



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of September 17, 2019  
Second Reading Ordinance for City Council Meeting of September 24, 2019

**DATE:** July 9, 2019

**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager

**FROM:** Jermel Stevenson, Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
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Amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 36 to Include Blucher Park Designation

### **CAPTION:**

Ordinance amending Chapter 36 of the City Code to add section 36-14 to prohibit lying down, smoking, vaping, eating, and possessing blankets, pillows, mattresses, cardboard, tarps, sleeping bags, bedding, stoves, cooking devices, shopping carts, wagons, within Blucher Park; changing closing time from 10:00pm to 8:00pm for said park; and providing for fines.

### **SUMMARY:**

Human usage of the park, other than for bird watching, tends to damage vegetation; discourages and/or interrupts the migratory patterns of the birds; and ultimately lessens the ability of citizens to enjoy the park as a bird watching sanctuary. The amendment to Code of Ordinances Chapter 36 would prohibit certain activities and items within Blucher Park to allow the park to thrive.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

Blucher Park, located at 100 block of Carrizo Street, is designated as a site on the Corpus Christi Bay Loop as part of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. Blucher Park is also a nationally and internationally recognized birding park with unique attributes that attract migratory birds. Blucher Park provides food sources such as pigeonberry (*Ruvina humilis*) and turkscap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*) for a variety of migratory birds.

Human usage of the park, other than for birding watching, tends to damage vegetation; discourages and/or interrupts the migratory patterns of the birds; and ultimately lessens the ability of citizens to enjoy the park as a bird watching sanctuary.

The proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 36 adds a section 36-14, specifically for Blucher Park to include the prohibition of items (such as blankets, pillows, shopping carts, cooking devices), and behavior (such as lying down, sleeping, eating). A designated park curfew for Blucher Park shall be closed for all purposes at 8:00pm each day and re-opened for public use at 6:00 a.m. each day.

The proposed amended ordinance was presented by the Corpus Christi Police Department at the June 19, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting and endorsed by the Committee as presented. The Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi is an Adopt-A-Park partner for Blucher Park by volunteering in weekly trash and general clean-up of the park and fully endorses the proposed amended ordinance.

The amended ordinance was drafted and reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Corpus Christi Police Department. The Corpus Christi Police Department supports the amended ordinance and will enforce the ordinance at this location. The ordinance will go into effect immediately upon publication.

The City of Corpus Christi wishes to preserve this natural resource and attraction for the use and benefit of its citizens and visitors from around the United States and the world.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is not to modify the Code of Ordinance thus limiting the use of the park by citizens and visitor, continue further deterioration of the vegetation and disrupting the migratory pattern of birds and their environment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Blucher Park is a natural resource that is maintained by both Park staff and community volunteers. The benefit of the proposed amendment to the current ordinance would limit the cost of damage and deterioration of the park. Eco-tourism would also be maintained and enhanced by ensuring the natural habit of the birds is not disturbed and visitors would continue to visit our community. There is no fiscal impact for this item.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Both the Parks and Recreation Department and Corpus Christi Police Department recommend the approval of this agenda item. The proposed amended ordinance was presented by the Corpus Christi Police Department at the June 19, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting and endorsed by the Committee as presented.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Ordinance  
Presentation  
Site Map