



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 6, 2013
TO: Park and Recreation Department Staff
FROM: Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director
SUBJECT: Slacklining Activities in City of San Diego Parks

The following information is provided to assist staff with the proper management of slacklining activities in City parks. Slacklining is generally defined as the use of a rope (typically nylon webbing that is flat) that is stretched between two anchor points for a person to balance on and/or perform acrobatic movements.

Slacklining is currently prohibited by the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) in the following areas: Walks, roads, avenues, streets, highways, beaches on the Pacific Ocean and their adjacent parks and sidewalks, and Mission Bay Park, while allowed in other areas. Guidelines have been developed and are attached. Damage to park assets resulting from slacklining is a SDMC violation and should be handled as you would any such SDMC violation. In certain situations, permits are required for slacklining activities. Permits are required if the group is 50 or more persons (Ground Use Fee), or if there are more than 4 persons and a fee is charged (Adult Fitness Camp Fee).

Since this is a fairly new activity in our parks, we will review these guidelines periodically to determine if revisions to the SDMC are needed for the protection of assets and the management of slacklining. It is also important to document and track these issues, so please forward a copy of any incident report involving slacklining to Patty Jencks, MS 37C.

The attached guidelines will be posted to our web site and may be shared with the public and your recreation councils. Please contact Patty Jencks at 619-235-5244 if you have any questions.

SL:pj

Attachment: Slacklining in City of San Diego Parks



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Slacklining in City of San Diego Parks

The City of San Diego parks are available for a multitude of recreational activities. The following information is provided for persons interested in slacklining. Slacklining generally is the use of a rope (typically nylon webbing that is flat) that is stretched between two anchor points for a person to balance on and/or perform acrobatic movements.

To ensure slackliners can enjoy their activities in our parks and prevent damage to trees or other assets, guidelines have been established. Slackliners and their spectators assume any and all risks associated with this activity. Spotters are strongly encouraged.

- All Slacklines are temporary and may not be left unattended. Lines should be easily visible to the public with bright colors or colored markers.
- All lines should be removed before sunset.
- Lines should not be longer than 40 feet.
- Lines should not be higher than 4 feet from the ground.
- Cemented posts (signs, fencing, light poles, etc.) or other park structures (playground equipment, court equipment, etc.) should not be used as anchors.
- Trees lesser than 1 foot in diameter at the tie-off point may not be used as anchor posts.
- Tree protection should be used for anchor lines. Protection (carpet, burlap, blankets, thick cardboard, etc.) should be placed between the tree and the entire anchor line at the tie-off point.
- No branches shall be cut or broken, or screws or nails used in the tree. Such damage is unlawful under Municipal Code Section §63.0102(b)(4) Destruction of Plants.

PROHIBITIONS:

Slacklining is currently prohibited by the City's Municipal Code in the following areas:

Walks, Roads or Avenues

Section §63.0102(b)(25) Obstructing Traffic. It is unlawful to obstruct the free travel of any vehicle or pedestrian over any of the walks, roads, or avenues of any park or plaza property.

Streets or Highways

Section §62.0606 Attaching Rope, Wire, Etc. — Detrimental Substance — Prohibited. No person, firm or corporation shall attach or place any rope, wire, sign, poster or handbill, or other

thing on any tree, palm, shrub or plant now or hereafter growing in any street or other public highway of The City of San Diego, or on any guard or protection of same; nor shall any person, firm or corporation deposit or throw upon any street or public highway, or into any gutter thereof, any substance detrimental to the growth of the tree, palm, shrub or plant, or deposit in such gutter any receptacle containing such substance.

All Beaches on the Pacific Ocean and Adjacent Parks and Perimeter Sidewalks between the Southern Boundary of Sunset Cliffs Natural Park and the Southern Boundary of Torrey Pines Park

Section §63.20.5(k). It is unlawful for any person to block off, fence, or erect any barrier at any *designated public area* with any rope, cord, barrier tape, or any other material or device. Section §63.20.5(k) does not apply to a *special event* or *commercial special event* for which a *special event permit* has been issued pursuant to section 22.4004.

All Land Areas of Mission Bay Park, including Fanuel Street Park, Sail Bay, Crown Point, Bayside Walk, Ocean Beach Athletic Area (Robb Field), Dusty Rhodes Park, Santa Clara Point, and Bob McEvoy Youth Fields (Mission Bay Youth Fields), including all Parking Lots.

Section §63.20.5(k). It is unlawful for any person to block off, fence, or erect any barrier at any *designated public area* with any rope, cord, barrier tape, or any other material or device. Section §63.20.5(k) does not apply to a *special event* or *commercial special event* for which a *special event permit* has been issued pursuant to section 22.4004.

Slacklining may be prohibited by the following sections:

Destruction of Plants

Damage to a tree due to slacklining is unlawful under Section §63.0102 (b) (4) Destruction of Plants. It is unlawful to injure, destroy, cut or remove any tree, shrub, plant, wood, turf, grass, soil, or rock in or growing in any City-owned park or plaza without the written permission of the City Manager.

Defacement of Property

Damage to other structures due to slacklining is unlawful under Section §63.0102(b)(5) Defacement of Property. It is unlawful to cut, break, deface, or injure any building, monument, rock, fountain, cage, pen, fence, bench, hydrant, swing, or other structure, apparatus or property, or dig caves or other depressions within the cliff areas adjacent to the ocean shoreline without the written permission of the City Manager.

Destruction or Injury of Torrey Pines

Damage to Torrey Pines trees is unlawful under Section §63.07 Destruction, Injury of Torrey Pines Trees – Prohibited.

LARGE GROUPS OR COMMERCIAL SLACKLINING:

Groups of 50 or more persons require a permit. Businesses providing slacklining training or classes must obtain an Adult Fitness Camp permit if their group is larger than 4 persons and a fee is charged. Permits for the use of community or neighborhood parks can be obtained by contacting the local recreation center. Permits for Balboa Park can be obtained from the Permit Center at 619-235-1169.