

# Alcohol in City of Austin Parks

December 11, 2017

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

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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
- ❑ Improve general park operations

# Research on Alcohol in Parks 7/15/17

Park location	Prohibits Possession	Prohibits Consumption	Exemptions
<b>Within Texas</b>			
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
<b>Within U.S.</b>			
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	

# 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 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 alcohol on public recreation areas with some exceptions.
2. These exceptions include:
  - ❑ Rental facilities by permit (wedding venues, cultural centers, etc.)
  - ❑ 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

## Current Definitions

- ▶ APPROVAL means a permit, reservation agreement, or other written document that evidences an authorization by the department.
- ▶ PUBLIC RECREATION AREA means a park, recreational facility, athletic field, building, swimming pool, playground, nature preserve, trail, dock, or greenbelt managed, maintained, or operated by the department or on the department's behalf.
- ▶ SPECIAL EVENT means an activity that anticipates 1,000 or more attendees and is conducted pursuant to an approval that allows for the exclusive use of all or part of the public recreation area for the activity.
- Clarification will be needed for: 1) Designated Event Facilities; 2) Playing field area and dugout, and 3) Designated Rental Sites

# 8-3-1 Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited

## Current Code Language

- ❑ Except as provided in Section 8-3-5, (Temporary Sales of Beverages and Food), a person may not knowingly sell, possess or consume an alcohol beverage in:
  - The fenced, enclosed area surrounding a swimming pool in a park or within 100 feet of an un-enclosed swimming pool in a park;
  - A recreation facility of adjacent outdoor area that is part of the recreation facility, including field, playground, parking lot, play slab or playscape;
  - All or part of a park or playground that is designated by the facility director as being an area in which the sale, possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited;
  - The playing area or dugout area of an athletic field;
  - A school district playground area; or
  - A nature preserve.



# 8-3-1 Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited

## Proposed Code Language

## Exemptions

Prohibit alcohol on public recreation areas unless listed as an exemption

- Rental facilities by permit (wedding venues, cultural center, rec centers, senior centers, etc.)
- 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 PARD Director

# Impact of Proposed Changes

2013 Park List	2017 Proposed Park List
64% of individual park sites did not allow alcohol unless by permit from Director	73% of individual park sites would not allow alcohol unless by permit from Director

**2013—36% of park sites allowed alcohol without a permit**

**2017—27% of park sites would allow alcohol with rental, special event, permit, etc.**

# List Examples

- ▶ Alcohol Current Not Allowed Locations List
  - ▶ Rental areas would shift to areas where alcohol is allowed (highlighted yellow)
    - ▶ Caswell Tennis Center
    - ▶ Lamar Senior Activity Center
    - ▶ George Washington Carver Museum
  - ▶ Areas not part one of the main recommended categories would continue as limiting alcohol (red text)
    - ▶ Boggy Creek Greenbelt
    - ▶ Mayfield Nature Preserve
    - ▶ Northwest Pool

# List Examples (Comparison List)

- ▶ Areas that currently allow alcohol that would continue (highlighted yellow)
  - ▶ Auditorium Shores Town Lake Metro
  - ▶ Davis White NE District Park (Picnic Area)
- ▶ Areas that currently allow alcohol that would now be limited (red text)
  - ▶ Dittmar District Park
  - ▶ Duncan Neighborhood Park
  - ▶ Scofield Farms Neighborhood Park

# Next Steps

- ❑ Parks and Recreation Board—January 2017
- ❑ Public Input—display draft ordinance on website, public notification—February/March 2017
- ❑ City Council—April 2017