

CITY OF BUCKLEY

ORDINANCE NO. 19-24

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY, WASHINGTON
ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 10.85 BMC THAT RESTRICTS
CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND FIXING A TIME WHEN THE
SAME SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.**

WHEREAS, the City of Buckley seeks to promote the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to keep public spaces free of camping and personal storage to maintain accessibility for all users;

WHEREAS, the City has a compelling interest in ensuring that public property is not misused for camping and unsanitary purposes, thereby preventing public health risks;

WHEREAS, the City desires to establish consistent and enforceable standards for camping on public property;

WHEREAS, this ordinance is enacted in furtherance of these objectives;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY, WASHINGTON, DOES
ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Repeal of BMC 10.84.095

BMC 10.84.095 Camping is hereby repealed. and replaced with BMC 10.84.400 through 10.84.470, establishing rules for camping on public parking in the City of Buckley.

Section 2. A new Chapter 10.85 BMC is hereby added to the Buckley Municipal Code to provide as follows:

Chapter 10.85

Camping

Sections:

10.85.010 Findings.

10.85.020 Purpose.

10.85.030 Definitions.

10.85.040 Operating hours and areas not open to public.

10.85.050 Areas not open to public—Violation.

10.85.060 Unlawful camping on public property.

10.85.070 Penalty for violations.

10.85.100 Findings.

People camping and storing personal property on public property and on public rights-of-way, such as streets, sidewalks, and alleys, are engaged in conduct which creates a public health and safety hazard due to interference with use of the rights-of-way and the lack of proper utility and/or sanitary facilities in those places. People without sanitary facilities have urinated, defecated, and littered on public property and on the public rights-of-way. Use of public property for camping purposes or storage of personal property interferes with the rights of others to use the areas for which they were intended.

10.85.020 Purpose.

It is the purpose of this chapter to prevent harm to the health and safety of the public and to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare by keeping public streets and other public property readily accessible to the public and to prevent use of public property for camping purposes or storage of personal property which interferes with the rights of others to use the areas for which they were intended.

10.85.030 Definitions.

The following definitions are applicable in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

- "Camp" or "camping" means to pitch, create, use, or occupy camp facilities for the purposes of habitation, as evidenced by the use of camp paraphernalia.
- "Camp facilities" include, but are not limited to, tents, huts, temporary shelters, or vehicles.
- "Camp paraphernalia" includes, but is not limited to, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, blankets, mattresses, hammocks, or outdoor cooking facilities and similar equipment.
- "Public park" means the same as defined in BMC 10.84.020.
- "Store" means to put aside or accumulate for use when needed, to put for safekeeping, to place or leave in a location. "Store" does not include storage of personal items by City employees and invitees in the regular course of participating in or working on City functions, events and/or activities unrelated to camping.
- "Street" means any highway, lane, road, street, right-of-way, boulevard, alley, and every way or place in the city that is publicly owned or maintained for public vehicular travel.
- "Vehicle" means the same as such is defined in RCW 46.04.670.

10.85.040 Operating hours and areas not open to public.

Some city property may be closed to the public at all times. Other city property may be open to the public only during established operating hours and for purposes related to the functions of city government. Operating hours for particular city property may be established by the City Administrator and so posted at the property.

10.85.050 Areas not open to public—Violation.

In addition to a violation of other applicable law, it is also a violation of this chapter to enter or remain on any property under the jurisdiction of the city when the area is not open to the public.

10.85.060 Unlawful camping on public property.

A. In addition to violating other applicable law, it is a violation of this chapter for any person to erect any structure, tent, or other shelter on any city property except as otherwise authorized by the Buckley Municipal Code.

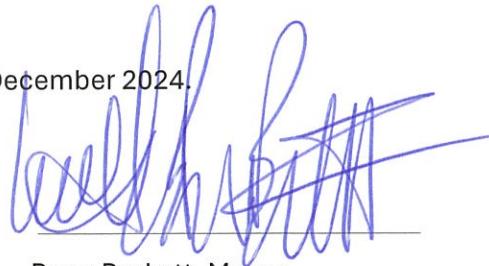
B. It is a violation of this chapter for any person to camp or to store personal property, including camp facilities (other than vehicles) and camp paraphernalia, in any park, publicly owned or maintained land, parking lot, or street, , whether improved or unimproved. It shall also be unlawful for any person to occupy a vehicle for the purpose of camping within these areas for more than 12 hours total within City limits within any calendar month.

10.85.070 Penalty for violations.

Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is a misdemeanor. Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction of such violation, be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment not to exceed ninety days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

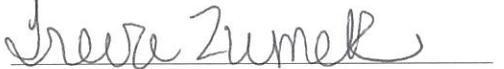
Section 3. Adoption This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption and expiration of five days after publication as provided by law.

Introduced, passed and approved this 10th day of December 2024.



Beau Burkett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Treva Zumeck, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Phil Olbrechts, City Attorney

Published: December 18, 2024

Effective: December 23, 2024