

Parks and Recreation Commission

A **Parks and Recreation Commission** plays a vital role in a small, rural community by ensuring that residents have access to safe, attractive, and engaging public spaces and recreational opportunities.

1. Advocate for Community Well-being

- Promote **healthy, active lifestyles** by supporting parks, trails, and recreational programming.
- Encourages **social connection** and combats isolation through events, sports leagues, and community spaces.
- Creates accessible options for **youth, families, seniors, and underserved populations**.

2. Plan & Improve Public Spaces

- Advises the city council on the **development, maintenance, and use of parks, playgrounds, green spaces, and public facilities**.
- Guides planning for new amenities such as **walking paths, splash pads, dog parks, sports fields, and picnic shelters**.
- Helps prioritize and oversee **capital improvement projects** for outdoor infrastructure.

3. Engage the Community

- Serves as a **bridge between residents and local government**, collecting feedback and sharing ideas about park use and recreational needs.
- Supports **community events, festivals, clean-up days, and volunteer projects** that build local pride.
- Collaborates with schools, youth groups, civic organizations, and local businesses to **maximize the use and impact** of public spaces.

4. Support Economic Development & Tourism

- Attractive parks and recreation areas **enhance quality of life**, which is a major factor for attracting new residents and retaining families.
- Events, tournaments, and well-maintained facilities **draw visitors to town**, supporting local businesses and tourism.
- Adds value to property and strengthens the community's image as a **vibrant and welcoming place to live**.

5. Guide Budgeting & Grant Funding

- Help identify funding needs and opportunities for **grants, sponsorships, and public-private partnerships**.
- Make recommendations on how to **strategically invest limited resources** for the greatest impact.

- Encourages **long-term planning** and maintenance to ensure sustainability of community assets.

In rural areas where resources may be limited and recreation options fewer, the Parks and Recreation Commission plays a **crucial leadership role** in keeping public spaces safe, relevant, and inclusive. Even small investments in recreation can have **big returns in public health, youth engagement, and local pride.**

What the commission does:

The duties of the Committee are as follows:

- The general supervision of recreation in the City along with the operation and maintenance of all parks, playgrounds, swimming pool, and other areas as assigned by Council.
- It may make rules and regulations for the government and control all such places of recreation, subject to approval by the Council.
- The Commission shall generally direct the activities of the Parks Foreman and Recreation Director.
- It is the intent of the Council that the Commission promote recreation in its broadest aspects and, toward this end, shall cooperate with existing recreational programs under the auspices of schools or semipublic groups within the City.

This Committee meets regularly as needed.

City of Dodgeville Municipal Code – [Parks and Recreation Commission](#)

Additionally, another duty is the creation, review, and revising of contracts with organizations related to using city recreation facilities and parks. This includes Home Talent Baseball, Iowa County Youth Soccer Association, Ice Wolves Hockey Association, and more.

Some documents to be familiar with:

[2017-2037 City of Dodgeville Comprehensive Plan](#) (look at pages 15-24 in particular) – I highly recommend that you read it all, and understand what it all entails

[Parks Master Plan – 2012](#) was finalized in November 2012. I think it's important to read through this as well for reference points.