

Did you know?

Mable Kerr Park and The Squatters and the Law.

(Squatter not a legal term, but here's the definition):

a person who unlawfully occupies an uninhabited building or unused land.

4 Acres of Mable Kerr Park are in the Squatters Paradise at the front entrance of the park.

Squatters have barricaded, threatened, erected permanent structures, added play equipment, erected above ground Pools, barbecues, lawn furniture, all on the 4 acres they control with a Barricade made of blackberry bushes, logs, other landscaping, and threats and intimidation.

What we don't know is why the City of Washougal is protecting these squatters and never prosecuted or even cited them for the various misdemeanors and code violations, not to mention verbal assaults.

Here's the law on the subject:

Clark County:

9.05.150 Unlawful obstruction.

It is unlawful to, by force, threats, enclosing, or any other means, prevent any person from entering, leaving, or make full use of any park property. (Sec. 3 of Ord. 2012-09-02)

9.05.290 Exclusion from parks.

- (1) This section shall be enforced so as to emphasize voluntary compliance with laws and park rules, and so that inadvertent minor violations that otherwise would fall under subsection (3)(a) of this section can be corrected without resort to an exclusion notice.
- (2) Exclusion. In addition to any other penalty authorized under this chapter, any employee authorized by the director or any law enforcement officer may exclude, by delivering an exclusion notice in person or by certified mail to the individual, from a park(s), any person who, while in any park:
 - (a) Violates any provisions within this chapter;
 - (b) Violates any park rule that has been adopted by the parks and recreation advisory commission and is posted at the park; or
 - (c) Violates any provision of the Clark County Code, or any provision of the Revised Code of Washington.

The individual need not be charged, tried, or convicted of any crime or infraction in order for an exclusion notice to be issued or effective. The exclusion may be based upon observation by the director or the director's designee, or upon the sort of civilian reports that would ordinarily be relied upon by police officers in the determination of probable cause.

9.05.310 Penalty.

- (1) It is a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and/or ninety (90) days' incarceration in the county jail to commit any act made unlawful by this chapter or for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter.
- (2) Violation of any provision of this chapter shall be grounds for revocation of any park and facility use permit issued hereunder or pursuant to Chapter [5.32](#) and for denial of any future application for a park and facility use permit. (Sec. 3 of Ord. 2012-09-02)

9.05.320 Prosecution for violation.

Anyone concerned in the violation of this chapter whether directly committing the act or omitting to do a required act, or who aids or abets the same, is and shall be a principal under the terms of this chapter and shall be proceeded against and prosecuted as such. (Sec. 3 of Ord. 2012-09-02)

Washougal Ordinance:

9.66.050 Unlawful storage of personal property in public places.