

City of Graham Recreation and Parks Department
Policy for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Usage in Public Parks

Definition:

For use in this Policy, small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) will be defined as unmanned aircraft, weighing no more than 55 pounds, used for recreational activities and remotely controlled by radio frequency by a pilot on the ground. This policy only includes drones or other multirotor aircraft.

Purpose:

The Graham Recreation and Parks Department (GRPD) recognizes that operating a sUAS is a popular recreational activity. The GRPD evaluated its park system and identified areas in which it would be safe and appropriate to operate a sUAS. These areas are identified in Table 1, along with times they are available for use. To operate a sUAS on GRPD property, all pilots must abide by appropriate FAA regulations and the operating regulations outlined in this policy.

sUAS OPERATING REGULATIONS

1. Persons operating a sUAS on GRPD park system properties shall:
 - 1.1 Comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws;
 - 1.2 Not operate within the five-mile radius of airports specified by the Federal Aviation Administration;
 - 1.3 Not operate at any altitude higher than 400 feet above the ground;
 - 1.4 Not operate outside the line of sight of the operator;
 - 1.5 Not operate over people or public events;
 - 1.6 Not operate while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs;
 - 1.7 Not operate outside of designated park hours;
 - 1.8 Not operate when weather impairs the operator’s ability to maintain line of sight;
 - 1.9 Not operate to harass wildlife or members of the public;
 - 1.10 Out of respect for surrounding neighbors’ privacy, sUAS cameras shall not be used for voyeurism and may be further restricted in some locations.

UAV FIGHT LOCATIONS

2. sUAS may be operated on GRPD park system properties under the following regulations:
 - 2.1 The GRPD does not offer exclusive use to sUAS pilots; any field or open space designated for use by sUAS pilots may also be used by other park patrons at the same time, limiting the area and/or time available for flying;
 - 2.2 Some GRPD properties may be rented for exclusive use. In the event an area is rented, the area is not available for sUAS activity, unless the rental is exclusively for sUAS activity;
 - 2.3 Pilots are encouraged to contact the site to determine if the field is available for sUAS activity;
 - 2.4 Park properties where sUAS activity is permitted will be available on the GRPD website. The list of properties is subject to change.

WAIVER

3. This policy or any portion thereof may be waived at the discretion of the City Manager or GRPD Director.

TABLE 1

Park Name	Address	Location in Park	Days and Times for sUAS Activity	sUAS Cameras Allowed?
Bill Cooke Park	1010 Townbranch Rd. Graham, NC 27253	Open Field near Tennis Court	Daily Sunrise - Sunset	No
S. Graham Park	1609 Rogers Rd. Graham, NC 27253	Open Field behind Upper Parking Lot	Daily Sunrise - Sunset	No
Greenway Park	815 Brookgreen Ter. Graham, NC 27253	Open Field behind Playground	Daily Sunrise - Sunset	No
Graham Regional Park	1575 N. Jim Minor Rd. Haw River, NC 27258	Open Field near Additional Parking Lot	Daily Sunrise - Sunset	No
Graham-Mebane Lake	3218 Bason Rd. Mebane, NC 27302	Bank Fishing Area, not on Docks/Piers	Wed. - Mon. 8:00am - 5:00pm	Yes