




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Kimberly A. McNeeley, M. Ed., CPRP, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

**DATE:** November 12, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance No. 20210902-047 – 2021 Trail of Lights Event at Zilker Metropolitan Park

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On September 2, 2021, City Council approved Ordinance No. 20210902-047 increasing the maximum number of special event days for the 2021 Trail of Lights Event at Zilker Metropolitan Park to 30 days.

### **Authorization**

As a result of safety requirements and COVID-19 health protocols, pedestrian-based attractions or activations continue to be impacted for this event. Like 2020, Trail of Lights 2021 will not include the following elements:

- Community performance stages,
- In-person pedestrian experiences,
- Walk-up ticket purchases and
- Carousel and Ferris wheel activations.

The above changes have allowed the event to mobilize and also provide for a decrease in impacts affecting park access.

### **Maximizing Park Grounds Access**

The Trail of Lights Foundation has worked to provide additional public access to 17 acres at Zilker Park. A map is attached to show the 2021 approved use areas for the Trail of Lights.

- Great Lawn – Total Area            54 acres
- Traditional Trail of Lights Use    42 acres
- 2021 Approved Use Area            25 acres (net gain of 17 acres of access)

### **Traffic and Mobility Mitigation**

In addition to less impacts within Zilker Park, the Trail of Lights Foundation and the Austin Center for Events has worked to create less impact on the roadways.

#### Barton Springs Road

- 2021: Barton Springs Road will remain open throughout the event period to allow mobility by the general public.
- Typical Year: Barton Springs Road is closed for event days.
- Mobility will be enhanced, and congestion greatly reduced.

#### Access

- Pre-credentialed vehicles will only be allowed to access the event by using Lake Austin Boulevard.
- No pedestrian or walk-up access will be allowed from any other park area.
- Trail of Lights and City staff are working on comprehensive messaging to credentialed attendees as well as the general public to create awareness of the changes for 2021.

If you have additional questions, please contact Jason Maurer, Sales and Event Manager, Parks and Recreation Department at 512-974-2427, or [jason.maurer@austintexas.gov](mailto:jason.maurer@austintexas.gov).

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Anne Morgan, Interim Deputy City Manager  
Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager

Attachment – Park Access Map

# Attachment 1 – Park Access Map

2021 approved use area – red shaded area

