



Public Recreational Use Rule 40E-7 Rule Development Update

Water Resources Advisory Commission
September 5, 2013

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Public Use Rule 40E-7 Development

Purpose and Benefits of Rule Development

- Simplify and streamline rules where possible.
- Rules provide commitment for public access and nature-based recreation on District lands consistent with state statutes and District policy.
- Protects natural resources, use of facilities, and accommodates concurrent recreational uses.



Public Use Rule 40E-7...



Background Information...

- Last significant rulemaking in 2005-2006, added new land types.
- Rule applies to District Lands managed by or in partnership with the District.
 - Rules of partnering agency still apply.
- Rule does not apply to:
 - Lands managed or leased exclusively by other entities.
 - Water Conservation Areas.
 - District administrative lands and buildings.

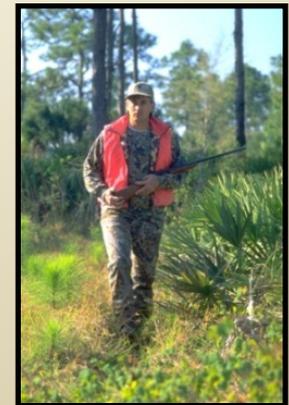


Overview of Public Use Rule 40E-7...

Types of District Lands Rule Applies...

(Allowable uses and certain prohibitions based on land types.)

- **Management Areas (conservation lands)**
- **Constructed Wetlands**
 - **Stormwater Treatment Areas and Impoundments**
- **Vacant Undesignated Lands (future project lands)**
- **Rights of Ways (levees)**



Overview of Public Use Rule 40E-7...

Special Use Licenses

- Issued to expand opportunities on certain District lands.
- Based on spatial limitations, resource protection...



Event Authorizations

- Organized activities not contemplated by Rule, usually a larger group.
- Application process and request must meet criteria and assurances.



Public Use Rule 40E-7 Development

Summary of Changes and Revisions for Proposed Rule:

- Edits, corrections, and simplify as needed.
- Remove restrictions or rules for areas and activities that are no longer applicable.
- Clarifications made including when public use is managed cooperatively with another governmental entity.
- Streamline process for closure of lands and activities in response to emergency conditions.
- Ability to incorporate lands less than 100 acres in size into adjacent established hunting areas.
- Include astronomy as an activity.



Public Use Rule 40E-7 Development

Summary of Changes and Revisions for Proposed Rule:

- Clarify language associated with equestrian uses.
- Simplify the use of Special Use License activities for properties.
 - Flexibility to expand camping, trail use, and vehicle access.
 - Recognize on-line application process.
- Expand opportunities for leashed pets (dogs).
- Camping Areas – Improve level of service.
 - Expand length of stay.
 - Address quiet hours and pets.



Public Use Rule 40E-7 Development

Rule Development Process...

Summary of Public Participation:

- E-mail notification of workshops and draft rule to stakeholders.
- District Website - draft rule posted on-line for review.
- Public Workshop and WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop.
- Comments received at workshops, by mail, web, e-mail or phone.



Public Use Rule 40E-7 Development

Summary of Public Comments Received for Proposed Rule:

- Supportive of flexibility in proposed rule.
- Allow dogs on areas currently prohibited.
- Clarify approval authority for closures.
- Add rules associated with hunting to certain lands types.
- Clarification and additions to rule language for equestrian uses.
- Recognize astronomy as an activity and educate public about importance of maintaining dark skies.
- Generator use in camping areas.
- Foot traffic only in fragile ecosystems and on berms.
- Request changes to penalties associated with Rule.



Public Use Rule 40E-7 Development

Rule Development Process

- ✓ March 2013 - Gov. Bd. Authorization for Rule Development.
- ✓ May 13, 2013 - Public Workshop.
- ✓ June 17, 2013 – WRAC Rec. Issues Workshop.
- ✓ September 5, 2013 – Full WRAC.

Next Steps:

- September 2013 – Gov. Bd. Authorization for Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.
- November 2013 – Gov. Bd. Authorization for Adoption of Rule.
- Early 2014 Rule to become effective.
- ❖ Joint Administrative Procedure Committee (JAPC) review throughout process.



Public Use Rule 40E-7 Development



Questions

THANK YOU



For more information:
please visit the District's Rule Website at
www.sfwmd.gov/rules
or the District's Recreation Website at
www.sfwmd.gov/recreation