



# Guidelines for Flying Recreational Unmanned Aircraft Systems or “Drones” in Unincorporated Ventura County

## County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

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Federal, state, and local laws govern the flying of recreational Unmanned Aircraft Systems or “drones” in Ventura County. Please review the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines for recreational drones, available at:  
[www.faa.gov/uas/recreational\\_fliers/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/).



### **Basic Guidelines:**

- Fly below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles;
- Keep the aircraft within visual line of sight at all times;
- Remain well clear of and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations;
- Do not fly within 5 miles of an airport unless you contact the airport and control tower before flying;
- Do not fly near people or stadiums;
- Do not fly in adverse weather conditions such as in high winds or reduced visibility;
- Do not fly under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- Do not fly an aircraft that weighs more than 55 lbs;
- Do not fly near or over sensitive infrastructure or property such as power stations, water treatment facilities, correctional facilities, heavily traveled roadways, etc.;
- Do not be careless or reckless with your unmanned aircraft – you could be fined for endangering people or other aircraft; and,
- Do not conduct surveillance or photograph persons in areas where there is an expectation of privacy without the individual’s permission.

### **General Recommendations:**

- It is recommended that recreational drone operators consult the FAA rules and regulations on the proper use of recreational drones and use common sense when operating these devices around crowded public areas, wildlife, or historic resources.
- The FAA’s B4UFLY service shows where recreational drones can and cannot fly: [https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/b4ufly](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/b4ufly)
- County Parks. No person shall operate any model aircraft or drone in any County Park except those County Parks operated by a lessee (Ventura County Parks Ordinance 4600, Chapter 3, Article 7).
- Commercial Filming Activity. To pursue commercial film activity, with a drone or otherwise, the County of Ventura requires productions to obtain a Ventura County Film Permit for filming activities within the unincorporated areas of Ventura County (including private property). For a film permit involving a drone, applicants are required to demonstrate a commercial pilot license and flight plan on a site map, along with an FAA flight plan of activities (if applicable). Please find more information on the Film Permit Program here: <https://vcrma.org/en/film-permits>

*Note: The content on this page is meant for informational purposes only. If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Division.*