



Common Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	December 3, 2024
Agenda Item:	Ordinance 2024-O-26 an Ordinance amendig Section 9.12.010 to allow dogs off leash at the Whitewater Bark Park inside the fences
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Kevin Boehm, kboehm@whitewater-wi.gov , 262-473-0122

BACKGROUND

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

In late October, I directed the Police Department to enforce the city's leash laws, specifically the prohibition of dogs being off-leash in public parks. During this enforcement, Community Service Officers (CSOs) approached citizens at the Whitewater Bark Park and issued verbal warnings that they could be cited if their dogs were off-leash at the park. Upon review, it became apparent that the current ordinance does not clearly exempt the dog park from the general leash requirements.

To address this ambiguity, I have amended subsection 19.12.010 of Chapter 19.12 of the Whitewater Municipal Code to include the following language:

"Dogs are exempt from leash requirements while enclosed inside the fenced area of the Whitewater Bark Park but must remain under the handler's control."

This revision clarifies that dogs are permitted to be off-leash within the enclosed area of the Whitewater Bark Park while maintaining the requirement for owners to have control of their pets at all times. This change ensures consistency in enforcement and allows residents to fully utilize the dog park as intended.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

Approved on November 20, 2024 by the Park Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

I recommend approving the ordinance as written and waiving the second reading.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. Ordinance 2024-O-26
