



Policy No. FAC-16-2514

GRAZING ON DISTRICT PARKLANDS

PURPOSE OF POLICY	To regulate grazing of animals on District parklands.
POLICY SUMMARY	This policy describes the required criteria and conditions under which a permit may be granted for grazing animals on District parklands.
APPROVAL	Adopted: Board Resolution No. 2514, Jan 13, 2016

The District permits the grazing of animals on District parklands under certain circumstances and to meet the goals of the District's grazing program, which are to:

- Enhance the diversity of the District's Open Space Facilities grassland habitats;
- Reduce fire intensity and fuel loads; and
- Control invasive, non-native weed species in the grassland habitat and to keep them from spreading onto neighboring property.

District Park Permit Required

In order to graze animals on District parklands, a written permit or contract, authorized by the District, shall be required prior to grazing any animals on District parkland.

Criteria to Grant or Deny Permit

The District may grant, deny or limit any permit or contract for grazing on District parklands after considering various factors, including, but not limited to: the suitability of the proposed area; the potential impact upon the proposed area; the effect of the proposed activity upon the public's use of the area; and concerns related to public health and safety.

The District may also impose reasonable conditions related to the time, place, manner, frequency, duration and maximum number of animals allowed to graze and shall describe those conditions clearly in any permit issued.

Permit Conditions

Each area of parkland has its own challenges and problems to be dealt with developing an effective grazing program. Therefore, each proposal to graze will be treated individually due to the unique physical configurations and resource issues that apply to each specific property, the availability of or need for supporting infrastructure, the potential impact on the public and the desired results from grazing.

The following conditions and limitations shall apply to any permit issued:

1. Permits may be denied, or limited as to time, place and manner.
2. Any person grazing animals on District parklands shall possess and present upon request a valid District permit.
3. All applicable state and county grazing regulations, and all District park rules and regulations (including entry and/or parking fees) must be adhered to unless specifically exempted in the written permit.
4. Grazing may only occur in the place, manner and location as described in the permit.
5. Grazing may be restricted in specific areas or within specific distances from certain natural or man-made features as identified on each permit.

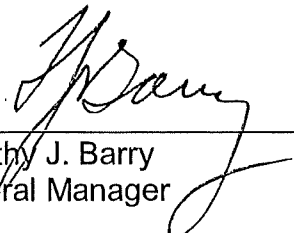
Staff will use the District's Grazing Plan (The April 26, 2010 Grazing Management Plan, prepared by Lisa Bush, a California Certified Rangeland Manager) to developing grazing program guidelines and for any requirements to be placed on the grazers.

Implementation of specifics such as: which areas to graze on specific dates; which grazing partners to contract with; which type of grazing animal to allow; stocking rates; how long a period of time the grazing will continue; what measures will be used for caring for and control of the animals; how best to integrate this particular grazing activity with other uses and negotiating permit fees or provision of grazing infrastructure, will all be managed on a case by case basis by the Parks and Open Space staff.

Permit Procedure

1. All requests for grazing shall be submitted to the District at least thirty days in advance of the proposed date of grazing. The request will include the proposed park location; the date, time and duration of grazing; the name, address and phone number of the person responsible for managing the grazing activities; and the number of animals that will be allowed to graze during the permitted time.
2. After review by District staff, a recommendation to either issue or deny the permit will be made to the District's Parks and Facilities Manager (based upon the criteria outlined above) within sixty working days of receipt of the permit application.
3. The District's Parks and Facilities Manager will issue or deny the grazing permits but will seek preapproval from the Board of Directors for any permits involving permitting costs that are not budgeted or that may have complex impacts on the District.
4. District staff will communicate directly with the applicant regarding the District's decision to either issue or deny the permit.

APPROVAL



Timothy J. Barry
General Manager

1-14-16

Date

ITEM NO. 5-2