



Section	Current Ordinance	This draft language was presented for community engagement. This is not final proposed language. Items will be brought to Board of Commissioners for discussion and direction in early November, 2021.	These are comments received from the public during the community engagement.
Loitering (cont.)		Draft Language as of 7.16.21	Comments #13 - Loitering as defined here (lazy bathroom burkers, which hopefully are obviously prohibited) is not the kind of "loitering" that has "historically been used to discriminate" -- that is usually on the basis of race. i.e. in particular, Black/Brown teens, men, families hanging out together and white people perceiving them as a threat simply because they are there in any number, doing anything. How is this kind of situation addressed and dealt with? The current proposal (to remove and say nothing?) strikes me as evading the issue. I recommend having proactive language and plan for it, doesn't have to be called "loitering". Between this and removal of all disturbing the peace -- what is the option when some people's use of the Parks space encroaches (unfairly, disruptively) on those around them even if not "illegal" in state law? I don't see but recommend some kind of statement related to sharing the Park respectfully with others, considering effects of your activity (noise, smoke, extended occupancy of spaces) on other humans, wildlife, neighbors.
Parades/entertainment/public meetings	It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct processions, parades, pageants, ceremonies, exhibitions, celebrations, training exercises, speeches, or other public gatherings through or in any park without a permit.	Covered in permits for organized events and activities, or large group gatherings.	Section 14 - this activity would be covered in the permits section. If the proposed language of section 8 more completely defined the covered activity. What is an "organized event"? What would constitute a "disorganized event", which by the language of the ordinance would not be covered?
Commercial solicitations/advertisements/photography	It shall be unlawful for any person to: Solicit, sell or otherwise peddle any goods, wares, merchandise, services, liquids or solids in a park, except by authorized concession or written authorization from the Director; Operate a stall, motor, picture, video or other camera for commercial purposes in a park without written authorization from the Director; or Expose, distribute or place any sign, advertisement, notice, poster or display in a park without written authorization from the Director; or Distribute or disseminate any leaflets, pamphlets, circulars, handbills, advertisements or other written or printed material without the written authorization of the Director.	Soliciting donations or money, or selling anything in Parks is not allowed. Advertising in Parks is not allowed, unless part of a permitted event. Commercial photography that requires a crew larger than just one photographer is not allowed without a permit.	#15-16 - I'm in full support of no soliciting or sales, but wonder about availability of foot trucks and carts (jiffies, pallets, tacks, wheels and assorted types of things). If permitted and managed to provide a great service without unduly creating problems of garbage, noise, smells and etc, they can be a positive addition and economic benefit. Healthy treats, small businesses!
Soliciting Donations	It shall be unlawful for any person to beg or solicit alms, donations or contributions within a park.	Soliciting donations or money, or selling anything in Parks is not allowed.	#15-16 - I'm in full support of no soliciting or sales, but wonder about availability of foot trucks and carts (jiffies, pallets, tacks, wheels and assorted types of things). If permitted and managed to provide a great service without unduly creating problems of garbage, noise, smells and etc, they can be a positive addition and economic benefit. Healthy treats, small businesses!
Fires	It shall be unlawful for any person to: Start or maintain a fire in any park, except small fires that are used for the purpose of starting or maintaining cooking fires, except in grills provided for that purpose. Private grills may be used in designated areas provided that all ashes and residue therefrom are disposed of in containers provided for such disposal. Leave a fire unattended or fail to fully extinguish a fire, or Scatter or leave unattended lighted matches, ashes, tobacco, paper or other combustible material.	Fires are allowed only in approved fire rings and must be completely extinguished when unattended. Cooking fires are allowed only in grills provided by the Department or small private grills. Ashes or hot coals must be disposed of in containers marked specifically for ashes and coals.	Section 17 - should there be a provision allowing the department to set fires in conditions of high fire danger? #17 - Recommend use of non-toxic fire starters and charcoal.
