

Amending Chapter 1 General Provisions,
Article 1.09 Parks and Recreation
Prohibiting Smoking
Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park

City Council Meeting
Public Works Director Melinda Moritz
September 5, 2023



Purpose

- To consider amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1 General Provisions, Article 1.09 Parks and Recreation, Division 2 Use Regulations, Sec. 1.09.034 - Additional prohibited uses and activities, to add a sub-section (h), prohibiting smoking in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park (HONAP)
- Options
 - Approve
 - Approve with modifications
 - Deny
- Recommendation
 - Recommend approval as presented

Background

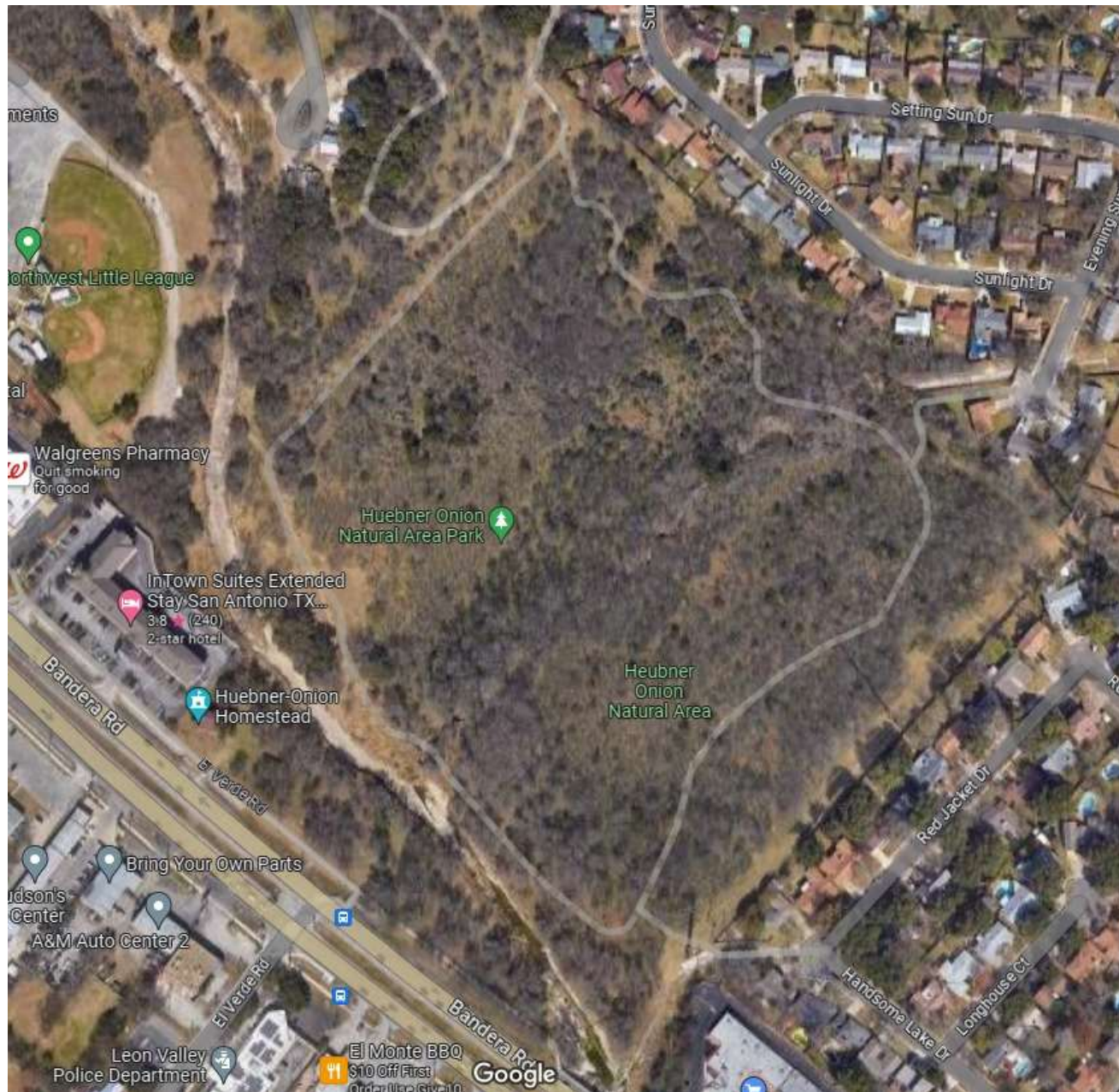
- The Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park is an area with many trees and other vegetation that has been left in its natural state and is frequently overgrown
- A fire break is maintained only along the perimeter where the park abuts improved properties
- Rest of the area is not watered, and the vegetation dies during times of drought, which leaves it vulnerable to fire

Purpose

- The new subsection would read:

“(h) Smoking or possessing a burning tobacco, weed, or other plant product, or any lighted burning pipe, cigar or cigarette of any kind, or smoking equipment or device, is prohibited in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park.”

Aerial View



Fiscal Impact

- Fires can be extremely costly, depending on how many resources are used to extinguish a fire and whether or not any homes are damaged

Recommendation

- At their August 10, 2023 meeting, the Park Commission recommended approval of this Ordinance

S.E.E. Statement

- *Social Equity* – HONAP provides a unique natural and undisturbed open space for all visitors and residents of the city. The prohibition of smoking in this park furthers the goal of keeping the park in as pristine a state as possible
- *Economic Development* –The park is a very desirable amenity, which may attract new residents, which may attract businesses to the city, increasing sales and ad valorem taxes
- *Environmental Stewardship* – Prohibiting smoking in this park will further the prevention of fires that would destroy the ecosystem of this area