

## AGENDA



Thursday, March 25, 2010

**Parks and Recreation  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
**Item No. 27**

**Subject:** Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget of Ordinance No. 20090914-003 to appropriate \$2,240,125 for various park improvements.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available from parkland mitigation funds.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

**For More Information:** Sara Hensley, Parks and Recreation Department Director / 974-6716      Ed Van Eenoo, Budget Officer / 974-2610.

**Prior Council Action:** November 8, 2007, approved Norwood Dog Park; January 10, 2008 Nicholas Dawson, Metz Recreation Center, Northeast Austin Disc Golf, ; Shoal Creek Greenbelt approved; September 25, 2008 Rosewood Park approved; October 23, 2008 approved Morris Williams Golf Course; April 30, 2009 approved Downtown Wastewater Tunnel.

This action appropriates \$2,240,125 for various park improvements.

Chapter 26 (Protection of Public Parks and Recreational Lands) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code provides that the use of parkland for non-park purposes may be approved upon a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of that land.

As part of the Chapter 26 process, the Parks and Recreation Department and the department utilizing the parkland negotiate a memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining the use of the land as well as mitigation fees for the temporary or permanent use. The total amount of the fees is based on the length of use and value of the property, with differentiation made based on the land being a residential area or in downtown. The department can either complete improvements to the parkland in value equal to the total agreed upon amount in mitigation fees as part of the MOU or provide payment to the Parks and Recreation Department.

In the majority of projects, the departments complete the improvements to the parkland. However, recently, the Parks and Recreation Department has found more often the department prefers to simply provide a payment. Because the agreements and dollar amounts are not easily forecasted, they are often not included in the normal capital budget approval process.

The affected parks where Chapter 26 was applied, total amount of mitigation fees and anticipated use of funding are noted below.

1. Norwood Dog Park – \$116,500.00 (for existing or future dog park amenities)
2. Nicholas Dawson – \$58,731.00 (Parking improvements for drainage and tree plantings)
3. Metz Recreation Center – \$28,824.00 (General improvements to facility)
4. Northeast Austin Disc Golf – \$83,583.00 (General parkland improvements)
5. Shoal Creek Greenbelt – \$100,000.00 (Trail renovation from Gaston to 29th Street)
6. Rosewood Park – \$23,475.00 (Renovate pavilion restroom and irrigation)

7. Morris Williams Golf Course – \$500,000.00 (Grant match)
8. Downtown Wastewater Tunnel – \$1,329,012.00 (Krieg Softball Complex irrigation and renovations)