LUMPKIN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2014 – 19

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE
FOR
RESTRICTING AND PERMITTING ALL MINERAL COLLECTION,
TO INCLUDE GOLD PANNING, IN
YAHOOLA CREEK PARK

Whereas, the Lumpkin County Park and Recreation Department ("Park and Rec") has determined that gold panning and other mineral collection from Yahoola Creek is a recognized use of the Park facility; and,

Whereas, the Park and Rec staff have determined that recreational, non-commercial panning requires reasonable limits to protect the Park as a whole; and,

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners of Lumpkin County desire to provide for the minimal interference and limitation on the public activity while providing oversight and accountability for the users;

Now, therefore, it is resolved as follows: The Yahoola Creek Park Permitted Activity Rules and Regulations as set out on the attached Exhibit "A" shall be adopted with an effective date of June 1, 2014. These rules and regulations shall continue from year to year, but may be amended by motion and voice vote at any regular or special meeting of the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners.

Resolved, adopted and effective this 21st day of May, 2014.

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Kathleen C. Walker
Clerk, Lumpkin County

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Lumpkin County Park and Recreation
Yahoola Creek Park
Permitted Activity
Rules and Regulations

Yahoola Creek lies in an area recognized as being in the heart of the gold producing area of the first major "gold strike" in the United States of America.

Yahoola Creek Park is in the center of the original mining area, and it is recognized that tourists may wish to participate in the "hand panning" and mineral collection of that era.

For those who wish to have a "self-taught" experience, the Lumpkin County Park and Recreation Department is prepared to issue permits to allow such collection as a permitted activity under the limitations and regulations provided.

1. All mineral collection, including gold panning, is subject to the following requirements and restrictions:

a. Streamside vegetation must not be damaged or removed. Stream banks must be left undisturbed.

b. Disturbance from mineral and gold collecting, to include panning, may only occur in the stream bed below the water line and 12 inches from the edge of the water.

c. Only hand panning is permitted; no dredging or sluice boxes or equivalent equipment is permitted.

(i) A small garden trowel or equivalent may be used within the limits prescribed in "1.b." above.

(ii) No medal detectors may be used in the Park.

d. Reject material (what went into the pan other than selected minerals or gold) must be returned to the stream bed to fill the excavated hole; returned material should be smoothed to appear natural. It may not be used to "redirect" stream currents or flow.

e. All operations must take place during daylight hours.

f. All permits shall contain language providing a reminder that all activity permitted (panning, etc.) must take place under the supervision of the permit holder.

g. Collection or removal of historical and pre-historical objects or artifacts, such as arrowheads, pottery shards, or objects from the gold mining era, is prohibited.

h. No person may collect minerals, to include panning for gold, unless such person has a permit in his or her possession as provided in Paragraph 2, below.

2. Permits may be issued to any person over 18 years of age who presents a valid photo identification providing a home address.

a. There shall be no cost for permits.

b. All permits issued within a calendar year shall expire on December 31 of that calendar year.

c. Each person 18 years of age or older must have a permit on his or her person while panning or otherwise collecting minerals or gold.

d. Each person under 18 years of age must by accompanied by an adult permit holder who has the permit as proof of registration.

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e. Panning permits are available to the public the between the hours of 8:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday, excluding County observed holidays, at the Lumpkin County Community Center.

3. All participants are expected to retain the attitude of recreation and fun; in the rare event that any participant creates a discipline problem or otherwise disrupts the community use of the park shall be directed to leave the Park.

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