

	Park and Recreation Board Meeting Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	August 19, 2026
Agenda Item:	Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Review and Potential Updates to the Heat and Inclement Weather Policy.
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's current Heat and Inclement Weather Policy was approved in 2013 and establishes guidelines for modifying or canceling Parks and Recreation activities due to thunder and lightning, snow, high winds, and extreme heat. The policy does not currently address poor air quality or wildfire smoke.

During the summer of 2026, the Whitewater area has experienced several periods of poor air quality associated with wildfire smoke. These conditions have resulted in the Parks and Recreation Department modifying or canceling several programs, activities, and events. Because the existing policy does not provide guidance or established thresholds for air quality, staff has had to make these decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Staff is recommending that the policy be updated to include air quality and establish guidelines utilizing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Index (AQI). The update would provide staff with consistent criteria for monitoring conditions and determining when outdoor activities should continue, be modified, relocated, postponed, or canceled.

As part of the update, staff is also recommending changing the policy title from **"Heat and Inclement Weather Policy"** to **"Heat, Air Quality and Inclement Weather Policy"** to accurately reflect the expanded scope of the policy.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

Heat and Inclement Weather Policy approved in 2013

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approve the proposed revisions to the Heat and Inclement Weather Policy, including the addition of air quality guidelines and changing the policy title to **"Heat, Air Quality and Inclement Weather Policy."**

The proposed revisions will provide staff with clear and consistent guidance for modifying, postponing, relocating, or canceling programs, activities, and events when poor air quality or wildfire smoke creates potential health and safety concerns.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)
