

Be it enacted by the people of the City of Hood River:

The Hood River City Charter of 1991 is amended to include the following Chapter:

CHAPTER 11 – PROTECTION OF CITY PARKS

Section 45. Finding of public need.

The City finds that its public parks promote the health and welfare of residents through recreation; serve an essential governmental function; and therefore further finds that protection of City parks is needed and necessary in the public interest.

Section 46. Popular vote required to dispose of parks.

The City shall not dispose of City parks unless specifically authorized in a public vote by a majority of City voters.

Section 47. Definitions.

The word “shall” is mandatory. Words of common usage are to be given their natural, ordinary meaning. For purposes of this Chapter the following definitions shall apply:

“City parks” means the collection of City properties (1) designated, dedicated, or otherwise recognized as public parks by any City ordinance or resolution as of January 1, 2019, and (2) any other properties subsequently so designated, dedicated or otherwise recognized as public parks.

“Dispose of” means sale or transfer of any property rights, by lease or other means, of all or part of the collection of City parks for any purpose other than promoting or enhancing recreational enjoyment by the general public.

Section 48. Enforcement.

Any citizen of the City may bring an action in the manner provided by law to appeal, restrain or prevent any of the prohibited acts listed in this Chapter

Section 49. Relationship to other regulations.

Where this Chapter conflicts with other regulations, the provisions of this Chapter shall govern.

Section 50. Declaration of Emergency.

This Chapter being necessary for the immediate preservation of all City parks and for the health and welfare of City residents, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Charter amendment takes effect immediately upon its passage.