

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	11707	Agenda Number	19.
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Meeting Date:	12/15/2011	Department:	Parks and Recreation
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Subject

Approve an ordinance on third reading 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:	Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The Smoking in Public Places Ordinance was first enacted on January 1, 1986 and this restricted smoking in enclosed public places including places of employment. Since 1986, this ordinance has been amended and reorganized into the current ordinance which was approved by referendum election on May 7, 2005. The current version of the Smoking in Public Places ordinance includes an indoor smoking prohibition with limited exceptions.

This amendment to Smoking in Public Places prohibits smoking in City parks. This includes city-owned athletic fields, nature preserves and swimming pools. 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.

