

The background of the slide is a photograph of a park path. The path is paved and leads into the distance, flanked by lush green trees and foliage. String lights with round bulbs are strung across the path, some of which are illuminated. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic, with a soft focus on the distant path.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PARKS ORDINANCES

City of Watsonville

June 2025

Recommended Action

That the City Council Adopt an Ordinance to Repeal and Replace:

- Title 5, Chapter 12 – “Parades” → “Events on Public Property”
- Title 10 – “Public Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Facilities” → “City parks, Public Facilities and Parking Lots”



Background – Title 5

Current:

- Focused solely on parades (last revised 1976)

Proposed:

- Covers all public events (e.g., concerts, festivals, races)
- Protects Constitutional rights to assemble and speak (Expressive Activities)
- Adds permitting and cost recovery mechanisms for all events

Special Events (Title 5, Chapter 12)

Permit Required 60 Days Prior For:

- Assemblies of 250+ people
- Any event requiring street closures
- Events requiring City services (police, barriers, traffic, etc.)

Exemptions

Permit Not Required For:

- School activities
- Governmental events
- Small expressive activities
 - “Conduct whose principal object is the expression of opinion, views, or ideas protected by the First Amendment.” – Includes Public speaking and Literature distribution
 - Must conform with applicable traffic regulations, laws or controls
 - Provide 4-hour notice, if practicable
- Spontaneous news-driven events with the past 48 hours
 - Must not impede vehicular traffic
 - Provide 4-hour notice, if practicable
 - In a space not previously reserved



Special Events (Title 5, Chapter 12)

Organizers are responsible for obtaining all other relevant permits and approvals, including:

- Permits for use of parks, public facilities and parking facilities
- Certified traffic control plans
- Special use permit
- Amplified Sound permit
- Any permits required by other governmental agencies including, but not limited to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Fire Marshal, County Health or CalTrans.

Background – Title 10

Current:

- Rules for parks and skateparks
- Last revised 1980, 2012

Proposed:

- Unified rules for parks, public facilities, and parking
- Updates to meet current community needs
- Adds expressive activity protections



Title 10, Chapter 1 – Park, Public Buildings and Parking Facilities

Notable Updates

Prohibited activities in Parks and Public Facilities

- Alcohol - Consumption of alcoholic beverages prohibited, except pursuant to valid City-issued permit
- Drones - Use of unmanned aircraft or drones, in a manner that is inconsistent with the state or federal law, or at a Park or Public Facility not designated by the City Manager
- Sidewalk Vending - Offering food or any article for sale while obstructing pedestrian walkways, parking spaces, fields, or other natural landscapes



Title 10, Chapter 1 – Park, Public Buildings and Parking Facilities

Notable Updates

Prohibited activities in City Buildings (§ 10-1.050 and 10-1.070)

- Animals - Possess animals in any Public Building except for service animals

Prohibited activities in Public Parking Facilities (§ 10-1.050 and 10-1.080.)

- Remain present in a Public Parking Facility for any other purpose than to travel to and from a vehicle parked within the Public Parking Facility
- Ride or use Wheeled Vehicles, bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, or scooter

Title 10, Chapter 1 – Park and Facility Use

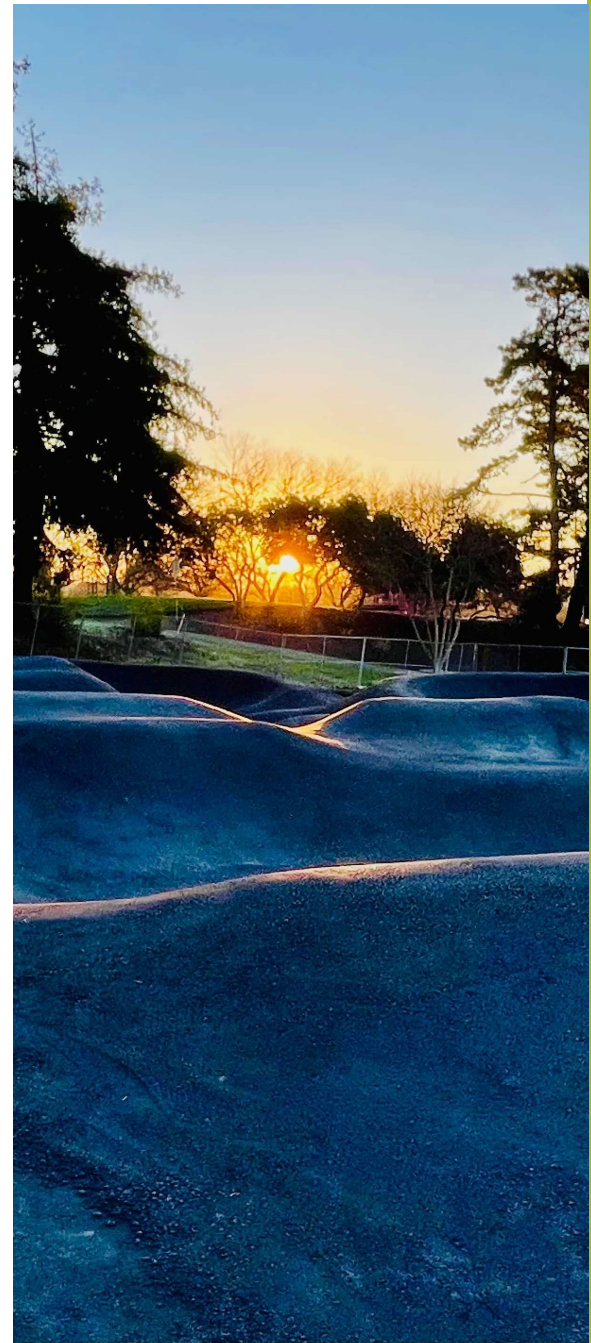
Permit Required For:

- 75+ people in City Plaza, Pinto Lake, Franich, Ramsay Parks
- Events with paid admission excluding public
- Use outside operational hours
- Use of structures - e.g., bounce house, porta potties, event tents
- Fireworks
- Camping



Title 10, Chapter 2 – Skateparks & Pump Tracks

- Adds conduct in Pump Tracks
- Establishes use and rental rules
- Aligns with updated safety and conduct standards



Violations

Subject to the penalties set forth in Chapter 2 of Title 1

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Park and Recreation Commission recommended approval on June 4, 2025.

QUESTIONS
