

Tuesday, March 10, 2026
5:00 p.m.

Tomahawk City Hall
23 N 2nd Street

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

JEFF KAHLE
CHAIRPERSON
TERM EXP 2027

MICKEY LOKA
TERM EXP 2026

STEVE BARTZ
TERM EXP 2027

MELISSA NIEMAN
TERM EXP 2028

DAN SCHULLER
TERM EXP 2028

JUSTIN LUND
TERM EXP 2026

JIM DAENICKE
TERM EXP 2027

The Committee meeting will be held both in person and virtually. If you are attending remotely, you can do so by either of the following ways:

US Toll Free

1-888-475-4499

Access Code:

903 385 0484

Password: 54487

-OR-

Via a smart device or computer:

www.zoom.com

AGENDA

- A. **Call to Order**
- B. **Public Comments** (During this item on the agenda the Committee listens to oral comments from members of the public on non-agenda items. When speaking please state your name and limit your time to five minutes.)
- C. **Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**
 - 1. February 10, 2026 (page 2)
- D. **Other Business**
 - 1. An ordinance to regulate wake enhancement on Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk (Wakesurfing) (page 3)
 - 2. Bradley Park Boat Landing – Bathroom Facility
 - 3. Bradley Park Building Maintenance
- E. **Park Leadsperson Report**
- F. **Set Time and Date of Next Meeting**
 - 1. April 14, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- G. **Adjournment**

Any additions to this agenda will be added to the original posted at City Hall. Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format must contact the Clerk-Treasurer at City Hall, 453-4040, at least three days prior to the meeting so any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request.

1 **Park and Recreations Committee**
2 **City of Tomahawk, City Council Chambers**
3 **23 N 2nd St, Tomahawk, WI 54487**
4 **February 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**
5

6 **Call to Order:** Jeff Kahle called the Park and Recreations Committee to order at 5:00 p.m.
7

8 **Roll Call:** Committee members present were Jeff Kahle, Mickey Loka, Steve “Ding” Bartz, Jim
9 Daenicke and Jusin Lund. Absent was Dan Schuller and Melissa Nieman.

10 Also present was Clerk/Treasurer Amanda L. Bartz, Ken Sorensen, Jalen Maki with Tomahawk
11 Leader (virtual), Jeff Koth, and Michael “Hob” Habeck.
12

13
14 **Public comments:** There were no public comments.
15

16 **Minutes:** Mickey LOKA MOVED to approve the meeting minutes from January 13, 2026 and LUND
17 seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.
18

19 **Other Business**

20 An ordinance to regulate wake enhancement on Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk
21 (Wakesurfing)
22

23 BARTZ referred to Section 66-2 and the established water ski area. He suggested wording in the
24 proposed ordinance that “excludes the operation in 66-2”. Discussion followed regarding the
25 exclusion.
26

27 Mickey LOKA MOVED to add “The operations allowed under Section 66-2 of the Municipal Code” to
28 Section 66-93(3) as subsection f. BARTZ seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.
29

30 BARTZ MOVED to approve the ordinance as amended and to send to the Council for consideration
31 and LUND seconded. The VOTE was 4-1 with Mickey LOKA opposed.
32

33 **Park Leadsperson Report:** There was no report from the Parks Leadsperson.
34

35 **Next meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Park and Recreations Committee is scheduled for
36 March 10, 2026 at City Hall, Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m.
37

38 **Adjourn:** Mickey LOKA MOVED to adjourn the meeting of Park and Recreations Committee and
39 seconded. The VOTE was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

**CITY OF TOMAHAWK
ORDINANCE 2026-**

**An ordinance of the City of Tomahawk to amend the Municipal Code, Chapter 66 Park and Recreations
by adding Article V. Artificial Wake Enhancement**

**An ordinance to regulate wake enhancement on Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk and
prescribing penalties for violations thereof.**

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health, safety, and/or welfare, including the public's interest in preserving natural resources, the City of Tomahawk ("City") has the authority to enact ordinances covering waters within its jurisdiction if the ordinances are not contrary to or inconsistent with Chapter 30, Wis. Stats., and they relate to the equipment, use, or operation of boats or to any activity regulated by Sections. 30.60 to 30.71, Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, Lake Mohawksin is a lake with shoreline in Tomahawk; and

WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can cause environmental damage to lakes and lakeshore, including resuspension of sediment adding nutrients to the water and increased risk of algal blooms, turbidity, shoreline erosion, and threats to aquatic life and waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, boats with ballast systems increase the likelihood of aquatic invasive species being introduced and spread on lakes; and

WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can damage shoreline, lake bottom, moored boats, and shoreline structures including docks; and

WHEREAS, operating boats in a stern down manner creates downward prop wash, disturbing the lake bottom far below the wave zone, more than 25 feet below the surface; and
WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can endanger swimmers, anglers, and other watercraft;
and

WHEREAS, the use of ballast and wake enhancing fins can cause unsafe operation by causing the bow to rise obscuring vision forward; and

WHEREAS, the City submitted a draft of this ordinance to the Wisconsin DNR for advisory review at least 60 days prior to passage, pursuant to 30.77(3)(d), Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council, after considering public comments and any DNR suggestions, determines that adopting this Ordinance is consistent with all other ordinances of the City and would promote the public health, safety and welfare, including the public's interest in preserving natural resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Common Council of the City of Tomahawk, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

CITY OF TOMAHAWK

ORDINANCE 2026-

Section 66-92. Applicability and Enforcement.

1. The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the water of Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk.
2. This Chapter shall be enforced by the Officers of the City of Tomahawk or individuals appointed by the City and/or Lincoln County Sheriff's department as requested along with any and all other State and County officers authorized by law to enforce the same.

Section 66-93. Prohibited Operation.

1. Prohibited Equipment. No person may use or employ ballast tanks, ballast bags or fins to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner, or which increases or enhances a boat's wake.
2. Prohibited Operation. No person may operate a boat in an artificially bow-high manner having the effect of increasing the boat's wake. Such prohibited operation shall include wake enhancement by use of ballast tanks, or ballast bags or fins, or continuous operation at transition speed (the speed below planing speed in which a boat is operating in plowing mode). For the purpose of this provision, "continuous operation" shall mean operation that is not acceleration for the purpose of achieving a state of planing."
3. Certain Operations Excluded. In no event shall any of the following operations be deemed a violation of this Ordinance, provided such operations do not use or employ ballast tanks, ballast bags or wake enhancing fins:
 - a. water skiing,
 - b. tubing,
 - c. wake boarding employing a tow rope;
 - d. brief transition operation to empty a boat of bilge water, or
 - e. brief transition operation of a boat accelerating into a planing condition.
 - f. The operation as allowed by Section 66-2 Water Ski Area

Section 66-98. Penalties.

1. Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in Wis. Stats. § 30.80 and deposits as established by the Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule established by the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, are hereby adopted by reference and all references to fines amended to forfeitures and all references to imprisonment deleted.
2. To the extent that the penalty for any violation of this Ordinance is not provided under Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in s. 30.80, Wis. Stats., any person violating this Ordinance shall forfeit \$500 for the first offense and shall forfeit \$1000 for the second and subsequent offenses within one year. Deposits established in the WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT FEE, FORFEITURE, FINE AND SURCHARGE TABLES shall also apply to any violation.

Section 66-99. Severability.

Severability. Should any portion of this Ordinance or the affected Code Section(s) be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected.

**CITY OF TOMAHAWK
ORDINANCE 2026-**

Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon the date on which the City of Tomahawk and the Town of Bradley have both enacted ordinances, being substantively identical as regards sections 66-92 through 66-99 above.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

PASSED and APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Moved: _____

Mayor Steve Taskay

Second: _____

Passed: _____

Clerk-Treasurer Amanda L. Bartz

From: Tom J Koth <lincolnappraisals@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:38 AM
To: Bartz, Steve <sbartz@packagingcorp.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: RE: Wake Enhanced Boating

Please share - Thanks; Tom Koth

I am perplexed by the consideration of passing an ordinance ban on wake- enhanced boating on Lake Mohawksin / Wisconsin River without any due diligence and at the caution of the city of Tomahawk's attorney.

First of all, there isn't a problem. Per FOLM (Friends of Lake Mohawksin) there are maybe ~4 wake boats which presently operate on Lake Mohawksin / Wisconsin River, with probably only 1 having stock ballast capability. Wake surfing which appears to be a major target associated with wake-enhanced boats is a seasonal, slow speed family entertainment which is typically engaged in for short periods of time with caution given to surrounding boat traffic activity, water depths, and DNR regulations.

Contrary to some wake-enhanced boating opponents, common sense and logic dictates that Lake Mohawksin / Wisconsin River will never be a primary destination for wake-enhanced boating.

For starters, one big problem is that typically, people cannot differentiate between a ballast wake-enhanced boat and a ski boat with a tower. They just assume a ski boat with a tower is a wake boat. Following along that point, people can wake surf behind many types of boats, not just wake boats, especially if they just legally load their boat with people.

