



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Agenda Date</b>	December 12, 2023
<b>Requested Action</b>	CONSIDER ON FIRST READING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-38; AMENDING THE CITY OF BOERNE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 16. PARKS AND RECREATION, SECTION 16-1, GENERAL PROVISIONS AND SECTION 16-2, BOERNE CITY LAKE, TO PROHIBIT THE CONSUMPTION AND POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN \$200 FOR VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
<b>Contact Person</b>	Lisette Jimenez, Director of Parks and Recreation
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>Boerne City Lake has long been a cherished destination for families and individuals seeking a peaceful and enjoyable recreational experience. However, in recent years, the lake has witnessed a significant increase in visitation, accompanied by a decline in the overall atmosphere of the park. This alarming trend has prompted the city to consider possible changes to remedy. Several items have been identified, including lowering the cap on daily visitors, increased police presence, additional waste containers, and increased park maintenance patrols. The team also recommends implementing a ban on the consumption or possession of open containers of alcohol at Boerne City Lake. This action will require a change to the existing parks ordinances.</p> <p><b>Evidence of Declining Conditions</b></p> <p>The substantial rise in visitation to Boerne City Lake has brought about a range of concerning issues that have adversely impacted the park's environment. For reference, the number of visitors throughout the year:</p>

BOERNE CITY LAKE	
	Visitors
2023	110.1K
2022	95.7K
2021	87.5K
2020	71.5K
2019	90.6K
2018	81.8K
FY 17	64K

**Issues include:**

- Increased Trash and Litter: The surge in visitors has led to a noticeable accumulation of trash and litter, marring the natural beauty of the lake and creating a hazardous environment for wildlife. Increase time allocated to cleaning the lake by staff, resulting in productivity in other projects.
- Disorderly Conduct: Larger crowds increase incidences of disorderly conduct, including loud music, public intoxication, and violent altercations. These incidents have disrupted the tranquility of the park and created a sense of unease among visitors.
- Safety Concerns: Alcohol consumption has also contributed to safety concerns, particularly during peak season.
- Drought: Drought in surrounding lakes has increased the number of visitors to Boerne Lake.

**Impact on Family-Friendly Atmosphere**

The issues have collectively eroded the family-friendly atmosphere that Boerne City Lake once held dear. Patrons have expressed concerns about the large crowds the park now hosts, and many local families have stopped visiting the lake, especially during the summer season. This shift away from a family-centric environment is detrimental to the overall appeal of the park and its role within the community.

### **Efforts to Address Issues**

The Traffic and Safety Task Force has discussed these issues, and several changes have already been implemented as a result.

- **Increased Staff Presence:** The Parks and Recreation Department and Boerne Police Department have collaborated to increase staff presence at the park, particularly during peak season. Parks Dept. now doubles the presence during weekends to accommodate for increased trash.
- **Additional Waste Management:** two 8-yard commercial dumpsters and one 40-yard roll-off dumpster have been placed at the lake.
- **Signage Changes:** New and additional signage has been installed throughout the park to communicate park rules and regulations clearly.

Despite these efforts, the underlying issues persist, and the city is now proposing implementing another of the Task Force's recommendations: an ordinance that prohibits the consumption or possession of open containers of alcohol at Boerne City Lake. The proposed ordinance will align with the City's core values, such as service and excellence. The proposed alcohol ban represents a step towards restoring the tranquility, safety, and family-friendly atmosphere that Boerne City Lake has long been known for. This measure will help safeguard the park's natural beauty, enhance the overall visitor experience, and help ensure that Boerne City Lake remains a cherished recreational destination for our community and visitors.

The proposed ordinance would be added to Section 16-2 – Boerne City Lake.

(h) The consumption or possession of an open container of alcohol is prohibited within the 47.8 acres of Boerne City Lake Park, including without limitation the 100 acres of lake surface, parking lots, trails, disc golf course, playground, portable and public restrooms. This includes fermented malt beverage or malt liquor (beer); vinous liquor (wine or champagne); or spirituous liquor (hard liquor).

	<p>Additionally, staff proposes to amend section 16-2, C by adding “Boerne City Lake” to the existing ordinance. The current ordinance reads as follows:</p> <p><i>“Alcoholic beverages. The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages within athletic field areas, their perimeter fences, skate parks, and pool area shall be prohibited.”</i></p> <p>The amended ordinance will read as follows.</p> <p><i>“Alcoholic beverages. The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages within athletic field areas, their perimeter fences, skate parks, pool, and Boerne City Lake area shall be prohibited.”</i></p>
<b>Item Justification</b>	<div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal/Regulatory Obligation           <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Costs           <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue           <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigate Risk           <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan Recommendation         </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment           <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Pull           <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service Enhancement           <input type="checkbox"/> Process Efficiency           <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Mayoral Appt</u> </div> </div>
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	B1 – Utilizing data to drive smart decision-making, C1 – Offering quality customer experiences
<b>Financial Considerations</b>	
<b>Citizen Input/Board Review</b>	Traffic and Safety Committee
<b>Legal Review</b>	TOASE and The Jacobson Law Firm, P.C
<b>Alternative Options</b>	

<b>Supporting Documents</b>	Current Boerne City Lake Ordinance- Section 16.1 and 16.2
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