Use of Council Parks:
Community Guideline

(Version 5 – Updated March 2025)

BRISBANE CITY

Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Overview

Brisbane's parks provide recreational, ecological, visual, cultural heritage and other open space values that make Brisbane livable and sustainable.

Brisbane City Council (Council) cares for and manages more than 2180 parks for residents and visitors to enjoy and share in a friendly and safe environment. Council has a responsibility to protect these parks, ensure their fair use and accessibility, and provide clear and consistent information for people wanting to use parks.

The *Public Land and Council Assets Local Law 2014* (PLACA) provides for the management and regulation of activities in parks to promote safe use and enjoyment of parks, optimise the benefits derived from parks, and protect, conserve and manage all park assets.

While most activities in parks will not need the consent of Council, some activities do require a park use consent or are otherwise restricted or prohibited because of their potential to affect the use or operation of the park, park users or adjoining properties.

Activities requiring a park use consent will only incur a park use fee if they involve exclusive use of a park booking site or some commercial uses. **All other consents will be free.**

Activities requiring consent

A park use consent is required for activities in parks that meet one or more of the following consent criteria:

1. commercial activities including activities with a commercial element
2. activities involving access to and use of a Council power source or other utility service
3. activities involving animals, other than domestic pets
4. distributing any handbill, notice, literature or similar promotional material
5. affixing or posting any bill or placard
6. erecting or placing any temporary structure covering an area of more than 15 m²
7. activities involving significant numbers of participants and/or that have the potential to:
    a. damage the park
    b. adversely affect adjoining property owners and occupiers
    c. effectively exclude other people from, or negatively affect, the reasonable enjoyment of the park by other users
8. activities requiring exclusive use of a park area, such as a park booking site.

Applications for Council consent can be made:

- by searching for 'park consent' on Council website www.brisbane.qld.gov.au
    - commercial activities
    - park bookings
    - temporary vehicle access
- by calling the Council Contact Centre on (07) 3403 8888
- by calling Council's Business Hotline on 133 BNE (133 263) for commercial activities.

Examples of activities in parks that require a park use consent are listed below. This list is not all-inclusive and park users should contact Council if clarification is needed.

Activities requiring consent	
• Booking a park booking site (a park booking) • Mobile food vendors, temporary food stalls • Health, fitness or life skills classes or sessions e.g. personal training, yoga, junior soccer skills, dog obedience training, play programs • Recreation equipment hire, lessons or tours e.g. bicycle hire,	• Erecting or placing any temporary structure/s covering an area of more than 15 m² e.g. marquees (one or more), picnic settings • Activities or events involving 500 or more participants over the duration of the activity or event e.g. fair, outdoor movies (Note: Events involving 2000 or more participants, and some events involving 1000 or more participants, also require an Event Permit) • Health and fitness activities and events involving over 200

paddle board lessons, kayak tours • Ticketed events e.g. concerts, festivals, outdoor movies, corporate dinners • Events with goods and services for sale e.g. markets, fetes, fairs • Sport, recreation and leisure activities and events for paying participants e.g. bubble soccer, combat archery, orienteering • Establishment of a community garden including planting or removing vegetation • Hot air ballooning, helicopter rides, sky diving, paragliding (take-off or landing) • Busking (with or without amplification) • Filming and photography for commercial purposes, including student activities • Launching a drone for commercial purposes • Promotional activities undertaken for commercial purposes e.g. product or business displays, giveaways, advertisements, or signs • Activities involving use of Council power or other utility • Activities involving animal nurseries, wildlife exhibits, pony rides, agistment, grazing, beehives, keeping of chickens • Displaying, making available for people to take, or handing out notices, leaflets, literature or any other materials promoting a business, product, cause, or event • Affixing or posting any notices, posters, advertisements, placards, banners, stickers or any other materials promoting a business, product, cause, or event	participants in high use areas e.g. fun run • Using equipment that may cause impact e.g. jumping castles, portable toilets, power generators • Rallies (other than assemblies authorised under the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992 Qld) • Construction or maintenance works • Environmental surveys, investigations, testing • Seed collection or extraction, plant harvesting • Metal detecting involving digging or disturbing soil to remove targets (Note: Removal of targets from grass or soft fall without disturbing soil does not require consent) • Social and community welfare outreach services e.g. free food vans, mobile laundry services • Driving or parking a vehicle other than on internal roads or parking areas • Restricted activities (see below) conducted outside their designated areas • Trail running, mountain bike riding, horse riding, or orienteering/ rogaining/ geocaching in natural area parks with groups of 30 or more participants • Rock climbing/abseiling at Kangaroo Point Cliffs with groups of 30 or more participants • Bouldering in designated areas with groups of 30 or more participants • Slacklining • Camping

