

Jan. 12, 2022
Ord 22-4

Amending Chapter 246 of the Legislative Code to allow possession and consumption of nonintoxicating malt liquor and intoxicating liquor up to 5.5% alcohol by weight within picnic shelters, facilities or areas within any park, playground or recreation center designated for that purpose by the parks and recreation director instead of only allowing possession and consumption of 3.2% alcohol by weight nonintoxicating malt liquor.

Designated picnic locations

The possession and consumption of alcohol is currently permitted in designated picnic areas at the following locations:

Cherokee Park

Como Park

Harriet Island Park

Raspberry Island

Upper Landing Park

City House

Highland Park

Phalen Park

Rice and Arlington Athletic Complex

McMurray Athletic Complex

Dunning Fields

Current Ordinance Summary

No consumption of alcoholic beverages stronger than 3.2% alcohol by weight (ABW) is permitted in any park space within Saint Paul without an approved temporary liquor license

Parks and Recreation Safety and Security and the Saint Paul Police Department have difficulty enforcing the current ordinance because of confusion over what 3.2% ABW nonintoxicating malt liquor is

Minnesota is the last state in the country to sell 3.2% ABW nonintoxicating malt liquor

Many beverage suppliers are discontinuing production of this product for consumers

Proposed Ordinance Summary

Amending Chapter 246 of the Legislative Code to allow consumption of up to 5.5% ABW intoxicating liquor would make it easier for Parks and Recreation Safety and Security and the Saint Paul Police Department to enforce that provision by allowing more typical beer, seltzer and comparable consumer product options to be consumed and prohibit the possession and consumption of stronger alcoholic beverages

Staff will be able to more easily explain the ordinance to residents and visitors who inquire about the rules

Obtaining a temporary liquor license from Dept. of Safety and Inspections would still be required to serve/sell any alcohol in excess of 5.5% ABW in park spaces. This includes all wine and hard liquor service/sales.