

Alcohol in City of Austin Parks

October 9, 2017

Parks and Recreation Board: Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee

Presented by: Ricardo Soliz, Acting Assistant Director

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Goals

Amend Title 8.—Parks and Recreation to:

- ❑ Clearly define terms used in relationship to the use of Alcohol in Parks
- ❑ Clearly state where alcohol is permitted
- ❑ Fairly and equitably regulate the use of alcohol within the park system

Research on Alcohol in Parks 7/15/17

Park location	Prohibits Possession	Prohibits Consumption	Exemptions
Within Texas			
Dallas		X	Fairpark, Arlington Hall, golf courses, Arboretum
El Paso	X	X	Events or rentals, or by Director's designation
Houston	X	X	Adds that alcohol is not allowed within 15ft of playscape or play structure
San Antonio		X	Softball fields, Riverwalk, picnic facilities, golf courses, zoo, special event venues—botanical garden, museums, etc.
Travis County / Texas Parks & Wildlife		X	States public display of consumption; sale of alcohol is also prohibited
Within U.S.			
Chicago	X		Picnic permits for beaches, allowed at special events facilities
Denver		X	3.2 % beer is allowed in public parks
Minneapolis		X	Special use permit or rentals-do have a beer garden within a park
New York City	X	X	
Portland	X	X	Picnic permit; must have insurance if more than 50 people
Seattle	X	X	

Trash associated with Alcohol in Parks



Round Table Discussions on the Issue

❑ PARD held round table discussions

- July 19, 2017: Technical focused, PARD Grounds, APD, Park Rangers
- July 25, 2017: Community Representatives

Executive Committee of Austin Neighborhood Council; representatives from Galindo, Zilker, Govalle, University Hills Neighborhood Associations, Keep Austin Beautiful, Austin Parks Foundation, Pease Park Conservancy, Zilker Botanical Center Conservancy, Downtown Austin Alliance, and Vice Chair of the Parks Board

- ❑ Among the Technical Group: Unanimous support to be consistent with prohibiting alcohol in parks.
- ❑ Among the Community Representatives: There was a split between the language of: “No alcohol in parks” versus “No public consumption of alcohol in parks.”

Staff Recommendations

1. Staff recommendation is to prohibit alcohol on public recreation areas with some exceptions.
2. These exceptions include:
 - ❑ Rental facilities by permit (wedding venues, cultural centers, etc.)
 - ❑ Contracted concession sites
 - ❑ Designated event and picnic facilities by permit
 - ❑ Athletic fields except dugout and playfield
 - ❑ Rented campsites
 - ❑ Golf courses
 - ❑ Special Events
 - ❑ Other areas as designated by the director



Applicable City Code Chapter

Chapter 8-1 General Provisions

- ❑ 8-1-1 Definitions

Chapter 8-3 Restriction on Food, Beverages and Containers

- ❑ 8-3-1 Alcohol Beverages Prohibited
- ❑ 8-3-2 Designation of Prohibition of Alcohol
- ❑ 8-3-5 Temporary Sale of Beverages and Food

8-1-1 Definitions

□ Current:

APPROVAL means a permit, reservation agreement, or other written document that evidences an authorization by the department.

PUBLIC RECREATION AREA means a park, recreational facility, athletic field, building, swimming pool, playground, nature preserve, trail, dock, or greenbelt managed, maintained, or operated by the department or on the department's behalf.

SPECIAL EVENT means an activity that anticipates 1,000 or more attendees and is conducted pursuant to an approval that allows for the exclusive use of all or part of the public recreation area for the activity.

□ Clarification will be needed for:

- Designated Event Facilities
- Playing field area and dugout
- Designated Rental Sites

8-3-1 Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited

Current Code Language	
<p>Except as provided in Section 8-3-5 (Temporary Sales of Beverages and Food), a person may not knowingly sell, possess, or consume an alcoholic beverage in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the fenced, enclosed area surrounding a swimming pool in a park, or within 100 feet of an unenclosed swimming pool in a park;• a recreation facility or adjacent outdoor area that is part of the recreation facility including a field, playground, parking lot, play slab, or playscape;• all or part of a park or playground designated by the director as being an area in which the sale, possession, or consumption of alcohol is prohibited;• the playing area or dugout area of an athletic field;• a school district/playground area; or• a nature preserve.

8-3-1 Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited

Proposed Code Language	Exemptions
Prohibit alcohol on public recreation areas unless listed as an exemption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Rental facilities by permit (wedding venues, cultural centers, etc.)<input type="checkbox"/> Contracted concession sites<input type="checkbox"/> Designated event and picnic facilities by permit<input type="checkbox"/> Athletic fields except dugout and playfield<input type="checkbox"/> Rented campsites<input type="checkbox"/> Golf courses<input type="checkbox"/> Special Events<input type="checkbox"/> Other areas as designated by the director

Next Steps

- ❑ Parks and Recreation Board presentation on October 24, 2017
- ❑ City Council presentation and action by December 2017.