



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-4016, **Agenda Item #:** 46.

2/29/2024

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Title 8 (Parks and Recreation) to regulate activities that occur on parkland; correcting the name of certain parkland; and creating offenses and penalties.

Lead Department

Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

Kimberly McNeeley, Parks and Recreation Director, 512-974-6722.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

December 3, 2019 - Presentation to the Parks and Recreation Board with no action taken.

December 10, 2019 - Presentation to the Urban Transportation Commission with no action taken.

November 27, 2023 - The Parks and Recreation Board recommended to amend City Code related to regulations that apply to the activities that occur on property managed, maintained or operated by the Parks and Recreation Department or on the Department's behalf in creating offenses and penalties on a 9-0 vote. Recommendation No. 20231127-7.

Additional Backup Information:

If approved, this ordinance will amend multiple sections within Title 8 (Parks and Recreation) to address activities that occur on parkland. These activities include geocaching, rock climbing, slacklining, using hammocks, jumping/diving into water, using remote control toys, erecting memorials, scattering cremation remains, bike riding, using micro-mobility devices, using personal assistive devices, water skiing, and swimming. Additionally, the ordinance will correct errors related to the name of Town Lake Park and address burning restrictions.

In 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with Transportation Public Works Department completed a pilot study that allowed electric scooters and electric bikes on certain parkland trails. The pilot started in January 2019 and ran through September 2019. The study was guided by City Council Resolution 20181213-107 guided the parameters of the study and the specific trails that hosted the pilot. Electric scooters and electric bikes were allowed on paved parkland trails that were also identified as contributing to the transportation network. The trails in the study included the Johnson Creek Trail, Shoal Creek Trail south of 15th Street, Northern Walnut Creek Trail, Southern Walnut Creek Trail and the Ann and Roy Butler Trail. HB2188 defined that electric bikes were to be allowed on trails that had any additional material added to create the trail surface.