

About Unmanned Aerial Systems

For this policy, unmanned aerial systems (UAS) are defined as aircraft that do not carry a human pilot and may be controlled by radio frequency via a pilot on the ground. They include such things as remote-controlled aircraft, “drones” and model rocketry. This policy only addresses UASs flown for hobby or recreational purposes. UAS’s flown for business or monetary purposes are controlled by different local, state and federal regulations.

Purpose

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) recognize that operating an UAS presents as a popular recreational activity. PRCR evaluated properties within the park system to determine which may be conducive to UAS craft to take off and land from. PRCR determined UAS flying would not be a compatible use for areas classified as “nature preserves,” “nature parks” or “wetland centers” or appropriate for cemeteries or lakes solely owned, managed or leased by the City of Raleigh or PRCR.

PRCR has identified specific park locations for UAS craft to take off and land from. Please see Table 1 for these locations and the times they are available for UAS use. To launch or land a UAS within the park system, all pilots must abide by the operating regulations outlined in this policy.

1. OPERATING REGULATIONS

1.1. Persons operating an UAS within park system properties shall:

- 1.1.1. comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws;
- 1.1.2. not operate while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- 1.1.3. not take off or land UAS in parks outside of designated park hours;
- 1.1.4. not operate to harass wildlife or members of the public.
- 1.1.5. In addition to the regulations in 1.1, those operating model rocketry must:
 - 1.1.5.1. Observe and abide by the National Association of Rocketry Safety Code and Safety Zone Requirements;
 - 1.1.5.2. not launch in unsafe weather conditions or when wind speeds are greater than 20 miles per hour;
 - 1.1.5.3. ensure launch sites must have a diameter of at least 400 feet free of any obstructions, including trees, structures, play equipment and should be level;
 - 1.1.5.4. operate a safe distance from park users;
 - 1.1.5.5. utilize single rocket engines size “A” or “B”; and
 - 1.1.5.6. be responsible for disposing of all trash associated with the activity.

UAS less than or equal to 400 grams (.88 pounds) may take off from or land in all PRCR properties, except those designated as “nature preserves,” “nature parks,” “wetland centers”

cemeteries or lakes. UAS larger than 400 grams (.88 pounds) may take off and land from the designated areas of parks listed in Table 1. UAS larger than 7000 grams (>15 pounds) and capable of speeds of 70 miles per hours must receive permission from PRCR in advance of taking off from or landing in any of the designated areas of parks listed in Table 1. Model rocketry activity may also take place in designated areas of parks listed in Table 1.

Table 1.
Parks with Designated UAS Areas for UAS greater than 400 grams

Park Name	Address	Location in Park*	Days and Times for UAS Usage
Baileywick Park	9501 Baileywick Road	Open Space	Dawn to Dusk
Eastgate Park	4200 Quail Hollow Drive	Multipurpose Field	Noon to Dusk
Spring Forest Park	4203 Spring Forest Road	Multipurpose Field	Noon to Dusk
Marsh Creek Park	3050 N. New Hope Road	Multipurpose Field	Dawn to Dusk
Dorothea Dix Park	2105 Umstead Drive	Big Field only	Dawn to Dusk
Southgate Park	1801 Proctor Road	Multipurpose Field	Noon to Dusk

* See Appendix for locations of designated UAS areas within parks

1.1.6. The designated areas of the parks listed in Table 1 offer non-exclusive use to UAS pilots, meaning the fields or spaces while available for UAS flying, may also be used by other park patrons at the same time.

1.1.7. These fields may be rented for exclusive use. In the event the field is rented, the field is not available for UAS activity, unless that is the purpose of the rental. Pilots are encouraged to contact PRCR to determine if the field is available for flying UAS.

1.1.8. Park locations where UAS is permitted will be available on the City of Raleigh website. This list may be subject to change.

1.1.9. A “Drone racing event” is defined as two (2) or more UAS participating in a speed-based competition for prizes, awards or compensation that requires navigating around a course made up of flags or other manmade objects. A “Drone racing” requires field rental and payment of rental fees for exclusive use to take off and land from the space. Flags or other objects may be placed in the field; staking of objects is not allowed. Trees may not be used as obstacles to race around.

- 1.1.9.1. UASs participating in a “drone racing event” must be less than or equal to 800 grams (1.7 pounds) in total weight.
 - 1.1.9.2. UASs participating in a “drone racing event” must use propellers made of plastic only.
 - 1.1.10. Additional UAS locations may be added at the discretion of the department director.
 - 1.2. UAS which become entangled in the trees, or land on roofs or structures of PRCR buildings and are no longer able to operate must be reported to PRCR within 24 hours.
 - 1.2.1. In accordance with established Raleigh City Code 9-2017, no person shall climb trees or structures to reclaim a lost UAS.
 - 1.3. Users who violate this policy may be asked to leave the park and may have privileges to take off and land their UAS from park system revoked. Park visitors who witness unsafe UAS practices are encouraged to inform PRCR staff or contact Raleigh Police Department.
 - 1.4. This policy, or any portion thereof, may be waived at the discretion of the Department Director.
2. This policy will be reviewed every three (3) years once adopted.

