

AGENDA



Thursday, May 21, 2009

**Parks and Recreation
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 19**

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$14,180 in grant funds from the Austin Community Foundation, Urban Forest Grant Program; and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$14,180 for the purchase of Global Positioning System equipment and software.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$14,180 is available from the Austin Community Foundation under the Urban Forest Grant Program. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Angela Means, Division Manager at 974-6712

The Parks and Recreation Department's (PARC) Urban Forestry program is responsible for maintaining, preserving, and replenishing the urban forest on publicly owned land. The objective of acquiring Global Positioning System hardware and software is to collect data on both publicly owned trees and locations for future tree plantings.

With these tools, the Urban Forestry program will maintain and update the existing tree inventory data and collect new data to expand the tree inventory. PARC will utilize this data to efficiently allocate tree care resources, plan future maintenance, schedule tree planting events and evaluate the overall health and canopy coverage of the urban forest on public lands.

This information will contribute to the evolution of the Urban Forest Master Plan. Under this plan, PARC will chart the needs and progress of Austin's urban forest.

All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City.