


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	23-559	Meeting:	December 18, 2023
	Agenda Item:	60B	Roll Call:	23-1805
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of updated City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Rules.

SYNOPSIS:

Approval of recommended changes to Parks and Recreation Rules, including these substantive changes which incorporate new rules that reflect the advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department since the adoption of this document in 2022 and clarify intent of select, existing rules:

- In General: Minor modifications to refine the language used within select Sections
- Section III: Addition to regulate use of personal barbecue grill
- Section VIII: Additions clarify beach rules and floating devices at Gray's Lake Park
- Sections XII and XIII: Additions clarify staking is not permitted
- Section XX: Addition limits personal objects on the ice

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Parks and Recreation Rules is a separate, yet complementary, document to Chapter 74 of the Des Moines Municipal Code, which is dedicated to the organization and management of the City parks and recreation facilities and outlines the role of the Parks and Recreation Board, the authority of the Parks and Recreation Director, operation of City parks and recreation facilities and the fees for use of facilities and programs.
- In addition to the Municipal Code, rules are needed for specific City parks and recreation facilities to regulate use. Although rules are not always included in the City's Municipal Code, they are enforceable when approved by the City Council.
- The rules, when combined with the Municipal Code, govern the use of the City's parks and recreation facilities. Wherever possible, rules do not duplicate what is addressed in the Municipal Code.

- On October 22, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Board, via Resolution No. 19-080, approved for the first time the Parks and Recreation Rules as assembled into one comprehensive document.
- This is the fourth update to the rules document and incorporates changes that reflect advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department. These are described in succinct detail below. Additional minor changes are proposed to improve formatting, consistency, and clarity, but do not modify the meaning of the existing rules language.
- Elected and appointed leaders should use this communication as a guide to the changes, but still read in detail the proposed modifications shown with “track changes” on in the copy of the Parks and Recreation Rules provided in their meeting packet. Substantive changes include:
 - *In General*: Proposed changes refine the language used and improve formatting within select Sections. These changes are in line with the continuous comprehensive improvement of this document over time.
 - *Section III.1.e*: Proposed addition makes clear that an approved permit must be in place for use of a personal barbecue grill. This relates to the proposed modifications to Chapter 74-94 which clarify use of City-provided barbecue grills and personal grills.
 - *Section VIII.5*: Proposed additions clarify that swimming at Gray’s Lake beach must take place between the buoys and is only allowed between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends during park open hours between sunrise and sunset.
 - *Section VIII.7*: Proposed addition clarifies that non-motorized watercraft are allowable floating devices.
 - *Section XII*: Proposed addition clarifies that staking is not allowed at sports parks, open spaces, and athletic fields; however, above surface ballasts may be used.
 - *Section XIII*: Proposed addition clarifies that staking is not allowed specifically at James W. Cownie Soccer Park; however, above surface ballasts may be used.
 - *Section XX.1.v*: Proposed addition limits personal objects on the ice for the safety of patrons and staff.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 12, 2022

Roll Call Number: [22-1955](#)

Action: [Approval](#) of updated City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation rules. ([Council Communication No. 22-556](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Seconded by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: November 28, 2023

Resolution Number: 23-079

Action: Motion by Davis to approve the Parks and Recreation Rules as presented. Second by Bollard.
Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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