

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(As amended 10/29/2013)

[Park Code - Hours of Operation for City Parks]

Ordinance amending the Park Code to establish hours of operation for City parks from 5:00 a.m. to midnight, with certain exceptions; and making environmental findings.

Existing Law

The Recreation and Park Commission sets by resolution the hours that parks are open to the public.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposal is an ordinance that would amend the Park Code to provide that City parks would be open to the public from 5:00 a.m. to midnight daily, and prohibit any person from being in a City park outside of those hours. The Recreation and Park Commission could also set different hours of operation for any park by resolution based on operational needs or neighborhood impacts.

The proposal would not apply to buildings on park property, such as recreation centers and clubhouses, or to athletic fields. The Department would continue to set the hours of operations for those facilities. The proposal also would not apply in the following situations:

- Where someone is using a roadway or adjacent sidewalk to cross Balboa Park, Golden Gate Park, Lincoln Park, or McLaren Park;
- Where someone is using a bike path to cross the Panhandle;
- Where someone is using the paved areas to cross Union Square, Civic Center Plaza, or Justin Herman Plaza;
- Where the Department has set different hours in a permit, contract, or lease; or,
- Where the General Manager has temporarily closed a park to protect the safety and well-being of the public.

Violations of the proposal could be punished as a misdemeanor or an infraction.

The proposal would require the Department to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor providing (1) the number of citations issued by the Police Department and Park Patrol for violations of the ordinance, and (2) the Department's costs for repairs and maintenance, including graffiti abatement, resulting from vandalism in parks.