

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06

**AN OMNIBUS ORDINANCE DISSOLVING THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS;
REPEALING CHAPTER 50 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER;
AND AMENDING CHAPTERS 701, 702, AND 704 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER**

Adopted: May 5, 2026

PREAMBLE

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin hereby finds and declares as follows:

- (1) The Board of Park Commissioners was established under Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances and holds authority over city parks pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 27.08. That authority is cross-referenced throughout Chapters 701, 702, and 704 of the Code.
- (2) The Common Council has determined that the Park Board structure is no longer well-suited to the City's administrator form of government, the current scale and composition of its park system, or the City's near-term parks priorities.
- (3) The Council exercises its authority under Wis. Stat. § 62.11(5) to supersede the Park Board's powers by ordinance and to reorganize park governance within the existing City government structure.
- (4) All amendments to Chapters 701, 702, and 704 contained herein are intended to take effect simultaneously with and as a consequence of the dissolution of the Board of Park Commissioners effected by Article I of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE I

DISSOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND REPEAL OF CHAPTER 50

Section 1: Repeal of Chapter 50

Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richland Center, entitled "Board of Park Commissioners for the City of Richland Center," including all sections thereof (Sections 50.01 through 50.10), is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2: Dissolution of the Board of Park Commissioners

The Board of Park Commissioners (also referred to in the City Code as the Park Board, the Board of Park Commissioners for the City of Richland Center, and the Parks and Grounds Commission) is hereby dissolved. All terms of office of current members of the Board of Park Commissioners, whether full terms or unexpired partial terms, are terminated as of the effective date of this Ordinance. No further appointments shall be made to the dissolved Board.

Section 3: Vesting of Park Governance Authority

- (1) **General Authority.** The general government, management, control, improvement, and care of all public parks, parkways, and pleasure drives located within the City of Richland Center, now existing

or hereafter acquired, shall be vested in the Common Council of the City of Richland Center, consistent with the powers and limitations set forth in Chapter 27 of the Wisconsin Statutes and any other applicable provision of the Wisconsin Statutes.

(2) Operational Management. Day-to-day operational management of city parks, including supervision of the Parks & Recreation Director and park employees, shall be the responsibility of the City Administrator. The Parks & Recreation Director shall report directly to the City Administrator.

(3) Permit Authority. Permit-issuing authority for activities in city parks shall be as provided in Article II of this Ordinance (amending Chapter 701 of the Code of Ordinances).

Section 4: Park Fund

(1) Priority Project Allocations. The Park Board has directed that the Park Fund balance of \$12,422.45 be allocated to the following priority projects, which are hereby ratified and incorporated into this Ordinance as the authorized use of those funds:

- (a) Aquatic Center Completion — concrete pad and shade structure at the Splash Pad: \$4,200.00
- (b) Athletic Field Infrastructure — Krouskop Park ballfield dugout fences: \$2,850.00
- (c) Signage and Accessibility — soccer field signage under the highway: \$439.00

(2) Residual Fund Management. Following the finalization of the specific projects listed in subsection (1) above, any remaining balance of the Park Fund shall be transferred to the oversight of the Parks & Recreation Director. Such residual funds shall be used at the Director's discretion to address remaining punch-list items or minor maintenance needs within the parks system, in accordance with account 10-18100-000 Parks/Rec/CC.

(3) Commemorative Recognition. To honor the history of the Park Board's stewardship, funds shall also be used to purchase a commemorative plaque or sign to be permanently affixed to each project funded by this final allocation.

(4) Future Gifts and Donations. Any moneys hereafter received by the City through subscription or gift designated for parks, parkways, or pleasure drives shall be deposited in the City General Fund and may be expended for park purposes upon appropriation by the Common Council.

Section 5: Budget and Reporting

(1) Annual Budget. The City Administrator shall submit an annual parks budget estimate to the Common Council as part of the regular annual budget process.

(2) Annual Report. The Parks & Recreation Director shall transmit to the Common Council annually a report of park operations for the preceding year, including a summary of expenditures, major projects, staffing, and programming.

