

MEMO

DATE: September 12, 2016

TO: San Marcos City Council and Jared Miller, City Manager

FROM: Paul Murray, Parks Board Chair & Sue Cohen, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: SAN MARCOS RIVER PARKS OVERCROWDING ISSUES

At its August 18 meeting, the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended to staff short-term solutions to be implemented by January 2017 to address River Parks overcrowding. The Advisory Board is very concerned about public safety and City liability due to the record crowds visiting our river parks. The Parks Board will address long-term solutions in the next 1-2 years through the update process of the Parks Master Plan and by recommending revisions to City Park Ordinances.

Please be advised that this memo is for your information and no action is requested by the Park Board.

Short-term solutions are as follows:

1. Move picnic sites back away from river in all City River parks. (More picnic tables will be added away from river)
2. On-street parking removed on Cheatham Street at Rio Vista (weekends and holidays only)
3. Remove picnic tables and grills on Cheatham Street (this area will be for accessing river only)
4. No shelters/tents except in designated picnic sites
5. No portable grills in City River Parks (City Park to Lucio Park)

Long-term solutions that the Board will be looking at incorporating into the Parks Master Plan and Park Ordinances:

1. Park user fees and Parking fees
2. No portable grills and removing grills
3. Gates to entrances of City River Parks to help control curfews
4. Restroom facilities
5. Parking

Thank you for your support as we all work together to preserve the natural resources and make San Marcos Parks safe and enjoyable.