Aviation	It shall be unlawful for any person to use park property for a starting or landing field for aircraft, hot air balloons, parachutes, hang gliders or other flying apparatus without a permit.	Do not use parks for aviation takeoff or landing. Drones may be operated within the Park, except in designated areas.	Section 18, I'd like to see drones not be allowed. Section 18 - please prohibit drones of nature drones and wildlife interpretation areas, as they disturb wildlife. Section 18 - I'd like to see drones not be allowed. Section 18 - please prohibit drones of nature drones and wildlife interpretation areas, as they disturb wildlife. Section 18 - I'd like to see drones not be allowed. Section 18 - please prohibit drones of nature drones and wildlife interpretation areas, as they disturb wildlife. Section 18 - I'd like to see drones not be allowed. Section 18 - please prohibit drones of nature drones and wildlife interpretation areas, as they disturb wildlife.
Amusement Contraptions	It shall be unlawful for any person to bring in, set up, construct, manage or operate any amusement or entertainment contraption, device or gadget without a permit.	Any large equipment, like a bounce house, dunk tank, smoker requires a permit.	Section 19 - "large equipment" should be more thoroughly defined.
Engine-owned models and toys	It shall be unlawful for any person to fly or use any fuel or electric powered model aircraft, boat, car or rocket, or like powered toy or model without written authorization from the Director. This section shall not apply to models or toys which are powered by hand wound springs, rubber, or other elastic materials, or by inertial flywheels.	Drones are covered in Aviation Section. Remaining section is recommended for removal.	Section 20 - Motorized and non-motorized boats are highly different in terms of noise and damage. Either keep the need for a permit, or clearly specify particular rules for motorized use and enforce speed limits to avoid damaging shore line. Also, rockets are huge fun and exciting, but serious hazards - require permit with appropriate safety guidelines. I would make these 2 separate sections.
Unlawful Occupancy	It shall be unlawful for any person to enter in any way, any building, installation or area that may be under construction, locked or closed to public, etc. or to enter, remain in, or upon any building, installation or area after the posted closing time or before the posted opening time, or contrary to the posted notice in any park.	Do not enter any locked building, or area closed to the public.	Section 21 - why is "enter" barred, but "remain in" removed? What problem does the removal of that language solve? It should be retained.
Interference with employee performance of duty	It shall be unlawful for any person to impersonate any employee or agent of the department or interfere with, harass or hinder any employee or agent in the performance of their duties.	Do not interfere with a Park employee or agent of the Department in the performance of their duties.	Section 22 - why not expand this definition to include all county employees?
Pets	It shall be unlawful for any person to: Cause or allow any pet to roam or be at large in any park; Permit a pet, except guide animals to assist a blind or impaired person, to enter any beach area, picnic area, nature interpretive area, wildlife refuge, golf course, park building or park shelter; Bring a pet into an authorized area of a park unless caged or on a leash not more than six feet in length, except in a designated pet exercise or training area; Permit a pet to disturb, harass or interfere with any park visitor, park visitor's property or park employee; Tether any animal to a tree, plant, building or park equipment; Have custody or control of any pet in a park without processing and using an appropriate device for cleaning up pet feces and disposing of the feces in a sanitary manner; or Permit any pet or domestic animal to graze or browse in any park.	Pets must be on a leash not more than 6 feet long at all times, except within fenced dog parks. Pets are not allowed in any Parks building, picnic areas, beach areas, playgrounds, golf courses, or on the Ramsey County Nature Center grounds. This does not include service animals as defined by Americans with Disabilities Act. Do not leave pets unattended or allow them to disturb other visitors. Pet feces must be picked up and properly disposed of by owner.	