation and park facilities. The park commission is authorized to provide final approval on the following items:
   a) Fee Schedule establishment and Fee waivers
   b) Park District Plans
   c) Park Master Plans
   d) Park Design
   e) Park and park facility naming
   f) Special Event and Concession Agreements
   g) Park Policies and Guidelines
   h) Fee waivers
   i) Resolutions

8. Citizens' committee. The commission shall have the authority to appoint citizens' committees to assist the commission in making recommendations to the board of county commissioners concerning the matters set forth in section 95.020.7 of this code. Membership in citizens' committees shall be subject to the approval of the director. A commissioner shall be delegated to attend meetings of the citizens' committee. The citizens' committee shall report its recommendations directly to the commission.

SECTION. Section 95.105 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:
5.105 Department of regional parks and open space: Community Services; Creation; director of department of regional parks and open space; Community Services; position created; appointments; term; staff.

1. There is hereby created, pursuant to the provisions of NRS 244.195, the Washoe County department of regional parks and open space. Community Services Department

2. Director: The position of director of the Community Services department of regional parks and open space is hereby created. The director shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners upon the recommendation of the county manager and serves at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners.
   a) The director shall attend meetings of the commission and shall make such reports to the commission, to the county manager, or to the board of county commissioners as shall be required. All recommendations of the commission made to the board of county commissioners shall first be submitted to the director and his approval or disapproval shall be a part of or accompany any such recommendation.
   b) The director shall appoint, pursuant to any applicable provisions of law regulating county personnel, such technical, clerical and operating staff as the execution of the duties of the director and operation of the department may require.

SECTION . Section 95.107 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

95.107 Powers and duties of department.
   1. The department shall administer, protect and develop the county park system for the use and enjoyment of the public.
   2. The department may establish rules and regulations not inconsistent with law for the government and administration of the county park system.
   3. Enforcement officers are authorized to issue notices of violation and/or citations for any violations of this chapter.

SECTION . Section 95.240 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

General Regulations

(new section number - 1) Park hours.
   1. Park hours are sunrise to sunset unless specifically posted otherwise or authorized by the director.
   2. No person, except county employees or peace officers on official business, may enter or be present in any county park
after closing hours unless a prior permit has been issued by the department.

SECTION . Section 95.310 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 2) Curfew limitations.
1. The director may set a curfew for persons under 16 years of age in any county park, upon finding that conditions therein are such as to warrant special measures for the protection of juveniles and others, and for the safety and welfare of the general public.
2. When a curfew has been set, no person under 16 years of age may, during the curfew period, remain or be in the park unless he is:
   (a) Accompanied by his parent or guardian;
   (b) Part of a group permitted to occupy a county park and is supervised by at least one responsible adult per 15 juveniles;

SECTION . Section 95.370 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 3) Payment for use of facilities.
1. No person shall use, occupy or be within the boundaries of any facility for which a fee has been established by the board of county commissioners or the county manager without having first paid the required fee.
2. The fees may be collected by a park employee or other authorized personnel in the manner prescribed pursuant to the provisions of section 95.380(new section 4) of this code.

SECTION . Section 95.380 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 4) Fees; method of establishment and collection.
1. The director shall submit to the board of county commissioners a schedule which defines categories and time limits of use facilities within the county park system and which sets forth proposed fees for each category of use. The categories, time limits and fees shall become effective upon entry of an order of the board of county commissioners.
2. The director shall submit to the board of county commissioners on an annual basis a schedule of proposed fees for utilization of reservable park facilities, recreation programs, and special events and activities within the county park system. The fees shall become effective upon entry
of an order of the board of county commissioners.

12. For marketing or promotional purposes only, the county manager or designee director shall have discretion to reduce fees, provide for group rates and membership packages for use of the county facility and to establish new fees for short term programs or exhibits that may occur within the department.

3. The director shall submit to the board of county commissioners on an annual basis a schedule of proposed fees for utilization of reservable park facilities, recreation programs, and special events and activities within the county park system. The fee shall become effective upon entry of an order of the board of county commissioners.

SECTION . Section 95.460 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 5) Group Use Permit. No group meeting, function, concert, athletic event or similar activity with attendance in excess of twenty-five (25) persons shall be held within the boundaries of a Washoe County Park without a valid Facility Group Use Permit. Depending on the size of the group and nature of the event other permits and licenses may also be required.

