



AGENDA REPORT

City Council Meeting

TODAY'S DATE: October 27th, 2025

MEETING DATE: November 5th, 2025

TO: Mayor Grimm, members of the Sandpoint City Council

FROM: Jason Welker, Planning and Community Development Director and Corey Coon, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Amendments to Sandpoint City Code § 3-2-9 (Open Container Law)

INTRODUCITON:

The purpose of this staff report is to present proposed amendments to Sandpoint City Code § 3-2-9 (“Open Container Law”), which regulates the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public spaces. These amendments expand the locations where alcoholic beverages may be consumed during permitted special events, clarify permitting and service requirements, and add language specifying restrictions around service area boundaries and ADA access.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

At the October 15th meeting a draft amendment to the City’s Open Container Law for City Parks was brought to council. Tonight, an updated amendment incorporating feedback from the October 15th meeting is being brought to you for consideration. Council feedback focused on the geographic area in which alcohol was to be allowed in City Beach Park and the suggestion to open the opportunity for single-day special events hosted by Bonner County non-profits from September – June.

As such, the revised amendment brought to you tonight incorporates those changes, while making it clearer and easier to understand how alcohol service will be treated differently within different parks. Only events permitted through the City’s special event permitting process will be allowed to serve alcohol in City Beach Park, Farmin Park, and War Memorial Field will be allowed to serve alcohol. At the James E. Russell Sports Center alcohol will be permitted at private events pursuant to the terms set forth in a facility use agreement.

The service area within City Beach Park has been shrunk and moved further away from the beach volleyball courts, as requested by Council. (see figure below).



General conditions applying to all parks have been pulled out and placed in their own section of the updated code.

These updates should fulfill council's desires based on feedback at the October 15th meeting while making the code easier to understand and enforce for event organizers and City staff going forward.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

These amendments support the City's goal of encouraging community events while maintaining public order and compliance with state alcohol laws. By expanding available locations, the City offers equitable opportunities for different event organizers. The clarified permitting process provides transparency and consistency for staff and applicants alike. Staff recommends approving the amendments, which will be brought to a subsequent council meeting as an ordinance for adoption.

ACTION:

Council may consider the following actions regarding the proposed amendments to Sandpoint City Code § 3-2-9 (Open Container Law):

1. Adopt the Ordinance as Presented: Approve the amendments as drafted, expanding the eligible parks/facilities and clarifying permitting requirements and service area controls.
2. Adopt with Modifications: Approve the amendments with specific changes as directed by Council (e.g., remove or add facilities, adjust seasonal restrictions, or revise service area requirements).
3. Remand for Further Staff Work: Direct staff to make additional revisions to the draft ordinance and bring it back for consideration at a future meeting.
4. Take No Action: Retain the current code language with no changes.

WILL THERE BE ANY FINANCIAL IMPACT? N HAS THIS ITEM BEEN BUDGETED? N

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft amendment to Sandpoint City Code § 3-2-9 (Open Container Law)