



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

## AGENDA ITEM

<p><b>Prepared By:</b>  <i>Allie Polsfuss, City Administrator, Brian Sandell Police Chief, Joe Zierden Public Works Supervisor</i></p>	<p><b>Meeting Date:</b>  <i>1/5/2026</i></p>	<p><b>Item Name:</b>  <b><i>Park and Recreation Ordinance Discussion</i></b></p>
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### **BACKGROUND**

At the November 3, 2025 City Council meeting, the Council directed staff to provide information regarding a City Park and Recreation Ordinance. The purpose of this proposed ordinance is to establish clear rules and expectations for the use of public parks and recreational areas and to provide the Police Department with clear authority to enforce these rules and address violations when necessary.

### **OVERVIEW**

Currently, the City has an existing ordinance that governs use of the public beach only (see Attachment A). At the direction of the City Council, staff will work with legal counsel to amend and expand this ordinance, so it applies to all City-owned public recreational areas, including:

- Public Beach
- City Hall Park
- Breezy Point Drive Park
- Disc Golf Course
- Fishing Dock
- Four Seasons Trail

The intent is to create one consistent ordinance that applies across all public recreational spaces.

Below is a summary of the incident history over the last 5 years. This includes all recreational areas:

Call Type	Number
Property Damage	5
ATV Use	4
Drug/Alcohol	18
Conduct/Behavior	16
Animal	9
Officer Initiated	31
After Hours Use	23
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>106</b>

### **Ordinance Regulations**

Staff reviewed park and recreation ordinances from several other cities and evaluated common regulatory categories. The recommended regulations are based on best practices as well as the types of complaints and calls for service received in City recreational areas over the past five years.

The goal is to keep the ordinance simple, practical, and easily enforceable. The table below outlines the proposed regulation categories, staff recommendations, and the reasoning behind each.



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Category	Recommendation	Reasoning
Hours	<p>All public recreational areas shall be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., or until sunset, whichever occurs later.</p> <p>Other options considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:00am-10:00pm or 11:00pm</li> <li>• Sunrise to sunset</li> <li>• 6:00am-sunset</li> </ul>	<p>Because the ordinance applies to all recreational areas year-round, staff recommends the 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. or sunset standard to allow reasonable and enjoyable use while still providing clear enforcement parameters.</p>
Animals	<p>All animals must be under control and directly supervised while in any public recreational area. Animals are prohibited in public beach areas.</p>	<p>The City currently enforces rules requiring animals to remain under control rather than strictly leashed, and this approach has worked well. Staff does not recommend changing this practice. The existing prohibition on animals at the public beach is also recommended to remain in place.</p>
Garbage	<p>All garbage or waste of any kind must be deposited in designated containers</p>	<p>This language is consistent with the existing ordinance and helps maintain clean and safe recreational spaces.</p>
Motorized Vehicles	<p>No person, other than City personnel, shall drive or operate a motorized vehicle in a public recreational area except on roads or trails specifically designated for such travel.</p>	<p>Due to the high use of golf carts within the community, staff recommends clearly prohibiting their use in recreational areas unless a trail or roadway is specifically designated for motorized travel.</p>
Alcohol, Smoking/Vaping and Drug Use	<p>No alcoholic beverages, as defined in Chapter 110 of the City Code, shall be allowed in any public recreational area unless approved through a special City permit for a designated area or event.</p> <p>The use, possession, or sale of drugs, smoking/vaping is prohibited in all public recreational areas.</p>	<p>This language is consistent with the existing ordinance and current enforcement practices.</p> <p>This also addresses concerns of fire dangers.</p>
Behavior and Conduct	<p>It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in offensive, threatening, violent, disorderly, or indecent behavior. It is also unlawful to damage or deface any property within a public recreational area.</p>	<p>This language provides law enforcement with appropriate discretion to issue warnings or citations based on observed behavior and circumstances.</p>

### Enforcement

Enforcement of the proposed ordinance would follow current law enforcement practices. Officers will typically seek to educate the public and issue warnings for first-time violations when appropriate. For repeat offenses or more serious violations, officers may issue administrative citations if they believe a provision of the ordinance has been violated.

### Communication

In addition to the City's traditional communication methods (social media, printed materials, and other outreach), staff recommends installing signage at all public recreational areas. The signage would include a summary of the rules and a QR code linking to additional information. The estimated cost for signage at all recreational areas is less than \$10,000.



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This signage will be a critical component of implementation to ensure that rules and regulations are clearly visible and easily accessible to the public.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

City Council is asked to discuss which provisions should and should not be included in the proposed Park and Recreation Ordinance. Following discussion, the Council may provide direction to staff to:

1. Return at a future meeting with additional research and information based on the Council's discussion; and/or
2. Engage with legal counsel to prepare and present a draft Park and Recreation Ordinance, reflecting Council direction, for future consideration and approval.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Attachment A- Ordinance