

Legislation Text

File #: 24-310, **Version:** 1

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

Approval of the second and final reading of an ordinance to amend Article I, Section 86-3 (b) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Braunfels to include a park closure time to the City Tube Chute Park during the peak use season.

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 5

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For the last two river seasons the City of New Braunfels has closed the City Tube Chute Park at 7:00 pm on summer weekends by order of the Police Chief. The City Tube Chute Park is operated by City staff starting the first weekend in May through Labor Day. The proposed ordinance change is to add permanent weekend hours for the City Tube Chute Park to close at 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and Independence Day from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day. July 3rd when it is on a Monday and July 5th when it is on a Friday have been included to accommodate long holiday weekends when we have had more visitation historically. The goal of this change is to have the hours set in the code of ordinances to alleviate changes from year to year and possible confusion.

The proposed revision is not a closure of the Comal River and is only a closure of the City Tube Chute Park property. Visitors participating in water recreation will still have the ability to portage around the Tube Chute, even though the park is closed. The expectation is that the visitor will return to the river after they portage and continue their trip downstream.

A sign with instructions for a phone number to call if locked into the property after hours will be posted by the exit gate on the Prince Solms Park side of the property.

An exit-only gate option would be best on the opposite side of the Tube Chute building from the current entrance. It takes 2 months for construction of the turnstile gate, which means the project could not be completed before the 2024 river season. A full-height turnstile gate was quoted at \$20,000 and necessary concrete path and concrete pad to anchor the gate would be an additional \$15,000. After evaluating this coming a budget request item may be considered.

ISSUE:

The New Braunfels Police Department has identified a trend of concerning behavior and incidences occurring

at the City Tube Chute Park after admissions ceased to be charged and there was limited staff presence. This ordinance revision is proposed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of visitors and City infrastructure.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no identified fiscal impact due to this revision because the closure is happening after admissions to the park have been closed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The River Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed ordinance changes on February 15, 2024, and unanimously recommended the proposed ordinance for approval.
City staff recommends the ordinance revision for approval.