

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER - AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: Consider additions to Camping rules and adjustments to availability.

Committee Review: Park Board

Meeting Date: April 28th, 2025

Requested by: Jodi Mieden- Recreation Director

Background: The City RV camping locations were quite busy with “transitional tent housing/urban camping” in 2024, and we want to discuss possible updated rules. We fielded many complaints from park goers as well as yearly RV campers. Many were solicited for donations during their stay and may or may not return if this continues. Possibly limit the duration to seven days one time per month to prevent site hopping in the same camping area. Possibly limited to RV only.

(Since the U.S. Supreme Court’s [City of Grants Pass v. Johnson](#) ruling last June allowing localities to ban outdoor camping even if there is no homeless shelter space available, roughly 150 cities in 32 states have passed or strengthened such ordinances. The ordinances do not criminalize the status of a person being homeless, rather they forbid actions like occupying a campsite on public property for maintaining a temporary place to live.)

Example: The La Crosse Common Council has passed a new ordinance prohibiting camping on any city property. The city has posted notices that the ban will be enforced beginning Aug. 28, 2024.

There were a couple of things that came up this off season as well. Companies doing work in the city stayed in RV campsites off season and for extended durations. We allowed it because it was an RV, but it came with many inquiries from the public. We also allowed hunters to camp for the temporary hunting timeframe. I would like to formalize the rules for off-season camping. We like the revenue stream and had no issues during their stays.

Department Recommendation:

Requested Action:

PARK BOARD: