

ITEM #: 16
DATE: 10-08-24
DEPT: P&R

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO WAIVE ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK FOR 2025 AMES TRIATHLON

BACKGROUND:

Iowa Multisport (IM) is planning to use Ada Hayden Heritage Park (AHHP) to host its annual Ames Triathlon on June 22, 2025. The event consists of a 500-meter swim in the north lake, a 12-mile bike ride that starts in the park and loops through north Ames and northwest Story County before finishing in the park, and a 5K run that uses the hard surface path in the park.

IM proposed the use of golf carts after its event in 2019 based on concerns with the inability to transport volunteers and participants for emergencies throughout the park in a safe and quick manner. City Council has approved the use of the carts to be used along the run route for the past five Ames Triathlons. IM is again requesting the use of golf carts to transport volunteers, assist participants for any emergencies along the run route, and to transport water station supplies. IM is required to provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance for the triathlon event and staff will require the golf carts be covered under IM's insurance.

Please note that IM has been made aware that replacement of the hard surface trail in AHHP may be underway at the time of the triathlon. IM has indicated it can be flexible with the route in order to not hold up the trail replacement project.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed this request at its September 17, 2024, meeting and recommended that City Council grant this waiver for the Ames Triathlon on Sunday, June 22, 2025. In addition to the golf cart request, IM requested to enter the park for set up starting at 5:00 AM on June 22, which is prior to regular park hours (6:00 AM – 10:30 PM), and to have the Commission waive the no swimming rule from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM. These two additional requests were approved by the Commission, but do not need Council approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive enforcement of Section 19.9 of Municipal Code from 5:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 22, 2025, to allow Iowa Multisport to utilize two golf carts for the Ames Triathlon at Ada Hayden Heritage Park as requested.
2. Deny IM's request and do not allow the use of motorized golf carts at the park.
3. Refer back to staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IM has hosted five triathlons at Ada Hayden Heritage Park, and all have been successful in bringing many participants from Ames and around Iowa to the park. Staff met with IM representatives multiple times leading up to the events as well as observed all activities that took place in the park and feels IM was successful in ensuring participant safety. Having the ability to utilize golf carts will assist in transporting volunteers, as well as assisting participants in emergency situations. **Therefore, it is the City Manager's recommendation to approve Alternative #1 as stated above.**