

Unmanned Aircraft/Drone Usage in Morgan Hill

Fact Sheet on Draft Proposed Changes (August 1, 2017)

Flying drones (unmanned aircraft) on public property in Morgan Hill is currently prohibited by the City's Municipal Code. Since some residents seem to enjoy drone flying as a hobby and their use is gaining in popularity, the City is considering a change to the Municipal Code that would allow drone use under reasonable circumstances. The following changes are being proposed:

1. **Drone Definition:** "Unmanned Aircraft" means aircraft, including, but not limited to, an aircraft commonly known as a drone, that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.
2. **Usage in Public Parks would be allowed with the following limitations:**
 - Users must comply with the regulations/guidelines outlined by the FAA
 - Takeoff and/or land unmanned aircraft must take place after 8 am and before 8 pm
 - Users are not allowed to operate unmanned aircraft within the City to capture, record, or transmit any visual image or audio recording of any persons or private real property located in the City when the subject person or owner of the subject real property has a reasonable expectation of privacy (including, but not limited to, inside a private residence or office, inside a hotel room, and inside of an enclosed yard).
3. **Usage in Public Buildings and Facilities, City Public Parking Lots, City Public Streets, and Sidewalks:** Drone usage would remain prohibited in these locations except when approved as part of a facility rental or permit.

These changes are currently scheduled to be considered by the City Council on September 6, 2017. If adopted by the City Council, the changes would take effect on October 27, 2017.