Section 6: County Board Appointment

The intergovernmental appointment of a Richland County Board member to the Board of Park Commissioners, as provided in former Section 50.02(2), is terminated by operation of the dissolution of the Board of Park Commissioners. The City Administrator shall provide written notice to the Richland County Board Chair of this action.

Section 7: Savings Clause

The repeal of Chapter 50 shall not affect any permit issued, contract entered into, legal action commenced, or right accrued under Chapter 50 prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. Any such permit, contract, action, or right shall continue to be governed by the provisions of Chapter 50 as they existed immediately prior to repeal, until the matter is fully resolved or the permit expires.

ARTICLE II

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 701 — CONTROL, MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION OF CITY PARKS

Section 8: Amendment of Chapter 701

Chapter 701 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richland Center is amended to read as follows:

Chapter 701

Control, Management and Regulation of the City's Parks and Park Areas

[History: Old Code Chapters 50, 701 & 702, Ord 2003-10, 2009-14, 2016-2, 2025-03, 2026-06]

701.01 Control and Management of the Public Parks and Park Areas.

(1) Common Council. The control and management of the public park areas shall be vested in the Common Council of the City of Richland Center or designated committee. The Common Council or designated committee shall formulate such rules and regulations as it may deem expedient from time to time for the planting of vegetation and landscaping, erection and maintenance of park shelters, recreational equipment, or other structures or improvements of whatever nature in public park areas, and to otherwise provide for the management, protection, control, and use of said park areas as authorized by and subject to the limitations of Chapter 27 of the Wisconsin Statutes and any other applicable provision of the Wisconsin Statutes.

(2) Public Works Committee. The Public Works Committee of the Common Council is empowered to oversee the operation of public park areas, and to bring to the Common Council any matters related thereto which require Council action.

(3) City Administrator; Operational Authority. Day-to-day operational management of city parks, including direct supervision of the Parks & Recreation Director, shall be vested in the City Administrator. The Parks & Recreation Director shall be responsible for supervising the public park areas, the recreational programs, and the day-to-day activities of the parks & recreation employees of the City of Richland Center.

701.02 Identity of Public Park Areas and Grounds and Programs Affected.

The public park areas of the City of Richland Center shall be subject to regulation by this Chapter. They are specifically defined as follows:

(1) Public Park Areas. The public park system for the City of Richland Center is comprised of the following designated areas:

- (a) Arboretum – USH 14 between Seminary Street and Main Street
- (b) Krouskop Park – 1050 N Orange Street
- (c) Lions Park – 23595 STH 80 N
- (d) North Park – 1341 Allison Park Dr
- (e) Ocooch Living History Gardens – 270 N Orange St
- (f) Old Mill Pond Park – 600 W Seminary St
- (g) Strickland Park – 391 N Pearl St
- (h) Summit Park – Tax Parcel 276-1635-0020
- (i) Wedgewood Park – Bohmann Dr
- (j) West Side Park – 515 N Grove St

(k) Woodman "Happy Tails" Dog Park – 287 Industrial Dr

(l) Unnamed Park west of the Pine River

(m) Trails:

i. Miner Hill Trails

ii. Pine River Trails and Canoe Ports

iii. Ocooch Mountain Recreation Trails

(2) Shelters in Public Park Areas. The control and management set forth herein shall extend to all shelters in said public park system.

(3) Programs. The programs involved in this chapter include all recreational programs run by the Parks and Recreation Director.

701.03 Parks and Park Areas Regulations.

(1) Prohibited Advertising in Parks.

(a) No person shall post, paint, affix, distribute, hand out, deliver, place, cast or leave about any sign, bill, billboard, placard, ticket, handbill, circular, advertisement or other material for advertising purposes within any public park or park area except with a permit from the Parks & Recreation Director.

(b) No person shall operate any bullhorn, public address system, or other sound amplification device or sound generating device for the purpose of attracting attention to any commercial activity or venture within any public park or park area except with a permit from the Parks & Recreation Director.

(2) Prohibited Solicitation of Alms in Parks. No person shall solicit alms or contributions for any purpose within any public park.

(3) Disorderly Conduct in Parks Prohibited.

(a) No person shall throw stones or other missiles, nor interfere with, encumber, obstruct or render dangerous any path, walk, drive or other area within any public park.

(b) No person shall climb or stand upon any wall, fence, shelter, seat, picnic table, statue or other improvement within any public park.

(c) No person shall cast, throw or deposit on any walk, crossing, roadway or upon any other surface or location within any public park any garbage, litter, trash or other waste materials.

No person shall cast, throw or deposit into or onto any lake, pond or swimming pool, or onto the ice covering any such lake, pond or swimming pool, or upon any area designated for ice skating, any sticks, stones, glass, litter, trash or garbage in any public park.

(4) Use of Fire in Public Parks or Park Areas. No person shall kindle, build, use or maintain any fire in any public park, except in places specifically provided for such activities.

(5) Loitering at Night in Public Parks or Park Areas Prohibited.

(a) No person shall loiter at any place in any public park where there is no artificial light between one-half hour after sunset and the following sunrise.

(b) No person shall enter or remain in any public park between the hours of 12:00 midnight and the following sunrise.

(6) Sale of Merchandise or Services in Public Parks or Park Areas Prohibited. No person shall sell or offer for sale any item of merchandise or any services in any public park except with a permit from the Parks & Recreation Director, and then only to the extent allowed by the permit as to the permitted dates, items and/or locations as set forth in said permit.

(7) Camping and Lodging in Public Parks or Park Areas. No person shall camp or lodge in any public park, except with a permit from the Parks & Recreation Director, and then only at such times and in such places designated in such permit.

(8) Injury to Park Property Prohibited. No person shall injure, mark, deface, destroy, damage, take or carry away any tree, shrub, flower, sign or other improvement in or to any public park.

(9) Operation of Vehicles in Public Parks.

(a) No person shall drive any vehicle upon any walkway or upon any other portion of any public park or park area other than upon the paved streets within or contiguous to such public park or park area except with a permit from the Parks & Recreation Director. For purposes of this Chapter, the term "vehicle" shall include motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, and mopeds.

(b) The Parks & Recreation Director may, but is not required to, designate an area or areas as snowmobile trail(s), but such operation off from any such trail(s) or outside the time(s) such trail use is allowed shall nevertheless constitute a violation of this section.

(10) Parking within Public Parks. No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle in any public park except adjacent to the streets in such park unless such adjacent area is specifically designated a no-parking area, and except in any other area designated as a parking area by the Parks & Recreation Director.

(11) Use of Swimming Facilities Regulated. No person shall make use of the bathing or swimming facilities in any public park or park area at any time except when such facility is officially open to the public, a lifeguard is on duty, and the person has paid any fee imposed by the Parks & Recreation Director for the use of the facilities. Posted signs or notices listing open hours for swimming or bathing or indicating whether such facilities are open or closed shall be prima facie evidence in determining whether there has been a violation of this subsection.

(12) Display of Permit. Any person claiming to have a permit to do any otherwise prohibited act in a public park for which a permit may be granted under the provisions of this Chapter shall display such permit upon request by any Police Officer, Parks & Recreation Director, or other City Officer or Employee charged with the supervision of any public park or facility therein. Failure to produce such a permit shall be prima facie evidence of a violation.

(13) Use of Nicotine Products Prohibited.

(a) The use of nicotine products in any form, including but not limited to smoking, is prohibited in all Richland Center Parks.

(b) For the purposes of this Section, "Nicotine Product" shall have the same definition used in Chapter 204.02(3) of this Code of Ordinances, and "Tobacco product" and "Smoking" shall have the same definitions found in Wis. Stat. § 101.123(1).

(14) Penalties for Violations of Section 701.03.

