



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1215, **Agenda Item #:** 12.

2/6/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance creating two slow - no wake navigation control zones on Lake Austin, and creating an offense.

Lead Department

Management Services Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

August 29, 2013 - Council approved Resolution No. 20130829-078, directing the City Manager to prepare an ordinance establishing a no wake zone within 50 feet of the shoreline of Lake Austin.

November 6, 2014 - Council approved Resolution No. 20141106-065, directing the City Manager to petition Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to waive certain requirements for placement of buoys to mark no wake zones to protect public health and safety.

For More Information:

Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager, (512) 974-2222

Additional Backup Information:

The proposed ordinance will create two new slow - no wake navigation control zones in Lake Austin. The slow - no wake zones will be located in the area around the Pennybacker Bridge and in the area immediately up-river of the Tom Miller Dam, near the Oyster Landing Marina and the Walsh Boat Landing. Both of the slow no-wake zones are shown on maps attached to the ordinance as Exhibit 1. The slow - no-wake zones will be marked by buoys that are owned by the City of Austin. LCRA will install the buoys. In the future, the City will be responsible for the costs of ongoing maintenance of the buoys. The Austin Police Department will enforce the slow - no wake navigation control zones. Violators will be charged with a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

The Lake Austin Task Force issued a report in 2013 that, among other things, recommended the creation of new slow - no-wake zones along the shores of Lake Austin. The Lake Austin Task Force recommended this action to calm traffic and increase safety on Lake Austin. After considerable study, public outreach, and internal collaboration, the City Manager recommends creating the two slow no - wake zones shown on the maps attached to the proposed ordinance as Exhibit 1. The creation of slow - no-wake zones along the shores of Lake Austin would create a number of practical problems and, for enforcement purposes, require the purchase and maintenance of a significant number of buoys. The more focused slow no-wake zones created

by this proposed ordinance would calm traffic in areas that are particularly busy and where there is a greater likelihood for conflicts between boaters and between boaters and other users of the Lake. Passage of this ordinance would improve safety on Lake Austin.

If the ordinance passes, City staff will conduct public outreach before the summer boating season to ensure that the public is well-informed of the changes.