

CHAPTER 19

PARKS AND RECREATION

Sec. 19.1. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY CREATED; TITLE.

There is created hereby an administrative agency to be known as the parks and recreation commission of the City of Ames, Iowa.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75) [State Law Ref. Iowa Code Sec. 392.1]

Sec. 19.2. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS, TERM OF OFFICE.

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall consist of seven (7) persons appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. The term of office shall be three (3) years for six of the members, and one (1) of the members shall serve a special 1- year term. All terms shall run from April 1 of the year in which the appointment is made. The one year special term shall be applied to a position first becoming vacant after the date of this ordinance.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75; Ord. No. 2772, Sec. 1, 3-24-81; Ord. No. 3821, 3-08-05; Ord. No. 3944, 2-19-08)

Sec. 19.3. QUALIFICATIONS.

No one shall be a member of the parks and recreation commission who is not a resident of the City of Ames, nor shall anyone who is an employee or elected official of the City of Ames be a member. No member who has served two (2) full consecutive terms is eligible for reappointment.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75; Ord. No. 2639, Sec. 1, 2-28-78; Ord. No. 2843, Sec. 1, 2-22-83; Ord. No. 3944, 2-19-08)

Sec. 19.4. COMPENSATION.

Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for any expenditure of personal funds in furtherance of commission business in accordance with such procedures as shall be prescribed by the city finance director.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 1, 5-6-75)

Sec. 19.5. FILLING OF VACANCIES.

Vacancies shall be filled for any unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments. In the event a vacancy on the commission shall occur because of resignation, disqualification or death of any incumbent, the mayor shall appoint, subject to the approval of the city council, a person to serve out the unexpired term.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75; Ord. No. 3944, 2-19-08)

Sec. 19.6. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES.

The parks and recreation commission shall have such powers and duties as are expressed in this chapter relative to developing and overseeing the implementation of plans, policies, procedures and programs for city parks, swimming pools, and other recreational facilities and activities undertaken by or on behalf of the City of Ames.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75)

Sec. 19.7. SPECIFIC POWERS AND DUTIES.

The parks and recreation commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Rulemaking. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, the commission shall have rulemaking authority, and shall prescribe and promulgate all needed rules and regulations for use of or participation in the city parks, swimming pools, and other recreational facilities, programs and activities.

(2) Planning. Prepare, and revise at least once every five (5) years, a plan for the development and continuation of a system of city parks, pleasure grounds, swimming pools, and other recreational facilities.

(3) Gifts. May solicit, on behalf of the City of Ames, gifts of money or property for parks and recreation purposes.

(4) Rates and charges. Whenever, and only so long as there are no revenue bonds or pledge orders

outstanding which are payable therefrom, the commission shall have the power and authority to establish fees, rates and charges for the use of a city park, pleasure ground, swimming pool, or other recreational facility, or for participation in a recreational program or activity. However, the city council shall at all times retain and have power and authority to establish, impose, adjust and provide for the collection of rates and charges when such action is necessary to produce gross revenues at least sufficient to pay the expenses of operation and maintenance of a certain park, pleasure ground, swimming pool, or other recreational facility, or to pay the principal and interest of any revenue bonds and pledge orders as they come due.

(5) Joint projects. Subject to the approval of the city council, the commission may take action jointly with other public or private agencies as provided in Chapter 28E, Code of Iowa, 1977.

[State Law Ref. Iowa Code Sec. 392.4]

(6) Contracts. The commission shall have power to authorize and execute on behalf of the City of Ames, without action of the city council, contracts with public or private entities for service relative to recreational programs and activities. Such contracts shall be evidenced by a written document approved as to form by the city attorney and certified consistent with the current budget by the director of finance.

[State Law Ref. Iowa Code Sec. 392.3]

(7) Leasing to organizations. The commission shall have authority to lease, under reasonable rules and requirements, a particular park or portion thereof, as follows:

(a) For a period not in excess of ten (10) days to charitable, fraternal and patriotic organizations, for the purpose of permitting such organizations to conduct celebrations, anniversaries and entertainments.