Section 23 - Pets, children often want to stop at playgrounds during our only dog walk. The only thing that gets us out of the hood? Please be realistic and allow responsible parents to tend to both children and pets at the same time. Section 23 Pets I routinely run into people with unleashed pets. More enforcement is needed in this area, with education and/or fines. Section 23 Pets: Proposed ordinance about beach areas is nonsensical. Requires a rewrite. Pets should be allowed with the owners on a picnic in the picnic area. Section 23: Is like to be able to bring my dog in the beach area, so long as we are not interfering with other's use and enjoyment of the beach. There are days when nobody is there, and I'd like to bring him for a swim. The language for pets within the beach area is not quite clear. Are they allowed? Can you only use the pavilions if you have a permit or can you use them without permit if they aren't being rented? I would appreciate more monitoring, and less enforcement of off leash dogs. I have had several encounters with unleashed dogs. There also seems to be more enforcement with dog leashes on people. I wish there was more strict enforcement of leash laws. The biggest problem I witness in parks is white people letting their dogs run without a leash. It is really scary to have dogs running by to people. I wish there was more strict enforcement of leash laws. Also pets should be allowed in some picnic areas. The language for pets within the beach area is not quite clear. Are they allowed? Can you only use the pavilions if you have a permit or can you use them without permit if they aren't being rented? I would appreciate more monitoring, and less enforcement of off leash dogs. I have had several encounters with unleashed dogs. There also seems to be more enforcement with dog leashes on people. I wish there was more strict enforcement of leash laws. The biggest problem I witness in parks is white people letting their dogs run without a leash. It is really scary to have dogs running by to people. I wish there was more strict enforcement of leash laws.
Pets (cont.)		#23 - I don't understand what's proposed in the highlighted part? Yes, keep pets leashed and out of wildlife areas. I would love to see more municipal application of domestic grazers (goats, sheep) instead of power equipment for managing grass and other plants, as a permitted use with permit/contact - so suggest the Ordinance not prohibit that. 23 - I have never understood keeping pets out of picnic areas or beaches when pets are leashed, monitored and picked up after.	
Utilities	It shall be unlawful for any person to locate, construct or erect any sewer, gas pipe, water pipe, hydrant, lamp post, telephone or electric post, conduit, pump, lift station or other utility fixture in any park without approval of the Board. Every person, firm or corporation who executes a contract or permit to do work shall, after such work has commenced and until same has been completed, isolate the construction area by security fencing, warning lights and signs, or other appropriate measures that will protect the public from exposure to danger and prevent unnecessary accidents.	Do not use park property for personal or private use, such as storing equipment, building structures, installing objects, posting signs, or placing utilities.	
Lost and found articles	Lost or mislaid articles, money or personal property which are found in any park shall be delivered or turned over to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Patrol Station or to the nearest on-duty peace officer. Property will be disposed of in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 345.15.	All lost and found items will be turned over to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department, and disposed of according to Minnesota Statutes, Section 345.15 That language should be removed.	Lost & found articles - that's ridiculous to require turning it over to the Sheriff. They are not going to want every dog tag or baby shoe that I pick up. Why don't you have lost and foundhouses for deposit UNLESS it is a value over say, \$25, then turn it over to the Sheriff.
Peace Officers and Employees	It shall be unlawful for any person to: Willfully resist, refuse or fail to comply with any order, direction or request lawfully given by any peace officer, department employee or agent acting under the authority of the Board and in accordance with this ordinance; or Interfere with or, in any manner, hinder any department employee, agent or peace officer during the performance of assigned duties.	Recommended for removal. Employees are covered in another section, and law enforcement is covered by state statute.	Section 26 - plenty of language exists elsewhere in the revised ordinance, why is the department so concerned about it here, when it serves to protect peace officers? Furthermore, under the proposed ordinance revisions violations may result in administrative proceedings, which are different entirely from other criminal statutes referred to in this proposal. What benefit would the department see by functioning on having parallel administrative proceedings to bar conduct that the department wants to prohibit?
Posted regulations, directional signs and graphics	It shall be unlawful for any person to disregard or fail to comply with any posted regulations, directional signs and graphics, barriers or other control devices located within any park.	All signs, barriers, and posted rules and regulations must be followed at all times.	
Encroachments	It shall be unlawful for any person to encroach on park property with such items as fences, garages, other personal property, or to disturb the natural landscape, vegetation or structures on park property or otherwise use park property for private use. All setbacks and other local zoning regulations are in effect and apply against properties adjacent to a County Park as they would against property adjacent to private property.	Do not use park property for personal or private use, such as storing equipment, building structures, installing objects, posting signs, or placing utilities. Section 28 - Is the county abandoning its claim to items in fences, garages, etc. setbacks in county parks? If not, why remove the language?	
Picnicking	It shall be unlawful for any person to: Assume exclusive use of a reservation picnic site or shelter without a permit; Use a portion of a reservation picnic area or shelter without a permit if the area is reserved for a permitted group; Conduct picnic activity at reservation picnic sites contrary to a permit; or Set up temporary shelters, tarps, canopies and other such devices without a permit.	All Park shelters and pavilions require a permit to use. 10'x10' canopies may be used among picnic tables, but must be weighted down, and cannot be staked into the ground or tied to trees or other Park property. Additional provisions included in permit section.	Section 29: Picnicking This only addresses picnicking in shelters. What about elsewhere on park property? #29 Requiring a permit for ALL non-exclusive use of shelters and pavilions is rather extreme. The draft language: "All park shelters and pavilions require a permit to use" is too restrictive. There are many weekdays when small park picnic shelters, and even some pavilions are not required. I cannot think of any reason why a group who spontaneously shows up at the park shouldn't be allowed to use the shelter without a permit if no one else has reserved it. If every shelter or pavilion has signage letting people know whether it is reserved or not, then if it isn't reserved, people should be allowed to use it. This draft rule makes it sound like only the entitled wealthy are allowed to use shelters/pavilions. It should read: If you want exclusive use of a picnic shelter, you need a permit. If you want to use a picnic shelter, you don't need a permit. Section 29: Proposal requires a permit for all use of pavilions and shelters. before we ought to continue to allow use of pavilions and shelters when they are not reserved for exclusive use. #29 - individuals should be allowed to still use a non reserved picnic shelter. Picnicking - shelters and pavilions should be open for people to use if no one has a permit to occupy them. #29 - As a recent transplant from Chicago, I really appreciate this ordinance's restrictions on use of canopies and randomly setting up big personal picnic areas with grills, music speakers, and etc (which also creates an enormous amount of garbage). That some significantly decreased my use and enjoyment of the Parks in Chicago.



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45	<p><b>Vehicle operation</b></p> <p><b>Current Ordinance</b></p> <p>It shall be unlawful for any person to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate a motor vehicle within a park, except on roadways, parking areas, pathways or other areas designated for such use;</li> <li>Operate a vehicle at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour or posted speed limit;</li> <li>Operate a vehicle within a park in violation of posted regulations, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 168, County or Municipal Traffic Code, Orders or Directions of Peace Officers or Department Employees Authorized to Direct Traffic;</li> <li>Drive or operate a vehicle on or along any roads, drives or parking lots which have been restricted, closed or posted with appropriate signs or barricades. The director shall have the authority to order roads, drives or parking lots within any park closed during the process of construction, reconstruction or repair; or when, in the opinion of the director, weather conditions render travel unsafe or unduly destructive.