



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager’s Office  
**COPY:** Community Vitality and Safety Committee; Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services  
**PRESENTER:** Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager’s Office  
**SUBJECT:** Park Code Amendments  
**DATE:** August 22, 2019

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
Request for Ordinance

**SUMMARY:**  
The presentation scheduled for the August 22, 2019 meeting of the Community Vitality and Safety Committee will outline several proposed amendments to Tacoma Municipal Code Title 8, Public Safety, pertaining to the Park Code.

**BACKGROUND:**  
City staff, including Tacoma Police Department, have worked collaboratively with staff from the Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma to review Tacoma Municipal Code Title, 8, Public Safety, pertaining to the Park Code and have developed recommendations for updates to the Code. The Park Code was last updated nearly 10 years ago and staff have since determined that amendments are necessary to respond to current and emerging public safety issues in Tacoma’s parks.

The Board of Commissioners for the Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma has reviewed the proposed Code changes and a Resolution recommending that the City Council adopt to the proposed Code changes is scheduled to appear on the September 9, 2019, Commission meeting agenda.

**ISSUE:**  
City of Tacoma and Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma staff recommend updates to the Tacoma Municipal Code Title, 8 Public Safety, pertaining to the Park Code, to respond to current and emerging issues that impact patrons of the parks system in Tacoma. Many of the revisions address minor “housekeeping” items- e.g. aligning penalties for violation with State law, clarifying definitions or updating references. A summary of the substantive Park Code revisions being proposed include:

- Clarifies current prohibition of smoking in parks to be inclusive of the use of e-cigarettes, vapor products or other nicotine-containing substances.
- Adds drones, “sky lanterns,” unmanned aircraft systems and motorized models as prohibited equipment except as specifically authorized.
- Aligns electric scooters, e-bikes, mono-wheel devices, surreys, scooters and similar devices with existing rules for bicycles and skateboards- restricting them to designated roads, sidewalks, paths or trails.
- Defines vehicles to include personal transportation devices that are motorized.



- Clarifies continuous moorage in a park as three non-consecutive or consecutive overnight periods within a 10 day period.
- Limits permissible “structures” in parks to only those specifically authorized or are temporary that have only a roof and no walls.
- Authorizes the park district to adopt a code of conduct that regulates activities or behavior in parks to protect the public’s health and safety, to promote respect for the rights and needs of others, and to preserve park property.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Community Vitality and Safety Committee could choose not to forward the requested Park Code amendments on to the full City Council for consideration, thereby not addressing current public safety issues in the Tacoma Municipal Code, which would impede Tacoma Police Department and Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma authority to manage those issues.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City of Tacoma and Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma staff recommend updates to the Tacoma Municipal Code Title, 8 Public Safety, pertaining to the Park Code, to respond to current and emerging issues that impact patrons of the parks system in Tacoma.