

September 13, 2011

**SUBJECT:****ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:****Rules and Regulations on Use of the Chassahowitzka River Campground and Recreational Area**

Community Services

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**POLICY:**

- A. To establish rules and regulations relating to the use of the Chassahowitzka River Campground and Recreational Area operated and maintained by the Citrus County Parks and Recreation Bureau.
- B. In accordance with the management agreement entered into the 19th day of January, 1991, by and between the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Citrus County. The term of the agreement shall be for a period of twenty (20) years, in consideration of payment at ten dollars and no cents (\$10.00) to SWFWMD by the County. The County desires to operate, maintain, and manage the land for recreational use by the public.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. Unless otherwise expressly stated, whenever used in this Administrative Regulation, the following terms shall respectively mean and include each of the meanings as set forth below:
  1. DIRECTOR - Shall mean Manager of Parks and Recreation Bureau of Citrus County.
  2. PARK MANAGER - Shall mean the Park Manager of the Chassahowitzka River Campground, employed by the Citrus County Bureau of Parks and Recreation.
  3. CAMPGROUND - Shall mean all areas within the boundaries of the Chassahowitzka River Campground.
  4. USERS – Shall mean any individual, group, organization or business that enters the Campground.
  5. CAMPERS – Shall mean any individual who has registered to remain in the Campground overnight.

**CONSTRUCTION:**

- A. The provisions of this Administrative Regulation shall be construed as follows:
  1. Any term in the singular shall include the plural.
  2. Any term in the masculine shall include the feminine and the neuter.
  3. The prohibition of any act by this Administrative Regulation shall be deemed to include the prohibition against the aiding and/or abetting, directly, or indirectly, of such act.
  4. The provisions of this Administrative Regulation shall not apply to any act necessarily performed by any officer or employee of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners in the line of duty or work as such, or by any person, his agents or employees, in the proper and necessary execution of the terms of any agreement of the County.
  5. The rules and regulations are intended to supplement all municipal, state and federal laws and ordinances and in any conflict, these laws and ordinances shall prevail.

**TERRITORIAL SCOPE:**

- A. All rules and regulations promulgated herein shall be effective within and upon all Campground property and shall regulate the use thereof on all persons:
1. The Manger of Parks and Recreation Bureau is hereby authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations relative to the use at the Campground and its facilities as deemed necessary and proper.
  2. Users of the Campground shall abide by all established rules and regulations and shall obey all orders and directions of the Campground officials.
  3. Any violation of duly established rules and regulations may subject the violator to immediate revocation of privileges and cancellation of reservations. The manager shall notify such guest that the park no longer desires to entertain the guest and requests the guest to leave. Notice shall be given in writing. If the guest paid in advance, the park shall at the time of notice give back any unused portion of the advance payment remaining after midnight.
  4. All persons using the campground facilities do so at their own risk.
  5. The County will not accept for safekeeping any moneys, securities, jewelry or precious stones of any kind. The County is not responsible to any guest for the loss of clothes, goods or property.
  6. All personal equipment and effects must be removed from campsites on or before the check out times. Any equipment or effects left in the campsites after the rental period has expired will be removed and disposed of in accordance with State law.
  7. It is understood that the County may charge a reasonable entrance or usage fee to the users of the campground. Any such fees charged by the County or income from the concession(s) shall be used for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining and managing the campground and its improvements.

**GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

A. Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Substances

The possession, consumption, or other use of any alcoholic beverages, intoxicants and unlawful drugs or substances by anyone within the campground shall be specifically prohibited. Individuals found in violation may be removed from the premises.

B. Campground Operation

Campsites are limited to one family (mother, father and children) or a group of five people.

The campground may be closed by the Director in the event of severe weather conditions, health hazards or for renovation and repair when conditions warrant so as to insure public safety.

C. Child Supervision - Children under the age of 11 years old must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver who is at least 16 years of age while on Park property.

D. Fires

No person shall kindle, build, or maintain a fire except in a specifically designated fire pit or barbecue grill provided for such a purpose. Fires shall be continuously under the care and direction of a competent person. All fires must be extinguished before retiring nightly or when leaving the camp site. Fires may be prohibited during times of high wild fire potential.

E. Firewood

Trees are not to be cut or damaged, in whole or in part, in any attempt to gather firewood. Any tree or part of a tree found to have fallen naturally on the ground may be collected for firewood. Fees may be assessed for firewood provided by the campground when available.