</li> <li>Operate a vehicle in a careless or reckless manner;</li> <li>Operate a vehicle which emits excessive or unusual noise, noxious fumes, dense smoke or other pollutants;</li> <li>Fail to yield right of way to pedestrians and other trail users;</li> <li>Blow, grease, change oil, service or repair any vehicle in a park, except disabled vehicles which shall be expeditiously made operational and removed;</li> <li>Drink, consume or possess an open bottle or container of an alcoholic or intoxicating beverage in or on any motor vehicle when such vehicle is in a park;</li> <li>Cause any tool, implement or vehicle for hire to stand in a park for the purpose of soliciting or taking passengers other than those who have requested or were carried to the site by said vehicle, unless licensed by the board; or</li> </ul>	<p><b>Draft Language as of 7/16/21</b></p> <p>Vehicles must be operated only on roadways and parking areas. Vehicles must be operated less than 15 miles per hour, or posted speed limit. Drivers must follow all Minnesota State Statutes and operate vehicles in a safe manner. Vehicles must not be used to access private property through Park property. Vehicles must not emit excessive noise, fumes, or other pollutants. Drivers must yield to pedestrians and bicycles. Except for emergencies, do not wash, grease, change oil, service, or repair any vehicle in any Park. Do not drink alcohol in a vehicle.</p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>Clarification on who yields on rice creek trail at an intersection, MN understanding is a state law says motor vehicles yield to pedestrians in cross walks (marked or unmarked), signs along the trail say trail users yield to vehicles. Presumably state law overrides local ordinances and is updated.</p>	<p>Section 45: explicitly mention that motorized vehicles may not be operated on pathways or grass as happens all the time at occurrences.</p>	<p>Section 45 regarding parking, often people park on the grass at McCarron's beach by the big shelter, there needs to be parking enforcement.</p>	<p>Section 45 - what benefit is to be gained by removing the language "Orders or Directions of Peace Officers or Department Employees Authorized to Direct Traffic"? Should these instructions now be divergenced? "[Excessive noise, fumes, or other pollutants]" should be defined. What constitutes an "emergency" should also be defined, as the existing ordinance language does. Why is that language being removed in the first place?</p>						
46	<p><b>Parking vehicles</b></p> <p>It shall be unlawful for any person to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Park or leave a vehicle standing, except in a designated area and then only in a manner so as not to restrict normal traffic flow;</li> <li>Leave a vehicle standing after posted closing hours, except by written authorization from the Director;</li> <li>Park a vehicle adjacent to any curb painted yellow in any park;</li> <li>Park in a space designated for handicapped parking only, except with handicapped vehicle license or permit;</li> <li>Park or leave a vehicle without a trailer in a parking space designated for vehicles with boat trailers; or</li> <li>Park a vehicle with a boat trailer, except in a designated boat trailer parking area.</li> </ul> <p>Vehicles illegally parked, disabled or abandoned may be towed away and impounded at the owner's expense. Said vehicle may be sold, if unclaimed after 90 days, to pay towing and storage fees.</p>	<p>Park vehicles in designated areas only. Do not park by yellow painted curbs. Handicapped accessible parking is only for those with handicapped vehicle license or permit. Boat trailers must only be parked in parking spots and lots designated for boat trailers. Do not park or stage equipment or materials on park property.</p>	<p>Section 46: If allowing 24h access, which I hope you do, consider designating sections of parking for overnight parking purposes. Most likely enforced after sunset. It would help the Sheriffs keep tabs of who is intending to be there, and supplies a dedicated space for a porpoise.</p>	<p>Section 46 - boat trailer parking. Currently trailers are parked along Lake Johanna Blvd (not in a designated parking spot). This would appear to be a fairly easy violation and during normal day time hours) section to enforce. But it is not enforced. Extending park hours to times that are more difficult to enforce (lower visibility when it is dark, requiring officers to leave their vehicle and travel by foot throughout the park) is not a good idea since at this time we are not capable of enforcing the "boater" violation.</p>								
General			<p>Consider when reviewing any ordinance/rule/rule that the worst case scenario isn't some one failing to be punished at a level deemed appropriate by those imagining the worst case: it's some one who is scraping the edge of the ordinance before the maximum penalty because the ordinance/rule/rule allows for it.</p>	<p>R46 - Perhaps this section can address some "towing" issues - I think fine if people go to the park and stay in their vehicle to eat, nap, read, talk on the phone, use as a remote office and so on (assuming restrictions on food noise) - but not for occupants of one or multiple cars to hang out around them, or in effect to have tailgate parties. THANKS for sharing all the info about the previous and proposed ordinance, and giving opportunity to weigh in!