



Introduction & First Reading

Washoe County Code Chapter 95

May 10, 2022



**An Ordinance Repealing
Chapter 95 Governing Parks
and Recreation in its
entirety, and enacts a new
Chapter 95**



Background

- Requests an introduction and first reading
- Last major update was approved by Board in 1987
- Code is currently outdated and lacks organization
- Board directed staff to evaluate the existing code
- Staff researched best practices and updated definitions
- Recommended changes have been reviewed and recommended for approval by Open Space and Regional Park Commission



Summary of changes

- Update to Definitions and reorganization of chapter from three general areas to eight specific areas for ease of use by public and staff.
- Reduces minimum number of meetings required annually and grants authority to Parks Commission (95.020)
- Establishes Smoke Free Parks (95.350)
- Defines electric bicycle (95.200)
- Gives Director power to designate employees as enforcement officials (95.050) and grants citation powers to enforcement officials (95.490)



Summary of changes (cont.)

- *95.020 Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission*
 - Reduced number of required meetings from 9 to at least 4 each year *95.020(6)*
 - Powers and duties of Park Commission *95.020(7)*
 - Act primarily in an advisory capacity to the board of county commissioners
 - Approval of: Fee schedule, Park District Plans, Park Master Plans, Park Naming and Design, Special Event Agreements, Park Policies, Discretionary Permits as outlined in section 110 of County Code and Resolutions of support



Summary of changes (cont.)

- 95.350 Smoking and Vaping prohibited in all parks and open spaces, except in designated areas
 - Joint meeting in 2017 between Park Commissions of City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County established a working group to work on smoke free parks initiative.
 - Reno City Council, Sparks City Council and Washoe County Commission approved smoke free parks in 2019



Summary of changes (cont.)

- 95.200 Bicycles and Other Operator-Propelled Vehicles
 - Adopts NRS 484B definition of “Electric Bicycle” means a device upon which a person may ride, having two or three wheels, or every such device generally recognized as a bicycle that has fully operable pedals and is propelled by a small electric engine which produces not more than 1 gross brake horsepower and which produces not more than 750 watts final output, and:
 1. Is designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground but is not a tractor; and
 2. Powered solely by such a small electric engine, is capable of a maximum speed of not more than 20 miles per hour on a flat surface while carrying an operator who weighs 170 pounds.



The three classes are defined as follows:

- **Class 1:** eBikes that are pedal-assist only, with no throttle, and have a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph.
- **Class 2:** eBikes that also have a maximum speed of 20 mph, but are throttle-assisted.
- **Class 3:** eBikes that are pedal-assist only, with no throttle, and a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph.

All classes limit the motor's power to 1 horsepower (750W).



Summary of changes (cont.)

- *95.050(4)* The director shall be empowered to designate employees as enforcement officials on behalf of department.
- *95.490* Citation Power of Enforcement Officials.
 - Grants citation powers to enforcement officials to prepare, sign and serve written criminal and civil citations accused of violating a provision of Nevada Revised Statutes or the Washoe County Code as it pertains to county parks.



Staff Recommendation

- Board of County Commissioners introduce and conduct a first reading of the proposed ordinance and set the public hearing for a second reading and possible adoption for May 24, 2022.
- Possible motion is included in the Staff Report

Questions?

Thank you

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director

