

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	37817	Agenda Number	186.
Meeting Date:	12/11/2014		Department:	Parks and Recreation
Subject				
Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending City Code Section 8-5-49 related to swimming in Barton Creek.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Fiscal Note				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	August 28, 2014 - Resolution 20140828-82 directed the City Manager to seek recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Board and the Animal Advisory Commission regarding potential code amendments to allow for swimming and an off-leash area at Barton Springs Spillway.			
For More Information:	Charles Vaclavik (512) 974-9471; Kimberly McNeeley (512) 974-6722 or Pat Fuller, (512) 978-2601.			
Boards and Commission Action:	December 10, 2014 – To be reviewed by the Animal Advisory Commission; October 28, 2014 – Approved by the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Osgood absent. October 15, 2014 - Approved by the Environmental Board on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Smith absent.			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

Additional Backup Information

Resolution 20140828-82 directed the City Manager to seek recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Board and the Animal Advisory Commission regarding potential code amendments to allow for swimming and an off-leash area at Barton Springs Spillway. As such the Parks and Recreation Department considered the following specific City Code regulations:

City Code Section 8-5-49 A person may not swim in Barton Creek Between Town Lake and Barton Springs pool or between the western dam of Barton Springs Pool and a point 100 yards west of the dam.

City Code Section 3-4-1 Except as provided in Section 3-4-4 (Public Areas Where Restraint of a Dog is Not Required), an owner or handler of a dog shall keep the dog under restraint.

The Watershed Protection Department and the Austin Travis County Health and Human Service Department collected water samples in July 2014 and September 2014 and compared the 2014 sampling to samples taken over the past 5 years in order to measure water quality. These departments found bacteria levels are variable and exceed acceptable human contact standards during periods of high usage. Additionally, the sampling indicates concurrent human and dog swimming areas do not support safe fecal indicator bacteria levels.

The Parks and Recreation Department desires to support human swimming in Barton Creek in the area between Town Lake and Barton Springs pool but recommends that the City continue to enforce City Code Section 3-4-1 as is currently written.