



Park and Recreation Board Meeting Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	August 19, 2026
Agenda Item:	Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Bicycle Helmet Requirements for Children Under Age 16.
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Kevin Boehm, kboehm@whitewater-wi.gov , 262-473-0122

BACKGROUND

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

A member of the Common Council requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board consider the creation of an ordinance requiring children under the age of sixteen (16) to wear a protective helmet while operating or riding bicycles, electric bicycles, electric scooters, skateboards, scooters, roller skates, in-line skates, and similar recreational devices within the City of Whitewater.

The proposed ordinance would apply to public roadways, sidewalks, bicycle paths, park trails, and other public rights-of-way within the City. Helmets would be required to be properly fitted and fastened and meet recognized national safety standards.

The proposed language would also place responsibility on a parent or legal guardian to not knowingly permit a child under age sixteen to operate or ride one of the identified devices without the required helmet. Violations could be addressed through a warning, citation, or other appropriate remedial action as determined by the enforcing officer.

The proposed ordinance is being presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for review and discussion regarding whether the City should establish a helmet requirement for minors and, if so, whether the proposed provisions and enforcement approach are appropriate.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

None

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has no specific recommendation and is seeking direction from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding whether the City should establish a helmet requirement for minors as proposed.

If the Board supports moving the ordinance forward, staff recommends that the proposed language be reviewed by the City Attorney and Police Department prior to consideration by the Common Council.

Enforcement Consideration: Staff notes that enforcement of the proposed helmet requirement may be limited based on current Police Department staffing levels.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)