#### F. Fireworks

Fireworks are prohibited within the campground.

#### G. Hunting and Trapping Wildlife

Hunting and trapping wildlife is prohibited. No person shall throw missiles at, injure, kill, hunt or trap any animal within the campground. The Director may authorize licensed trappers, Animal Services employees, Parks and Recreation employees or wildlife officials to remove nuisance wildlife.

#### H. Media Contact

All press releases or media contact must be approved in advance through the Parks and Recreation administration office.

#### I. Motorbikes/Vehicles

No motorbikes or other unlicensed vehicles may be operated in the Campground unless used as the sole mode of transportation and authorized by the Park Manager. Motorbikes may not travel off road within the campground. Vehicles must obey posted speed limits.

#### J. Operating Hours

The Campground is intended to be open daily except on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, December 25th. The Director may adjust the store operating hours as needed to best serve the campground users and manage campground resources. Store hours will be posted in a plainly legible fashion and prominently displayed on the store door.

#### K. Parking - Parking shall be restricted to designated areas.

All patrons utilizing the boat ramp parking area will be charged a parking fee. Registered campers are exempt from this provision. No more than two vehicles and/or boats may be parked per site. Additional vehicles will be accommodated at a specified site designated by the Park manager for a fee of \$5.00 per vehicle and/or boat.

#### L. Permits

Permits must be displayed at all times. Camping permits must be prominently displayed at the camp site. Parking permits are to be taped inside the vehicle windshield on the driver's side. Permits must be renewed before expiration should patrons wish to extend their stay.

#### M. Pets

Pets must be kept on a six-foot hand held leash, well behaved and under control at all times. Pets are not permitted in the bathhouse or store. Guide dogs for the physically handicapped as provided in F.S. 413.08 are welcome in all areas of the campground. Any animal causing a disturbance or considered being a nuisance or threat to persons or property may be removed from the campground. Pets are not to be left outdoors unattended at any time. All pets of registered campers must have current rabies vaccinations. Pet owners are required to provide proof of vaccinations upon registration. Campers are limited to two pets in the campground.

#### N. Prohibited Conduct

No person(s) in the campground shall:

1. Disobey or disregard any directions of a law enforcement officer, Parks and Recreation employee, sign, rule or regulation posted on the grounds or buildings.
  2. Use threatening, abusive or insulting language.
  3. Do any obscene or indecent act, as defined by the Laws of the State of Florida.
  4. Throw stones or other objects not intrinsic to a sport.
  5. Solicit alms, subscriptions or contributions, fees for any purpose.
  6. Interfere with, encumber, or obstruct any passage in the Campground.
  7. Climb or lie upon any wall, fence, or other structure.
  8. Enter or leave the campground except at established entrances or exits, and at established times.
  9. Attempt to use or gain admission to the campground without paying the established fee(s).
  10. Solicit, distribute or display any unauthorized advertising of any kind.
  11. Injure, deface, alter, remove, or destroy any property or equipment within the campground area owned or leased to Citrus County. Violators will be required to reimburse Citrus County for damages.
  12. Remain or loiter within the campground after the designated check out time unless registered as a guest or approved by Park Manager.
  13. No visitor shall grease, lubricate or make any repairs to any vehicle except those of a minor nature in case of emergency.
14. Do not hang or tie items to trees.

Individuals who violate posted rules and regulations or the laws of the State of Florida will be required to vacate the premises immediately. Management reserves the right to seek assistance from law enforcement agencies when dealing with violators. Violators may be subject to arrest depending on the type and severity of the infraction(s). Violators may also be barred from the campground on a temporary or permanent basis depending on the severity of the infraction(s).

O. Protection of Plant Life - No person shall remove, destroy, deface, or disturb any plant life or trees.

#### P. Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. No one shall abuse quiet hours by playing loud music, or exhibiting loud, rowdy or boisterous behavior. Pets shall also be kept quiet during this time. Due to the serene and peaceful setting of the campground, patrons are to make every effort to keep unnecessary noise to a minimum at all times.

Patrons may be evicted for abuse of quiet hours or creating excessive noise at any time. Campers are prohibited from using portable generators in the campground.

#### R. Rates

Rates are established or modified by resolution adopted by the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners. Entrance or usage fees shall be posted in a plainly legible fashion and prominently displayed in the registration area.

