



**CITY OF FORT BRAGG**

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**COUNCIL COMMITTEE ITEM SUMMARY REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** April 28, 2015  
**TO:** Community Development Committee  
**FROM:** Marie Jones  
**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Receive Report and Provide a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Proposed Changes to the Municipal Code to Address Operational Issues at the Fort Bragg Coastal Trail

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**ISSUE:**

The northern section of the Fort Bragg Coastal Trail has been constructed and was opened to the public in February of 2015. The trail is much loved and utilized heavily by visitors and locals alike. However, staff has identified some problematic behaviors that are impacting natural resources and the safe operation of the trail that might be best addressed through an amendment to our Municipal Code. Five issues, identified by the Coastal Trail Operations Committee (composed of City staff and Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo members), are described below. Proposed revisions to the Municipal Code to address the issues are presented.

**SUMMARY:**

**1) Trespass into rare plant areas**

The City has installed habitat protective fencing to keep people from traversing rare habitat, however many people ignore the habitat protective fencing and trample and kill State and federally listed plants. In order to address this, additional habitat protective fencing has been installed and additional signage will be installed to deter people from entering these fragile areas. Staff recommends that a section be added to the Municipal Code that would enable police to issue citations to people who violate the signage and fencing.

**2) Use of City property to tie off for rappelling down the bluff face**

At times, abalone divers use City property (benches, culvert structures, fencing, etc.) to tie off and rappel down the bluff face in order to collect abalone. Staff is concerned that such activities are unsafe and could result in damage to City property. Staff recommends that a section be added to the Municipal Code to prohibit use of ropes to scale bluff faces on City property.

### 3) Removal of glass from Glass Beach

With the installation of the new access stairs to Glass Beach on the City's property, it is possible for people to remove large amounts of beach glass. It may make sense to limit the amount of beach glass that can be removed by one person to a handful. This was previously discussed by City Council who supported limiting removal of glass from the beach to a small bag full, if at all.

### 4) Digging on the site

Humans and dogs that dig on the Coastal Trail property could disturb and/or remove cultural resources from the site. Staff recommends adding a prohibition against any digging on the site.

### 5) Fireworks

Use/possession of fireworks on Noyo Headlands Park could impact coastal resources (rare plants, marine mammals, nesting sea birds) and is a serious fire concern. Additionally, use of fireworks on Noyo Beach has become increasingly problematic and challenging for law enforcement during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. Staff recommends a provision that prohibits possession or use of fireworks in park areas except by permitted pyrotechnic engineers in conjunction with a special event.

The Municipal Code currently includes CHAPTER 9.68 for PRESERVATION OF PARKS. Proposed changes to the ordinance are shown in *italics* (for additions) and ~~striketrough~~ (for deletions).

#### 9.68.010 PARKS - GENERALLY.

In order to promote and protect public health and welfare and provide for the general safety of the users of City parks, the following rules shall apply.

A. All vehicles of any kind or nature, powered or not, shall be prohibited from ~~the~~ *accessing any portion of a park (other than the parking lot)*, excepting the following: emergency vehicles; maintenance vehicles of the City and its duly authorized representatives or agents; strollers and similar children's carriages; wheelchairs; and vehicles whose owners have first obtained a permit from the Director of Public Works for temporary access ~~to Noyo beach for wood gathering or other~~ activities as may be approved by the City.

B. No operator of any vehicle shall stop, stand, park, or leave standing the vehicle in any of the designated parking lots during park closure hours listed in § 9.68.020, except that the City Manager may issue night use permits for parking in connection with organized activities.

C. No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, as that term is defined in Cal. Health and Safety Code § 11007 (as the same may be amended from time to time), shall be allowed within City parks.

- D. Dogs must be kept on leash at all times. The City Council may, by resolution, designate “off leash” areas of any City park. Areas designated by City Council resolution to be “off leash” shall not be subject to this leash requirement.
- E. Dog owners are responsible for cleanup of excrement.
- F. No overnight camping is allowed in City parks.
- G. No firearms are allowed in City parks.
- H. No barbecues or fires are allowed in City parks except in designated areas.
- I. No bicycles may be ridden except on designated bicycle trails.
- J. No horses are allowed in City parks.
- K. No littering or disposal of household refuse is allowed in City parks.
- L. No destruction or removal of any park property.
- M. Rollerblades are permitted *only* on the bicycle and pedestrian trail at Pomo Bluffs Park *and Noyo Headlands Park* ~~only~~.
- N. No entry is permitted in habitat protective areas (as designated by habitat protective fencing and/or signage).*
- O. Removal of beach glass is limited to one small bagful (<1/2 lb.) per person at Noyo Headlands Park.*
- P. No ropes or other rappelling equipment may be used for access over the bluff face at any City park.*
- Q. No digging is permitted in parks, unless expressly authorized by the City Director of Public Works.*
- R. No fireworks are allowed in City parks except in conjunction with a City-approved pyrotechnic event.*
- S. No smoking is permitted in City parks.*

#### 9.68.020 PARK HOURS - GENERALLY.

It shall be unlawful for any person to enter, traverse, or be present in City parks from dusk to dawn the following day, except that the prohibited hours at Bainbridge Park tennis court shall be 10:00 p.m. to dawn the following day. The City Manager may issue night use permits for organized activities. For purposes of this chapter, “dusk” is defined as one (1) hour after sunset and “dawn” is defined as one (1) hour preceding sunrise.

#### 9.68.030 WIGGLY GIGGLY PLAYGROUND RULES.

- A. No glass containers shall be allowed within the playground area.
- B. No skateboards, scooters (electric, motorized, or “push”), bicycles, rollerblades, roller skates, big wheels, unicycles, tricycles, or other wheeled forms of transportation (other than wheelchairs, strollers, and the like) shall be utilized within the playground boundaries.

#### 9.68.035 EXCEPTIONS.

The provisions of Chapter 9.68 shall not be applicable to the Skate Park located at the C.V. Starr Community Center, 300 S. Lincoln Street, Fort Bragg, which is separately governed and regulated by the provisions of Chapter 9.69.

#### 9.68.040 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION.

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable as provided in Chapter 1.12.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Provide direction to staff and make a recommendation to City Council.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None