



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney Street  
Denton, Texas  
[www.cityofdenton.com](http://www.cityofdenton.com)

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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks and Recreation

**ACM:** Christine Taylor, Assistant City Manager

**DATE:** April 15, 2025

### **SUBJECT**

Hold a public hearing and consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton adopting Standards of Care for recreational care programs administered by Denton's Parks and Recreation department pursuant to Texas Human Resources Code Section 42.041(b)(14); and providing an effective date. The Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board recommends approval (5-0).

### **BACKGROUND**

Each year the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) presents the Standards of Care to City Council for review and adoption. The Texas Department of Regulatory Services requires municipalities to adopt an ordinance annually approving a Standards of Care for specific types of programming. The Standards of Care are requirements that either meet or exceed the current State Day Care requirements and are intended to be minimum standards by which PARC will operate programs related to youth and teens. The programs operated by PARC under the Standards of Care are recreational in nature and are not daycare programs.

Senate Bill 212 was approved by the Texas Legislature during the 74<sup>th</sup> legislative session exempting recreation programs from daycare licensing if a Standards of Care is adopted. In order to be exempt, an elementary-age (ages 5-13) recreation program may be operated by the municipality provided: the governing body of the municipality annually adopts Standards of Care by ordinance after a public hearing for such programs, that such standards are provided to the parents of each program participant, and that the ordinances shall include, at a minimum, staffing ratios, minimum staff qualifications, minimum facility, health and safety standards, and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing the adopted local standards; and further provided that parents be informed that the program is not licensed by the State and the program may not be advertised as a child care facility.

The first Standards of Care was adopted by the City Council through Ordinance 99-365. The State changed the exemption certification to include the adoption of a new ordinance each year for the Standards of Care in order to continue the exemption status. Each year PARC makes revisions and updates to the original Standards of Care.

Proposed revisions and updates to the 2025-2026 Standards of Care are listed below:

- Updated summer camp names and locations throughout
- Updated language for general clarification of standards throughout
- Attachment of Appendix A related to criminal background checks and exclusions
- Updated language in section 3.A-E Inspections, Monitoring & Enforcement
  - o Better delineates and provides for escalating responsibilities of program staff
  - o Streamlines the inspection schedule for various programs and sites

- Updated language to reflect qualifications, responsibilities, and training as stated in current job descriptions.
- Addition of water safety language as required by Cati's Act.
- Streamlined schedules for program site fire drills
- Reorganized section 21.B Medication for better clarity and flow
- Added language to better address medication administration related to special circumstances

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance as adoption of the Standards of Care is necessary to operate the recreational care programs.

### **PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)**

On April 16, 2024, City Council approved the 2024-2025 Standards of Care under ordinance 24-657.

On April 18, 2023, City Council approved the 2023-2024 Standards of Care under ordinance 23-532.

On April 5, 2022, City Council approved the 2022-2023 Standards of Care under ordinance 22-255.

### **ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT**

A public hearing is scheduled for April 1, 2025, with the ordinance for City Council's review and approval.

### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Ordinance

Exhibit 3- City of Denton Parks and Recreation Standards of Care 2025-2026 (redline)

Exhibit 4- City of Denton Parks and Recreation Standards of Care 2025-2026 (clean)

Respectfully submitted:  
Gary Packan  
Director of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:  
Megan Thomas  
Parks and Recreation, Program Area Manager