

ORDINANCE 2020-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION PROVIDING FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN COUNTY PARKS, ESTABLISHING A FINE SCHEDULE FOR VIOLATIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREIN.

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority conferred on the Board of County Commissioners by Chapter 125, Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Board of County Commission realizes the need to provide safe places of recreation within Liberty County.

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Board of County Commission has expended much effort and many resources for the construction and maintenance of parks and community facilities within Liberty County.

WHEREAS, the maintenance and repairs of the facilities is a costly burden to the tax payers of Liberty County.

WHEREAS, the County has seen an increase in the instances and extent of damage caused to the facilities when alcohol is allowed to be consumed.

WHEREAS, the County has taken steps to mitigate the damages to the facilities located within County Parks and more action is needed to protect the investments of the County.

WHEREAS, The Liberty County Board of County Commission has a statutory and ethical obligation to provide for the safety of its citizens and to be good stewards of the resources of the County.

Now therefore let it be Resolved and Ordained by the Liberty County Board of County Commission that there shall be a prohibition of the consumption of alcoholic beverages upon the premises of any designated County Park.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as to prevent the lawful possession of alcoholic beverages within a vehicle or boat, it is the consumption and the consequences of that consumption that is being regulated.

Consumption of an alcoholic beverage upon a County Park shall carry a fine for the first offense of a minimum \$50.00. Upon a Second violation a fine of a minimum \$150.00 shall be assessed, for a third violation a penalty of a minimum fine of \$300.00 shall be imposed. For any a fourth or subsequent violation a mandatory court hearing shall be required before the County Court of Liberty County. Upon issuance of the citation by law enforcement the fine shall be paid at the Liberty County Clerk of Court's Office within 30 days. If the citation is contested the party receiving the ticket may seek judicial review. Upon contesting the citation and requesting a hearing the party forfeits the right to pay the minimum fines outlined above and may be assessed additional court costs if they are found to be in violation of the ordinance. The maximum penalty that may be assessed for a violation of this ordinance is \$500.00 per offense.

PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this Ordinance to provide the citizens of Liberty County with safe, functional and well maintained public recreation areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LIBERTY COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT ORDINANCE 20- 02 IS HEREBY ADOPTED

This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and recording with The Secretary of State's Office.

ATTESTATION:

The above Ordinance was duly adopted by the Liberty County Board of County Commission with a quorum present this 6th day of July, 2020.



Kathleen Brown
Clerk of the Court



Dewayne Branch
Chairman Liberty County Board of County Commission