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**Sponsor:** Parks & Recreation

**Meeting Date:** 2/22/2022

**Title:** Revised Parks & Recreation Ordinance

**File Number:** 2022-097

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**Background and Rationale:**

The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Ordinance (Park Ordinance) was adopted in 1992 and last amended in 2007. The purpose is to promote the safety, health, enjoyment, and welfare of everyone in their use of parks, and to protect park property and resources. The Park Ordinance requires routine updating to stay current and align with community needs.

The ordinance revision process aims to:

- Respond to long-standing community feedback about park access.
- View the ordinance through a racial equity lens.
- Modernize the ordinance and address contemporary park issues.
- Make changes that result in an ordinance that is equitable, consistent, and streamlined; promotes greater enjoyment of the parks; ensures user safety; and protects park facilities, property, and natural resources for everyone to enjoy.

The following is a list of specific proposed changes to the Park Ordinance:

- Change park hours to 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. and eliminated trail hours for those actively commuting.
- Smoking and vaping policies to be developed within the overall Ramsey County ordinance.
- Change misdemeanor penalties to administrative penalties. State preferred method of enforcement as request for voluntary compliance.
- Allow for removal of park access for 24 hours as a method of enforcement.
- Enforce "Firearms and Dangerous Weapons" and "Fireworks" sections using state statute. Adjust "firearms" section to comply with state and local laws.
- Eliminate "loitering" section.
- Modernize and simplify "disturbing the peace" section.
- Add protections from dumping liquids in the park or park waters.
- Distinguish between littering small amounts of waste and dumping large amounts of waste.
- Allow foraging of fruits, nuts and mushrooms.
- Point to Ramsey County website for aquatic invasive species removal process to adapt to rapidly changing conditions.
- Modernize rules for electric bikes and drones.
- Expand snowshoe access in parks.
- Reduce amplified sound from 50 to 25 feet for general park use and kept at 50 feet for events.
- Require a permit for amplified sound at events.
- Allow limited commercial photography without a permit.
- Allow 10x10 canopies for open-air picnic tables.
- Remove gendered swimwear requirements to allow public nudity state statutes to prevail.
- Update ski pass requirement to prepare for changes in pass types in alignment with Winter Recreation Area.

- Modernize “Roller-skating” language to fit many forms of skating .
- Add geocache placement rules .
- Allow service animals in facilities in alignment with ADA .
- Allow crossbows for adaptive use .
- Allow power-driven mobility devices for people with disabilities .

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Adopt the revised Parks & Recreation Ordinance

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By:   
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Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board