

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	32894	Agenda Number	11.
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Meeting Date:	5/22/2014	Department:	Parks and Recreation
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Subject

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$10,000 in grant funds from the National Recreation and Park Association; and amending the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20130909-001) to appropriate \$10,000 for the Grow Your Park project.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available from the National Recreation and Park Association. The grant period is May 9, 2014 through December 31, 2014. A City match is not required.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Pat Fuller, Nature Based Programs Division Manager 512-978-2601 and Angela Means, Financial Services Division Manager, 512-974-6712
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department's (PARD) Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens Program (SUACG) has been awarded a small grant of \$10,000 from the National Recreation and Park Association for the Grow Your Park Grant. PARD applied for funding specifically for professional engineering services because each community garden needs a sealed, professionally engineered drawing of a water tap plan, which has been a prohibitively expensive requirement for many gardens to meet. We estimate that we should be able to fund professional engineering services for up to five new community gardens on city land.

The SUACG program has been hugely popular since its inception, and we currently have seven community gardens on public land, four senior gardens on public land (for those age 55 and up), and four community gardens under development on public land. We currently have more demand for community gardens than we are able to meet, and some planned gardens are stalled because of lack of funding.

The purpose of this request is to support the community gardens on city land by funding one of the most expensive components of the construction process – the professional engineering services for the required water tap plan. Community garden members fund the majority of new community garden construction, and often partner with the Austin Parks Foundation, the Neighborhood Partnering Program, the Sustainable Food Center, or other donors to increase funding. The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant.