

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 12-23

**A RESOLUTION SETTING WINTER HOURS FOR THE CITY'S PARKS BASED ON
THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE PARK**

Recitals.

The Grand Junction Municipal Code (GJMC or Code) at 12.04.015 establishes 5 classifications of City parks and the hours each park is open. Those classification are *Community, regional and neighborhood parks with formal programmable sports facilities* 11:00 P.M. - 5:00 A.M.; *Neighborhood and mini parks; Open space and undeveloped parks and properties; Cemeteries; and school IGA sites*. The hours of operation for the latter 4 classifications of parks are 10:00 P.M. - 5:00 A.M.

The GJMC authorizes the City Manager to amend the classification system by administrative regulation; however, the GJMC also provides that City Council, by resolution, sets the hours that usage of City parks is prohibited. While the inconsistency in the GJMC will be separately reconciled, the City Council with this Resolution does set, determine, and establish winter hours for public access to and use of City parks as designated and classified by the GJMC and this Resolution.

For a number of years most City parks and open spaces have been closed between 10:00 P.M. – 5 A.M., with *community, regional and neighborhood parks with formal programmable sports facilities* closing at 11:00 P.M. Over the course of the past few years, vandalism, improper use and similar concerns have forced Parks and Recreation Department staff, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) and the City Council to revisit the question of when City parks should be closed. During those discussions it became apparent that allowing people in the parks during hours of darkness, and especially in the winter when there are more hours of darkness and fewer people in the parks, contributes to the security, vandalism, and other problems. Accordingly, the City Manager has recommended that during the winter (November 1 – March 1) that the various classifications of City parks be closed to public access and usage as provided in this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION THAT:

In consideration of the foregoing Recitals, which are adopted and incorporated in the action hereby taken, the City Council of the City of Grand Junction does establish the following winter hours for public use of each classification of City park as follows:

- A. 9:00 P.M. – 5:00 A.M. – *Community, regional and neighborhood parks with formal programmable sports facilities; and,*

- B. 8:00 P.M. – 6:00 A.M. - *Neighborhood and mini parks (includes all developed parks); Open space and undeveloped parks and properties; Cemeteries; and School IGA sites (except during school hours).*

Collectively the foregoing hours off/for public use for each classification of park shall be referred to as *City Parks Winter Hours* and the same shall be in effect from November 1 – March 1 or until modified by subsequent action of the City Council or City Manager as applicable.

The City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager to implement the *City Parks Winter Hours* for each City park in accordance with the classifications in GJMC 12.04.015 and the December 2018 Parks Classification attached to Ordinance No. 4832.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption; however, no criminal charges shall be issued or filed for any violation of park hours until adequate notice is posted in/on the park or other property subject to the change in hours as provided herein.

Passed and Adopted this 18th day of January 2023.



Anna M. Stout
President of the City Council

ATTEST:



Amy Phillips
City Clerk

