
IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize the Director of Portland Parks & Recreation or their designee with the power to tow vehicles parked in violation of parking restrictions within Park property. (Ordinance; amend Code Section 16.70.560)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

This legislation amends Code Section 16.70.560 Traffic Regulations in Parks.

Currently, City Code allows the Director of Portland Parks & Recreation to restrict or prohibit parking in City parks. However, the code does not explicitly provide the Director or their designee with the authority to enforce those restrictions through the towing of vehicles in violation of posted restrictions.

The Director currently posts nighttime parking restrictions at some City Parks to prevent vehicles from parking in parks after closure hours, ensuring vehicles do not become locked in when the park or parking area is closed to the public. Park Rangers will occasionally lock a vehicle in a park when no owner can be found and the vehicle is in violation. When owners do return, Rangers or Portland Police must respond late into the evening to unlock the gates. In some cases, owners will disturb neighbors, refuse to wait for Rangers to unlock a vehicle, and subsequently destroy vegetation and damage park property as they attempt to drive around gates.

In order to ensure the safety of all park users and maintain the welfare of park property, the Director wishes to reserve the right to tow vehicles in a manner provided in Title 16 when vehicles are parked within City parks after park closure or parking area closure hours.

The Director will adopt rules pertaining to this legislation to ensure: 1) that adequate warnings are provided to drivers before they are towed; and, 2) that towing is a last resort.

If this measure is not approved, the status quo will maintain, and current procedures and problems will continue. Under the status quo, the Director will not be allowed to remove vehicles parked in violation of City Code, as there is no current legislative mechanism that allows Parks to tow such vehicles out of a park.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

This code amendment has no fiscal impact on the Program budget.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This code change is a housekeeping measure and will not have an impact on any communities or businesses. It is intended to streamline internal activities related to program enforcement functions.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

NO

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount



Portland Parks & Recreation Finance Manager Approval