

Cowlitz County Code

Chapter 18.56 Campground and Recreation Facilities

18.56.090 Health standards applicable county-wide.

All recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds shall meet the following standards:

A. Water Supply. A water supply serving a recreational vehicle park or campground shall conform to the requirements of Chapter [246-290](#) WAC, as now enacted or hereafter amended, and the following minimum standards:

1. Where an existing public water supply of satisfactory quantity and quality is reasonably available, the Health Official may require connection to that supply for all domestic water purposes at the recreational vehicle park or campground.
2. Development of a recreational vehicle park or campground without an approved domestic water supply shall require written approval from the Health Official.
3. All new and replacement water faucet installations used to provide potable water shall be equipped with an approved anti-siphon device.
4. All new and replacement water faucet installations shall be mounted so that the outlet is at least 30 inches above the ground.
5. Surface drainage shall be diverted away from the riser pipe.
6. Domestic water supply systems shall conform to the Uniform Plumbing Code where applicable.
7. Water supply systems used for other than domestic water shall be signed as “not safe for drinking.” Water supply systems for nonpotable uses shall not be cross-connected to public water (potable) supplies.
8. The owner of a potable water supply system shall submit water samples to the Health Official as may be required.
9. Potable water supply systems may be prohibited in areas subject to flooding.

B. Sewage Disposal and Public Restrooms. All recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds shall discharge sewage and gray water to sewage disposal systems approved by the Health Official. Recreational vehicles may be connected to a public sanitary sewer system or an on-site sewage system if approved by the owner/operator and the Health Official. Connection to a public sewer system may be required. Unless each camping space allows for connection of camping units to potable water and wastewater disposal systems, there shall be at least one sewage pump-

out station conveniently located with access from the service driveway and with easy ingress and egress for recreational vehicles in each recreational vehicle park or campground that is designed to accommodate recreational vehicles.

1. For camping spaces not connected to a sewage disposal system, there shall be clearly identified and approved dumping stations and facilities for the disposal of gray water convenient to each camping space. Every such sanitary facility shall be provided within a 300-foot radius of any camping space.

2. Sealed vault toilets, chemical toilets, or pit privies, or other alternate sewage disposal system, may be installed in lieu of utility buildings, subject to approval from the Health Official.

3. In addition to meeting the location requirements for sanitary facilities as described above, the sanitary facilities shall include the appropriate quantities of toilets, urinals, hand-washing sinks, and shower stalls as approved by the Health Official, based on minimum standards for sanitary facilities.

4. Sewage dumping stations and sewer connections shall comply with the following minimum standards:

a. Inlet pipes shall have a trap;

b. Inlet pipes shall be four inches in diameter;

c. Inlet pipes shall be at the center of a two feet by two feet concrete apron;

d. Concrete aprons shall be sloped to the drain;

e. A water outlet shall be provided to permit periodic washdown of the area around the station;

f. The water outlet shall be signed “this water is for flushing and cleaning purposes only” or “unsafe for drinking” at dumping stations;

g. Inlet pipes shall have a self-closing lid at dumping stations;

h. The sewer riser pipe shall be so constructed as to prevent surface drainage from entering the inlet;

i. All materials used for sewer connections shall be noncorrosive, nonabsorbent and durable;

j. The sewer inlet shall be tightly capped when not in use, and the cap shall be connected to the riser by a means suitable to prevent its loss;

k. The park or campground owner is responsible for seeing that all tenants are properly connected to the sewer inlet to prevent spillage.

5. Minimum sanitary facilities, including toilets, urinals, and hand washing sinks, for new recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds shall be provided as required by the Health Official.

6. Public restrooms shall be constructed to meet all applicable building codes and the following standards:

a. Buildings shall be well lighted and ventilated and constructed of materials which are easily cleaned;

b. Floors shall be constructed of water-impervious materials and sloped to a drain;

c. Walls and partitions around showers, lavatories and other plumbing fixtures shall be constructed of nonabsorbent, waterproof material or covered with a moisture-resistant material;

d. Toilet partitions shall be raised 12 inches from the floor and shall be so constructed as to be easily cleaned;

e. Toilet paper shall be provided at each toilet;

f. Hand-cleansing soap and approved sanitary towels or other hand-drying devices shall be provided.

C. Solid Waste. No person shall dispose of or discard sewage, gray water, or other waste materials onto the ground. All storage, collection, and disposal of solid waste in the recreational vehicle park or campground shall be in conformance with the minimum functional standards set forth by the Washington State Department of Ecology and administered by the Health Official.

1. Approved solid waste containers shall be placed within 200 feet of each camping space.

2. Solid waste collection areas having more than one container may require screening with a sight-obscuring fence.

3. All solid waste containers shall have covers. [Ord. 98-194, § 9, 11-16-98.]

18.56.140 Annual operating permit required – Inspections and records.

A. All recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds shall require an annual operating permit issued by the Director. Temporary campgrounds and construction campgrounds shall not require an annual operating permit. Such permit shall be displayed in a conspicuous manner in the office of the recreational vehicle park or campground for the duration of the permit. The purposes of the annual operating permit are to ensure, through public inspection, that the recreational vehicle park or campground continues to operate in accordance with approved plans and applicable regulations. Failure of an owner or operator of an existing recreational vehicle park or campground to apply annually for and obtain an operating permit shall result in loss of pre-existing status, and the recreational vehicle park or campground shall be required to meet the

requirements and standards of this ordinance, as applicable, or cease operation. Such application shall be applied for during the month of January each year.

B. The Director shall cause to be conducted an annual inspection of all recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds in Cowlitz County, including incorporated areas, to assure compliance with health regulations established by this chapter. The Director shall cause to be conducted an annual inspection of all recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds in unincorporated Cowlitz County, to assure compliance with health regulations established by this chapter and the approved binding site plan approved pursuant to this chapter prior to the renewal or issuance of the annual operating permit.

C. For recreational vehicle parks or campground in unincorporated Cowlitz County, no annual operating permit shall be issued or renewed if deviations from the recorded binding site plan or from the plans of record are found during the inspection. A recreational vehicle park or campground may be ordered closed by the Director until the premises, improvements, and facilities are in full compliance with this chapter as applicable.

D. Upon completion of an inspection, the Director shall notify the recreational vehicle park or campground owner applying for an annual operating permit of any violation, and allow 30 days for the owner to correct a violation and comply with this chapter; provided, violations of state or local health regulation shall be corrected within a time period set by the Director. Failure to correct the violation as directed, or to enter into a binding agreement to correct the violation by a specific date shall result in issuance of a notice of infraction as provided by this chapter. If an owner has received three infraction notices for noncompliance within a five-year period, the Director may revoke all prior recreational vehicle park or campground approvals (which includes the annual operating permit), order closure of the recreational vehicle park or campground, and order the removal of all camping units from the recreational vehicle park or campground within 30 days of such notice. The recreational vehicle park or campground shall not be reopened, unless and until the owner reapplies for site plan approval and fully complies with the procedures and standards for a new recreational vehicle park or campground.

E. Recreational vehicle park or campground owners or operators aggrieved by a decision of the Director with regard to an annual operating permit may appeal that decision to the Hearing Examiner in accordance with appeal procedures established in this chapter. [Ord. 98-194, § 15, 11-16-98.]