

CITY COMMISSION POLICY

 CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	NUMBER: 1100-10	HISTORY	
	DATE: November 21, 2006	FILE #	DATE
	FILE NUMBER: 75672	82445	05/28/2013
	DEPARTMENT: PARKS		

SUBJECT: USE OF AND ALTERATIONS TO MONUMENT PARK AND VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

PURPOSE: To establish a policy that specifies procedures and provides guidance for the appropriate uses of, and alterations to, Monument Park and Veterans Memorial Park.

POLICY:

OVERVIEW

Monument Park and Veterans Memorial Park were dedicated as solemn reminders of the great sacrifices endured by many to protect our nation's freedoms. This underlying purpose distinguishes these parks from others and dictates special considerations in their uses and their protection from inappropriate alterations, whether temporary or permanent.

1. PARK BOUNDARIES

For the purposes of this policy, the boundaries of the parks shall coincide with the parkside edge of the perimeter public walks and include park walls or curbing along those edges and will be in accordance with park site plan attached hereto as EXHIBIT A.

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2. GENERAL PUBLIC USE

Subject to the limitations of Paragraph 3 herein, the use of Monument Park and Veterans Memorial Park by any member of the public shall require a permit pursuant to Chapter 41 of the Grand Rapids Code of Ordinances. The City reserves the right to deny a permit for any event that is incompatible or inharmonious with the solemn purpose of the park, including but not limited to: flea markets, athletic events, concerts (other than performances associated with memorial ceremonies), etc. Activities involving the service of alcohol shall be prohibited. The use of Monument Park and Veterans Memorial Park shall be in compliance with Chapter 41 of the Grand Rapids Code of Ordinances, and shall not be detrimental or disruptive to the use and enjoyment of the parks by others, or to the public welfare by reason of excessive traffic, noise, clutter, etc.

3. MONUMENT AREAS

Except for Veteran's Day and Memorial Day observations authorized by the Grand Rapids City Commission pursuant to Chapter 53 of the City Code of Ordinances (Special Events), no permit shall be granted for any event or activity within the areas designated as "Monument Areas" as described herein and shown on the park site plan attached as EXHIBIT A. In Monument Park, the Monument Area shall comprise an area extending approximately 30 feet from the base of the Soldier's Monument in Veterans Memorial Park, the Monument Area shall comprise a rectangle which is approximately 90 feet wide and 140 feet long and includes the paved area surrounding the current monuments.

4. ALTERATIONS TO PARKS OR MONUMENTS

Permanent or temporary alterations to the parks are guided by the Historic Preservation Commission Ordinance (Chapter 68 of the City of Grand Rapids Code of Ordinances) and other relevant ordinances or regulations. This Policy is not intended to restrict activities constituting routine maintenance such as tree trimming, shrub replacements, bench repairs and replacements, etc. Additions to existing monuments or placement of new monuments are subject to review by the City's Arts and Memorials Policy, Park Design Site Plan Review process, and the Historic Preservation Commission. All future monuments shall be exclusively for the purpose of honoring and memorializing the war dead who lived in Kent County at the time of their death, shall have continuity in design to the existing monuments and shall have the names of those who died inscribed on or near the monument.

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5. APPROVAL PROCESS

Proposed changes in use or alterations to the Monuments or Parks covered by this Policy shall be submitted to the City's Public Services Director. The Director shall, at the direction of the City Manager, establish the appropriate channels of review and communication for any proposed change in use or alteration. Stakeholders to be included in such review may include but shall not be limited to: the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; the Historic Preservation Commission; the Grand Rapids Historical Commission; the United Veterans Council; the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; the Art Advisory Committee; Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.; adjacent property owners and tenants; the City Manager, City Commission, and any other interested party.

6. FINAL DECISION

Unless such authority is specifically vested in any agency, board or commission, the final decision regarding a proposed change in use or alteration to the monuments or parks covered by this Policy shall reside with the City Commission. Text intended to appear on historical or interpretive markers shall be reviewed and approved by the Grand Rapids Historical Commission. In the event of any dispute regarding the wording of such text, the City Commission shall have final approval of the language on markers and signs within Monument Park and Veterans Memorial Park.