About Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

For the purpose of this policy unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) are defined as aircraft that do not carry a human pilot and may be controlled by radio frequency via a pilot on the ground. They include such things as remote-controlled aircraft, “drones” and model rocketry. This policy only addresses UAVs flown for hobby or recreational purposes. UAV’s flown for business or monetary purposes are controlled by different local, state and Federal regulations.

Purpose

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) recognize that operating an UAV presents as a popular recreational activity. PRCR evaluated properties within the park system to determine which may be conducive to UAV flying. PRCR determined UAV flying would not be a compatible use for areas classified as “nature preserves,” “nature parks” or “wetland centers” or appropriate for lakes wholly owned, managed or leased by the City of Raleigh or PRCR.

PRCR has identified specific park locations for UAV use. Please see Table 1 for these locations and the times they are available for UAV use. To fly at these locations, all pilots must abide by the operating regulations outlined in this policy.

1. OPERATING REGULATIONS.

1.1. Persons operating a UAV within park system properties shall:

1.1.1. comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws;
1.1.2. not operate within the five-mile radius of airports specified by the Federal Aviation Administration;
1.1.3. not operate at any altitude higher than 400 feet above the ground;
1.1.4. not operate outside the line of sight of the operator;
1.1.5. not operate over people or public events;
1.1.6. not operate within 50 feet of a public park boundary;
1.1.7. not operate while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs;
1.1.8. not operate outside of designated park hours;
1.1.9. not operate when weather impairs the operator’s ability to maintain line of sight;
1.1.10. not operate to harass wildlife or members of the public;
1.1.11. In addition to the regulations in 1.1, those operating model rocketry must:

1.1.11.1. observe and abide by the National Association of Rocketry Safety Code and Safety Zone Requirements;
1.1.11.2. not launch in unsafe weather conditions or when wind speeds are greater than 20 miles per hour;
1.1.11.3. ensure launch sites must have a diameter of at least 400 feet free of any obstructions, including trees, structures, play equipment and should be level;

1.1.11.4. operate a safe distance from park users;

1.1.11.5. utilize single rocket engines size “A” or “B” are permitted; and

1.1.11.6. be responsible for disposing of all trash associated with activity.

Table 1.
Parks with Designated UAV Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quadrant of City</th>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location in Park*</th>
<th>Days and Times for UAV Usage</th>
<th>UAV cameras allowed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>Baileywick Park</td>
<td>9501 Baileywick Road</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Dawn to Dusk</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>Eastgate Park</td>
<td>4200 Quail Hollow Drive</td>
<td>Multipurpose Field</td>
<td>Noon to Dusk</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Spring Forest Park</td>
<td>4203 Spring Forest Road</td>
<td>Multipurpose Field</td>
<td>Noon to Dusk</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Marsh Creek Park</td>
<td>3050 N. New Hope Road</td>
<td>Multipurpose Field</td>
<td>Dawn to Dusk</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Dorothea Dix Park</td>
<td>2105 Umstead Drive</td>
<td>Big Field only</td>
<td>Dawn to Dusk</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Eliza Pool Park</td>
<td>16 Fayetteville Street</td>
<td>Multipurpose Field</td>
<td>Noon to Dusk</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Southgate Park</td>
<td>1801 Proctor Road</td>
<td>Multipurpose Field</td>
<td>Noon to Dusk</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See Appendix for locations of designated UAV areas within parks

1.1.12. These parks offer non-exclusive use to UAV pilots, meaning the fields or spaces, while available for UAV flying, may also be used by other park patrons at the same time.

1.1.13. These fields may be rented for exclusive use. In the event the field is rented, the field is not available for UAV activity, unless that is the purpose of the rental. Pilots are encouraged to call the site to determine if the field is available for flying UAV.

1.1.14. Park locations where UAV is permitted will be available on the City of Raleigh website. This list may be subject to change.

1.1.15. Out of respect for surrounding neighbors’ privacy, use of remote cameras with UAV may be restricted at some locations, see Table 1.

1.2. UAV which become entangled in trees, or land on roofs or structures of PRCR buildings and are no longer able to operate must be reported to PRCR within 24 hours.

1.2.1. In accordance with established Raleigh City Code 9-2017, no person shall climb trees or structures to reclaim a lost UAV.

1.2.2. PRCR may, at its convenience, recover UAV from trees or roofs of structures. All recovered UAV will be relocated to PRCR administrative office and may be reclaimed with proof of ownership.

1.3. This policy or any portion thereof may be waived at the discretion of the Department Director.

AUTHENTICATION

Revised June 2017
Resources:
Federal Aviation Administration - https://www.faa.gov/UAV/getting_started/fly_for_fun
National Association of Rocketry - http://www.nar.org/
North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation - https://www.ncdot.gov/aviation/uas/operators/recreation.html
North Carolina General Statutes, G.S. 14-7.45, G.S. 15A-300.1 and G.S. 15A-300.2
Raleigh-Durham International Airport Operations Department