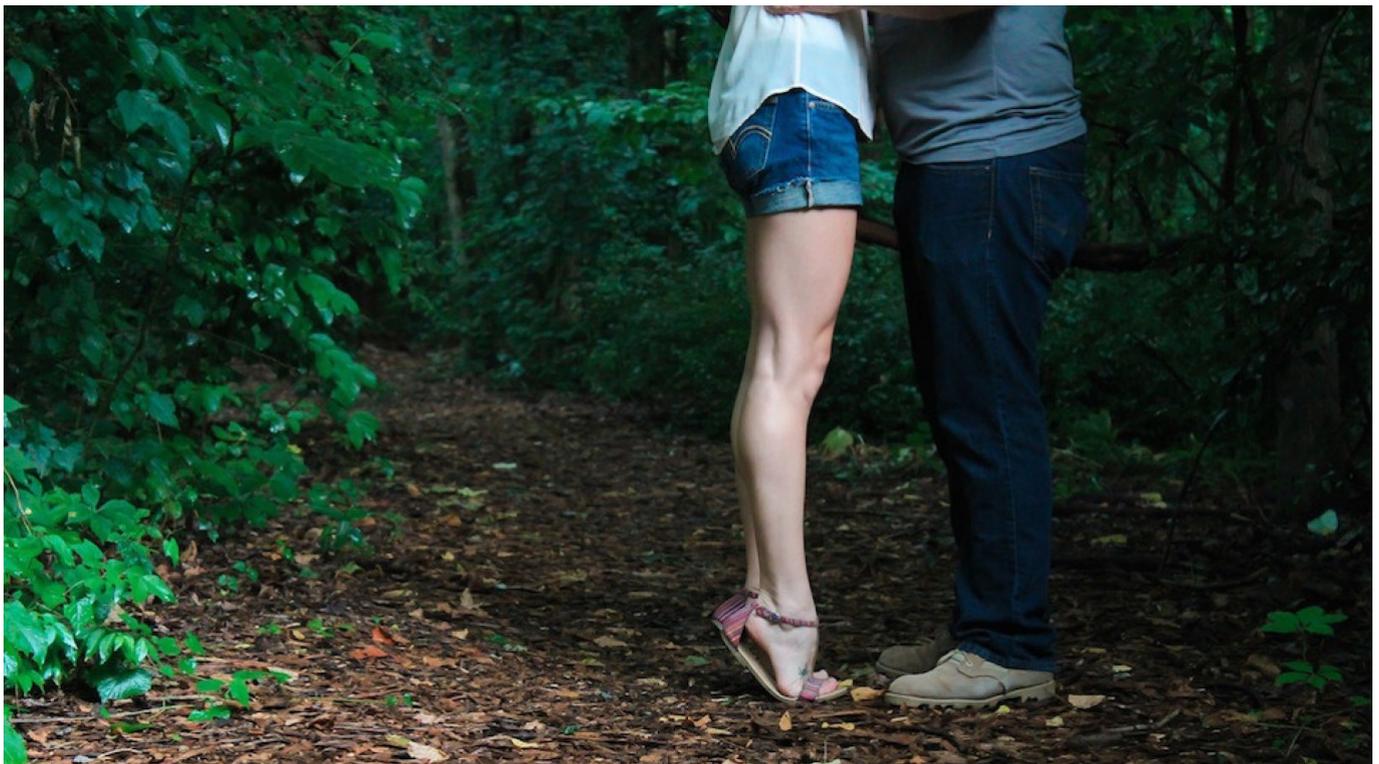


# Russians Having Sex in Moscow Parks are 'Feral Animals' Says Lawmaker

August 13, 2018



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Lawmakers have responded with anger and dismay to reports of an unprecedented number of couples caught on security cameras having sex in Zaryadye Park in Moscow.

Moscow's chief architect [noted](#) the "unprecedented" uptick in public copulation at the park last week, which sits adjacent to the Kremlin and Red Square. Public copulation is an administrative offense punishable by a small fine and up to 15 days in jail.

Russia's ultra-conservative Duma deputy Vitaly Milonov likened the couples to feral animals.

"People come to the park to rest and get peace of mind ... but intercourse between these two rabbits violates the condition of that peace of mind," Milonov was [quoted](#) as saying in the pro-Kremlin Izvestia daily.

Milonov suggested punishing some of the transgressors so that instead "they'd start going to Zaryadye to catch butterflies."

**Related article:** [Why Muscovites Raided Zaryadye Park \(Op-ed\)](#)

Local Moscow City Duma deputy Lyudmila Stebenkova, who had led a [crackdown](#) on a nudist park in Moscow in 2015, [urged](#) law enforcement to take action.

“There’s no need to do it in Zaryadye. Otherwise we will turn a normal park into some kind of obscene place,” Stebenkova was quoted as saying by the Govorit Moskva radio station.

Social media erupted with Zaryadye-themed [jokes](#), while one Twitter user speculated that Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin’s campaign for re-election [may](#) be behind the “viral” content.

Moscow City Hall’s regional security department [promised](#) to deploy extra security guards in Zaryadye Park.

“People are still having a peaceful time at the park, but we will act if we catch anyone,” the city’s head of security Vladimir Chernikov told the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

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