



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Parks and Recreation Division

King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5702
Seattle, WA 98104
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks>

State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance

Date of Issue: June 28, 2023

Name of Proposal: Ordinance to Amend King County Code Governing Park Rules (Title 7)
(the “Park Rules Ordinance”)

Location of Proposal: This is a non-project action that would apply to all King County-owned parks, trails, and open spaces, totaling almost 30,300 acres in fee.

Description of Proposal: This non-project action would amend Title 7 of King County Code governing the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks. This legislation will improve park users experience by clarifying guidelines and rules for use of parks, trails and open spaces and by ensuring appropriate uses of park assets. It also supports the 2015 King County Strategic Plan (<https://kingcounty.gov/strategicplan>) goals by supporting safe communities and encouraging a growing King County economy and sustainable communities by safeguarding and enhancing King County’s natural resources and environment.

The proposed revisions to the Park Rules include:

- Changes to include a process for notice of suspension, to provide a fair process to suspend or ban users from any park or facility owned by King County Parks for illegal use or behavior.
- Changes to accommodate new and emerging technologies in parks and regional trails, including the ability to allow electric bikes on the regional trails system.
- Changes to allow for the director to adopt public rules for the following items:
 - Establishing the circumstances for which fee waivers or scholarships are available and the process for granting the waivers or scholarships;
 - Establishing the operating hours of regional trails outside of the existing hours of operation currently permitted by Title 7 for other parks facilities;
 - Permitting the use of motor vehicles on trails under specified conditions;
 - Permitting the use of electric-assisted bicycles and other micromobility devices on trails under specified conditions.
- Changes to update code to modern legal language to reflect how people use the parks and trails, including infractions and misdemeanors; Park uses addressed in these updates include camping, motor vehicles, marine areas, fishing, pet animals, park areas accessible to the public, littering, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, disruptive or destructive behavior, aircrafts, and fireworks.

- Changes to reorganize pet-related code into a new section and to reduce the maximum required pet leash length in parks from fifteen feet to eight feet.

This legislation does not change the requirement to complete a project specific SEPA analysis for future projects in King County owned parks, trails and open spaces.

Proponent/Lead Agency: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Parks and Recreation Division

Responsible Official: Warren Jimenez
Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division

Address: 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5702
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

DATE: 6/23/2023 | 8:38 AM PDT
SIGNATURE:  A1498C6DA09E46F...

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. This determination was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency as set forth in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-330 and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030. This information is available to the public on request (for a nominal photocopying fee). It is also available on the King County website at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks/publicnotices>

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal until after July 19, 2023. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by 4:30 PM on July 19, 2023. To provide comments or request additional information please contact:

Heidi Kandathil, Project Manager
King County Parks and Recreation Division
201 South Jackson Street, Room 5702
Seattle, WA 98104
206-477-7372 (SEPA)
KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov

For email comments, please use the email address noted above and put “Parks Rules Ordinance” in the Subject line.