

# Proposals for Alcohol Policy Change in City of Madison Parks

## Goals

- Focus on a system that promotes public safety and can be effectively regulated
- Ensure the policy can be easily understood by park users
- Emphasize equity
- Uphold the enjoyment of parks by all users

## Current ordinances and policies that would not change under any proposal

*8.24 - ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL AND CONTAINER CONTROL ON CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY. (2) Open Container.*

No person may possess an open can, bottle, cup, flask, glass or other container which contains any alcohol beverages **in any parking lot of a park** operated by the City of Madison. Appropriate signs shall be erected at the entrances to the park parking lots indicating this regulation.

*8.24 - ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL AND CONTAINER CONTROL ON CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY. (3) Glass Container.*

No person may possess any cup, glass, flask, bottle or other container **made of glass or other shatterable material** designed or used for holding a beverage in City of Madison parks. Appropriate signs shall be erected at the entrances to parks indicating this regulation. The Common Council may, by resolution, waive the prohibition against containers made of glass or other shatterable material designed or used for holding a beverage, for special events in designated parks where the use of such containers is indigenous to the event. (Am. by Ord. 10081, 9-5-90)

*8.24 - ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL AND CONTAINER CONTROL ON CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY. (4) Penalty.*

Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than thirty dollars (\$30) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200) for the first offense; not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200) for the second

offense within one year of the date of the first offense; not less than seventy-five dollars (\$75) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200) for the third offense within one year of the date of the first offense; and not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200) for fourth and subsequent offenses within one year of the date of the first offense.

#### *City of Madison Parks Behavioral Policy*

The [City of Madison Parks Behavioral Policy](#) as approved by the Board of Park Commissioners. This policy gives Park Rangers the ability to ban individuals from entering the park for a set period of time due to rule violations.

*Alcohol remains prohibited in already established carve-outs, such as Conservation Parks, the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Skate Park, the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Pool, and splash pads.*

*Current temporary alcohol ban procedures would remain in place. The Superintendent has the authority to temporarily ban alcohol from a park for up to 60 days.*

## Scenario 1 - Allow alcohol in all parks, immediately remove “alcohol disallowed” parks from MGO.

1. Parks that have been added to the list of City properties that do not allow alcohol would in [MGO 8.24](#) would be removed with this resolution as of December 31, 2026.
  - a. Non-park City properties would remain (City County Building, MMB)
  - b. Outside of Breese Stevens Field walls would remain on the list
2. By ordinance, personal consumption of alcohol [while following all other laws and ordinances] is allowed in all parks, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Conservation Parks
  - b. Goodman Pool
  - c. Goodman Skate Park
  - d. Splash parks, fenced areas(s) surrounding a splash park, and areas within 20
  - e. feet of the splash park surface.
  - f. Playgrounds and areas within 20 feet of a playground surface
3. Permitting requirements shift to those of current alcohol-allowed parks
  - a. Shelter Reservations: No permit is needed to serve alcohol with or without a shelter reservation.
  - b. Event Permits: For Park Events that require a permit

- i. No additional permit fees to serve alcohol
  - ii. Temp B Picnic License required for serving or selling
  - iii. Permit is required when selling alcohol
    - 1. Selling alcohol: \$700 beer/wine Permit Required
  - iv. MPD staffing may be required for serving or selling
- 4. Update authority of Park Rangers to cite for disorderly conduct, as defined under MGO 24.02, on park land.
- 5. Add Parks Division employee to MGO 24.02 definitions of disorderly conduct.
- 6. Prohibit the “interference of conducting duties as a Parks employee” to disorderly conduct definition.

## Scenario 2 - Allow alcohol in parks with certain parks excepted

- 1. Parks that have been added to the list of City properties that do not allow alcohol in [MGO 8.24](#) would be removed with this resolution.
  - a. Non-park City properties would remain (City County Building, MMB)
  - b. Outside of Breese Stevens Field walls would remain on the list
  - c. All parks on the list of parks identified in MGO 8.24 that were added to the banned parks prior to December 31, 2015, will be removed.
  - d. The new process for adding a permanent alcohol bans to a park would be:
    - i. Receive recommendation from the Board of Park Commissioners to permanently ban alcohol from a given park.
      - 1. Review all neighborhood resident input on the issue;
      - 2. Obtain Alderperson support for the rule;
      - 3. Obtain Madison Police Department support for the rule;
      - 4. Review the issue with Park Ranger staff and discuss options;
      - 5. Contact any known user group that could be impacted by the rule.
    - ii. After considering the above issues, the BPC will make a recommendation to permanently ban alcohol from a given park and submit that recommendation to Common Council for adoption as part of the MGO.
- 2. Permitting requirements shift to those of current alcohol-allowed parks
  - a. No permit is needed to serve alcohol with or without a shelter reservation.
  - b. For Park events that require a permit
    - i. No additional permit fees to serve alcohol
    - ii. Selling alcohol: \$700 beer/wine permit only

- iii. Temp B Picnic License required for serving or selling
  - iv. MPD staffing may be required for serving or selling
- 3. Update authority of Park Rangers to cite for disorderly conduct, as defined under MGO 24.02, on park land.
- 4. Add Parks Division employee to MGO 24.02 definitions of disorderly conduct.
- 5. Prohibit the interference of conducting duties as a Parks employee to disorderly conduct definition.

## Scenario 3 – Prohibit Alcohol in All Parks unless permitted

- 1. Alcohol would be prohibited in all parks unless permitted via shelter reservation, event permit, contract, or except with the prior approval of the Parks Division or the Parks Superintendent.
- 2. Permission to consume or serve alcohol would be permitted with the shelter reservation at no additional cost.
- 3. If a Park Event permit is required for the event, the following would apply:
  - a. serving only: \$55 beer/wine permit
  - b. selling alcohol: \$55 beer/wine permit + \$700 beer selling permit
  - c. Temp B Picnic License required for serving or selling
  - d. MPD staffing required for serving or selling
- 4. Update authority of Park Rangers to cite for disorderly conduct, as defined under MGO 24.02, on park land.
- 5. Add Parks Division employee to MGO 24.02 definitions of disorderly conduct.
- 6. Prohibit the interference of conducting duties as a Parks employee to disorderly conduct definition.