

# 1 OVERVIEW

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Numerous commercial tour companies are currently conducting tours on City of Austin parkland without permits. Per code 8-1-12 a Commercial Activity that advertises or provides goods, services, classes, or instructional activities for compensation on City of Austin parkland are required to obtain a permit.

The Department's goal is to authorize permits through a competitive process while establishing orderly and sustainable tour concessions process. This process must promote and enhance park experiences for all park users while affording us the opportunity for data collection such as number of tours and attendees participation as a method to determine volume and impact.

Recently companies have reached out to our department about obtaining permits for these type of activities. As a Department, we must strategize as to the most effective method for permitting/contracting the commercial groups. PARD will review all considerations for permitting/contracting these groups to include:

- impacts
- saturation levels
- number trips per day
- establishing specific routes
- reviewing and establishing preserve areas inappropriate for use
- methods of issuing permitting/contracting

Tours are being conducted utilizing the 5 primary devices below.

1. Pedal Bicycles
2. Electric Bicycles
3. Segway
4. Electric Mini Motorcycles
5. One Wheel Motorized Devices <https://onewheel.com/>

## **LEGAL INFORMATION NEEDED**

Legal assessment and clarification of motor driven devices in respect to City Park Code.

## 2 CONTRACTS AND CONCESSIONS COMMITTEE PARB

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An April 10 discussion item will be posted to stimulate discussion on the following items:

### Baseline Discussion Items

1. What does success look like to the daily park user with the tour activities in the park?
2. What areas should be preserved from a preservation and protection standpoint?
  - a. Nature preserves?
  - b. Gardens?
  - c. Greenbelts?
  - d. Interior pool spaces?
  - e. Off-leash areas?
3. Are there time periods where public use prevails tour groups?
  - a. *For example – prior to 9 am, and after 5 pm? On certain days?*
4. Would these be better served as a long-term concession RFA initially versus temporary?
5. What does the CCC envision for the future of these industries given there are a limit of 2 6 month terms in the current PARB concession policy?

### Planning for the Future Discussion Items

6. In the future, what would over saturation of this industry feel like experientially on the hike/bike trail system?

### Three existing (3) permitting options staff is considering.

1. Temporary Concession -\$1500 per six month Metro-District Parks
2. Permanent Concession –Fees dictated by Contract
3. Revise Commercial Use Group Permit Policy to accommodate these groups \$50 per guide \$0.45 per person per day with a \$1,500 cap 6 months