

Operation of Drones in City Parks



Rules and Regulations for Operation of Drones in City Parks

Policy and Definitions

The intent of this policy is to regulate the use and operation of drones within and over properties owned by the City of Lakeville. Drone use is regulated by City of Lakeville Ordinance:

7-1-4-8: Aircraft, Ultralight Vehicles, Parachutes, Model Rockets and Planes

Except with a permit from the city, in a city park no person may possess, land or take off in an aircraft or ultralight vehicle, parachute, ignite or set off a model rocket, or fly a model plane.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) defines a drone, or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), as an aircraft that is operated without direct human intervention, either autonomously or by remote control.

Drones weighing more than 4 pounds are prohibited from taking off, landing or being operated in city parks. Drones weighing less than 4 pounds are required to be permitted by the City of Lakeville Parks and Recreation Department prior to landing or taking off in a city park.

This policy only pertains to recreational use of drones within and over city parks including:

- a. Photography/videography of private events
- b. Photography/videography of City sponsored public events (Live at the Lake, Art Festival)

This policy does not pertain to commercial use of drones, please refer to page 60 of the Lakeville Policy Manual for more information on commercial use of drones. This policy does not pertain to drones used by law enforcement agencies as allowed under Minn. Stat. Sec. 626.19.

Procedure

- a. A permit is required for the taking off, landing in, or operation of drones weighing 4 pounds or less within Lakeville City Parks.
- b. The City of Lakeville reserves the right to approve or deny any permit application at its discretion.
- c. Permit applications must be received at least seven days prior to the proposed date of flight. Permit processing time can take up to five days.
- d. Permit applications must be accompanied with the following:
 - Site plan including flight path
 - Intention of drone usage

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Conditions of Use

- a. Drone operators must be 18 years of age or older.
- b. Drone operators may not disturb birds or wildlife or their natural habitats.
- c. No drone shall be flown directly over crowds.
- d. Permit holders, drone operator, crew, equipment and vehicles may not disrupt or impede vehicle or pedestrian traffic at any time.
- e. No drone shall be operated beyond the line of sight of the drone operator, unless the operator is assisted by a drone observer who keeps the drone in line of sight and who is in constant radio contact with the drone operator.
- f. Drone operators must abide by all FAA and State of Minnesota rules and regulations regarding drone operation.
- g. Drone operators must not create a nuisance.

Penalties and Revocation

- a. Penalty and violation fees may apply for a violation of any park ordinances.
- b. A permit may be revoked for any of the following reasons but not limited to:
 - Violation of any City ordinance, park rule or policy
 - When a Parks and Recreation staff member believes there are valid grounds for revocation (resident complaints, reckless operation, disruptive behavior, vandalism or causing damage within and above park property)

Application for Drone Operation Permit

Completed applications can be emailed to: **recreation@lakevillemn.gov**
 After your application has been reviewed, you will be contacted by the Parks and Recreation Department. Please allow 3-5 days for processing.

Applications must be submitted at least seven days prior to flight.

Name of Operator:	DOB:
Mailing Address:	Company:
Preferred Phone Number:	Email Address:

Flight & Drone Information:

Park Location:		
Date(s) of flight:		
Time of flight:	Start:	End:
Intent of Drone Usage:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Photography/videography of private event <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/videography of City sponsored public event		
Drone Registration Number:	Make/Model: Weight:	

Please include a site plan including flight path with your application.

Conditions of Use & Release of Liability Waiver:

Permit holders, Drone operator, crew, equipment, and vehicles may not disrupt or impede vehicle or pedestrian traffic at any time. Drone operators and crew may not disturb birds or wildlife or their natural habitat within the park or parkland. Any drone weighing more than 4 pounds is strictly prohibited within City of Lakeville Parks. Applicant shall indemnify the City and hold the City harmless from any liability to any person resulting from damage or injury occurring in connection with the permitted drone use caused by the applicant, its officers, employees, or agents or any person under applicant's control. Applicant shall limit all activities conducted on City property to the terms of the permit. Failure to abide by the terms of the permit or any other applicable laws, rules or regulations may result in revocation of the permit. The permit must be on the premises during drone operations and be presented to any City of Lakeville employee upon request. The City of Lakeville reserves the right to deny or cancel any permits at any time. The applicant has reviewed the FAA AirMap and understand any and all airspace restrictions impacting their flight.

I have read and understand the Conditions of Use and Release of Liability Waiver Yes

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____