Wake enhanced boats have been manufactured since the early 1990s, but for some reason now, they are being selectively and aggressively attacked by ant-wake-enhanced boating people and coalitions. What's next?

It must be understood, without going into details, wake-enhanced boats significantly vary regarding size, ballast capacity, and wake shaping capabilities, and should not and cannot be categorized all inclusive.

As mentioned previously, the one known wake boat with stock ballast capability has a capacity of ~1000 pounds but yet can legally occupy 13 people with a weight capacity of ~2600 pounds. So logically where is the concern. The other known wake boats on Lake Mohawksin / Wisconsin River do not have stock ballast capabilities but do have some other wake enhancement capabilities and wake shapers.

I had the experience of sitting through the scare tactic propaganda presentation by the likes of the Last Wilderness Alliance which has addressed the FOLM group, the town of Bradley, and numerous others. The presentation was full of misinformation, fallacies, assumptions, and exaggerations, with only selected studies presented. Requiring your necessary due diligence, it is strongly recommended that everyone needs to visit and thoroughly read the Wisconsin Watersports Coalition site which addresses concerns including shoreline erosion, algae bloom, the spreading of invasive species, aquatic life, waterfowl, and numerous other concerns. None of these concerns are exclusive to wake-enhanced boating activity.

It was noted the Kwahamot Ski Show area would be carved out or exempt from any wake-enhanced boat ordinance in that they use ballast wake enhanced boats in their shows. Not true. The Kwahamot ski team does not have or use any ballast wake-enhanced boats designed for wake generation but do have wake shapers primarily used to minimize the boat wakes. Even so, the show does generate significant water conditions. If so, would the exemption apply to anyone who wants to operate a wake enhanced boat in that area?

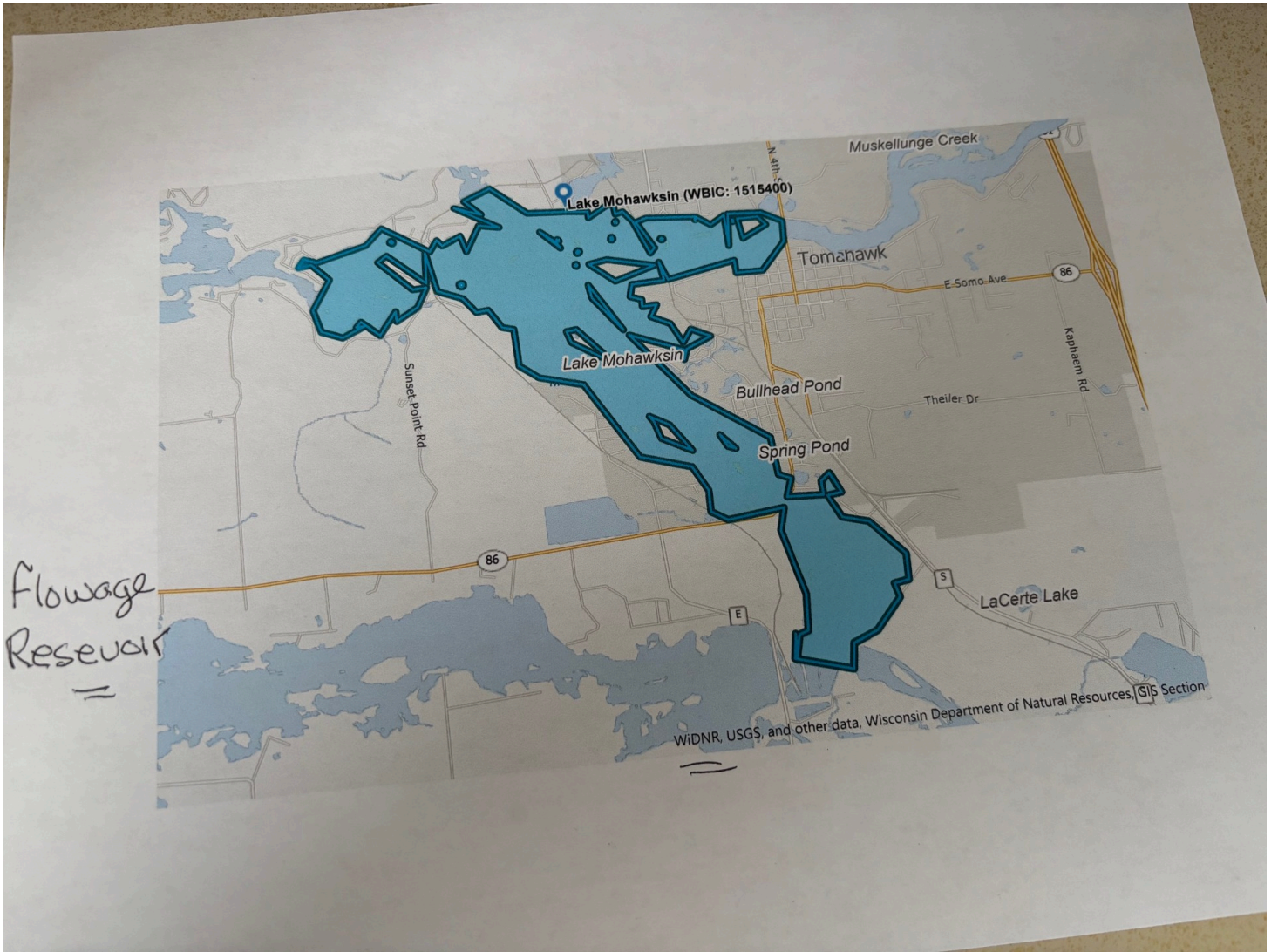
Enforcement! As of right now, legal enforcement of any such ordinance is extremely limited, controversial, and suspect with at least five law cases pending. Lake districts and lake associations have no authority to pass an enforceable ordinance. The state of Wisconsin, Lincoln County, the WI DNR, the city of Tomahawk, and the town of Bradley have no enforcement authority outside of existing regulations which apply to all boating. Volunteer citizen enforcement is extremely discouraged. There were 2 bills (Bill #2025-1024; Bill # AB 1003) introduced in the Wisconsin legislature in February but it appears neither will be advanced in the senate. Consequently, they are dead in the water.

