



Medical Treatment and Food Distribution in City Parks Ordinance



Why do we need a Medical Treatment and Food Distribution in City Parks Ordinance?



These activities are already taking place in city parks



Parks are protected spaces under the 1st Amendment



Currently there is no park rule or city ordinance to address these services in parks



Concerns from residents regarding the lack of regulation and impact of these services on parks

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- Direction from Phoenix City Council to develop a proposed ordinance
- Safe Medical Care in City Parks Ordinance was approved by Phoenix City Council 12/17/25 by an 8-1 vote, with delayed effective date of March 30, 2026



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- March 6, Phoenix City Council approval to delay effective date to June 1, 2026
- Direction to add Food Distribution
- Revised proposed ordinance posted March 27, 2026



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Stakeholder outreach and notification:

- phoenix.gov/parksordinance
- Community Meetings
- Survey
- Park signs (in parks where providers confirmed services are being provided)
- Social media
- Neighborhood associations
- City Services Bill
- Newsletters



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Prohibits:

- Needle exchange/distribution on park property
- Distribution of needle/intramuscular naloxone on park property

Requires a permit for:

- Medical treatment and food distribution activities on park property



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Medical treatment activities:

- Maximum number of permits issued for services is twice, per month, per eligible park **(two total, not two food and two medical permits)**
- Must take place in an enclosed tent or mobile medical vehicle in the parking lot or other hardscape area that is not an athletic court
- Must be performed under supervision of a licensed professional operating under the scope of their licensure



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Food Distribution:

- Food distribution event is defined as a gathering for charitable or humanitarian purposes, planned, organized or conducted to distribute food to any member of the general public at no cost or for nominal charge
- Maximum number of permits issued for services is twice, per month, per eligible park **(two total, not two food and two medical treatment permits)**



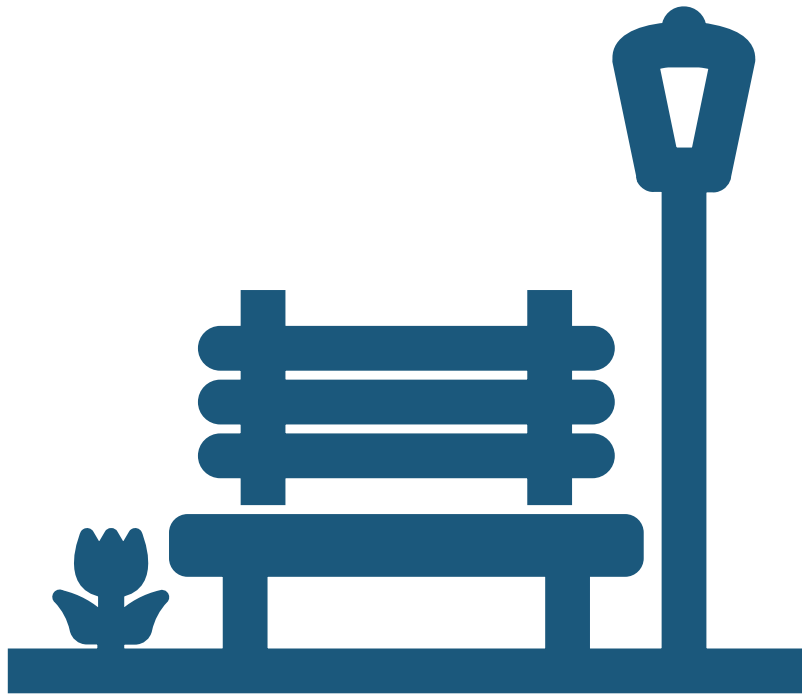
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Next steps

- Review stakeholder feedback with Mayor/City Council
- Return to Phoenix City Council May 6, 2026 (packet will be posted April 30, 2026)



How can you participate?



- Spread the word
- Complete the survey
- Participate in the May 6, 2026, City Council meeting in-person or virtually



phoenix.gov/parksordinance

