

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	10572	Agenda Number	25.
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Meeting Date:	10/20/2011	Department:	Parks and Recreation
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Subject

Approve an ordinance amending the City Code to add a new Article 7 to Chapter 8-1 to authorize the City Manager and the director of the Parks and Recreation Department to issue burn ban orders for city parks and nature preserves; creating an offense and imposing a penalty, and declaring an emergency.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	October 6, 2011 – Council approved resolution directing the City Manager to prepare an ordinance.
For More Information:	Elizabeth Richard, 974-3925; April Thedford, 974-6716
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The current drought and recent wildfires in Central Texas present an extreme danger to the lives and property of Austin residents. Drought conditions have created a serious wildfire risk for Austin, and the long term forecast of dry weather indicates that there will be a wildfire risk for the foreseeable future. On October 6, City Council directed the City Manager to prepare an ordinance that would address burn ban orders for parks. This code amendment will authorize the City Manager, the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, or their authorized designees to issue burn ban orders that will prohibit smoking, camp fires, grilling (except with propane-fueled equipment) and other fire hazards in city parks and nature preserves. Violation of an order will be a Class C misdemeanor. The restriction will reduce the wildfire risk at these sites and can help protect adjacent neighborhoods.