(a) Any person who violates subsection 701.03(10) above shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$200.00, as adjudged by the Court, plus all applicable costs, fees and surcharges imposed under Ch. 814 Wis. Stats., and in the event such forfeiture, costs, fees and surcharges are not paid, such person may, upon order of the Circuit Court, be imprisoned in the Richland County jail until such forfeiture, costs and assessment are paid, but not to exceed 90 days, or may be subject to any other sanctions imposed by the Court for such failure to pay.

(b) Any person who violates any provision of subsection 701.03 other than subsection (10) shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$100.00 nor more than

\$400.00, as adjudged by the Court, plus all applicable costs, fees and surcharges imposed under Ch. 814 Wis. Stats., and in the event such forfeiture, costs, fees and surcharges are not paid, such person may, upon order of the Circuit Court, be imprisoned in the Richland County jail until such forfeiture, costs and assessment are paid, but not to exceed 90 days, or may be subject to any other sanctions imposed by the Court for such failure to pay.

701.04 Regulation of Intoxicating Liquor and Fermented Malt Beverages in Parks and Park Areas.

(1) General Prohibition. No person shall possess, dispense or consume intoxicating liquor, including wine, or fermented malt beverages, including beer, ale, light beer or malt liquor, nor shall any person have in his or her possession any open can, bottle or other container containing fermented malt beverages, wine or intoxicating liquor, or drink from the same, in any public park or park area in the City of Richland Center. For purposes of this section, the term public park shall include streets and roadways and waterways within or contiguous to such park.

(2) Exception for Licensed Activities. This section shall not apply to persons possessing, dispensing or consuming fermented malt beverages at a time and within an area within a city park wherein such activities have been approved by the Parks & Recreation Director and for which a park alcohol permit authorizing such activity has been issued by the Parks & Recreation Director. Such permit shall authorize the consumption of alcohol within a designated area of a city park during a specified time period only. The Parks & Recreation Director shall maintain a record of all park alcohol permits issued and shall report all such permits to the Common Council at the next regular meeting following issuance.

(3) Penalties for Violations of Section 701.04. Any person who violates subsection 701.04(1) shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit to the City of Richland Center not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00, as adjudged by the Court, plus all applicable costs, fees and surcharges imposed under Ch. 814 Wis. Stats., and in the event such forfeiture, costs, fees and surcharges are not paid, such person may, upon order of the Circuit Court, be imprisoned in the Richland County jail until such forfeiture, costs and assessment are paid, but not to exceed 90 days, or may be subject to any other sanctions imposed by the Court for such failure to pay.

ARTICLE III

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 702 — CONTROL AND USE OF THE CITY CEMETERIES

Section 9: Amendment of Chapter 702

Chapter 702 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richland Center is amended as follows. All provisions of Chapter 702 not expressly amended by this Article remain in full force and effect.

702.02 Control and Management of the City Cemeteries.

(1) Common Council. The control and management of the City cemeteries shall be vested in the Common Council of the City of Richland Center. Said Common Council shall formulate such rules and regulations as it may deem expedient from time to time for the planting of vegetation and landscaping, for the erection, repair or arrangement of cemetery markers or other structures or improvements of whatever nature on cemetery grounds; and to otherwise provide for the management, protection, control and use of said cemetery grounds as authorized by and subject to

the limitations of Chapter 157 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and any other applicable provision of the Wisconsin Statutes.

(2) Public Works Committee. The Public Works Committee of the Common Council is empowered to oversee the operation of the City cemeteries, and to bring to the Common Council any matter related thereto which require Council action.

(3) City Administrator; Operational Authority. Day-to-day operational management of City cemeteries, including direct supervision of the Public Works Director, shall be vested in the City Administrator. The Public Works Director shall be responsible for the day-to-day management and care of City cemeteries.

702.03 Cemetery Administrative Regulations.

(1) Conveyances of Cemetery Plots. All conveyances of real estate hereafter made of lands in the Richland Center Cemeteries, including all additions thereto, shall be signed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk, and such conveyances shall be expressly limited to be for burial purposes only. No sale of such real estate shall be consummated and no deed shall be delivered to any such lands until the full purchase price, which includes the cost of perpetual care, shall have been paid in full.