Remember when the snowmobile industry was in it's infancy. There were people and groups deeply set against snowmobiles. Good thing we didn't listen to them.

Attached is a DNR map which delineates Lake Mohawksin. It needs to be understood, by definition, Lake Mohawksin is a reservoir / flowage and the Wisconsin River is a river.

Concerned Citizen;

Tom Koth



TOMAHAWK MUNICIPAL CODE

Chapter 66

Parks and Recreation*

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***Cross References** – Any ordinance regarding the naming and changing of names of public grounds and parks saved from repeal, § 1-10(19); Environment, Chapter 30; Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, Chapter 82; Parks Board for Street Trees, § 82-153.

Article I. In General

Section 66-1. Boat Docking Regulations.

- (a) *Piers and Docks.* No person shall store nor moor any boat nor float device on or attached to any city public pier between 2:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. except under permit issued by the park and recreation board.
- (b) *Public Landings.* No person shall moor nor dock a boat nor other float device on or within 25 feet of a city public landing except at a city pier provided for that purpose covered under subsection (a) of this section.
- (c) *Penalty.* The fine for a violation of this section shall be \$10.00. Fines not paid within ten days shall be \$20.00. Each day shall be a separate violation.

(Ordinance Number 1998-5, § 9.21, 5-5-1998)

Section 66-2. Establishment of Water Ski Area

- (1) *Intent.*
 - (a) The intent of this ordinance is to continue to provide safe and healthful conditions for the enjoyment of aquatic recreation consistent with public rights and interests and the capability of water resources.
- (2) *Applicability and Enforcement.*
 - (a) This ordinance shall apply to the waters of the Wisconsin River commonly known as “Kwahamot Bay” and set out more fully in 4(a) below.
 - (b) The city of Tomahawk police department shall enforce this chapter.
- (3) *Skate Boating and Safety Laws Adopted.*
 - (a) State boating laws as found in Section 30-50 and 30-71 are adopted by reference.
- (4) *Water Ski Shows and Practices Authorized; Setup; Descriptions.* The Kwahamot Water Ski Club, Inc., is authorized to conduct shows and practices on the Wisconsin River in the areas designated as follows:
 - (a) *Water Ski Shows:* The club is granted exclusive use to conduct water ski shows on the Wisconsin River between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M., on those days designated from time to time by the city council, which days shall be available for inspection at the city clerk’s office during any open hours.
 - (b) The show area shall be that portion of the Wisconsin River described as follows;
 - (1) Beginning at the point where the East line of Lot 2 of Deer Park Addition intersects the North shoreline of the Wisconsin River; thence running South on the extension of this East line to a point 180 feet North of the South shoreline; thence running Westerly and parallel with the South shoreline to the Easterly edge of the Veterans Memorial Bridge; thence North along this line to the North shore of the river; thence East along the shore to the point of beginning, all being in S 34, T35N R6E.

