

## **Parks and Recreation**

### **Event Rest Periods**

#### **Background**

In 2014 and 2015 a cap was in place that did not allow new races and walks in Denver. In 2015 the cap was extended to include special events. With the cap expiring for the 2016 season, there was insufficient time to analyze the data and to promulgate new rules, including stakeholder involvement prior to the opening of permits for the 2016 season on November 2nd. We determined that something needed to be put in place to manage the anticipated influx of requests to hold events until new rules are adopted at the end of the 2016 season. The impetus for this decision is the Ordinance that provides priority status for events that occur in the same park on the same date(s) for two consecutive years. These events have the right to continue into the future as long as the location and date(s) remain the same and would pre-empt any new rules that might result from a more thorough review process.

To address these issues the City will be implementing rest periods in seven of our busiest parks for the 2016 season. The purpose of these rest periods is to provide a balance between passive park use and programmed activity in and around these parks. In addition, they will allow time for the turf to recover from the concentrated use that results from events. We will be gathering input from stakeholder throughout the season on the effects of the rest periods and engaging the community in a discussion about new rules following the end of the season. The details of the rest periods are as follows:

#### **Parks where rest periods will be implemented**

##### Large Regional Parks

City - 3 weekend days per month

Stapleton Central - 3 weekend days per month

Sloans - 3 weekend days per month

Washington - 3 weekend days per month

##### Downtown Parks

Civic - 2 weekend days per month

Confluence - 2 weekend days per month

##### Medium Regional Parks

Cheesman - 4 weekend days per month

#### **Policy**

- The Rest Period policy is being instituted on a 1 year pilot basis and only applies to the parks listed above.
- Priority events (events that have occurred in the same park on the same date(s) for 2 consecutive years as defined in Ordinance) are not impacted except as noted below.
- Rest periods in effect from April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- “Weekend days” are Saturday and Sunday.
- DPR Permit office will determine exact rest period dates after priority events are booked and prior to permit opening date.
  - DPR will work with the Office of Special Events and other City agencies in establishing specific rest period dates and publish them internally & externally
  - Guidelines for determining specific rest period dates will be:
    - Whole weekends versus individual weekend days
    - Weekend before or after a large event
    - Weekend when other City resources (DPD, PW) are limited
    - Turf condition
    - Maintenance requirements
- The 5<sup>th</sup> weekend in a month will not be booked for an event except for: priority events or when two priority events conflict and the weekend is needed to accommodate moving one of them. These days do not count towards rest period requirements.
- No new events, races or walks will be allowed within one block of these parks during rest periods. This includes races and walks that are exclusively on the streets. (Public Works & Denver Police Department).
- No new events on Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day. These days do not count towards rest period requirements.
- No races/walks will be permitted on trails except for Priority events, races/walks that remain exclusively within a park boundary, and races/walks that are associated with a convention booked by Visit Denver prior to October 1, 2015. Pre-defined routes will be established for races/walks associated with a convention.
- Events will be limited to a maximum number of consecutive days at all parks for the entire year. The maximum will be 3 event days, plus one setup day and one tear-down day. Priority events that currently exceed this maximum will be allowed to continue but would not be allowed to add additional days.
- A mechanism will be put in place to obtain feedback from the various stakeholders at the end of the 2016 event season.