



Lindsay L. Taylor, Director

Department of Parks & Recreation

City of Allentown

3000 Parkway Boulevard

Allentown, PA 18104

Phone: 610-437-7750

Fax: 610-437-7796

Email: lindsay.taylor@allentownpa.gov

TO: Ed Pawlowski, Mayor

FROM: Lindsay L. Taylor, Director of Parks & Recreation

SUBJECT: Bicycling in Trexler Park: Recommendation

DATE: August 22, 2016

OVERVIEW

A request has been made to open bicycling in Trexler Memorial Park to seven days a week from Dawn until Dusk.

BACKGROUND

Trexler Memorial Park is considered to be a passive park. Article 951, Park Regulations, states that the following activities are prohibited in a passive park:

- Building any type of fire, without a permit
- Hunting or fishing
- Riding a horse
- Sunbathing
- Swimming
- Picnicking
- Roller skating or skateboarding
- Playing any active games
- Drinking or possessing alcoholic beverage without a permit
- Riding a bicycle, except where and when allowed
- Operating recreational vehicles or ATV's

A passive park is one that features passive recreation pursuits, such as interpretive programs and trail systems that take advantage of geological, biological, or scenic resources located within the park but do not include recreational facilities, such as swimming pools, gyms, and playing fields. Passive park use refers to less structured recreational activities which require little or no specialized parkland development and management and are enjoyed on a first-come, first-served basis. Bicycling is considered to be an acceptable activity in a passive park.

Bicycles are currently permitted in all City parks with paths, seven days a week from Dawn until Dusk, except for Trexler Memorial Park where they are restricted to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. It is believed that one reason for this restriction is that there was an accident in the park between a bicyclist and pedestrian several years ago that resulted in a fatality.

There have been requests to open Trexler to bicycles seven days a week and a discussion on this subject has been scheduled for a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting Wednesday, August 24th.

RECOMMENDATION

Upon fully considering the available information, I am recommending that bicycles be allowed in Trexler Memorial Park, in designated bicycle lanes only, at a speed not to exceed 15 MPH, seven days a week from Dawn until Dusk for the following reasons:

- Bicycle riding is considered an acceptable passive recreational activity and thus, an acceptable use for the park;
- The paved path/road system in Trexler Memorial Park averages sixteen (16) feet wide and can well accommodate bicyclists, walker and runners;
- Restricting an activity to certain days or times is difficult to enforce;
- The paths in all other City parks are narrower than those at Trexler and allow bicycling during park operating hours with no restrictions;

A map of Trexler Park that shows the paths where bicycles are permitted is attached. Should this recommendation be approved by City Council, we will move quickly to update signage and ensure that all paths where bicycles will be permitted are properly marked.

I will look forward to answering any questions that you may have.