TOMAHAWK MUNICIPAL CODE

(5) *Setup Area; Nonexclusive.*

(a) In addition, on show days, the ski club is granted a nonexclusive setup and exhibition area for water ski shows on the following portion of the Wisconsin River:

(1) That area of the Wisconsin River lying between the East line of the above described show area and the extension of the North line of Lot 2 of the Sunset Boulevard First Addition to the city of Tomahawk, all being in S 34, T35N R6E.

(6) *Practice Area.*

(a) The ski club is authorized to conduct practices in the show area daily from sunrise until sunset.

(7) *Placement of Buoys.*

(a) Under the authority granted in NR 5.09(7) (d), Wisconsin Administrative Code, the council further authorizes the club to place water ski buoys in the designated area between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

(8) *Exclusive Use of the Water Ski Area.*

(a) The permittee shall be granted exclusive use of the show location described above during the authorized hours of the water ski show. This section does not apply in the case of an emergency or to the water patrol or to rescue craft.

(9) *Water Ski Pickup and Drop Zone.*

(a) Water ski pickup and drop zones are established within 100 feet of the club piers located on the North shore adjacent to the club ski chalet. The water ski pickup and drop zone is in effect whenever buoys marking this zone are in place.

(10) *Penalties.*

(a) The council hereby adopts by reference the Wisconsin State boating penalties found in Wisconsin Statute Section 30.80.

(11) *Severability.*

(a) The provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed severable and it is expressly declared that the common council would have passed the other provisions of this ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid. If any provisions of this ordinance or the application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected.

Section 66-3. Park Regulations.

(1) Purpose. In order to protect parks, parkways, recreational facilities, and conservancy areas within the City for injury, damages, or desecration, these regulations are enacted.

(2) Definitions. The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

(a) Park means and includes all grounds, structures, and watercourses which are or may be located within any area dedicated to the public use as a park, pathway, recreation facility or conservancy district in the City.

TOMAHAWK MUNICIPAL CODE

- (3) Specific regulations.
- (a) *Littering prohibited.* No person shall litter, dump or deposit any rubbish, refuse, earth or other material in any park or public waters, except in containers provided for that purpose. Where receptacles are not provided, all such litter shall be removed from the park by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere in a lawful manner. It shall be unlawful for any person to dump or deposit any rubbish, refuse, earth or other material in any park containers provided for rubbish, refuse or garbage disposal, unless generated by the usage of the public park.
 - (b) *Sound devices.* No person shall operate or play any amplifying system, unless specific authority is first obtained from the parks and recreation commission. Vulgar, boisterous behavior, overly loud music and loudspeakers which tend to interfere with the enjoyment of the park by others shall not be permitted.
 - (c) *Pets.* No person shall permit any dog, cat or other pet owned by him to run at large in any park, excluding the Dog Park. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas and children's playgrounds.
 - (d) *Removal of park equipment.* No person shall remove benches, seats, tables or other park equipment from any park.
 - (e) *Trapping.* No person shall trap in any park, unless specific written authority is first obtained from the common council.
 - (f) *Making of fires.* No person shall start, tend or maintain a fire, except in personal grills or designated fireplaces. Personal grills shall be used only in designated picnic areas. The use of personal grills is permitted; provided lawns and vegetation are not endangered. Unburned fuel and ashes shall be disposed of in such a manner as to prevent fire or damage to any park property.
 - (g) *Motorized vehicles.* Except for authorized maintenance vehicles, no person shall operate an unlicensed or licensed motorized vehicle outside of areas specifically designated as parking areas or areas where the operation of such vehicles is specifically permitted. Motor vehicles are restricted to the roads and drives and parking areas. No motor vehicles of any nature may be used in the seeded areas, except vehicles which have parks and recreation committee authorization for shows, rides or exhibits and then only for the purpose of loading and unloading. No person shall operate any off-the-road vehicle, motorcycle, trail bike, all-terrain vehicle, truck or other motorized vehicle in any park, playground or other public ground where pathways or trails have been developed and/or designated for walking, hiking, jogging, running, bicycling, cross-country skiing, sledding or other pedestrian use. All motorized vehicles are limited to use of roadways specifically for their use and according to other restrictions in this Code.
 - (h) *Fish cleaning.* Cleaning of fish in shelters, toilet facilities or picnic areas is prohibited in all city parks.
 - (i) *Camping.* Overnight camping is not permitted in any city park, except by prior written permission from the parks and recreation commission.
 - (j) *Commercial enterprise.* No person shall sell, or offer for sale, any article, thing, privilege or service in any park without a valid vendor permit from the Health and Safety Committee and Common Council.
 - (k) *Posted regulations.* In addition to the regulations herein contained and provided, the parks and recreation commission may post, from time-to-time, specific rules and regulations; and such specific rules and regulations shall be incorporated by reference in to this chapter as fully as set forth herein.

