

ORDINANCE 2025-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 54 – PARKS AND RECREATION.

WHEREAS, the Belleville City Council wishes to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Belleville, and;

WHEREAS, there exists a need to update and revise the regulations regarding animals within the city, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE ORDAIN:

Section 54 of the City of Bellville Code of Ordinances is amended to add Section 54-79 as follows:

Section 54-79: Prohibition on Feeding Wild Animals in City Parks

A. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to protect public health and safety, preserve the natural ecosystem, and prevent the habituation of wild animals to human food sources within public parklands in the City of Belleville.

B. Definitions

1. *City* means the City of Belleville, Wayne County, Michigan
2. *Feed or Feeding* means the act of placing, offering, or distributing food, grains, seeds, or any edible material with the intent of attracting or providing nourishment to wild animals.
3. *Person* means any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, organization, or other legal entity of any kind, including all tree removal companies and people removing trees on behalf of others.
4. *Wild Animal* means any non-domesticated animal that is native to or found in a natural state within the City, including but not limited to birds, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, deer, foxes, and waterfowl.

C. Prohibition

1. No person shall intentionally feed or attempt to feed any wild animal in any public park, trail, or other recreational property owned or operated by the City of Belleville.
2. No person shall place or distribute food, seeds, or edible material in a manner that is likely to attract wild animals in these areas.

D. Exceptions

This section shall not apply to:

1. Authorized wildlife management activities conducted by the City or its agents.
2. Educational programs or events involving wildlife feeding that are approved in writing by the City Manager or Parks and Recreation Director.

E. Enforcement and Penalties

Violation of this section shall be considered a municipal civil infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100 for the first offense, and \$250 for subsequent offenses. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

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This ordinance shall take effect 10 days from the date of its passage.

The foregoing ordinance was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Belleville City Council held on May 19, 2025.

Michelle Bellingham, Deputy Clerk

Kenneth Voigt, Mayor

Date of First Reading	May 5, 2025
Date of Second Reading	May 19, 2025
Date of Adoption	May 19, 2025
Effective Date	May 29, 2025