AUTHENTICATION

Director Signature

Date



Resources:

Academy of Model Aeronautics - <http://www.modelaircraft.org/> and <http://why.modelaircraft.org/drones>

Federal Aviation Administration - https://www.faa.gov/UAS/getting_started/fly_for_fun

Federal Aviation Administration Public Law 115-254

MultiGP Drone Racing specifications - <https://www.multigp.com/class-specifications/>

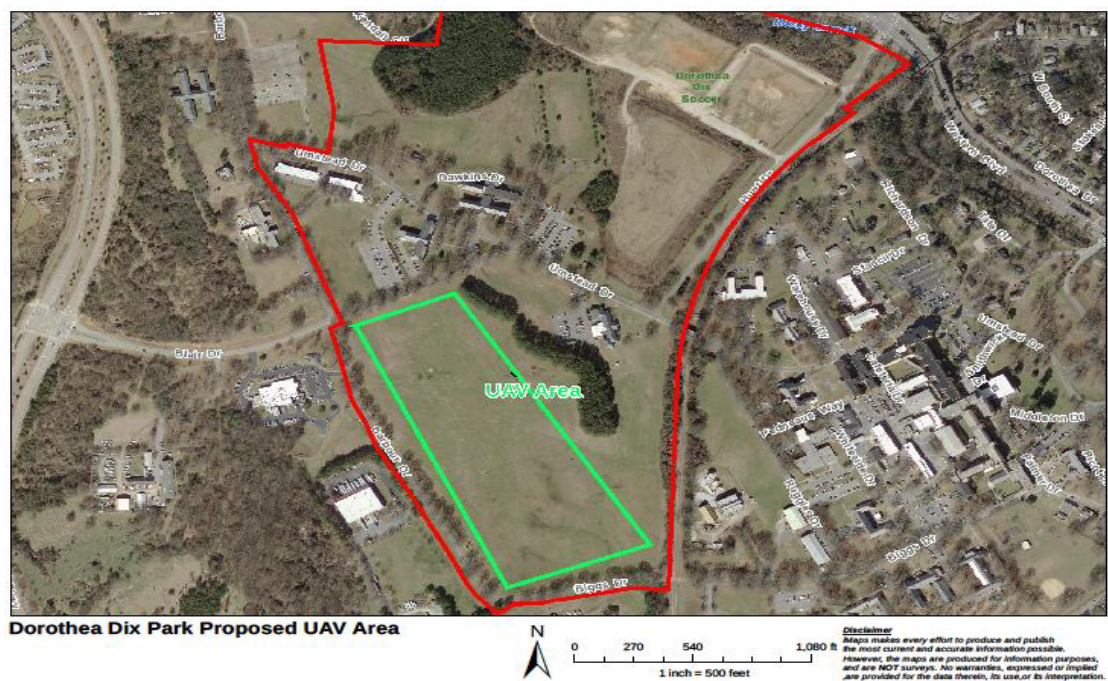
National Association of Rocketry - <http://www.nar.org/>

National League of Cities – <http://www.nlc.org/sites/default/files/201612/NLC%20Drone%20Report.pdf>

North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation – <https://www.ncdot.gov/aviation/uas/operators/recreation.html>

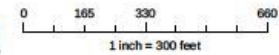
North Carolina General Statutes, **G.S. 14-7.45**, **G.S. 15A-300.1** and **G.S. 15A-300.2**

Raleigh-Durham International Airport Operations Department

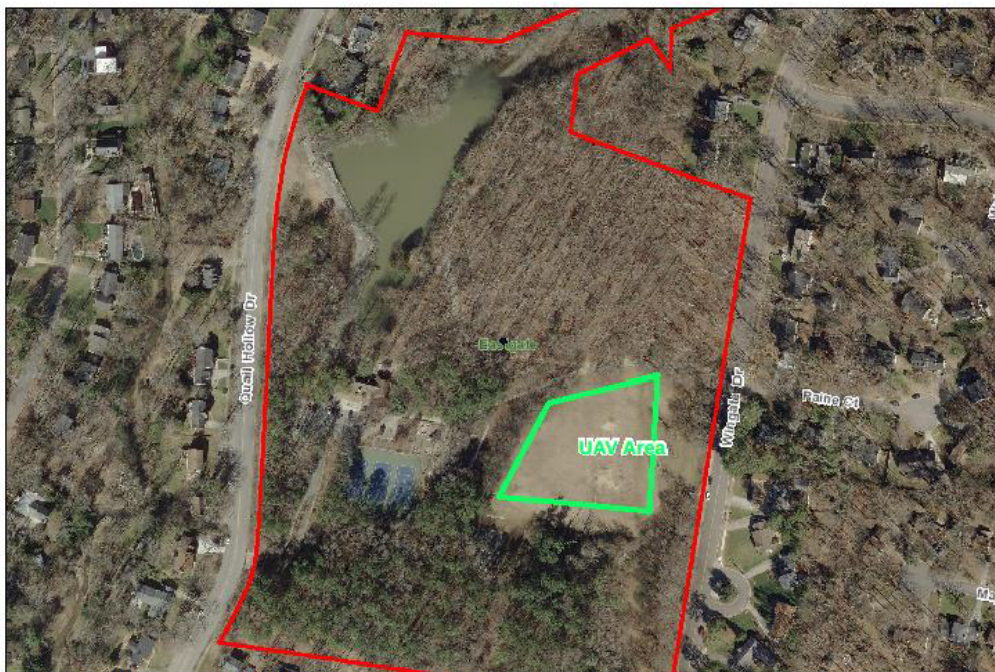




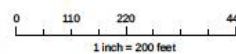
Marsh Creek Park Proposed UAV Area



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Eastgate Park Proposed UAV Area



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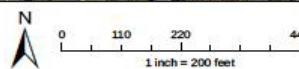
Spring Forest Park Proposed UAV Area



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Southgate Park Proposed UAV Area



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