

ORDINANCE NO. 4582

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 19.2, 19.7, 19.8, 19.10, 19.13, 19.15, 19.18, 19.19, AND 19.20, THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING CHAPTER 19 PARKS AND RECREATION TO CLARIFY EXPECTATIONS OF PARK USE, REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amended by amending Sections 19.2, 19.7, 19.8, 19.10, 19.13, 19.15, 19.18, 19.19, and 19.20, as follows:

CHAPTER 19

PARKS AND RECREATION

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall consist of seven (7) people 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 one-year term. All terms shall run from April 1 of the year in which the appointment is made.

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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, greenways, 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) Fees 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 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 fees 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, greenway, 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.

(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 services related to recreational programs and activities. Such contracts shall be evidenced by a written document approved as to form by the city attorney.

(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, for activities as the commission shall deem proper.

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

(1) 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 amenity in any public park or recreational facility.

(2) Foraging edible plants, fruits and nuts is allowed within the park system.

(3) Utilizing any structure, equipment, or facility for any purpose or in any manner other than for its intended use is prohibited.

Sec. 19.10. WEAPONS PROHIBITED.

It is unlawful for any person to carry or have in their possession or under their control in any public park, greenway or recreational facility and/or space of the city any BB gun, pellet gun, bow and arrow, sling shot, or any other device for shooting or throwing a projectile of any kind.

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 approval has been obtained from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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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 officially documented service animals from coming onto Homewood Golf Course.

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Sec. 19.15. SWIMMING PROHIBITED.

No person shall swim in any lake or pond on City-owned property.

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Sec. 19.18. BAIT DUMPING PROHIBITED.

No person shall dump live fish bait into the water of any lake, pond, river, or stream on City owned property.

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. Exception for emergency watercraft as approved in advance by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Sec. 19.20. FISHING FROM THE BRIDGES PROHIBITED.

No person shall engage in fishing from any bridge within the park system

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Section Two. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall constitute a municipal infraction punishable as set out by law.

Section Three. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.

Section Four. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this 13 day of January, 2026.

Taylor Swan

John A. Haila
John A. Haila, Mayor

First Reading: 12-9-2025

Second Reading: 12-16-2025

Third Reading: 1-13-2026

Passed on: 1-13-2026

I, Renee Hall, City Clerk of the City of Ames, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. 4582, passed by the City Council of said City at the meeting held on January 13, 2026 and signed by the Mayor on January 13, 2026, and published in the Ames Tribune on January 20, 2026.

Renee Hall
Renee Hall, City Clerk