

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 10/29/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0947

LOG NAME: 80PARD ORDINANCE REVISIONS

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt an Ordinance Amending the Fort Worth City Code, Chapter 24 "Park and Recreation" to Amend Section 24-8 to Change the Hours of Operation for Park or Recreation Areas to 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to Amend Sections 24-7, 24-13, 24-15, 24-16, 24-17, and 24-18 to Ensure the Rules and Regulations Governing Parks Reflect Current Operational Standards, Revise Outdated Language, and Clarify Sections, to be Effective January 1, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance amending the Fort Worth City Code, Chapter 24 "Park and Recreation" to Amend Section 24-8 to change the hours of operation for park or recreation areas to 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to amend Sections 24-7, 24-13, 24-15, 24-16, 24-17, and 24-18 to ensure the rules and regulations governing parks reflect current operational standards, revise outdated language, and clarify sections, to be effective January 1, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to amend sections of the Fort Worth City Code, Chapter 24 "Park and Recreation" to ensure the rules and regulations governing parks reflect current operational standards, outdated language is updated, and where applicable, sections are clarified. The Park & Recreation Advisory Board endorsed the proposed amendments on September 25, 2024.

The Park & Recreation Department (PARD) is responsible for programs governing the acquisition, improvement, maintenance and operation of all public parks, parkways, lakes and other recreational areas, and the grounds surrounding all municipal buildings owned or controlled by the city and provide management and operations to recreation centers, aquatic facilities, golf courses, the Log Cabin Village, and Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. The PARD also manages the contracts for the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and the Fort Worth Zoo.

Attached to this M&C is a listing of the current codes and recommended revised language. The sections recommended for revision include the following:

§ 24-7 DESIGNATED GOLFING AREAS: Revise to clarify where golfing is allowed and where activities other than golf are not allowed.

§ 24-8 ENTERING CLOSED AREAS, PARK HOURS: Revise to change the hours during which parks are open to the public (without a permit) to 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. This will allow for consistency throughout the park system and Trinity River Trail system. The proposed hours are consistent with the Trinity River Trail system under the jurisdiction of Tarrant Regional Water District. Moreover, the change in closing hours from 11:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. is consistent with requests received from residents and neighborhood associations.

The Fort Worth Police Department has no objections to the change in closing hours and support the proposed revision of the closing time from 11:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Currently the city code authorizes *the director of the park and recreation department shall post the hours during which the area is open to the public. Unless otherwise posted by the director of the park and recreation department, the hours during which parks are open to the public are 5:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.* The *Unless otherwise posted* exception to the code by request will remain in the Code.

Because the code requires the posting (signage) of park hours of operation all current signage will require replacement. The estimated cost to update all signage at all parks is \$15,000.00. Funding is budgeted in the General Fund for the Park and Recreation Department.

§ 24-13 DISCHARGING FIREARMS: Revise to reflect current laws about open carry.

§ 24-15 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: Revise to clarify it is unlawful for persons to drive vehicles within a park.

§ 24-16 BOTANIC GARDEN: Remove restrictions at the Botanic Garden that prohibited wading and dog walking. The approved Master Plan includes an interactive water feature within the family garden. Dog Days are currently offered on a monthly basis with great support and success.

§ 24-17 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: Remove the incorrect wording in the title and remove the requirement of unique single signage prohibiting alcohol.

§ 24-18 BICYCLES, ROLLER BLADES, SKATEBOARDS, AND OTHER WHEELED VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT: Update to reflect current trends of self-propelled or motor-assisted wheeled equipment.

The PARD estimates the cost to update signage to be approximately \$15,000.00 with an implementation time of 6 to 8 weeks for sign procurement and replacement. It is therefore recommended that the new Codes become effective January 1, 2025, to allow for communication and education on the revised codes and procurement and replacement of the park signage.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the recommendation, funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Park & Recreation Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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