

New Uses for Parks Ordinance Summary

This ordinance amends provisions relating to new uses for King County parks.

The Phase II Business Transition Plan, completed by the Department of Natural Resources and Parks in August 2002, and Ordinance 14509, adopted November 14, 2002, set forth the vision and implementation strategies for the King County parks and recreation system in 2003 and beyond. The plan identified ways to reduce the parks division budget while keeping key regional parks assets open and preserving local rural facilities where practical.

This ordinance revises the land use code to allow for new uses in the parks that will create an opportunity for the division to support the parks programs and provide additional amenities in the parks to serve park users.

The proposed ordinance amends K.C.C. Title 21A as follows

- Adds a new definition for “Large Active Recreation and Multi-Use Park”
- Amends an existing definition for “park” to include rentals, retail and service uses related to park uses and restaurants.
- Amends the permitted use table to allow Large Active Recreation and Multi-Use Parks only on properties owned by King County subject to review and public meetings through the department of natural resources and parks.
- Amends the permitted use table to allow a Large Active Recreation and Multi-Use Park in certain zones; amends the table to allow for the additional following uses: campgrounds, recreational vehicle park, amusement and recreation services, and outdoor performance centers in a limited number of land use zones.
- Amends the permitted use table to allow for rentals, retail and services related to park uses and restaurants, except for restaurants in Large Active Recreation and Multi-Use Parks in the urban residential zones, limited to a footprint of no more than a thousand square feet for each structure. For restaurants in the Large Active Recreation and Multi-Use Parks in the urban zones, the restaurant footprint is limited to no more than three thousand five hundred square feet.