

Alcohol in City of Austin Parks

September 2017

Parks and Recreation Board: Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee

Presented by: Ricardo Soliz, Acting Assistant Director

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Goals

Amend Title 8.—Parks and Recreation to:

- ❑ Clearly define terms used in relationship to the use of Alcohol in Parks
- ❑ Clearly state where alcohol is permitted
- ❑ Fairly and equitably regulate the use of alcohol possession within the park system

Research on Alcohol in Parks 7/15/17

Park location	Prohibits possession	Prohibits Consumption	Exemptions
Within Texas			
Dallas		X	Fairpark, Arlington Hall, golf courses, Arboretum
El Paso	X	X	Events or rentals, or by Director's designation
Houston	X	X	Adds that alcohol is not allowed within 15ft of playscape or play structure
San Antonio		X	Softball fields, Riverwalk, picnic facilities, golf courses, zoo, special event venues—botanical garden, museums, etc.
Travis County / Texas Parks & Wildlife		X	States public display of consumption; sale of alcohol is also prohibited
Within U.S.			
Chicago	X		Picnic permits for beaches, allowed at special events facilities
Denver		X	3.2 % beer is allowed in public parks
Minneapolis		X	Special use permit or rentals-do have a beer garden within a park
New York City	X	X	
Portland	X	X	Picnic permit; must have insurance if more than 50 people
Seattle	X	X	

Trash associated with Alcohol in Parks



Round Table Discussions on the Issue

❑ PARD held round table discussions

- July 19, 2017: Technical focused, PARD Grounds, APD, Park Rangers
- July 25, 2017: Community Representatives

Executive Committee of Austin Neighborhood Council; representatives from Galindo, Zilker, Govalle, University Hills Neighborhood Associations, Keep Austin Beautiful, Austin Parks Foundation, Pease Park Conservancy, Zilker Botanical Center Conservancy, Downtown Austin Alliance, and Vice Chair of the Parks Board

- ❑ Among the Technical Group: Unanimous support to be consistent with prohibiting alcohol possession in parks.
- ❑ Among the Community Representatives: There was a split between the language of: “No alcohol in parks” versus “No public consumption of alcohol in parks.”

Staff Recommendations

1. Staff recommendation is to prohibit public possession of alcohol at ALL parks with some exceptions
2. These exceptions include:
 - ❑ Rental facilities by permit
 - ❑ Contracted concession sites
 - ❑ Designated event and picnic facilities by permit
 - ❑ Designated special event properties
 - ❑ Athletic fields except dugout and playfield
 - ❑ Rented campsites
 - ❑ Golf courses
 - ❑ Other areas as designated by the director



Applicable City Code Chapter

Chapter 8-1 General Provisions

- 8-1-1 Definitions

Chapter 8-3 Restriction on Food, Beverages and Containers

- 8-3-1 Alcohol Beverages Prohibited
- 8-3-2 Designation of Prohibition of Alcohol
- 8-3-5 Temporary Sale of Beverages and Food

8-1-1 Definitions

- ❑ (15) Public Possession means.....
- ❑ (16) Designated Event Facilities and Special Event Properties mean...
- ❑ (17) Playing field area and dugout means.....
- ❑ (18) Designated Rental Sites means.....

All other existing definitions will remain as currently written but will be re-numbered

8-3-1 Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited

Except as provided in Section 8-3-5, a person may not knowingly sell, possess, or consume an alcoholic beverage in:

Current Code Language	Proposed Code Language
Fenced, enclosed areas surrounding swimming pool	Possession of alcohol beverages are prohibited in all parks except in designated areas.
100 feet from a swimming pool or recreation center, playscape, or parking lot	Public recreation areas where alcohol is allowed: <ul data-bbox="1098 868 2015 1200" style="list-style-type: none">• Golf courses;• Designated event facilities;• Special event properties;• Athletic field areas except for the playing field area and dugout

8-3-1 Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited

Except as provided in Section 8-3-5, a person may not knowingly sell, possess, or consume an alcoholic beverage in:

Current Code Language	Proposed Code Language
<p>Director may designate all or part of a public recreation area in which the sale, possession, or consumption of alcohol is prohibited.</p>	<p>Director may designate all or part of a public recreation area in which the sale, possession, or consumption of alcohol is permitted.</p>

Next Steps

- ❑ Parks and Recreation Board presentation on September 26, 2017
- ❑ City Council presentation and action in late fall