

Introduced By:  
Date:  
Public Hearing:  
Action:  
Vote:

City Manager  
December 12, 2019  
January 8, 2020  
Enacted as Amended  
6 Yes, 0 No

CITY OF SOLDOTNA  
ORDINANCE 2019-029

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SOLDOTNA MUNICIPAL CODE 12.28.200, CAMPING REGULATIONS,  
TO ALLOW FOR THE RESERVATION OF DESIGNATED CAMP SITES WITHIN CENTENNIAL AND  
SWIFTWATER CAMPGROUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Soldotna owns and operates two camping parks, Centennial and Swiftwater Parks; and

WHEREAS, according to Soldotna Municipal Code (SMC) 12.28.200, all camp sites are made available on a first come, first served basis, without the option to hold or reserve a site in advance; and

WHEREAS, many travelers desire confirmation ahead of time, that they will have a reserved place to stay at their destinations; and

WHEREAS, the disallowance of reservations within the City Campgrounds results in a poorer travel experience for visitors to Soldotna's parks; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council that Soldotna's parks and recreational facilities provide opportunities to the broadest range of campers possible; and

WHEREAS, many campground visitors utilize the City of Soldotna Campgrounds as a jumping off point to visit other areas of the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the current prohibition on reservations may preclude visitors from returning to Soldotna after visiting other Kenai Peninsula communities; and

WHEREAS, amending SMC 12.28.200 to allow for reservations in designated areas will encourage greater utilization of the City's camping parks, and result in an improved experience for campground visitors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That SMC 12.28.200, Camping Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

**12.28.200 - Camping regulations.**

Overnight camping shall only be authorized in designated camping areas such as Swiftwater and Centennial Parks. Overnight camping is prohibited at Soldotna Creek Park, ARC Lake Park and Rotary Park. The following regulations shall apply for use of the overnight campgrounds:

- A. Except in sites designated by the City Manager or his/her designee as reservable,  
[U]se of campsites shall follow the general rule of "first come, first served."  
[RESERVATIONS SHALL NOT BE MADE.] A non-reservable campsite may not be held  
unoccupied for the use of another user even with the advance payment of fees. [A  
CAMPSITE MAY NOT BE HELD UNOCCUPIED BY THE USER FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR  
HOURS EVEN WITH ADVANCE PAYMENT OF FEES.]

. . .

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its enactment.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 8TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Sprague, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle M. Saner, MMC, City Clerk

Yes: Chilson, L. Parker, Whitney, Ruffridge, P. Parker, Carey  
No: None

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Soldotna Mayor and Council

**THROUGH:** Stephanie Queen, City Manager

**DATE:** 12-2-2019

**FROM:** Andrew J Carmichael

**RE:** City Code Changes to allow for reservations and multi day day trips of visitors staying in Campgrounds.

The Soldotna Municipal Code presently precludes any reservations within Centennial and Swiftwater Campgrounds. That being said, though, the parks and recreation department receive constant inquiries and requests from travelers to reserve campsites. Many people want to know they have a place to stay at their destination. This is not currently possible. The intent is to offer reservation service on a limited number of campsites to accommodate travelers who desire such and to possibly even help the bottom line a bit. In all fairness this only becomes an issue during the peak of the season i.e. July 8-August 1 of each year when campgrounds are at capacity. Campers reserving will pay a fee for the service of our accepting reservations that will be brought before council as part of an overall Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule. It is anticipated that such a fee will be twenty dollars (\$20.00) per site per night in addition to the regular campsite fee. It is the Parks and Recreation Department and Soldotna Parks and Recreation Advisory board's recommendation, to provide reservation service within Centennial and Swiftwater Campground beginning in 2020.

The provided code change also deletes language that prohibits visitors from leaving their pre-paid sites for more than 24 hours. This makes it more difficult for visitors to venture to other Kenai Peninsula Communities while using Soldotna as a base. The code currently sets the limit of vacancy from a paid campground site to twenty-four hours. Language limiting this is proposed to be stricken from the code. People have expressed interest in doing this and it is not problematic really as the site is paid for by the user and does not conflict with the disallowance of persons holding sites for other even with pre-payment of fees.

Thus, both of these changes are recommended for enactment by the Parks and Recreation Department.