SECTION . Section 95.470 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 6) Concession operation. No person shall engage in any business activity involving soliciting, vending, selling or peddling of any products, goods or other merchandise, or providing services within county park facilities without specific written authority from the director.

SECTION . Section 95.480 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 7) Commercial/professional filming and photography. No person may participate in commercial photography, motion picture filming or photography involving the performance of a professional cast in any county park without a valid commercial photography permit issued by the department.

SECTION . Section 95.490 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 8) Posting of signs and notices: No person may disturb, alter, create or erect signs or markers of
any type in a county park without authority from the director.

SECTION. Section 95.320 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Motor Vehicles

(new section number – 9) Vehicle operators.
1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may operate any motor vehicle in any county park unless he complies with the general requirements of chapter 483 of NRS relating to licensing of persons who operate motor vehicles.
2. The director may permit operation of certain vehicles in county parks by persons who do not meet the requirements contained in subsection 1. The nature and extent of permitted operation of such vehicles by unlicensed operators shall be posted in a conspicuous place at each affected park.

SECTION. Section 95.330 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 10) Registered vehicles required.
1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may operate any motor vehicle in any county park unless the vehicle is registered in compliance with chapter 482 of NRS relating to registration of motor vehicles.
2. The director may permit operation of unregistered motor vehicles in county parks when he deems it to be in the public interest to do so. The nature and extent of permitted operation of such vehicles shall be posted in a conspicuous place at each affected park.

SECTION. Section 95.340 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 11) Speed limit. No person may drive a vehicle in a county park at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour, except where otherwise posted.

SECTION. Section 95.350 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 12) Roads; parking.
1. Motor vehicles shall be operated only on roads and in parking areas constructed or designated for motor vehicle use except where such areas have been designated by the director for use by motor vehicles.
2. Automobiles, trailers, and other vehicles shall be parked
only in designated parking areas.

SECTION. Section 95.360 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Non-Motorized Vehicles

(new section number - 13) Bicycles and other operator-propelled vehicles.

1. No person may:
   a. Operate or ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or other operator-propelled vehicle or device in any county park when the director has determined that conditions are unsafe or otherwise inappropriate for the operation of the vehicle or device and has issued an order prohibiting such activity.
   b. Operate or ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or other operator-propelled vehicle or device in any county park in excess of 15 miles per hour and/or in a manner which is unsafe or which may be injurious to the rider or other persons.
   c. Operate or ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or other operator-propelled vehicle or device in an area that specifically prohibits such activity.

2. Operators of bicycles or other operator-propelled vehicles must:
   a. Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and animals.
   b. Slow down and make presence well known in advance and use caution when overtaking other persons or animals.
   c. Use caution when approaching turns or areas of limited sight distance.

SECTION. Section 95.365 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number - 14) Unauthorized use of trails. It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(a) Operate any motorized vehicle, without authorization from the director;
(b) Hold any competitive event on any trail without authorization from the director;
(c) ride a bicycle or other operator-propelled vehicle in excess of 15 miles per hour, except during authorized competitive events, or in a manner which is unsafe or which may be injurious to the rider or other persons or animals.

SECTION. Section 95.140 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:
Domestic Animals

(new section number – 15) Leash law; animal control.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may:
   (a) Bring an animal into, permit an animal to enter or remain in, or possess an animal in any county park unless the animal is on a leash of no more than 6 feet in length and under the immediate control of that person. The director may, upon posting, designate certain areas within county parks as off-leash areas.
   (b) Lead or possess any animal, with or without a leash, while he is attending a conducted tour within any county park.

2. A park employee or enforcement officer may take any measure deemed necessary (including the removal of the animal from the park area) to protect park resources and wildlife or to prevent interference by the animal with the safety, comfort, or well being of any person or other domestic animal in the park area.

3. The director may, upon proper posting, prohibit animals in certain county parks or certain areas of county parks.

4. No person may have a domestic animal in a county park facility without carrying at all times a suitable container or other suitable instrument for the removal and disposal of animal feces. All persons must immediately remove the feces deposited by their domestic animal and properly dispose of it.

5. The provisions of this section do not apply to any person with a disability who uses a service animal to assist or accommodate him.

