



**TO:** Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** JoAnne Plummer, Neighborhood Services Director

**CONTACT:** Kelsey Hamilton, Recreation Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Goleta Bouncer and Attraction Policy and Procedure Document

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and support the Goleta Bouncer Policy and Procedure Document, either as presented or with modifications requested by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**DISCUSSION:**

The current "bouncer" policy, which regulates the use of certain spaces and equipment in Goleta's parks, open spaces, community center, and other City-owned facilities, has been in place for over two decades. Initially adopted from a policy developed by Santa Barbara County, the existing regulations were designed to address safety, security, and public access concerns for these community spaces.

Over the years, the increase in park usage, along with evolving needs and safety standards, has highlighted the need for an update to this policy. The Bouncer and Attraction Policy (Attachment I) outlines restrictions on certain activities in City parks and facilities. Activities such as large group events, inflatables/bouncers, and other attractions are prohibited in most City Parks and Facilities. When allowed, these activities require additional oversight, both for the safety of the user(s), and to ensure uninterrupted community access to City Parks and Facilities.

**Purpose of the Updated Policy**

The purpose of the updated Bouncer and Attraction Policy is to provide clear and effective guidelines that help define the appropriate use of the City's parks, open spaces, Community Center, and other City-owned facilities. The revised policy aims to:

- **Ensure Safety:** Updated rules will help ensure that activities, particularly those involving large groups or specialized equipment, do not endanger park-goers or the facilities themselves. Safety protocols will be clarified to ensure all users,

especially children and families, can enjoy the spaces without risk of injury or disruption.

- **Provide Clarity:** The new policy will define specific requirements for events, gatherings, and recreational activities that may involve inflatables, amusement equipment, or other group-oriented activities. It will address responsibilities for event organizers, including insurance, staffing, and equipment safety checks.
- **Regulate Facility Use:** Clearer guidelines will enable the City to better manage and prioritize the use of its facilities, helping to accommodate various community events, while also balancing the needs of everyday park users.
- **Maintain Public Access:** With the increasing demand for facility use, the revised policy will also ensure equitable access to parks and other City spaces. This will help balance large-scale events with the need for open spaces for informal use and recreation.

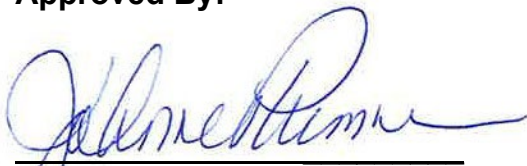
### Overview of Proposed Changes

1. **Expanded Definitions and Scope** – The updated policy will introduce more detailed definitions of terms such as “bouncers,” “inflatable structures,” and “organized events.” This creates greater clarity for users regarding what is permissible in the City's Parks and Facilities.
2. **Event Approval Process** – The policy will establish a more formalized application and approval process for events that wish to use inflatables or other special equipment on City property. This will include guidelines for the types of events that are appropriate, as well as necessary permits and insurance requirements.
3. **Safety Guidelines** – The revised policy will include updated safety measures, particularly regarding the operation and use of bouncers, inflatables, and large structures. These measures will address participant capacity, supervision, and emergency protocols.
4. **Enforcement and Compliance** – Clear enforcement procedures will be set in place, outlining the responsibilities of event organizers to ensure compliance with the new policy. This will include regular inspections and monitoring of high-risk activities.

**Next Steps**

Based on the feedback received from the Parks and Recreation Commission, staff will make any necessary revisions to the updated Bouncer and Attraction Policy. Following Commission recommendations, the policy will then be presented to the Goleta City Council for final approval. Staff will also ensure that information regarding the updated policy is made available to the public and park users, as well as incorporated in all marketing materials, to facilitate a smooth transition.

**Approved By:**



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JoAnne Plummer  
Neighborhood Services Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Bouncer and Attraction Policy

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **Goleta Bouncer and Attraction Policy**



**City of Goleta**  
**Parks and Recreation Division**  
**Inflatable Bouncer & Attraction Policy**

Effective Date: **[Insert Date]**

**Policy Statement:** Inflatable bouncers (hereafter referred to as "bouncers") may be utilized in designated areas within Goleta parks under specific guidelines and regulations to ensure safety and preserve park resources.