</p>	<p>I did not see anything specific about a new common item: hammocks.</p>	<p>Starting with section 4, wording is inconsistent. Sometimes it says "the following are not allowed..." and other times it says "Do not..." Consistency throughout would be good.</p>	<p>Is there a spot to talk about hammocks? Some parks have rules about them now, as they can scrape bark off trees. But if it's not a concern here, then no worries. ;)</p>	<p>Looks good. Appreciate the revisions in plain English!</p>	<p>If any of these are changed, PLEASE communicate them in writing (like a brochure) in residents mail. Thank you!</p>	<p>Appreciate that the proposed revisions overall are more plain language making it easier to understand and therefore comply with in practice. Appreciate the analysis on how the listening provision has been applied in practice to inform the proposed revision. I agree with deferring to state statute when applicable.</p>	<p>Overall it looks good and I appreciate that it's easier to understand terms and sounds more modern.</p>	<p>In general: very good to see plain English; thank you</p>
General (cont.)			<p>I've read through it. There's nothing in there than seems unfair to any specific race or designation of people.</p>	<p>It looks good. The language is simpler and more clear.</p>	<p>Agree with the proposed changes. Would like to see more enforcement of rules. 75% of dog owners clean up after their dogs, but the other 25% make it dangerous for children running around. 80% of bikers are courteous, but the other 20% think that it is their right to go 25 mph and everyone better stay out of their way.</p>	<p>Those are good changes, especially making it plain language.</p>	<p>I like the simplification of the language in all areas.</p>	<p>Have you decided to completely disregard adjacent properties?? shouldn't respect for adjacent properties be addressed? This applies to many sections within the regulations. See specific sections on noise and water created by boating.</p>	<p>The new draft language is much easier to read and understand. Kudos to the team that made the recommended changes.</p>	<p>This is a very good revision, it is simpler, shorter, and much more meaningful to the average reader.</p>	<p>More needs to be done to communicate/educate the public on these 2 items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrians and snowshoes are not allowed on groomed cross-country ski trails. (lots of people snowshoe to the edge of the trail. As a skier, I don't mind as long as they respect the groomed areas, such as the skate ski deck.)</li> </ul>	<p>Now that I read the ordinance, I see a lot of behaviors I have observed that I think are wrong here. In fact, signed park ordinances, I think most folks are not aware of these rules and some are not followed to the detriment of the parks and park users. More signage would help I think.</p>
General (cont.)			<p>Too many good policies being downzoned or completely taken out of ordinances. Not good.</p>	<p>General Comment: Proposed language is much simpler to understand. People will be much more likely to read this language.</p>	<p>Keep all of the existing rules. Enforce them.</p>	<p>Are you seriously spending time on this banano? you don't enforce (through education or other) the ordinances you already have, seems like this is just a way to make a rule to support whatever makes it easier for you.</p>	<p>All others: Easier to read and understand than the old verbiage.</p>	<p>I really don't see how this is in equity/inequity issue. You're just interested in communicating your rules better for all to understand. This is about communication and nothing else.</p>	<p>really really like a lot of the other proposed changes. Glad to see you addressing drones, electric bikes, unnecessarily gendered language, allowing small canopies, etc. Thank you!</p>	<p>In sum, it's very unclear the benefits the county intends to see through many of the proposed edits to the ordinance. In many cases the proposed language is incomprehensibly defined, of improper scope, and appears to not have been drafted by an attorney. If these issues and those described above are not rectified before the ordinance is adopted, the county and its taxpayers will end up footing the bill for whatever litigation will arise from the identified drafting errors.</p>	<p>PLEASE tell officers to take the leash law seriously. There may be signs telling people to keep their dogs leashed but they frequently are not enforced. (This is a recent development!) I am a senior who enjoys parks but I have been knocked down by unleashed dogs and seen them chasing wild life (deer, swan)</p>	<p>I think the additions are well thought out.</p>
General (cont.)				<p>Keep status quo.</p>	<p>Need cameras in the lots and prosecution of people breaking into cars.</p>							