



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20240207-004

**Date:** February 7, 2024

**Subject:** Zilker Park Polo Field Restoration

**Motion by:** David Sullivan

**Second by:** Mariana Krueger

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Board passed Recommendation 20230724-5 on July 24, 2023 to eliminate permanent parking on the Zilker Park Polo Field (with exception for overflow for advance-schedule events) and recommended the Austin City Council approve funding for Polo Field Restoration, alternative parking solutions including free shuttles managed by PARD, multi-modal transportation, and establish loading and no loading zones for shuttles and park users.

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Commission passed Recommendation 20230920-004 requesting the Austin City Council to add money to the Parks and Recreation Department budget for FY2025 budget for the restoration of the Zilker Park Polo Field, ban regular parking on the Zilker Park Polo Field, and add additional parking elsewhere within or near Zilker Park that protects that natural assets in Zilker Park.

**WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council passed Ordinance 20231102-028 amending City Code Title 25 to eliminate minimum motor vehicle parking space requirements except for accessible space parking.

**THEREFORE**, the Environmental Commission recommends the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Board request funding from the Austin City Council to restore the Zilker Park Polo Field by adding top soil, planting native grasses, providing for stormwater diversion, and any other steps to prevent further degradation of the Zilker Park Polo Field and ban regular parking on the Zilker Park Polo Field beginning in FY2025.

In addition, require the city to ensure that additional parking elsewhere or near Zilker Park is found and allow some waivers to restrictions for special events, conditional on means to remediate for any damages to parkland. In addition, allocate parking within Zilker Park for senior citizens, families with small children, and persons with limited mobility.

**Vote: 7-1**

For: Cofer, Einhorn, Krueger, Nickells, Qureshi, Ramberg, Sullivan

Against: Bedford

Abstain: Bristol

Absent: Brimer and Schiera

Attest:

KEVIN RAMBERG

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Kevin Ramberg, Environmental Commission Chair

