



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. VII.BG.
10/27/2015

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Resolution designating the following dates as “Free Fishing Days” in Oklahoma City: January 2, 2016, February 6, 2016, March 5, 2016, April 2, 2016, May 7, 2016, June 4-5, 2016, July 2, 2016, August 6, 2016, September 3, 2016, October 1, 2016, November 5, 2016, and December 3, 2016; and providing that during “Free Fishing Days,” applicable state fishing permits will still be required, and all other fishing regulations will remain in effect.

Background

The City of Oklahoma City provides a variety of public fishing venues for residents and visitors. Councilman Greenwell suggested an initiative to offer one day each month in which City fishing permits would not be required at the City’s designated fishing sites, including all City reservoirs, the Close to Home fishing waters, the Oklahoma River, and the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge.

The goal of “Free Fishing Days” is to introduce Oklahoma City residents and visitors to fishing and encourage them to partake of the City’s numerous fishing opportunities and programs. “Free Fishing Days” would occur the first Saturday of each month in 2016. “Free Fishing Days” would include June 4-5, 2016, in conjunction with “National Fishing and Boating Week.”

The Parks and Recreation Director is authorized, with City Council approval, to implement “Free Fishing Days” under Section 38-103 (b) of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code. During “Free Fishing Days,” applicable state fishing permits would still be required, and all other fishing regulations would remain in effect.

Staff estimate the reduction in revenue from daily City fishing permits during “Free Fishing Days” would be approximately \$900 per year.

On July 6, 2015 (Item No. IV.), the Game and Fish Commission recommended that “Free Fishing Days” be established in 2016.

On July 21, 2015 (Item No. V.F.), the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority recommended that “Free Fishing Days” be established in 2016.

On August 4, 2015 (Item No. V.B.), the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust recommended that "Free Fishing Days" be established in 2016.

On August 19, 2015 (Item No. IV.A.), the Oklahoma City Zoological Trust recommended that "Free Fishing Days" be established in 2016.

Review

Parks and Recreation Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.