Boats, Canoes and Kayaks: Boat, canoe and kayak rentals are based on hourly, half-day (4 hours) and full-day (8 hours) rates. Users will be assessed additional fees for returning

equipment past the reserved time. Fees will be based on actual time used and rounded to the nearest quarter hour.

An optional equipment deposit may be charged when renting boats, canoes and kayaks.

All patrons must sign a County release and waiver. Each craft must have a whistle and one US Coast Guard approved types I, II, or III PFD on board for each passenger. No one under the age of eighteen (18) may rent a boat.

Dump Station: Fees will be assessed for use of the dump station and must be paid at the store in advance.

Laundry: All individuals utilizing laundry facilities must pay all applicable fees. Patrons are not to put muddy clothes, footwear, bedding or other materials in dryers without washing first.

Site Rentals: Rates are based on nightly, weekly and monthly usage. Rates are based on two people per tent or camping unit. Additional fees will be assessed for each additional person per site over the age of seven. Rates vary for full hook up, water/electric and primitive (tents) sites. Sites with access to telephone and cable television may have additional fees imposed.

Visitors: Day visitors and picnickers are required to pay the established parking fee.

#### S. Discounts

All Florida residents and persons possessing a Military ID may receive a 10% discount off the regular site rental fee.

Organized Youth groups of eight (8) or more with competent adult chaperones are eligible for a group discount for all attendees upon demonstration that they are a qualified not-for-profit organization. Advance reservations are required to qualify for this discount.

Periodically and for promotional purposes, the Division of Parks and Recreation may offer discounts on rentals which may include sites, boats, canoes, kayaks and store goods or any combination thereof.

Employees are required to pay applicable fees and taxes for all goods and services obtained at the campground.

#### T. Refunds and Rain Checks

The general policy is that no refund or rain check will be issued, except under extenuating circumstances such as the campground's closure or extended loss of utilities. All refunds or rain checks must be approved in advance by the Park Manager.

#### U. Refuse

1. No person shall cause refuse of any sort to be left or deposited in the campground. Those materials which become refuse consequential to use within the campground must be placed in the designated receptacles provided for refuse or removed by the user before leaving the campground.
2. No person shall cause any substance or gas to enter any drain, sewer, or receiving

basin leading into the campground, which would tend to choke or impair the system, or which may result in the pollution of the campground waters.

3. All persons using the dump station must follow all laws regulating the use of these facilities.

#### V. Reservation Policy

1. Except where otherwise specified, the use and enjoyment of the campground shall be made available to all who wish to enter on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. Reservations may be made in person or by telephone only. A one-week rental fee deposit is required for reservation of one month or longer. A credit card is required to confirm the reservation.
3. Reservations are accepted between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
4. Reservations may not be made more than one (1) year in advance. Individuals who make advance reservations are required to confirm reservations with the Park Manager at least one month prior to the
  - (a) Reservation date. Management reserves the right to cancel any advance
  - (b) Reservations for cause and will promptly notify campers of the cancellation.
5. Reserved campsites will be held until 6:00 PM on the day of schedule arrival. When an accommodation is confirmed, campers arriving after their schedule date will have to pay for any unoccupied time. The camper's credit card will be billed equivalent to one night stay if reservation is not kept and the camper does not show. Campers planning to arrive after 8:00 PM shall call ahead to have reservations held. Failure to do so may result in immediate revocation of the reservation.
6. Check out time is 2:00 p.m. daily. All areas are to be cleaned and restored to their original condition before leaving.
7. Occupancy of RV sites shall be limited to a maximum of 180 consecutive days. Occupancy of a tent site is limited to no more than a continuous two-week period. Prior tenants cannot reoccupy the park without a minimum absence period of seven days.

#### W. Swimming

Swimming is not allowed from the docks, boat ramp or anywhere within the campground area.

#### X. Visitors

All visitors are to check in daily at the store and must follow all rules and regulations. All visitors must leave the campground by 10:00 p.m. Visitors remaining after 10:00 p.m. will be required to register as campers and pay all applicable fees.

#### Y. Water Hook Up

Only self-contained recreational vehicles are permitted to hook up to the drinking water system.

#### Z. Sewer Hook Up

Recreational vehicle owners requesting sewer hook up must furnish the o-ring connector (donut) required by law to insure a proper seal prior to hook up.