

Staff Report

**DISCUSSION ON MODIFICATIONS TO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 19:
PARKS AND RECREATION**

November 18, 2025

BACKGROUND:

At the March 11, 2025 City Council meeting, City staff presented on the topic of micromobility uses in the City of Ames. As part of that presentation, City Council referred the micromobility uses in parks to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Shortly afterwards, at the March 27, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, City staff presented on the topic of micromobility. A lengthy discussion occurred (see Attachment A), and the Commission proceeded to review Chapter 19 to see how it might address micromobility use in the parks.

Upon reviewing Chapter 19, the Commission realized there were other sections of Chapter 19 and the Park Rules that could use some updates to reflect current practices and/or to provide clarity on expectations of park use.

As such, the Commission engaged the public and sought feedback regarding Chapter 19 and the Park Rules. An in-person public input session was held on April 2, 2025 (see Attachment B) and a public survey was made available (see Attachment C). There were also additional email correspondences with community members on these topics (see Attachment D).

Having received public feedback, the Commission has proposed updates to its Park Rules (see Attachment E) and is proposing changes to Chapter 19 (see Attachment F). **Notably, as it relates to micromobility and personal transportation device uses, the Parks Commission is recommending a 10 mph speed limit on park trails and paths.** The main concerns heard involved multi-modal uses on park trails and paths, and the need to institute a speed limit for safety purposes. This will be discussed more in depth when a formal ordinance update is being considered by Council.

In addition to the micromobility issue, the City Council is being asked to consider other changes to Chapter 19, highlighted in red in Attachment F.

If the Council is supportive of considering the Commission's recommendations to modify Chapter 19 of the Municipal Code, it would be appropriate for the Council to make a motion directing the City Attorney to draft an updated ordinance for Chapter 19.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 - Direct the City Attorney's Office to draft a modified ordinance for Chapter 19.

Option 2 - Do not direct the City Attorney's Office to draft a modified ordinance for Chapter 19 **except** for any references to micromobility.

Option 3 - Do not modify Chapter 19 at this time.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff agrees with the Commission that modifications to Chapter 19 and Park Rules would be appropriate in order to reflect current practices and desired expectations as presented in Attachments E and F. Therefore, staff is recommending that the Council approve Option 1 which is to direct the City Attorney's Office to draft a modified ordinance for the Council's approval at a future date.

Please note that the responsibility of updating the Park Rules is a function of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Council need not take any action regarding Park Rules.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Attachment A: Parks Commission March 27 2025 Minutes.pdf](#)

[Attachment B: Park Policies - Public Input 4-2-25.pdf](#)

[Attachment C: Parks Policy Survey Results.pdf](#)

[Attachment D: Park Policies - Email Correspondence.pdf](#)

[Attachment E: Park Policies Draft.pdf](#)

[Attachment F: Chapter 19 - Parks and Recreation 2018-3 \(Revised - Staff Mark-up\).pdf](#)