Golf Course Zoning Text Amendments
City Council
City of Saint Paul

July 15, 2026

Golf Course Zoning Amendments

- Background
- Planning Commission Review and Recommendation
- District Council Recommendation

Golf Course Zoning Amendments

- Request from the Dept. of Parks and Recreation
  - Proposed amendments would allow Parks Department to light the driving range at Highland Golf Course until 9:00 pm, plus one-hour clean-up (10:00 pm)
  - Would also provide for current X-C skiing lighting at Como Golf Course
- City Council initiated amendments to the Saint Paul Zoning Code Ch. 65.230 (Res 26-XX)
- City Council in partnership with Saint Paul Parks Department forwarded the proposed amendments to the Planning Commission for review (as required under MN § 462.357, Subd. 4)

City Council Proposed Amendments

Sec. 65.230. Golf course.

Standards and conditions:

a) The site shall be so planned as to provide principal access directly onto or from a major thoroughfare [in definition], and to achieve a relationship between the major thoroughfare and any proposed service roads, entrances, driveways and parking areas that encourages pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety.

b) Development features, including the principal and accessory buildings and structures, shall be located and related so as to minimize the possibilities of any adverse effects upon adjacent property. All principal or accessory buildings or structures shall be situated at least two hundred (200) feet from any property line abutting residentially zoned or used lands; provided, that where topographic conditions are such that buildings would be screened from view, the planning commission may modify this requirement.

c) In residential districts, the course shall consist of at least nine (9) holes ~~and shall not include "pitch and putt" miniature golf courses~~.

d) Golf courses ~~shall not be lighted for night use~~ that are equipped with lighting for night use shall not operate after 10:00pm.

Golf Course Zoning Amendments

Original Proposed

Sec. 65.230. Golf course.
Standards and conditions:

a) …

b) …

c) In residential districts, the course shall consist of at least nine (9) holes ~~and shall not include "pitch and putt" miniature golf courses~~.

d) Golf courses ~~shall not be lighted for night use~~ that are equipped with lighting for night use shall not operate after 10:00pm.

Planning Commission Recommendation

Sec. 65.230. Golf course.
Standards and conditions:

a) …

b) …

c) In residential districts, the course shall consist of at least nine (9) holes ~~and shall not include "pitch and putt" miniature golf courses~~.

~~d) Golf courses shall not be lighted for night use.~~

Planning Commission Recommendation

- Planning Commission discussion:
  - Comprehensive Plan alignment
  - Other outdoor rec facility zoning regulations
  - Golf course operations – more hours, more access
  - Historic barriers to recreation - no other sports were similarly regulated in the zoning code
  - Other lighting standards and public processes in place to regulate
- Planning Commission recommendation is considered by City Council along with other testimony heard at July 22 public hearing

Golf Course Zoning Amendments

District Council Recommendation

- Highland District Council:
  - Passed a resolution of support for City Council proposed language.

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Contact

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