(2) Applications for Burial. An application for burial shall be made to the City, and all information requested by the City shall be furnished prior to grave opening. Upon receipt by the City of all such information and the payment of the fee for opening of the grave and any related fees as may be set from time to time by the Public Works Committee, the City shall proceed with grave opening and the interment may be made.

(3) Cemetery Records. All records relating to cemetery lot ownership and burial information shall be kept in the office of the City Clerk.

(4) Cemetery Fund. The City Clerk shall be the legal custodian of all cemetery funds. The Clerk shall ensure all deposits from lot sales and care payments, and all expenditures for cemetery maintenance comply with the requirements of Chapter 157 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

ARTICLE IV

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 704 — OVERSIGHT OF CITY PROPERTIES

Section 10: Amendment of Chapter 704

Chapter 704 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richland Center is amended as follows. All provisions of Chapter 704 not expressly amended by this Article, including Sections 704.03 and 704.04, remain in full force and effect.

704.01 Control and Management of City Properties.

(1) Common Council. The overall control and management of all city properties shall be vested in the Common Council of the City of Richland Center.

(2) Public Works Committee. The Public Works Committee of the Common Council is empowered to oversee all matters relating to City properties, including but not limited to the public park areas identified in Chapter 701, the properties listed in Section 704.02, and all other City-owned properties not otherwise specifically assigned by ordinance to a different body. The Public Works Committee shall bring to the Common Council any matters related thereto which require Council action.

(3) City Administrator; Operational Authority. Day-to-day operational management of City properties, including direct supervision of the Public Works Director, shall be vested in the City Administrator. The Public Works Director shall be responsible for the day-to-day management and care of City properties.

704.02 Oversight of Specific Properties Assigned to the Public Works Committee.

Oversight responsibility for the following properties is assigned to the Public Works Committee of the Common Council:

- (a) Municipal Building at 450 S Main St
- (b) Airport at 28929 County Hwy BA
- (c) Robb Shop at 141 W Robb Dr
- (d) Jefferson Shop at 1100 N Jefferson St
- (e) Cemetery Storage at 1300 N Park St
- (f) Railroad Depot at 397 W Seminary St
- (g) Community and Senior Center at 950 N Orange St
- (h) Woodman Aquatic Center at 1061 N Orange St
- (i) Brewer Public Library at 325 N Central Ave
- (j) Both Footbridges over the Pine River
- (k) All of the Pine River Recreational Trail [The Bike Trail] lying between County Highway "O" and the bridge over the Pine River on Highway 80/North Main Street
- (l) All of the Pine River Flood Control Dike, including all City-owned lands adjacent to the actual dike structure
- (m) All other City-owned lands abutting the Pine River on either side of the channel within the municipal limits of the City
- (n) Cemetery Forest in tax parcel 276-1629-0000
- (o) Landfill Forest in tax parcels 276-1601-000, 276-1521-0000, and 276-1522-0000
- (p) Allen Bradley Forest, being all City-owned lands in tax parcels 276-2811-1000, 276-2182-1000, 276-2812-1000, 276-2144-1000, and 276-2144-2000
- (q) Arboretum
- (r) Garden area East of County Hwy AA in tax parcel 276-1614-0000
- (s) All lands owned by the City within the plat of Industrial Park North
- (t) All public park areas identified in Section 701.02 of the Code of Ordinances
- (u) All other City properties now owned or hereafter acquired which are not specifically assigned to another body by ordinance

ARTICLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 11: Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 12: Repealer

All prior ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 13: Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law. All articles hereof shall take effect simultaneously on the effective date.

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Richland Center, on this 5th day of May, 2026, by the following vote: AYES: _____ , NOS: _____ , Abstain: _____ .

**CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Karin Tepley, Mayor

Attest:

Misty D. Molzof, Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION I, Misty D. Molzof, Deputy Clerk of the City of Richland Center, Richland County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 2026-05 was published in the Richland Observer, a newspaper of general circulation in the City, on _____, 2026, as required by Wis. Stat. § 62.11(4).

Misty Molzof, Deputy City Clerk