TOMAHAWK MUNICIPAL CODE

Section 66-4. Park Operation.

- (1) Closing Hours. All grounds and facilities in the city parks shall be open between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily with the exception that boat landing may be used for loading or unloading boats at any time and designated camping areas.
- (2) Exceptions.
 - (a) Individuals who are attending or participating in city-authorized community celebrations or events. However, all such individuals exempted by this subsection shall be out of the park within one-half hour of the end or closing of the celebration or the event for that evening.
 - (b) Individuals or groups who have received permission *from* the Park and Recreation Committee or Common Council for any special group activity.
 - (c) Individuals who are law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, city employees or city officials who are in the course of their duties.

Authority for closure and dates of operation. The Common Council will have full authority to open and close any park, swim area, recreational facility, or area because of season, condition, construction or when, in the interest of public safety, it is deemed necessary.

(Ordinance Number 2025-02)

Sections 66-5 – 66-30. Reserved.

Article II. Park-Recreation Committee*

Section 66-31. Membership.

The park-recreation committee shall consist of seven members appointed by the mayor subject to confirmation by the common council. Three members of this committee shall be alderpersons. The others shall be citizens of the city at large. All members shall serve for three years with one being appointed each year on a rotation basis. An alderperson who is a member shall only serve as long as he or she remains on the council. When an alderperson ceases to be such, another one shall be appointed from the council to serve the remaining time left on that three-year term. This committee shall elect its own officers provided an alderperson is chairperson, and shall have the powers and duties as may be delegated to it by the common council from time to time.

(Ordinance Number 1991-4, § 1.04(5), 3-5-1991)

Sections 66-32 – 66-60. Reserved.

Article III. Bradley Park

Section 66-61. Curfew.

All grounds and facilities in Bradley Park will be closed each day between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., unless a specific request is made to the city clerk's office and permission is granted.

(Code 1989, § 9.151)

Sections 66-62 – 66-90. Reserved.

*Cross Reference – Boards, Commissions and Committees, § 2-191 et seq.

Article IV. City Boat Launching Fees

Section 66-91. City Boat Launching Fee.

(a) *Boat Launching Fee Required.*

- (1) No person shall launch a watercraft at a boat landing owned or operated by the city without first paying a daily or annual launch fee to the city of Tomahawk and displaying a permit on the launching vehicle. A “watercraft” shall include all watercraft used or capable of being used as means of transportation in water.

(b) *Boat Launching Fees.*

- (1) Daily and annual launch fees shall be set by city council resolution as recommended by the parks and recreation committee.

(c) *Payment of Fee and Display of Permit/Sticker.* A daily launch permit or an annual launch sticker may be purchased.

- (1) *Daily Fee.* Upon payment of a daily launch fee to the clerk-treasurer, the receipt from the payment envelope shall be displayed on the dash of the vehicle on the driver’s side.
- (2) *Annual Fee.* Upon payment of the annual launch fee to the clerk-treasurer, a sticker shall be issued. The sticker must be permanently affixed to the tongue of the trailer at the base of the winch post on the driver’s side of the vehicle or on the lower corner of windshield of the vehicle on the driver’s side.

(d) *Fees Collected.*

- (1) All fees collected shall be placed in a non-lapsing fund to be used for the purpose of maintaining landing facilities.

(e) *Exceptions.*

- (1) Kwahamot Water Ski Club watercraft is exempt from this article of the code.

(f) *Enforcement.*

- (1) All qualified city law enforcement officials are authorized in the name of the city to make arrests or issue citations for prosecution for violations occurring under this section, as well as personnel from the parks department and any person designated as a boat launch fee collector.

(g) *Penalty.*

- (1) A person who shall violate any provision of this section shall be subject to the penalty provided in Section 1-14 of this code. The owner of a vehicle involved in a violation of this section shall be liable for the violation. It shall be no defense to a violation of this section that the owner was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation.