



AGENDA

**City Council Work Session
Monday, July 22, 2024
Mankato Room
(following the Regular Meeting at 6 p.m.)**

1. Discuss Electric-Assist Bicycles (ebikes)
2. Review and Discuss Parking Ramp Access Control Equipment
3. Buscher Park Engagement Results
4. Adjournment



AGENDA RECOMMENDATION

City Council Work Session

1.

Meeting Date: 07/22/2024

Agenda Item:

Discuss Electric-Assist Bicycles (ebikes)

Recommendation/Action(s):

Discussion/Direction.

Summary:

In the past several weeks, the Council has received feedback from a few residents regarding E-bikes. Some of the requests included creating an ordinance to regulate speed, location, and behavior of bicyclists. Staff is interested in a discussion among the Council about how to address the situation. In consideration of this, there are a number of items to take into consideration. They include:

- Per MN State Statute, electric-assist bicycles are treated in essentially the same manner as "regular" bicycles. They can operate wherever a bicycle can. This includes operating on sidewalks.
- State Statute prohibits the riding of all bicycles (electric-assist or not) on sidewalks in the Central Business District of any city. Police are exempted from this prohibition.
- Mankato City Code Section 6.17, Subd. 2, J, has language that prevents bicycles from being operated in a careless manner.
- State Statute and City Code Section 7.05 allow for the City Manager to designate any sidewalk, or portion thereof, as an area where bicycle riding is prohibited. Any designated area must be appropriately signposted.
- City Code Section 6.17, Subd. 2, I, prohibits operation, parking or having a motorized vehicle on the bike trail right-of-way. In this same section, the definition of vehicle is "any wheeled conveyance, whether motor-powered, animal-drawn, or self-propelled. The term shall include any trailer in tow of any size, kind or description. Exceptions are made for wheelchairs, baby carriages, non-motorized bicycles, non-motorized tricycles, trailers attached to a non-motorized bicycle and vehicles in the service of the city.
- State Statute puts the responsibility for the safe operation of a bicycle on the bicycle operator. For example, they must yield the right of way to pedestrians and give an audible signal when overtaking and passing them.
- State Statute does not regulate the speed of bicycles on sidewalks or trails. Bicycles on the roadway must follow speed limits that apply to other motor vehicles.
- Depending on the class of the electric-assist bicycle, they must cease to provide assistance when they reach 20 or 28 miles per hour.

Staff are interested in hearing how the Council wishes to tackle the matter.

- If the city decides to regulate electric-assist bicycles, enforcement would likely still be a challenge unless officers witness the conduct and are able to stop the bicycle immediately. Because electric-assist bicycles can move quickly and do not have a unique identification number (a license plate), they would likely be gone upon an officer's arrival.
- The department's traffic safety officer has initiated ongoing conversations with biking and pedestrian advocacy groups. During these meetings, the groups' concerns, along with the officer's concerns about safety, are addressed.
- Educational campaigns are likely to be the most effective way to address the issues. Public safety can educate bicyclists through continued meetings with advocacy groups, bicycle repair businesses and stores that sell bicycles.

Attachments

Trail Guide

City Code re Bikes

Dockless Electric Scooters

Greater Mankato Suggested Biking and Hiking Trail Guide



Sec. 6.17. Prohibited Conduct on Bike Trails Generally.

Subd. 1. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

- A. "City" is the City of Mankato.
- B. "Bike trail" is the right-of-way for a recreational trail as such right-of-way is depicted on the City's bike trail map prepared by the City Engineer, a copy of which shall be filed with the City Clerk and serve as the official bike trail map as amended from time to time.
- C. "Person" is any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
- D. "Vehicle" is any wheeled conveyance, whether motor-powered, animal-drawn, or self-propelled. The term shall include any trailer in tow of any size, kind or description. Exception is made for wheelchairs, baby carriages, non-motorized bicycles, non-motorized tricycles, trailers attached to a non-motorized bicycle and vehicles in the service of the City.
- E. "Careless" means to operate a bicycle or tricycle heedlessly in disregard of the safety of the operator or others.
- F. "Intoxicating beverage" means ethyl alcohol distilled, fermented, spirituous, vinous and malt beverages.
- G. "Beer" is any malt liquor containing not more than seven (7) percent alcohol by weight.

Subd. 2. Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person on a bike trail right-of-way to:

- A. Mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with or displace or remove any buildings, bridges, tables, benches, railings, pavings or paving materials, water lines or other public utilities or parts or appurtenances thereof, signs, notices or placards, whether temporary or permanent, monuments, stakes, posts, or other boundary markers, or other structures or equipment, facilities or City property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal.
- B. Dig or remove any soil, rock, sand, stones, trees, shrubs or plants or other wood or materials, or make any excavation by tool, equipment, blasting or other means of agency.
- C. Damage, cut, carve, mark, transplant or remove any plant, or injure the bark, or pick flowers or seed of any tree or plant, dig in or otherwise disturb grass areas, or in any other way injure the natural beauty or usefulness of any area.
- D. Attach any rope or cable or other contrivance to any tree, fence, railing, bridge, bench, or other structure.
- E. Bring or possess any glass beverage container.
- F. Cause or permit to run loose any animal.
- G. Bring or have a horse, donkey, mule or pony in the bike trail.
- H. Offer items for sale, barter, or donation on any bike trail.
- I. Operate, park or have a motorized vehicle on the bike trail right-of-way.
- J. Ride a bicycle or tricycle in a careless manner.

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- K. Bring or have in his/her possession any revolver, pistol, rifle, shotgun, BB gun, air gun, spring gun, slingshot, bow, or other weapon in which the propelling force is gunpowder, a spring or air. This prohibition shall not apply to licensed peace officers.
 - L. Kindle, build, maintain or use a fire.
 - M. Possess or consume any intoxicating beverages, other than beer.
 - N. Possess beer in containers larger than one liter.
 - O. Camp, pitch a tent or stay overnight.
 - P. These prohibitions in A, B, C, D, I, and L shall not apply to maintenance, repair, construction and emergency activities performed by the City or its contractors.

(Ord. of 9-23-85)

Sec. 7.04. Bicycle Lanes.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Pursuant to the authority granted to the City by the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 160.263, the following are hereby designated and established as bicycle lanes, as defined in such Section 160.263, for the exclusive use of bicycles or other vehicles propelled by human power.

- A. Ellis Avenue Southbound. A lane, being four (4) feet in width and located adjacent to the westerly curb of Ellis Avenue, commencing at the southwesterly corner of the intersection of Ellis Avenue and Birchwood Avenue, and terminating at the northwesterly corner of the intersection of Ellis Avenue and Maywood Avenue, which lane shall be used exclusively by bicycles and other vehicles propelled by human power traveling in a southerly direction.
- B. Ellis Avenue Northbound. A lane, being four (4) feet in width and located adjacent to the easterly curb of Ellis Avenue, commencing at the northeasterly corner of the intersection of Ellis Avenue and Maywood Avenue, and terminating at the southwesterly corner of the intersection of Ellis Avenue and Birchwood Avenue, which lane shall be used exclusively by bicycles and other vehicles propelled by human power traveling in a northerly direction.
- C. Maywood Avenue Westbound. A lane, being four (4) feet in width and located adjacent to the northerly curb of Maywood Avenue, commencing at the northwesterly corner of the intersection of Dillon Avenue and Maywood Avenue, and terminating at the northeasterly corner of the intersection of Maywood Avenue and Ellis Avenue, which lane shall be used exclusively by bicycles and other vehicles propelled by human power traveling in a westerly direction.
- D. Maywood Avenue Eastbound. A lane, being four (4) feet in width and located adjacent to the southerly curb of Maywood Avenue, commencing at the southeasterly corner of the intersection of Maywood Avenue and Ellis Avenue, and terminating at the southwesterly corner of the intersection of Maywood Avenue and Warren Street, which lane shall be used exclusively by bicycles and other vehicles propelled by human power traveling in an easterly direction.
- E. Stadium Road Westbound. A lane, being four (4) feet in width and located adjacent to the northerly curb of Stadium Road, commencing at the northwesterly corner of the intersection of Stadium Road and Monks Avenue, and terminating at the northwesterly corner of the intersection of Stadium Road and Warren Street, which lane shall be used exclusively by bicycles and other vehicles propelled by human power traveling in a westerly direction.
- F. Stadium Road Eastbound. A lane, being four (4) feet in width and located adjacent to the southerly curb of Stadium Road, commencing at the southeasterly corner of the intersection of Stadium Road and Warren Street, and terminating at the southwesterly corner of the intersection of Stadium Road

and Monks Avenue, which lane shall be used exclusively by bicycles and other vehicles propelled by human power traveling in an easterly direction.

Subd. 2. Operation of Motor Vehicle Prohibited. It is unlawful for any person to operate, drive, park or leave standing any motor vehicle in or upon any of the bicycle lanes designated or established in this section.

Subd. 3. Direction of Travel. It is unlawful for any person to operate, drive or propel any bicycle or other vehicle propelled by human power in or upon any bicycle lane designated in this section, in any direction other than that direction permitted and described in subdivision 1 of this section.

(Ord. of 3-26-79)

Sec. 7.05. Bicycles on Sidewalk.

The City Manager may designate any sidewalk or portion of a sidewalk as an area where bicycle riding is prohibited and shall cause any sidewalk so designated to be appropriately signposted. It is unlawful for any person to ride a bicycle upon any sidewalk so designated.

(Ord. of 11-8-76)

Sec. 14.02. Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

- A. City is the City of Mankato.
- B. Park is a park, reservation, playground, beach, recreation center or any other area in the City, owned or used by the City, and devoted to active or passive recreation.
- C. Person is any persons, firm partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
- D. Vehicle is any wheeled conveyance, whether motor powered, animal-drawn, or self-propelled. The term shall include any trailer in tow of any size, kind of description. Exception is made for wheelchairs, baby carriages and vehicles in the service of the City parks.
- E. Animal is any cat, dog, horse, fowl, and living creature.
- F. Careless means to operate a vehicle or bicycle, rollerblades or skate boards heedlessly in disregard to the safety of the operator or others.
- G. Intoxicating beverage means ethyl alcohol distilled, fermented spirituous, vinous and malt beverages.
- H. Beer is any malt liquor containing not more than seven (7) percent alcohol by weight.
- I. Wine is not to exceed fourteen (14%) alcohol by volume.
- J. Director shall mean the Director of Public Works or his/her designee.
- K. Applicant shall mean any person or organization seeking a permit to use or conduct an activity in a park or recreational area.
- L. Permit shall mean any written license issued by or under the authority of the Director or City Council permitting a use, event, or activity in the park system.
- M. Organized sports shall mean the playing of games or practice by athletic teams.

(Ord. of 4-27-81; Ord. of 4-14-2008)

Sec. 14.04. Prohibited Conduct Regarding Vehicles.

It shall be unlawful for any person in a public park or recreation area to:

Subd. 1. Drive any vehicle on any area except the paved park roads or parking areas, of such areas as may on occasion be specifically designated as temporary areas.

Subd. 2. Park a vehicle anywhere except on a designated parking area.

Subd. 3. Leave a vehicle standing or parked in established parking areas or elsewhere in the park and recreation areas during hours when the park and recreation area is closed. Exceptions: Park and Ride lot at Kiwanis Recreation Area and by fishing permit in Sibley, LOM, Kiwanis Park and Riverfront Park.

Subd. 4. Leave a bicycle in a place other than a bicycle rack when such is provided and there is space available.

Subd. 5. Ride a bicycle in a careless manner.

Subd. 6. Leave a bicycle lying on the ground or paving, or in any place or position where other persons may trip over or be injured by it.

Subd. 7. Wash, wax, or paint any vehicle.

Subd. 8. Use any park areas, including parking places, for the repairing or cleaning of any vehicle, except in an emergency.

Subd. 9. Cause or permit a vehicle in tow of another vehicle to enter the parks or proceed therein, except in case of a breakdown a disabled vehicle may be towed to the nearest exit; or operate or drive a vehicle containing any person or object projecting or hanging outside of or beyond the side of the rear thereof, except that boat, canoe and camping trailers shall be allowed in Sibley Park, Land of Memories, Kiwanis Park and Riverfront Park and may be parked in the areas designated by the Director. Nothing herein shall prevent the Director from allowing the use of trailers in connection with an activity for which a permit has been granted.

Subd. 10. Operate, park or bring in a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.

Subd. 11. Cause or allow a vehicle's tires to make a squealing noise upon acceleration or operation of the vehicle.

Subd. 12. As driver or operator of a motor vehicle or as the registered owner of a motor vehicle to park, stop or leave standing, or cause, allow or permit to be parked, stopped or left standing, whether knowingly or unknowingly, any such motor vehicle at Highland Park in any given place in the Highland Park parking lots for a period in excess of two (2) hours between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays during the period September 1 through May 31 of each year.

(Ord. of 10-14-85)

Sec. 6.19. Dockless Electric Scooters.

Subd. 1. Application for Dockless Electric Scooter Operating Permit. It shall be an offense for SATS to place Dockless Electric Scooters in the City's right-of-way, or other City approved property, without a Dockless Electric Scooter Operating Permit obtained from the City Clerk. If no permit has been obtained, then any Dockless Electric Scooter placed on city property, including in the city's right-of-way, violates this Chapter, may be impounded, and may be deemed a nuisance.

A. **Permit Requirements.** To obtain a permit the applicant must:

1. Be licensed as a postsecondary institution of higher education by the Office of Higher Education and have a campus within the City of Mankato.
2. Have executed a contract with a SATS and be able to supply the City Clerk with proof of said contract with the SATS at the time of submission of the permit application.
3. Apply for an annual Dockless Electric Scooter Operating permit on a form provided by the City and include all associated fees.
4. Attach to the Dockless Electric Scooter permit application, a summary of the following:
 - (a) A description of how complaints of improperly parked or abandoned Dockless Electric Scooters will be handled;
 - (b) A description of how the applicant or its contracted SATS will respond to notification of safety or operation concerns of Dockless Electric Scooters;
 - (c) A maintenance plan for the Dockless Electric Scooters if not addressed by the agreement between applicant and SATS attached to the permit; and
 - (d) A description of the customer education and outreach plan for proper use of Dockless Electric Scooters.

B. **Expiration of Dockless Electric Scooter Operating Permit.** All permits shall expire on December 31 of each year and are renewable subject to the same standards of review as for the initial permit.

C. **Permit Denial and Revocation.** The City may determine that a Dockless Electric Scooter Operating Permit should be denied, revoked, or renewal denied for the reasons set forth below. The City shall provide written notice of the denial or revocation of a permit or renewal to the applicant detailing the reason for the denial or revocation of the permit, and a statement informing the applicant of its right to appeal the denial or revocation of its permit through the appeal process set forth in Chapter 19.

1. **Denial of Permit or Renewal.** The application shall be denied, and no permit shall be issued, if the City finds that:
 - (a) Any statement made in the application is incomplete, inaccurate, misleading, or false.
 - (b) The applicant has not complied with this Chapter or has had a history of noncompliance with the provisions of this Chapter.
 - (c) The applicant no longer meets the application criteria for a permit under this Section.
2. **Revocation of Permit.** The City may revoke a permit due to the applicant's failure to comply with permit requirements, this Chapter, or any applicable federal, state, or local law or regulation. Permits may also be revoked for one (1) or more of the following reasons:
 - (a) Poor customer response or service by the SATS.
 - (b) Non-compliance with Geo-fencing zone and the approved operating areas defined herein.
 - (c) Applicant no longer meets the criteria for a permit under this Section.

- (d) The use of or manner of parking of Dockless Electric Scooters pose an unreasonable risk to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.
 - (e) Nonpayment of monies owed to the City in accordance with this Code and the permit.
- D. **Transfer.** No permit issued pursuant to this chapter shall be transferable to another person, firm, or corporation.

Subd. 2. Equipment and Dockless Electric Scooters.

- A. Dockless Electric Scooters must meet state and federal requirements.
- B. Each Dockless Electric Scooter must be well maintained pursuant to a maintenance plan submitted with the Application or in the SATS agreement attached to the Permit and be in good, safe riding condition.
- C. Each Dockless Electric Scooter allowed by permit under this Chapter must be equipped with active locating system technology capable of location within ten (10) feet.
- D. Permittees and any contracting SATS shall not deploy a Dockless Electric Scooter that is inoperable or unsafe to operate.
- E. Permittees either independently or through its contracting SATS shall remove inoperable Dockless Electric Scooters within twenty-four (24) hours of notice of the location of any inoperable Dockless Electric Scooter.
- F. Each Dockless Electric Scooter must include contact information for the SATS and the local agent, if different.

Subd. 3. Permit Fees. Annual permit fees for each SATS permit shall be established by resolution of the City Council and shall not be prorated or refundable.

Subd. 4. Operating Regulations, Parking and Deployment.

- A. The City identifies the operating area and the speed restriction for that or those areas with the assistance of applicant and the applicant's contracted SATS. Dockless Electric Scooters are not allowed in any area outside of the Operating Area.
- B. The permittee shall ensure SATS mobile app and website, as well as its own website, will include the following information about Dockless Electric Scooters:
 - 1. How and where to park a Dockless Electric Scooter in the manner required by this Chapter. Dockless Electric Scooters shall be upright when parked.
 - 2. Requirements that persons meet the minimum age requirements as an operator.
 - 3. Persons operating a Dockless Electric Scooter must follow applicable traffic laws.
 - 4. Motorized foot scooters are prohibited on City sidewalks.
- C. If requested by the City, photographic verification that Dockless Electric Scooters were or are parked in accordance with this Chapter shall be provided.
- D. The permittee, either independently or through its contracted SATS or the local agent, shall remove or re-park every one (1) of its Dockless Electric Scooters that is parked in violation of the permit or the City Code and in accordance with the following:
 - 1. Between 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, not including legal holidays, the permittee shall remove or re-park within two (2) hours of receiving notice from any person via mobile or other web application or phone number.
 - 2. During all other times, the permittee shall remove or re-park within twelve (12) hours of receiving notice from any person via mobile or other web application or phone number.

- E. The permittee, either independently or through its contracted SATS, shall provide the City with the name of its local agent and that person's contact information, so that the City can order a rebalancing. The City has the right to determine specific locations for rebalancing Dockless Electric Scooters, as well as times when the Dockless Electric Scooters must be removed from operating areas.
- F. The permittee shall provide a twenty-four (24) hour phone number for customers and the City to report safety concerns and complaints, and to ask questions.
- G. Dockless Electric Scooters may not be parked in a manner that would impede normal and reasonable pedestrian access on a sidewalk or in any manner that would reduce the minimum clear width of a sidewalk to less than forty-eight (48) inches.
- H. Dockless Electric Scooters may not be parked in a manner that would impede vehicular traffic on a street or alley.
- I. Dockless Electric Scooters may not be parked in a manner that would impose a threat to public safety or security.
- J. Dockless Electric Scooters may not be secured, attached, or connected to a bicycle rack, or any other immovable object on the right-of-way, unless the object is located in the right-of-way for purposes of docking Dockless Electric Scooters.

Subd. 5. Impounding Authorized.

- A. A Dockless Electric Scooter may be immediately impounded by any police officer or duly authorized City employee because:
 - 1. The Dockless Electric Scooter was found improperly attached in violation of this Chapter.
 - 2. The Dockless Electric Scooter was found unattended and blocking traffic or public infrastructure, interfering with maintenance of the right-of-way or parkland, or otherwise compromising public safety.
 - 3. The Dockless Electric Scooter is part of an unauthorized shared transportation system.
 - 4. The Dockless Electric Scooter is in violation of one (1) or more of the terms of this Chapter.
- B. Not more than seventy-two (72) hours after impounding a Dockless Electric Scooter, the City shall provide notice to permittee and, if contact information available, the permittee's contracted SATS. If the Dockless Electric Scooter is redeemed prior to the notice, or if the City is unable to identify the permittee, then notice need not be sent. Saturdays, Sundays, and City holidays are to be excluded from the calculation of the seventy-two (72) hour period.
- C. All Dockless Electric Scooters impounded under this section are subject to an impound fee sufficient to offset the City's costs of enforcement and storage for each such Dockless Electric Scooter.
- D. Any Dockless Electric Scooter coming into the possession of the City and remaining unclaimed for a period of at least sixty (60) days may be sold at public auction or sale following reasonable notice.
- E. Each permittee shall compensate the City for the costs incurred by the City in removing and storing its Dockless Electric Scooters that have been improperly parked or rebalanced, including under the circumstances where a permittee fails to remove its Dockless Electric Scooters in violation of its permit or in case its permit is terminated or otherwise not in effect.

Subd. 6. Change in Operating Area, Limited Speed, and Restrictions of Use. City of Mankato staff may change the operating area, limited speed, or other area restrictions at any time. If any changes are made to the operating area, speed or other restriction, the City will notify any and all Permittees under this Chapter, and the changes must be reflected with the software associated with operation of the Dockless Electric Scooters within five (5) working days.

Subd. 7. Weather Related Expectations. Each permittee, either independently or through its contracted SATS, shall remove and secure its entire fleet of Dockless Electric Scooters from operating areas for all time periods for which the National Weather Service or its successor agency forecasts:

- A. Sustained winds of forty (40) mph or higher for one (1) hour or more.
- B. Wind gusts of fifty-eight (58) mph or higher for any duration.
- C. Accumulating snow fall over one (1) inch.

Subd. 8. Insurance/Indemnification Requirements

- A. At all times during the life of a permit granted under this Chapter, a permittee shall maintain insurance in effect and provide proof of such insurance. Permittee shall have and shall require any SATS vendor it contracts with to have commercial general liability insurance of at least per occurrence for bodily injury, damages, and/or death per occurrence; one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) per occurrence for property damage; and two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) annual aggregate.
- B. Permittee shall provide proof of insurance that it has and, if applicable, its contracted SATS vendor has Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance of at least two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) each accident, "Combined Single Limit" for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Owned, Non-Owned and Hired auto coverage, as applicable.
- C. Every permittee shall defend and indemnify the City from and against all claims and liabilities that arise from the acts and omissions of the permittee, their agents, and/or contracted SATS, and its customers in device operating areas, to the extent the acts and omissions relate to the operation of Dockless Electric Scooters.
- D. Each permittee shall be responsible for the costs of repair to public property damaged by its customers' use of its Dockless Electric Scooters.

Subd. 9. Data Sharing and Reporting

- A. A permittee shall cooperate with the City in the collection and analysis of aggregated data concerning its operations and understands that the data is subject to the requirements of Chapter 13 of the Minnesota Statutes.
- B. A permittee shall provide, upon request, a report to the City that includes:
 - 1. Total number of rides for the previous month.
 - 2. Total number of vehicles in service for the previous month.
 - 3. Number of rides per vehicle per day.
 - 4. Anonymized aggregated data taken from the Dockless Electric Scooters in the form of heat maps showing routes, trends, origins, and destinations.
 - 5. Anonymized trip data taken from the Dockless Electric Scooters that includes the origin and destination, trip duration, and date and time of trip.

(Ord. No. O-2023-0626-1, 6-26-2023)



AGENDA RECOMMENDATION

City Council Work Session

2.

Meeting Date: 07/22/2024

Agenda Item:

Review and Discuss Parking Ramp Access Control Equipment

Recommendation/Action(s):

Discussion/Direction.

Summary:

Staff have been working with Walker Consultants over the last several years to identify a replacement plan for the existing parking access control equipment currently utilized by the Downtown Parking Special Service District. Access control is currently located within four (4) of the existing parking structures, including the Civic Center Ramp, Mankato Place Ramp, City Center Ramp, and Second Street Ramp. The equipment ranges in age from 9 to 13 years and is at or has exceeded its useful life.

Given the introduction of new parking control technology since the previous replacement, staff determined that a review of available technology would be the appropriate course of action rather than a simple replacement with like equipment. With the help of Walker Consultants, staff reviewed multiple different management approaches in addition to the different technological solutions. Two (2) options were developed based on site visits to Sioux Falls, SD and La Crosse, WI. These locations have similar parking demands and customer bases as Mankato, including transient parkers, contract or reserved stall parking, validated customer parking, and hotel parking.

Walker Consultants will be presenting their findings along with a recommendation. Staff is requesting council feedback prior to moving forward with the formal feasibility report consideration which is anticipated in September.

Attachments

Walker Consultants Presentation



WALKER
CONSULTANTS

City of Mankato

Parking Access and Revenue Control

City Council Working Session
July 22, 2024

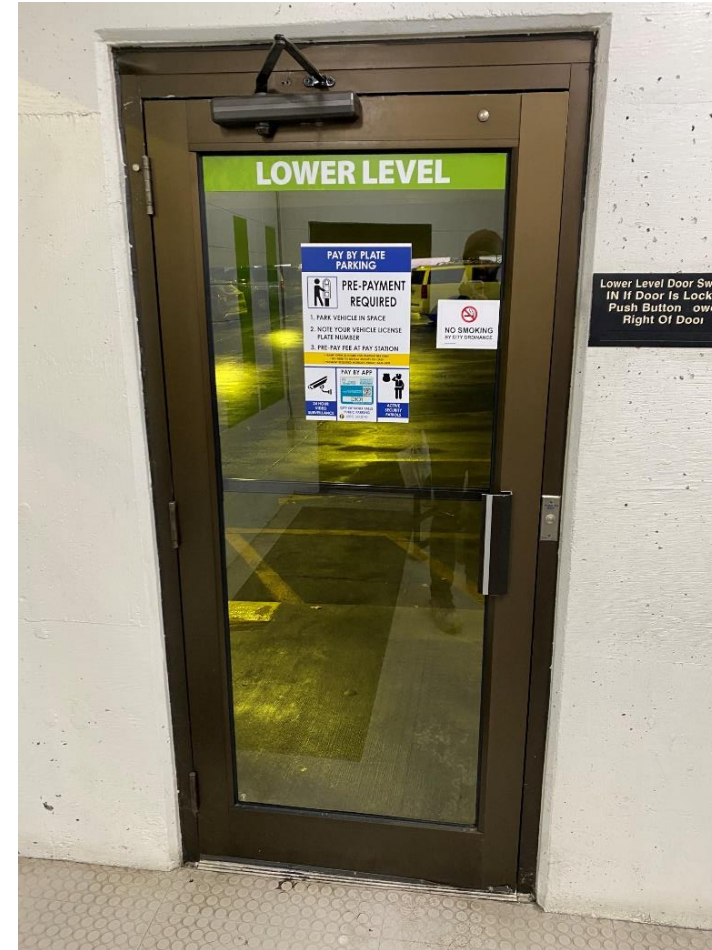
AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Work to Date
3. How it Works
4. Staff Recommendations



WORK TO DATE

- Walker & City produced:
 - Conceptual review of functional options for City staff: gated and gateless.
 - Magnitude of cost estimates of the two options
 - Field observations of gateless systems:
 - Sioux Falls, SD (gateless)
 - La Crosse, WI (gateless)



Photos from our tour of the gateless facilities in Sioux Falls, SD.

HOW GATELESS SYSTEMS WORK FOR EACH USER TYPE

- Staying less than two hours?
 - Park in any unreserved stall.
 - No tickets, gates, or payments.
 - License Plate Recognition (LPR) Enforcement vehicle will note first encounter vs. second encounter is < 2 hours.
- Transient Parker (> 2 hours)
 - Pay at the pay station (or possibly a phone app) entering your license plate as an identifier.
 - If you have a validation coupon, use it to pay for or discount your parking. Validations can be online, or a barcode on either paper or an email/text.
 - Hotel guests may use a validation for parking access during their stay.
 - If no payment is made, enforcement vehicle will note first encounter vs. second encounter is > 2 hours and issue a parking citation (ticket).
 - Note that any citation has a final check where the Parking Enforcement Officer visually inspects both photos double-checking that no error has been made and that it's the same vehicle, in the same parking stall, with no payment.
- Contract / Permit Parker
 - Register one or more license plates for ID purposes.
 - Park anywhere that's not reserved for someone else, or in your own reserved stall if your agreement provides one.
 - (But only allowed to park one car at a time per contract!)
 - Enforcement vehicle will on each occasion note that the license plate is a contract user and take no further action.

CITY STAFF & WALKER GATELESS FIELD INVESTIGATIONS



10-YEAR COST COMPARISON: GATED VS GATELESS

Category	Year 1	Annually After Year 1
Gated PARCS		
Capital expense	\$640,000	\$0.00
Operating expense	\$37,000	\$52,000
Total	\$677,000	\$52,000
Gateless Approach		
Capital expense	\$100,000	\$0.00
Operating expense	\$72,000	\$72,000
Total	\$172,000	\$72,000

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Gated	\$677K	\$729K	\$781K	\$833K	\$885K	\$937K	\$989K	\$1,041K	\$1,093K	\$1,145K + capex \$640K = \$1,785K
Gateless	\$172K	\$244K	\$316K	\$388K	\$460K	\$532K	\$604K	\$676K	\$748K	\$820K + capex \$100K = \$920K

STAFF CONSIDERATIONS & RECOMMENDATION

1. Gateless system are likely to be more cost effective in both the capital purchase and ongoing operational expenses.
2. Not having gates & tickets will be easier for parking patrons and allow staff to increase the level of customer service to the public.
3. Systems with fewer moving parts are likely to result in fewer breakdowns.
4. Existing rate structure with first two hours free and low daily rates is conducive to a gateless environment.
5. Patrons have up to two hours to obtain and apply a validation from a merchant.
6. Staff and Walker Consultants observed similar cities and interviewed their parking leaders who were eager to discuss their successes with gateless operation.
7. These considerations lead City staff and Walker to jointly concur on a recommendation to move to gateless parking.



AGENDA RECOMMENDATION

City Council Work Session

3.

Meeting Date: 07/22/2024

Agenda Item:

Buscher Park Engagement Results

Recommendation/Action(s):

Direction.

Summary:

This is a summary of the public engagement for an additional F.A. Buscher Park play equipment feature. Engagement was targeted at City of Mankato community members who live around the Buscher Park area/ visited the park often. Input was gathered through an online survey and an in-person open house where residents could place their vote.

Project Background

F.A. Buscher Park's playground equipment is set to be replaced in 2024, and City staff discovered there was space for an additional feature. Two play features were recommended for the park- a sand volleyball court or a swing set. Staff presented the options to community members around the Buscher Park area to gather their input on what feature would be preferred for the park.

Attachments

Engagement Report

Survey Responses

Measurement Tools

Summary Report

26 October 2018 - 29 April 2024

Every Voice Mankato

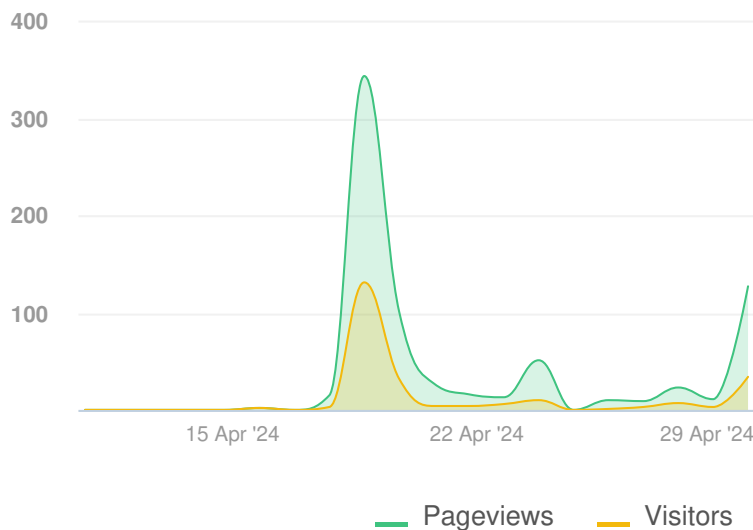
PROJECTS SELECTED: 1

F.A. Buscher Park

FULL LIST AT THE END OF THE REPORT



Visitors Summary



Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	
264	131	
NEW REGISTRATIONS		
0		
ENGAGED VISITORS	INFORMED VISITORS	AWARE VISITORS
160	179	227

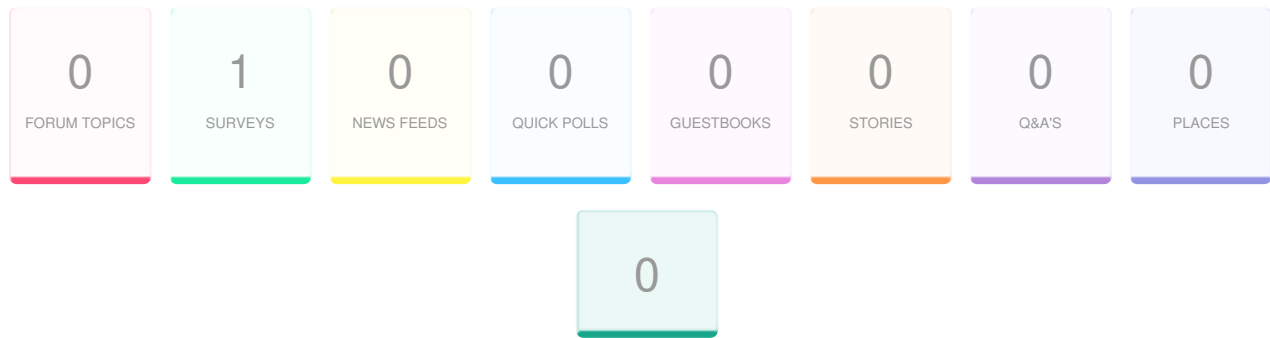
PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

ENGAGED	160 ENGAGED PARTICIPANTS				(%)
		Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	
INFORMED	Contributed on Forums	0	0	0	F.A. Buscher Park 160 (70.5%)
	Participated in Surveys	2	0	158	
	Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0	
	Participated in Quick Polls	0	0	0	
AWARE	Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0	
	Contributed to Stories	0	0	0	
	Asked Questions	0	0	0	
	Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0	
	Contributed to Ideas	0	0	0	
* A single engaged participant can perform multiple actions				* Calculated as a percentage of total visits to the Project	

ENGAGED	179 INFORMED PARTICIPANTS				(%)
		Participants			
INFORMED	Viewed a video	0			F.A. Buscher Park 178 (78.4%)
	Viewed a photo	0			
	Downloaded a document	0			
	Visited the Key Dates page	0			
AWARE	Visited an FAQ list Page	0			
	Visited Instagram Page	0			
	Visited Multiple Project Pages	17			
	Contributed to a tool (engaged)	160			
	* A single informed participant can perform multiple actions				

ENGAGED	227 AWARE PARTICIPANTS				
		Participants			
INFORMED	Visited at least one Page	227			F.A. Buscher Park 227
AWARE					
* Aware user could have also performed an Informed or Engaged Action				* Total list of unique visitors to the project	

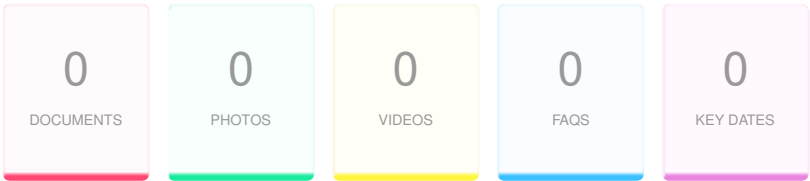
ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



SURVEYS SUMMARY	
1	Surveys
160	Contributors
230	Submissions

TOP 3 SURVEYS BASED ON CONTRIBUTORS	
160	Contributors to
	Vote on an Additional Park Feature

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



TRAFFIC SOURCES OVERVIEW

REFERRER URL	Visits
www.mankatomn.gov	37
www.google.com	10
android-app	6
bing.com	1
mail.google.com	1
mail3.spectrum.net	1

SELECTED PROJECTS - FULL LIST

PROJECT TITLE	AWARE	INFORMED	ENGAGED
F.A. Buscher Park	227	179	160

Vote on an Additional Park Feature

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

26 October 2018 - 29 April 2024

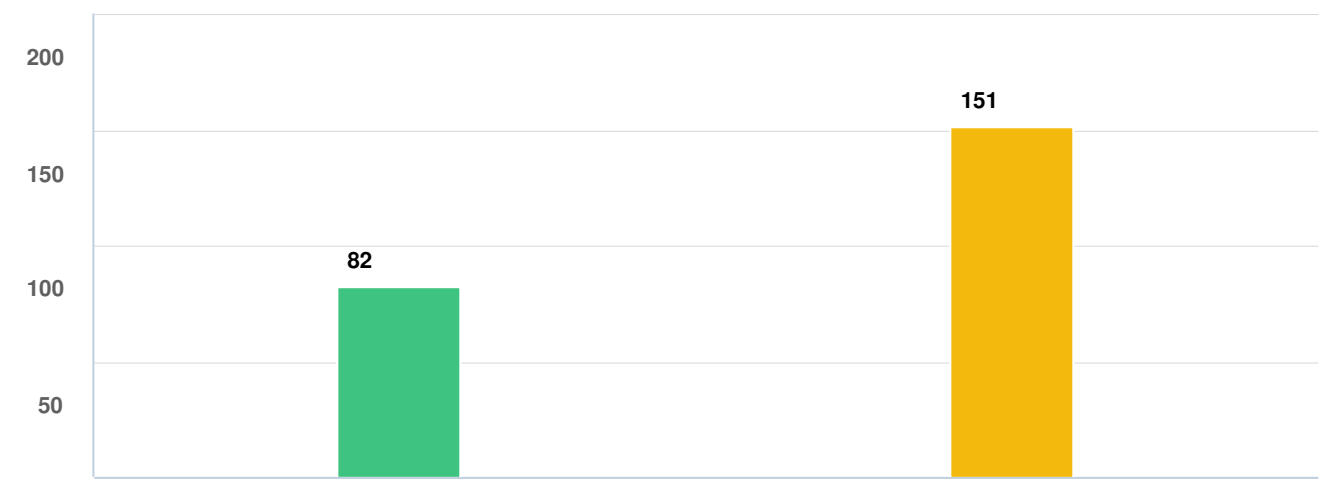
PROJECT NAME:

F.A. Buscher Park



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Which park feature would you prefer to have added to Buscher Park?



Question options

- ☒ Sand Volleyball Court
- ☒ Swing-set

Optional question (229 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Measurable public engagement goals to date

Online Survey

A total of 229 community members placed their vote through the online survey.

Vote on an Additional Park Feature : Survey Report for 26 October 2018 to 29 April 2024

Q1 Which park feature would you prefer to have added to Buscher Park?



Question options

☒ Sand Volleyball Court ☒ Swing-set

Optional question (229 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

In-person Open House

A total of 12 community members placed their vote

*Numbers are collected each time a participant placed a sticker that symbolized what feature they were voting for.

Everyvocie Mankato Impressions

Visitors Summary

Highlights

