

Denver Parks and Recreation
Alcohol Policy
Proposed Revisions
February 28, 2018

Background

The Department’s alcohol policy was initially established in September 2007 and was amended in May 2011, February 2012, and May 2012. The current policy is overly complicated and, in some cases, overly restrictive. There are inconsistencies between how certain parks and facilities are treated as compared to all other parks and facilities. The intent of these proposed revisions is to simplify the policy, provide more clarity to users, institute consistency, and accommodate upcoming changes to state liquor laws.

Liquor License Basics

A liquor license/permit is required whenever alcoholic beverages are sold. Based upon Colorado State law requirements, a Special Events Permit is the only type of license/permit that is available to organizations wanting to sell alcoholic beverages in association with any permit issued by Denver Parks and Recreation. This permit type can only be obtained by a non-profit organization or a limited number of other entities that are not relevant to Denver permitting (i.e. state agencies). A Special Events Liquor Permit cannot be issued to the same applicant for more than fifteen (15) days in one calendar year.

Proposed Revisions

Denver Parks and Recreation’s alcohol policy falls into three distinct categories: (1) the service or sale in association with a permit issued by the Department, (2) consumption or possession in Denver Parks and Recreation buildings, and (3) consumption by individuals in parks. The following are the proposed revisions in each of these categories.

Permitted Activity	
The proposed revisions below are intended to simplify the rules governing the sale and/or service of alcoholic beverages in association with permitted activity. They are also intended to apply consistent regulations across all parks and permit types.	
ALL PERMITS	
CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
Permit holders must obtain a special event liquor permit/license serve or sell alcoholic beverages.	Permit holders must obtain the appropriate liquor license/permit as determined by Excise and Licenses.
Specific sites are listed that define which parks allow the sale and/or service of alcoholic beverages for each permit type.	Allow the sale and/or service of alcoholic beverages at any park under the appropriate park permit except as restricted in the policy.
	Add requirement that events comply with the responsible vendor program for bartenders for all permits that include the sale or service of hard liquor
	Add language that states that all federal, state, and local laws must be followed in all cases where permit allows the sale or service of alcoholic beverages.
	Add language requiring the serving of alcohol to end a minimum of one hour prior to curfew.
FESTIVAL / PUBLIC EVENT	
CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
Alcohol beverages to be served or sold and served at festivals/public events are limited to beer, wine, champagne, and hard liquor that are served as mixed drinks in a prepackaged or premixed form.	Remove the restriction that hard liquor served as mixed drinks must be prepackaged or premixed.

Sloan's Lake is limited to two festivals/public events per year that serve or sell alcoholic.	Remove this restriction.
Sloan's Lake is limited to the sale of beer and wine only.	Allow all alcoholic beverages to be served and/or sold (same as festivals/public events at all other parks).
Once a parks and recreation festival/public event permit has been issued, the department and/or the event organizer will notify the City Council member within whose district the festival is proposed to take place.	Replace this requirement with a statement that the event organizer will be required to notify City Council offices within whose district the festival/public event is proposed to take place. The department will also provide access for City Council members and their staff to the department's permitting system.

RACE / WALK

CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
Only 3.2 beer may be served or sold and served at races/walks and the sale or service must be within a restricted area at the termination point of the race.	Allow all alcoholic beverages to be served and/or sold (same as festivals/public events). Revise the location restriction from being at the termination point of the race to being one designated area that cannot be on the course.
The number of race/walk permits allowing the serving or selling of alcoholic beverages will be limited to a maximum of 2 per park, per year.	Remove this restriction.

SPECIAL OCCASION (Private, by Invitation Only Events)

CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
Only beer, wine and champagne can be served at Special Occasions.	Allow all alcoholic beverages to be served and add the allowance for the sale of alcoholic beverages (same as festivals/public events).

FACILITY

CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
Only beer, wine, and champagne may be served at the Washington Park Boathouse (private, by invitation only events).	Allow all alcoholic beverages to be served and/or sold at the Washington Park Boathouse (same as all other event facilities).
Alcoholic beverages can only be served, not sold, at event facilities.	Allow alcoholic beverages to be served and sold at event facilities.

DEMONSTRATION / ASSEMBLY

CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
The policy does not address demonstration/assembly permits.	Prohibit the sale or service in association with a demonstration/assembly permit.

ATHLETIC

CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
The policy does not address athletic permits	Prohibit the sale or service in association with league practice, games, camps, clinics permits. Allow the sale and service in a designated area outside of the field of play in association with tournament permits only.

Parks and Recreation Buildings

The proposed revisions below are intended to add specific buildings where alcoholic beverages can be served and/or sold. The proposed changes also clarify that all facilities occupied by third parties via agreements, not just Concessionaires, are exempt from the policy.

CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
Alcoholic beverages and 3.2 beer is prohibited in all Parks and Recreation buildings other than 1) buildings occupied by Concessionaires with concession licenses that specifically allow the sale, service, and consumption of alcohol beverages and/or 3.2 beer on the licensed premises, and 2) buildings specifically identified as Event Facility Permit Sites in Section 2. Buildings where alcohol beverages and 3.2 beer are prohibited include, but is not limited to, recreation centers, senior centers, indoor or outdoor pools, and department offices.	<p>Add the following to the exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings occupied by third parties via cooperative agreements (i.e. Zoo, Botanic Gardens, etc.) • Aqua Golf Clubhouse • Harvard Gulch Clubhouse • Carla Madison Rooftop • Evergreen Lake House <p>Add “during the hours when open” to recreation and senior centers under examples where alcohol beverages are prohibited.</p> <p>Add the following to the prohibited list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 50’ of playgrounds
	Add a provision that allows the sale and/or service of alcoholic beverages in recreation and senior centers with the restrictions that 1) the sale/service can only occur when the facility is closed to the general public, 2) there can be no access to a pool or weight room, and 3) all applicable laws and rules must be complied with.

Consumption by Individuals in Parks

The proposed revisions below are intended to make Denver Parks and Recreation’s policy consistent with state and local laws.

CURRENT RULE	REVISED RULE
In multiple places the policy references 3.2 beer.	Remove all references to 3.2 beer.
3.2 beer may be consumed in open areas of Denver parks except as restricted in this policy and otherwise by law.	State and/or city law, as amended, will govern what alcoholic beverages can be consumed in open areas of Denver parks unless further restricted in this policy or other rules and regulations issued by the Department.

Unresolved:

- Do we want to continue to require DPD for public events selling/serving from start of sell/serve to conclusion of the entire event?
- Does DRMC (39-10 a & b) need to change?