

City of St. Helens  
**ORDINANCE NO. 3291**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6.04 (ANIMAL CONTROL) AND 8.24 (PARK  
REGULATIONS) OF THE ST. HELENS MUNICIPAL CODE DESIGNATING  
ADDITIONAL OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS AND ESTABLISHING CONSISTENT LEASH  
LENGTH LAW

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2023, the Parks and Trails Commission unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council amend the St. Helens Municipal Code to officially designate Heinie Heumann Park and Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park as off-leash dog parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission also voted unanimously to establish a uniform leash law of six feet and that the Municipal Code be amended to reflect this law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF ST. HELENS ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Chapter 6.04 and 8.24 of the St. Helens Municipal Code ("SHMC") are hereby amended as per **Attachment "A"** attached and made part of this reference.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any section, provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other sections, provisions, clauses, or paragraphs of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be servable. This City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the invalid portions should be severed and the balance of the ordinance be enforced.

**Section 3.** Provisions of this Ordinance shall be incorporated in the St. Helens Municipal Code and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "code," "article," "section," or another word, and the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered, or re-lettered, provided however that Whereas clauses and boilerplate provisions need not be codified.

**Section 4.** The effective date of this Ordinance shall be 30 days after approval, in accordance with the City Charter and other applicable laws.

Read the first time:	May 3, 2023
Read the second time:	May 17, 2023

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023 by the following vote:

Ayes:  
Nays:

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Rick Scholl, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kathy Payne, City Recorder

underlined words are added

~~words stricken~~ are deleted

[...] means skipping text as it reads in the code (e.g., to focus on text being edited in this document)

## CHAPTER 6.04 ANIMAL CONTROL

[...]

### 6.04.040 Prohibited activities.

[...]

(2) Animals At Large. It shall be unlawful for an owner to permit, either by negligence or by intention, any animal to run at large, except domestic cats or birds. Notwithstanding this general rule, dogs shall be allowed to be off leash for play and exercise purposes in the areas designated as the McCormick Park, Heinie Heumann Park, or Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park pet off-leash area ~~by Resolution No. 1564~~, so long as the rules of the off-leash area are being observed.

[...]

(6) Pets in City Parks. Pets are permitted in city parks (unless otherwise posted) only if they are on a leash that is ~~16~~ six (6) feet or less in length or in an appropriate container. Electronic leashes or training collars that have no visible, physical connection between the animal and its human supervisor will not be considered acceptable under this section. Pets shall be kept under supervision at all times and not allowed to run at large or to commit any nuisance or harass the public in any way. Notwithstanding this provision, dogs shall be allowed to be off leash for play and exercise purposes in the area designated as the McCormick Park, Heinie Heumann Park, or Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park pet off-leash area ~~by Resolution No. 1564~~, so long as the rules of the off-leash area are being observed.

## CHAPTER 8.24 PARK REGULATIONS

### 8.24.190 Rules and regulations.

(4) Animals.

[...]

(c) An off-leash area has been designated ~~by Council Resolution No. 1564~~ in McCormick Park. Dogs shall be allowed to be off leash for play and exercise purposes in the area designated as the McCormick Park pet off-leash area so long the rules set forth in subsection (7) of this section are observed. Additionally, Heinie Heumann Park and Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park are designated as off-leash parks as long as the rules set forth in subsection (7) of this section are observed.

[...]

(7) Additional rules applicable within the off-leash areas of McCormick Park, Heinie Heumann Park, and Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park ~~as designated by Council Resolution No. 1564~~ are as follows:

[...]

#### 8.24.240 Schedule A – Parks offenses.

[...]

(2) Violation of sections:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (a) SHMC <a href="#">8.24.040</a>           | Horse not on<br>bridle path  |
| (b) SHMC<br><a href="#">8.24.190</a> (3)(b) | Pets in park<br>buildings  |
| (c) SHMC <a href="#">8.24.190</a> (4)       | Animals  |
| (d) SHMC <a href="#">8.24.190</a> (7)       | McCormick Park,<br><u>Heinie Heumann<br/>Park, and Grey<br/>Cliffs Waterfront<br/>Park</u> pet off-leash<br>area rules |
| (e) SHMC <a href="#">8.24.200</a> (4)       | Staying more<br>than 72 hours in<br>one week   |

are class C violations.