

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	11197	Agenda Number	24.
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Meeting Date:	12/8/2011	Department:	Parks and Recreation
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## Subject

Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 10-6 of the City Code (*Smoking in Public Places*) by prohibiting smoking in City parks.

## 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 20, 2011 – Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to prepare an ordinance that prohibits smoking in City parks.
For More Information:	Elizabeth Richard, 974-3925; April Thedford, 974-6716
Boards and Commission Action:	To be presented to the Parks and Recreation Board on December 6, 2011; was recommended by the Golf Advisory Board on November 16, 2011.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

## Additional Backup Information

This amendment to the Smoking in Public Places chapter prohibits smoking in City parks. This prohibition applies to city-owned athletic fields, nature preserves and swimming pools, but not to golf courses. The amendment also exempts smoking in films by actors under a valid permit, as well as designated areas for special events where the Parks Director recommends approval of, and the Council approves, the designated smoking area.

Cigarettes and second hand smoke contain more than 7,000 chemicals including 69 known carcinogens presenting a serious health and environmental risk. Tobacco related litter is the most common form of litter and over 40,000 cigarette butts have been collected from 39 Parks and Recreation Department sites this year. Cigarettes also pose a significant fire risk. According to the Austin Fire Department, 9 out of 10 fires along our roadways are caused by cigarettes and at least 25% of all wildfires have been caused by cigarettes. Tobacco use is the number one cause of death and disability in Austin and Travis County. By restricting smoking in City parks, the Department is protecting the health, safety and welfare of community members. The purpose of parks is to promote community wellness and creating smoke-free parks provides a healthier and safer recreational environment.