

Info for Photographers in Open Space Parks

Sycamore Grove and Other LARPD Open Space Parks

...are beautiful places to take photos! In order to protect the natural areas we all share, photographers need to follow a few rules. There are also potential safety issues they should be aware of.

Who needs a permit?

Don't worry, you do NOT need a permit to take photos of your immediate family with a smart phone!

A permit is needed if:

- a) the photographer has a business where they take photos for profit even if they are not collecting fees for the session in the park.
- b) the photographer uses equipment beyond a camera and tripod
- c) A photographer is conducting more than one photographic portrait session in a 90 day period in District Open Space, regardless of whether or not the photos are for friends or family. (Taking photos of more than one family in a day counts as more than one portrait session).

If any of the above conditions apply to you, please call (925) 960 2400 to get a permit. (Permit fee is \$50/day and includes two parking permits)

Rules

These rules apply to all photo shoots including those that do not require a permit:

- No props are permitted. Do NOT bring in decorative chairs, balloons, decorations, fake snow, confetti etc.
- PHOTOGRAPHY ON BRIDGES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AT ANY TIME.
- You/your group may not at any time interfere with any normal public use of the parks or block trails.
- At no time may you/your group go farther than 20 feet off of any trail or path.
- Do not go beyond any fencing. Do not sit on fencing, it may break.
- Permittee shall not make any alterations on/to the park. For example, you may not prune branches, uproot plants, move logs or rake leaves.
- Vehicles must stay in designated parking areas. No driving into the park for any reason
- You are responsible for any damage you or your group cause.

Safety

- Lock your vehicle and take valuables with you. Vehicle break-ins are known to occur.
- This is a wild area! You may see snakes, bobcats, coyotes, spiders or potentially even a mountain lion. Be aware of your surroundings, do not harass or harm wildlife and call the Rangers at (925) 960-2400 if you encounter any wildlife that concerns you.
- Always look before you sit. Look where you put your hands and feet to avoid surprising snakes, spiders and other creatures.
- Poison oak is found in our Open Space parks. Please make sure you know what this plant looks like and avoid touching it.
- Tree climbing is prohibited.
- The wood fencing is pretty but it is not designed to bear weight. Do not sit or stand on it.
- If you have any questions or other safety concerns please call the Ranger Office at (925) 960-2400