

Ordinance No. 2024-

**An Ordinance amending sections 1135.010 and 1135.020 of the
Minnetonka City Code; relating to animals within city parks**

The City of Minnetonka Ordains:

Section 1. Section 1135.010, subdivision 3 of the Minnetonka City Code, relating to definitions for park regulations, is amended to read as follows:

3. “Park” or “parkPark facility” means any area owned or operated by the city of Minnetonka as a public park, beach, recreational trail, athletic field, skating rink, or other outdoor recreational facility, and includes parking lots located adjacent to or within public parks.

Section 2. Section 1135.010 of the Minnetonka City Code, relating to definitions for park regulations, is amended by adding a new subdivision 4 as follows and by renumbering subsequent subdivisions accordingly:

4. “Recreational trail” includes both primary and informal trails. Primary trails are formal trails built with either asphalt or gravel and actively maintained by the city. Informal trails are earthen foot paths created by use over time rather than having been purposefully constructed by the city.

Section 3. Section 1135.020, subdivision 1 of the Minnetonka City Code, relating to animals in city parks, is amended to read as follows:

1. Except as allowed in this subdivision, a person may not transport any animal to or be accompanied by any animal at any park.

a. Domestic animals are not allowed on athletic fields, beaches or swimming areas. Domestic animals are allowed in other in the following park areas only, subject to the restrictions in this subdivision.:

~~—(1) improved trails;~~

~~—(2) maintained turf areas other than athletic fields;~~

~~—(3) unimproved and unmaintained areas; and~~

~~—(4) parking lots as necessary to transport the animal to and from the park areas specified above.~~

The stricken language is deleted; the underlined language is inserted.

b. At all times while present in the park, a domestic animal must be accompanied by a competent person in the immediate vicinity of the animal, who is responsible for the animal and for compliance with this section 1135.

c. ~~When on improved trails, maintained turf areas other than athletic fields, or parking lots, Except as provided in subdivision 1(d) of this section 1135.020,~~ domestic animals must be either kept in a secure container from which the animal cannot escape or must be effectively restrained by ~~kept on~~ a leash no longer than six feet in length; a retractable leash not exceeding 20 feet in length may be used to restrain a dog, provided that the leash must be shortened to six feet whenever another person or animal is within 20 feet. Tethering animals is not permitted.

d. ~~Unless otherwise signed, dogs~~ Dogs are allowed to ~~may~~ be off-leash only within areas of a park that are designated as off-leash areas ~~unimproved and unmaintained, either by signage or by fencing,~~ provided the following conditions are met:

- (1) the person responsible for the dog must maintain sight of the dog at all times;
- (2) the maximum number of dogs that any person may accompany off-leash at any time is two;
- (3) the person must comply with all rules posted at the designated off-leash area ~~able to demonstrate that the dog will respond to the person's voice command on the first command given.~~

e. No person may allow a domestic animal under his or her responsibility to engage in conduct tending reasonably to ~~disturb, harass, or interfere with~~ any park visitor, ~~a park visitor's property~~ or a park employee. No person may allow a domestic animal under his or her responsibility to harass any park visitor or park employee or interfere with a park visitor's property.

f. A person ~~who accompanies a~~ may not have custody or control of any domestic animal in a park must at all times have in their possession without possessing an appropriate device for cleaning up the animal's feces and must clean up and dispose ~~disposing~~ of the animal's feces in a sanitary manner.

g. Paragraphs a. and b. above do not apply to service animals as defined by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, or to law enforcement animals.

Section 4. A violation of this ordinance is subject to the penalties and provisions of Chapter XIII of the city code.

Section 5. This ordinance is effective April 1, 2025.

Adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on

Brad Wiersum, Mayor

Attest:

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

Action on this Ordinance:

Date of introduction:

Date of adoption:

Motion for adoption:

Seconded by:

Voted in favor of:

Voted against:

Abstained:

Absent:

Ordinance adopted.

Date of publication:

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on

Becky Koosman, City Clerk