

Saint Louis  
**COUNTY**  
**PARKS**

**DRONES AND OTHER AERIAL ACTIVITIES  
DEPARTMENT POLICY**

**PURPOSE:**

To provide and manage various aerial activities in St. Louis County parks, including drone flying, hot air ballooning, non-motorized hang gliding and rocketry in St. Louis County parks. (For policies concerning radio controlled airplanes, please refer to the Model Sports policy.)

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation to accommodate drone flying, non-motorized hang-gliding, hot air ballooning activities and rocketry in County parks where such activities are safe and not in conflict with other park facilities. Motorized hang-gliding is not permitted in St. Louis County parks.

**PROCEDURE:**

**Drone Use**

Drone use is permitted at Buder Park and a portion of Antire Valley. Please refer to the Greater St. Louis Model Airplane Association's (GSLMA) website for additional information: <http://gslma.com/>

**Hot Air Ballooning**

1. Hot air balloons are permitted to take off and land in any County Park during daylight hours when the parks are open
2. Reservations are required for activities after daylight hours, for organized events, or for three (3) or more balloons in a park area at the same time. They must obtain a letter from the Park Director granting this permission. The Park Director's Office can be reached by telephoning 314-615-7879.
3. Off-road vehicle activity in conjunction with this sport is common but should be

restricted to only essential vehicles (vehicles carrying/receiving the basket, burner, balloon) required for the launching/retrieving of the balloon. Balloon vehicles may not drive around closed gates to launch balloons. Retrieval accommodation is more tolerant.

4. Balloon pilots are urged to use discretion when selecting landing sites so to minimally interfere with other park activities. Takeoffs may not interfere with any park activity.
5. Ballooning may be restricted or prohibited if there is a conflict or potential conflict with other activities.

### **Rocketry**

1. Rocketry is allowed in Buder Park, as long as there is no conflict with other activities within or adjacent to the rocketry area.
2. Refer to this link for additional information: <http://stlouisrocketry.com/>

### **Non-Motorized Hang Gliding**

1. Non-motorized hang gliding is permitted in the large, open clearing within the “loop road” north of Lenz Shelter in Sioux Passage Park and in the open meadow (battlefield area) east of Gregg Road near The Pavilion at Lemay in Jefferson Barracks Park.
2. Permits are not required for this activity as long as it remains an individual pursuit. When associated with a special event, however, a permit or authorization is required by telephoning 314-615-8371.
3. Non-motorized hang gliding may be prohibited if there is a conflict with other activities within or adjacent to the designated hang gliding areas.
4. Participants are expected to wear appropriate safety equipment.
5. Off road activity in conjunction with this sport is seldom necessary and Should be investigated when observed.

**Exemption - St. Louis County:** All drone flying and other aerial sports done for St. Louis County, either by staff or a private contractor and projects that support the SLCP’s mission as defined by site director, are exempt. This does not exempt departmental staff or contractors when the activity is for non-departmental purposes.

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