**Policy Details:**

**1. Designated Areas:**

- Bouncers are permitted in Stow Grove Area 2. Use of bouncers in any other area is strictly prohibited. Certain exceptions for special events may be approved by the Director of Neighborhood Services or their designee.

**2. Reservation and Setup:**

- Users must reserve and pay for the group area that can accommodate a bouncer setup. The designated setup area must be in proximity to a group area electrical outlet to minimize cord length.

**3. Electrical Requirements:**

- Generators are prohibited. Users must utilize the electrical outlet provided at Stow Grove Area 2 for powering the bouncer.

**4. Fees:**

- A fee of \$26.00 is required for the use of the bouncer or attraction, in addition to any applicable park reservation fees for the designated area. Depending on the scope of a proposed attraction or activity, additional fees may apply.

**5. Notification and Confirmation:**

- Confirmation of the bouncer setup must be provided to Parks and Recreation staff at least two (2) working days prior to the event. Confirmation of bouncer setup can be done by calling (805) 967-1237.
- A special attraction, outside of a Bouncer will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**6. Liability Insurance:**

- The City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Division must have a copy of the bouncer or attraction vendor's liability insurance on file. The City of Goleta must be named as additionally insured on the insurance document. Only approved vendors are permitted in Goleta Parks and facilities. A list of our pre-approved vendors can be found on the City's website, [here](#).

#### **7. Liability Agreement:**

- The reserving party must complete a liability agreement and specify the name and contact information of the bouncer or attraction vendor and the party responsible onsite the day of the event.

#### **8. Anchoring Requirements:**

- Stakes, spikes, guide wires, and ropes are prohibited as per Goleta Municipal Code 12.15.230. Bouncers or attractions must be anchored using sandbags only.

#### **9. Supervision:**

- A responsible person must be present on site and actively supervising the bouncer or attraction and its users at all times. Leaving the bouncer or attraction unattended is not permitted.

#### **10. Cancellation Policy:**

- **Cancellation Requests:**

1. Cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to the City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Division as soon as the decision to cancel the event is made.

- **Refund Eligibility:**

1. Refunds for the bouncer or attraction fee and park reservation fee (if applicable) are subject to the following conditions:
  1. **More than 14 Business Days Prior to Event:** A full refund of the bouncer fee and park reservation fee will be issued.
  2. **Less Than 14 Business Days Prior to Event:** No refund of the bouncer fee will be provided. The park reservation fee will be fully refunded.

- **Processing Time:**

1. Refunds will be processed within 30 days of the cancellation request.

- **Exceptional Circumstances:**

1. Refund exceptions due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., extreme weather, park closure) will be reviewed by the City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Manager on a case-by-case basis.
- **Termination:**
    1. The Director of Neighborhood Services, or their designee, reserves the right to terminate any permit with or without cause, failure to provide information outlined in the rental agreement, or in the likelihood of extreme weather or other disaster or unsafe condition.
  - **Change of Date:**
    1. Requests to change the event date must be made at least 14 days prior to the original event date and are subject to availability. A change fee may apply.
  - **Cancellation Confirmation:**
    1. Upon cancellation approval, the reserving party will receive written confirmation from the City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Division acknowledging the cancellation and detailing any applicable refund amounts.
  - **Contact Information for Cancellations:**
    1. All cancellation requests should be directed to Kelsey Hamilton, Recreation Supervisor, [khamilton@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:khamilton@cityofgoleta.org) at the City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Division.

#### **11. Equipment Specifications:**

- Only traditional bouncers up to 22'W x 22'L x 20'H are pre-approved for permit. Other bouncers and attractions require special approval from the City of Goleta and Recreation Division.

**Compliance and Enforcement:** Failure to comply with this policy may result in the immediate revoke of permission of bouncer or attraction use and additional penalties as deemed necessary by the City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Division.

This policy is established to ensure the safety of park users and to protect park resources. It applies to all individuals and groups utilizing bouncers within Goleta parks and facilities.

For any questions or clarifications regarding this policy, please contact the City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Division at [parkreservation@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:parkreservation@cityofgoleta.org)