SECTION . Section 95.150 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 16) Horseback riding: Designated areas.

No person may:

1. lead or keep a horse or other large domestic animal in any county park, except in areas designated and posted for such purposes without authorization from the director.

2. Hitch or confine a horse or other large domestic animal in a manner that may cause damage to any park resource.

SECTION . Section 95.130 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Visitor Conduct
(new section number – 17) **Fires: Designated areas; regulation.**

1. Fires in county parks shall be contained to:
   a) fire pits, fireplaces, and charcoal grills provided by County for such purposes;
   b) portable gas stoves, lanterns, or grills used in established campsites, and picnic areas where fires are permitted.
2. Only charcoal is permitted in charcoal grills.
3. No person may leave a fire unattended within any county park.
4. No person may leave a county park before extinguishing such fire.
5. Upon existence of extreme fire danger, the director may prohibit smoking or fires in designated areas within any county park or may close such areas to the public.

**SECTION .** Section 95.200 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 18) **Property defacement.** No person may:

1. Disturb, destroy, remove, deface or injure any property in any county park.
2. Cut, carve, paint, mark, paste or fasten on any tree, fence, wall, building, monument or other property in any county park any bill, advertisement or inscription without a written permit from the director.

**SECTION .** Section 95.210 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 19) **Depositing rubbish; littering; importing and exporting.** No person may:

1. Leave, deposit, drop or scatter bottles, broken glass, ashes, wastepaper, cans, animal waste, or other rubbish in any county park, except in a receptacle designated for that purpose.
2. Import or deposit any rubbish into or in any county park from other places.
3. Export rubbish once it is in a receptacle designated for that purpose except as authorized by the director.

**SECTION .** Section 95.190 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 20) **Except in emergency situations, no person may land in or take off from any county park in any aircraft without authorization from the director.**
SECTION . Section 95.220 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 22) Firearms, archery devices: Possession or discharge in county parks.
1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may discharge any weapon from which a projectile may be propelled by means of explosive, spring, gas, air or other force in any county park.
2. The provisions of this section relating to discharge of firearms do not apply if the firearm or archery device is discharged at a designated shooting or archery facility owned and operated by the county.

SECTION . Section 95.230 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 23) Pyrotechnics and liquid or solid fuel model rockets prohibited. No person may possess, discharge, set off or cause to be discharged in or into any portion of a county park any firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets, fireworks, explosives, solid fuel or liquid fuel propelled model rockets or other substance harmful to the life or safety of any person, without authorization from the director.

SECTION . Section 95.255 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 24) Sound Amplifying Equipment.
1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code and in addition thereto, it is unlawful for any person to permit or cause any noise, sound, music or program to be emitted from sound amplifying equipment without authorization from the director.
2. With authorization, sound levels must not interfere with or be a nuisance to other park users or neighbors.

SECTION . Section 95.270 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 25) Nudity and disrobing. No person may appear nude or disrobe publically while in any county park, except in authorized areas of buildings set aside for that purpose.

SECTION . Section 95.275 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:
Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.
1. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any can, bottle or other receptacle containing any alcoholic beverage which has been opened or the seal broken in any area of a county park facility which has been posted as a “no alcohol” area.
2. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or use any controlled substance prohibited by NRS chapter 453 in any county park facility.

SECTION . Section 95.280 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Smoking, food and beverage prohibited in designated areas.
1. No person may smoke in any park building. (Nevada Clean Air Act.)
2. No person may smoke in posted areas of any county park where smoking is prohibited.
3. No person shall possess or consume food or beverages in areas posted where food and beverage are prohibited.

SECTION . Section 95.290 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Sewage dumping; sanitation.
1. No waste, water, sewage or effluent from sinks, portable toilets or other plumbing fixtures may be deposited directly upon or into any county park except in a specified dump station.
2. To maintain the sanitation and orderly appearance and for the protection of the natural resources of a county park, the director may specify the number of persons permitted in a park under his control.

SECTION . Section 95.300 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Games and playing in certain areas. No person may participate in any activity in a manner that endangers participants or other park users or presents a reasonable risk of damage to park property.

