



Park and Recreation Board Meeting Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	August 19, 2026
Agenda Item:	Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Review and Potential Updates to City Park Rules and Regulations
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Kevin Boehm, kboehm@whitewater-wi.gov , 262-473-0122

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

The City of Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department's current Park Rules and Regulations establish general rules governing the use of City parks, facilities, and trails. During a recent review of the policy, questions arose regarding the use of electric bicycles, electric scooters, and other personal electric mobility devices. The current Motorized Vehicles section specifically references motorcycles, minibikes, snowmobiles, dune buggies, go-carts, all-terrain vehicles, and other recreational or motor vehicles, while also broadly stating that motorized vehicles are not allowed on City trails. The policy does not specifically address e-bikes, e-scooters, or similar devices.

Rather than addressing only the e-bike issue, staff reviewed the Park Rules and Regulations more broadly and identified several areas that may warrant discussion and possible modernization. Staff is not proposing specific revisions to each section at this time. Instead, the document is being presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for review and recommendations before staff works with the City's legal team on any formal amendments.

Areas identified for potential discussion include:

- **Motorized Vehicles:** Clarify the use of e-bikes, e-scooters, and other personal electric mobility devices in City parks and on City trails, including where they may be permitted and whether operating restrictions or speed limits should apply. The current rules do not specifically address these devices.
- **Alcoholic Beverages:** Review the current language to ensure it accurately reflects where alcohol is permitted, where permits are required, and current City practices. The existing language provides different treatment for Starin Park, Cravath Lake Park, Trippe Lake Park, and municipal buildings and may benefit from clarification.
- **Animals:** Review terminology and requirements concerning animals, pets, leashes, and service animals, including whether the language should be updated to reflect current requirements and practices.
- **Camping:** Clarify the current provisions requiring a special permit from the Common Council while also providing authority for the Parks and Recreation Director to permit tents and trailers.
- **Mechanical Rides/Dunk Tanks:** Consider whether this section should be broadened to address current temporary recreational attractions such as inflatables, amusement devices, climbing walls, dunk tanks, and similar equipment.
- **Penalties and Enforcement:** Review existing forfeiture amounts and enforcement provisions to ensure they remain appropriate and consistent with current City ordinances and enforcement practices.

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- **Administrative Procedures:** Determine whether operational details, such as specific shelter reservation dates, should remain within the Park Rules and Regulations or be addressed through administrative procedures that can be updated separately.

The Board may also wish to consider whether additional subjects that are not currently addressed should be incorporated into the Park Rules and Regulations. Examples could include drones, smoking and vaping, cannabis, generators, commercial activities, organized events, trail etiquette, and newer recreational or mobility devices.

Staff is seeking input from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding which areas should be revised, clarified, added, or removed. Following Board direction, staff would work with the City's legal team to prepare appropriate revisions for future consideration.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
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(Dates, committees, action taken)

None

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board review the current Park Rules and Regulations and provide direction regarding areas that should be updated, clarified, added, or removed.

Based on the Board's recommendations, staff will work with the City's legal team to develop proposed revisions to the Park Rules and Regulations and bring the updated document back for future review and consideration.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)
