


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	24-500	Meeting:	December 9, 2024
	Agenda Item:	55	Roll Call:	24-1685
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Recommend approval of proposed amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 74 Parks and Recreation regarding various changes that reflect the advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department, update specific fees for use of facilities and programs, and other various changes.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of changes to Municipal Code Chapter 74, including but not limited to:

Article IV. Facilities

- Section 74-97: Adding lagoons, MacRae Park Boardwalk and types of fishing allowed
- Section 74-99: Expanding from just dogs to include other pets where applicable
- Section 74-103: Expanding from just baseball to include softball
- Section 74-110: Updating outdated language and clarifying scope

Article V. Fees

- Changes to existing fees are proposed for the following facilities:
 - Section 74-176(b): Ball diamonds
 - Section 74-179: Chess Garden
 - Section 74-181: Golf courses
 - Section 74-182(3): Shelters
 - Section 74-183(a)(3): Pool rental for exclusive use
 - Section 74-183(b): Birdland Marina
 - Section 74-184(a) and (b): Brenton Skating Plaza
- Addition of new fees are proposed for the following facilities:
 - Section 74-175(a): Table tennis/ping pong tables
 - Section 74-176(c): Soccer field exclusive use
 - Section 74-181: Golf courses
 - Section 74-183(b): Birdland Marina

Article VI. Mobile Food Vendors in Designated Parks

- Section 74-210(i): Removing push carts at the Hub Spot

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is estimated that the proposed fee changes will have minimal impacts to the revenue received by the City.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Chapter 74 of the Des Moines Municipal Code 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 Chapter 74, topics related to parks and recreation responsibilities can also be found in Chapter 18 – Animals, Chapter 34 – Cemeteries, Chapter 114 – Traffic and Vehicles, Chapter 130 – Waterways and others, but the proposed changes that are a part of this action are limited to Chapter 74.
- All changes to the City Municipal Code must be approved by the Des Moines City Council.
- The substantive changes proposed to Chapter 74 reflect advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department since the previous most recent update in 2023. 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 ordinance 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 Municipal Code Chapter 74 Parks and Recreation provided in their meeting packet. Substantive changes include:

Article IV. Facilities

- *Section 74-97. Lakes, ponds and lagoons: Adding lagoons, MacRae Park Boardwalk to the list of facilities from which fishing is not permitted and types of fishing allowed* – This proposed change adds lagoons to the types of water bodies this section applies to, will support the safe practice of no fishing where conflicts with other park users may occur and clarifies that permitted types of fishing include rod and reel or pole fishing. MacRae Park offers designated fishing piers in proximity to the boardwalk, so patrons will be redirected to those spaces.
- *Section 74-99. Dogs and other pets: Expanding upon the focus of this section to address limitations of dogs and include other pets where applicable* – This proposed change will support safe practices related to pets in parks, on trails and within other parks and recreation facilities for the benefit of both park patrons and these animals.
- *Section 74-103: Baseball; softball: Expanding the focus of this section from limitations to baseball to also include limitations to softball* – This proposed change will support safe practices related to limitations of the use of softballs outside of designated areas.
- *Section 74-110. Multi-use recreational trails: Updating outdated language and clarifying scope* – This proposed change updates language to cover all bike facilities in right-of-way and

limitations on skateboards, clarifies temporary closure abilities, and updates that surface markings to be included as official signage.