SECTION . Section 95.390 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Overnight Use

Camping: Designated areas;
limitations.
1. No person may camp in any county park except in areas
designated and marked for that purpose.
2. No person under the age of 18 years may camp in any county
park unless he is:
   (a) Accompanied by his parent or guardian;
   (b) Part of a group permitted to occupy a county park and is
       supervised by at least one responsible adult per 15 juveniles; or
   (c) Camping after having furnished to an authorized department
       employee written consent of his parent or guardian, with the
       inclusive dates for which permission is granted to camp at the
       park involved, including the name, address and telephone number
       of his parent or guardian.

SECTION. Section 95.400 of the Washoe County Code is hereby
amended as follows:

(new section number – 31) Number of persons occupying
campsites. Except by authorization of the director or authorized
department employee:
   1. The number of persons occupying an individual campsite
      shall not exceed 7.
   2. The number of vehicles, excluding motorcycles and vehicles
      in tow, occupying an individual campsite shall not exceed 2.
   3. The number of motorcycles occupying an individual campsite
      shall not exceed 4.

SECTION. Section 95.410 of the Washoe County Code is hereby
amended as follows:

(new section number – 32) Time limits on camping. No person
may continually camp in any county park for more than 7 days
within any 30-day period, unless authorization has been granted
by the director.

SECTION. Section 95.420 of the Washoe County Code is hereby
amended as follows:

(new section number – 33) Occupancy right of campsites.
   1. A campsite is considered occupied when it is being used or
      has been reserved for any purpose by any person who has paid the
      daily use fee within the applicable time limits.
   2. The campsite daily use fee must be paid within 15 minutes
      of occupying a campsite.
   3. No person may take possession or maintain possession of a
      campsite when he has been informed by an authorized department
      employee that the site has been reserved or when a person
      authorized to occupy the campsite has shown evidence of his right
to occupy the campsite.

SECTION .  Section 95.160 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

   Cultural, Historic, Natural and Wildlife

   (new section number – 35)  Animal molesting or harming.  No person may molest, hunt, disturb, injure, trap, take, net, poison, harm or kill any kind of animal, bird or fish, or attempt to do so, or feed wildlife, except that fish may be taken other than for commercial purposes in accordance with state fishing laws and regulations except upon authorization by the director.

SECTION .  Section 95.170 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

   (new section number – 36)  Plant molesting or harming.  No person may willfully or negligently pick, dig up, cut, mutilate, destroy, injure, disturb, move, molest, burn or carry away any tree, plant or portion thereof, including foliage, flowers, berries, fruit, grass, turf, humus, shrubs, cones and dead wood, except upon authorization by the director.

SECTION .  Section 95.180 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

   (new section number – 37)  Excavation or disturbing features of historic site.  No person may knowingly and willfully excavate upon, or remove, destroy, injure or deface, any historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, archeological or paleontological site, or inscriptions on such sites, in or on any county park.

Enforcement

SECTION .  Section 95.250 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

   (new section number – 38)  Disturbing the peace, trespassing.
   1.  No person may
       (a)  conduct himself in such a manner as to disturb the peace in any county park at any time.
       (b)  A person violating any provision of this section shall be ordered to immediately cease the violation. Failure to comply with the order constitutes a violation of sections 95.110 to 95. (new section 39) inclusive, and constitutes grounds for the imposition of the penalty specified in section 95. (new section
(c) The director may order any person violating any provision of this code, or any applicable city ordinance or state or federal law to immediately leave the facility. Refusal or intentional failure to comply with such order shall constitute a violation of this chapter.

SECTION . Section 95.500 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

(new section number – 39) Compliance with code, rules and regulations; penalty

1. An enforcement officer may exclude a person that violates any county park rule from one or more county parks for a specified period of time.
2. Any person who enters or remains in any county park in violation of any provision contained in sections 95.110 to 95. (new section 39), inclusive, or is in violation of any permit issued or rule adopted by the director is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 125.050.

[Business Impact Note: The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that this ordinance does not impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, nor does it directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business.]

Proposed on the ___th day of ________, 2011.
Proposed by Commissioner ______________________.
Passed on the ___th day of ________, 2011.

Vote:
Ayes:
Nays:

Absent:

__________________________
Chairman
Washoe County Commission
ATTEST:

______________________________
Amy Harvey
County Clerk

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the
______th day of ___________, 2011.