

# Washington County, Minnesota Ordinances

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## Ordinance No. 220

### An Ordinance Establishing a County Park Commission, Setting Forth Their Membership and Terms of Office, and Other Related Matters.

Date Approved:

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### The Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Minnesota Hereby Ordains:

#### Section 1. Title.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 398.36, a County Park Commission is hereby established and shall be known as the Washington County Park and Open Space Commission.

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#### Section 2. Membership and Terms of Office.

Term of Office for service on the Washington County Park and Open Space Commission for each member of the Commission shall be for a period of three (3) years from the first day of the year of their appointment, unless otherwise stated, and until their successor is duly appointed and qualified. The Commission shall consist of thirteen (13) members; one (1) County Commissioner and twelve (12) appointed from Washington County.

A. The Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners shall appoint at the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners in each calendar year a County Commissioner to serve on the Washington County Park and Open Space Commission for a period of one (1) year, but they may succeed themselves on the Commission. County Board Commissioners will serve as contact members without voting privileges.

B. There shall be two (2) appointees from each Commissioner District and two (2) at large positions with the appointments being made by the Board of County Commissioners.

**Section 3 . Administration.**

The Washington County Public Works Department shall serve as the staff advisors to the Park and Open Space Commission.

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**Section 4. Duties and Functions.**

The duties and functions of the Washington County Park and Open Space Commission shall be as follows:

- A. Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, including participation in training, to cultivate a park system that is available and accessible to all.
- B. Coordinate the County Park Program by actively collaborating with federal agencies, state departments, county authorities, the Metropolitan Council, and local government entities. This coordination aims to develop and enhance park facilities to the highest possible standards, ensuring seamless communication and strategic planning. The goal is to align efforts across all levels of government to prevent overlapping initiatives and to make the most efficient use of resources
- C. Identify, preserve, and protect open spaces such as ponding areas, critical resource areas, wildlife habitat, and natural vegetation communities that are essential to ecological systems of the County Park and Open Space System.
- D. Promote the acquisition and development of County park land to sustain a well-balanced County Park System adequate to satisfy outdoor recreational needs.
- E. Review the operations and promote uniform identification, facilities, and services as appropriate in the County Parks.
- F. Review and make recommendations associated with Washington County voter approved referendums regarding land acquisition and conservation easements for the preservation of water quality, woodlands, and other natural areas to the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Assist in and review the preparation of the County Park Budget.
- G. Review and provide input on policies, capital improvement programs, park development projects, and long-range planning efforts.
- H. Conduct periodic reviews of the County Park and Open Space facilities and involve federal, regional, county, local officials, and concerned citizens as appropriate.
- I. Protect the environmental quality of the Park and Open Space System.

**Section 5. Application of Washington County Policy #6006.**

- A. Washington County Policy #6006 shall apply to this Ordinance. In the event of conflicting provisions within this Ordinance and Washington County Policy #6006, this Ordinance shall control.

**Section 8. Effective Date.**

- A. This ordinance is effective May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