Article V. Fees

- Changes to existing fees are proposed for the following facilities and in most cases intend to balance increased operating expenses with revenue:
 - *Section 74-176(b): Ball diamonds and soccer fields* – This proposed change increases the Tournament Per Field Per Day fee from \$132 to \$150 and the per game fee by \$1 to help recoup a greater share of staff time and operational costs supporting the reservation. These fees remain some of the lowest in the metro area. (Please see below for new fees now included in this section.)
 - *Section 74-179: Park between Tenth and Fifteenth Streets and Grand Avenue and Locust Street a/k/a “Western Gateway Park”- Rentals* – This proposed change deletes the Chess Garden as a reservable “Item” as it has transitioned into a standard pedestrian circulation space.
 - *Section 74-181: Golf courses* – These proposed changes include: (1) modifying the weekend to include Thursday except for seniors; (2) modifying youth mentor rates to match the revised weekdays and twilight hours; (3) an increase to cart fees reflected in both the green fees that include carts and individual cart rentals; (4) green fee adjustments to be in line with desired tiers amongst the three (3) City courses; (5) shifting active military duty and senior green fee rates to match; (6) modifying four (4) of the season badge fees to be more in line with the goal of a 30% discount to play for badge holders; and (7) increasing the season cart badge fee (there is only one (1) cart left to which this applies). The changes off-set increasing operational costs and adjust the three (3) City course fees to align with metro fees and practices, but still remain overall most affordable in the metro area.
 - *Section 74-182(3): Park shelters and other park rentals* – This proposed change adjusts Martin Luther King Jr. Park Shelter hours to be more in line with the increased weekend hours desired most by renters and the available weekday hours when the Senior Meal Site no longer occupies the space.
 - *Section 74-183(a)(3): Aquatic centers, swimming pools and marina* – This proposed change increases the per hour fee in this subsection from \$175 to \$200, to cover the cost of the additional staff proposed to be included in the rental. Additional staff are needed to provide safest conditions possible when patrons rent a pool for exclusive use.
 - *Section 74-183(b): Birdland Marina* – This proposed change represents a 5% increase in double and single access moorage fees. A letter was sent to existing renters informing them of the anticipated increase and no negative feedback was received. The Birdland Marina is still by far the most affordable marina in central Iowa. (Please see below for new fees now included in this section.)
 - *Section 74-184(a) and (b): Brenton Skating Plaza* – These proposed changes include: (1) an increase in the 10-admission punch pass to adjust to a 36% discount from a 43% discount; and (2) raising the two (2) per hour exclusive use fees each by \$10 to cover increasing operational costs. (Please see below for new fees now included in this section.)

- Addition of new fees are proposed for the following facilities:
 - *Section 74-175(a): Outdoor sport courts* – This proposed change adds table tennis/ping pong to the variety of facilities that are available to reserve under this subsection.
 - *Section 74-176(c): Ball diamonds and soccer fields* – This proposed change adds fees to accommodate tournaments at the cost of \$750 per field per day and non-tournament games at the cost of \$125 per youth game and \$175 per adult game at James W. Cownie Soccer Park. These additions, along with the simplified language in the same subsection, will streamline the reservation process and tournament negotiations. The higher cost for adult games addresses the increased restoration needed following adult games versus youth games. (Please see above for modified fees in this section.)
 - *Section 74-181: Golf courses* – This proposed change adds two (2) seasonal badge options that patrons have requested at the fee anticipated to provide the targeted 30% discount. (Please see above for modified fees in this section.)
 - *Section 74-183(b): Birdland Marina* – This proposed change adds a \$20 per day fee for boats that are left past the last open day with the intent that delinquent removals are reduced and that the staff time needed to address the issue is supported. (Please see above for modified fees in this section.)

Article VI. Mobile Food Vendors in Designated Parks

- *Section 74-210(i): Mobile Food Vendors and Transient Merchants* – This proposed change removes the subsection that provided the allowance of push carts at the Hub Spot when a vendor occupied that facility so is no longer needed.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 18, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1803](#) and [23-1804](#)

Action: [Amending](#) Chapter 74 of the Municipal Code relating to Parks and Recreation. ([Council Communication No. 23-558](#)) Moved by Voss that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Second by Coleman. Motion Carried 7-0.

- (A) [Final](#) consideration of ordinance above (waiver requested by Ben Page, Parks and Recreation Director), requires six (6) votes. Moved by Voss that the rule requiring that an ordinance must be considered and voted on for passage at two (2) Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, that the ordinance be placed upon its final passage and that the ordinance do now pass, [#16,314](#). Second by Coleman. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Golf Advisory Committee

Date: October 10, 2024

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Motion by Nassif to support C-Corp's proposed fee increases and additions and support changes to the golf rules except remove collared in reference to shirt required. Second by Potter. Motion carried.

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: November 26, 2024

Resolution Number: 24-075

Action: Motion by Potter to approve Chapter 74 with an amendment to add softball to 74-103. Second by Fanter. Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

City Council consideration of the second and third readings of ordinance changes.

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