Note: A range of other community sport and recreation activities (such as soccer or scouts) are allowed and managed in Council parks under lease or license agreements.

Restricted activities

Restricted activities in parks are activities that without the right location and conditions could be dangerous, cause damage, injure or adversely impact wildlife, vegetation, natural features or park infrastructure, cause nuisance or obstruct public access.

Designated areas are planned and designed by Council specifically to accommodate the restricted activity.

Restricted activities can be conducted without a park use consent in designated areas in accordance with any specified conditions of use.

Designated areas for restricted activities are listed on Council's website. Examples of restricted activities and designated areas in parks are listed below. This list is not all-inclusive and park users should contact Council if clarification is needed.

Restricted Activities	
• Walking dogs off-leash – dog off-leash areas/ dog parks • Bushwalking – tracks and trails • **Trail running – tracks and trails • Cycling, scootering, skateboarding (including motorised, speed limited to 25 km/h) – bikeways, shared pathways • BMX, scootering, skateboarding, skating, rollerblading (non-	• Recreational fishing in any water body – designated fishing platforms and areas • Launching canoes/kayaks – canoe/ kayak portage areas • Launching remotely piloted aircraft for recreational purposes (other than children's toys, or aircraft that weigh less than 0.5kg, which are exempt, although must still be flown to CASA rules) – drone areas

motorised) – bikeways, shared pathways, BMX facilities, skate facilities • **Mountain bike riding (including motorised, speed limited to 25 km/h) – mountain bike tracks • **Orienteering, rogaining, geocaching or similar in natural area parks – tracks and trails in recreation areas • **Horse riding (including leading a horse) – horse riding tracks, trails, facilities and areas • **Rock climbing, abseiling – Kangaroo Point Cliffs • **Bouldering – designated bouldering areas	• Operating remotely controlled model cars and boats (other than children's toys, or vehicles that have a maximum speed of 15kph, which are exempt) – model car or model boat areas • Disc golf – disc golf courses • Driving or parking a vehicle – internal roads and car parking areas • Lighting of fires – wood barbecues, fire pits, fire places

** Some restricted activities present increased risk of impact when undertaken by large groups, even in designated areas. A park use consent is required for these restricted activities in designated areas when undertaken by groups of 30 or more participants.

Restricted activities may only be conducted outside their designated areas with a park use consent, otherwise they are prohibited.

Prohibited activities

Prohibited activity – means any activity that is not allowed in any park because it is or could:

1. be dangerous
2. damage, injure or interfere with wildlife
3. interfere with vegetation
4. damage or interfere with park infrastructure or the natural features of a park including soil, sand or rock
5. cause nuisance
6. obstruct public access to all or part of a park.

Some common prohibited activities in parks include:

- disposing of organic or general waste
- polluting any creek, waterway, dam or other body of water
- entering any rehabilitation area or similar
- collecting driftwood or firewood
- picking flowers or taking cuttings of plants
- cycling, scootering or skateboarding on motorised vehicles at a speed of more than 25 km/h
- mountain biking on high-powered motorised mountain bikes (i.e. >250 watts) in natural area parks
- playing golf, other than at a designated golf facility or with a whiffle ball
- motorbike or trail bike riding
- four-wheel driving
- bungee jumping
- paintball
- activities generating audible noise before 7am or after 10pm Monday to Saturday, or before 8am or after 6pm on Sundays and public holidays (unless otherwise approved)
- fireworks, other than unrestricted fireworks (e.g. sparklers) or fireworks authorised under the Explosives Regulation 2017