(b) For a period not to exceed six (6) months, as the commission shall deem proper, for the purpose of permitting the playing of amateur or professional baseball or other athletic games.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75)

Sec. 19.8. DAMAGING PLANTS, PROPERTY IN PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

It is unlawful for any person to willfully cut, rake, damage, destroy or interfere with any trees, shrubs, flowers, bush or other planting, or building, structure or other facility in any public park or recreational facility. Interfering with park structures or facilities is specifically defined to include persons being on top of park shelters; placing picnic tables in water, using them as sleds, or placing them on top of shelters; and jumping or diving off pedestrian bridges.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75, Ord. No. 3459, Sec. 1, 9-9-97)

Sec. 19.9. UNLAWFUL TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE IN CITY PARK; EXCEPTIONS.

It is unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle as defined in the laws of the state in any public park or pleasure ground of the city, except upon the streets and parking lots therein which are specifically designated for motor vehicle travel.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75)

Sec. 19.10. FIREARMS PROHIBITED; EXCEPTIONS.

Except for police officers, while in the performance of duty, and as otherwise specifically authorized by the commission, it is unlawful for any person to carry or have in their possession or under their control in any public park, pleasure ground or recreational facility of the city any firearm of any kind whatsoever, BB gun, pellet gun, bow and arrow, sling shot, or any other device for shooting or throwing a projectile of any kind.

(Ord. No. 2507, Sec. 2, 5-6-75)

Sec. 19.11. PARK HOURS.

All city parks are open to the public from 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Only Parks & Recreation department employees or emergency personnel, including fire, police and utility workers, are authorized to be in the parks between the hours of 10:30 p.m. until 6:00 a.m., unless advance written permission has been obtained from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

(Ord. No. 3459, Sec. 1, 9-9-97)

Sec. 19.12. BIKE RIDING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN PARKS.

Bike riding is prohibited in Munn Woods; East River Valley Park; and in Brookside Park on the Audubon

Trail.

See also 19.14.

(Ord. No. 3439, Sec. 1, 9-9-97; Ord. No. 4359, 6-12-18)

Sec. 19.13. DOGS AT HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE.

No person shall walk a dog or dogs or in any way bring a dog onto the Homewood Golf Course while the course is open to play. The Course shall be deemed open to play when the flag poles are in the cups on the greens. This section shall not prohibit a blind person from coming onto Homewood Golf Course with the aid of the blind persons's seeing-eye dog.

(Ord. No. 3583, 9-12-00)

Sec. 19.14. PROHIBITED USE OF SKATE PARK.

(1) No person shall use or have in or on the City Skate Park any type of bicycle, scooter, coaster, unicycle, sled, vehicle or other device except for skateboards and in-line roller skates.

(2) Violation of this section shall be a municipal infraction punishable by a penalty of \$50.00 for a first offense, \$100 for a second offense, and \$200 for each subsequent offense.

(Ord. No. 3679, 8-27-02)

Sec. 19.15. Reserved.

(Ord. No. 3996, 7-14-09)

Sec. 19.16. Reserved.

(Ord. No. 3996, 7-14-09)

Sec. 19.17. Reserved.

(Ord. No. 3996, 7-14-09)

Sec. 19.18. BAIT DUMPING PROHIBITED.

No person shall dump live fish bait into the water of the lake at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

(Ord. No. 3756, 2-10-04)

Sec. 19.19. BOAT MOTORS.

Use of any boat motor other than an electric motor, is prohibited at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. No person shall have any boat motor fueled by gasoline on the premises of that park.

(Ord. No. 3756, 2-10-04)

Sec. 19.20. FISHING FROM THE BRIDGE PROHIBITED.

No person shall engage in fishing from the bridge at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

(Ord. No. 3756, 2-10-04)

Sec. 19.21. PENALTIES.

a) Violation of sections 19.8 through 19.20 shall be a municipal infraction punishable by a penalty of \$30 for a first violation; \$100 for the first repeat violation; and, \$200 for each and every subsequent repeat violation.

b) Alternatively, violations of sections 19.15 through 19.20 can be charged by a peace officer as a simple misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty days.

(Ord. No. 3756, 2-10-04)