

Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council Item ID 70154 Agenda Number 11.

Meeting Date: 5/4/2017 Department: Parks and Recreation

Subject

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20160914-001) to accept \$1,000,000 in grant funds; and amending the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20160914-002) to transfer in and appropriate \$1,000,000 from the Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant Program for improvements to Emma Long Metro Park.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 is available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant Program and \$1,000,000 required city-match is available from Proposition 14 of the 2012 G.O. Bond Program.

Fiscal Note A fiscal note is attached. Purchasing Language: Resolution No. 20160922-034 authorizing PARD application for up to \$1,000,000 in grant funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Local Park Urban Outdoor Grant **Prior Council Action:** Program for Emma Long Metropolitan Park. Liana Kallivoka, Assistant Director, 512-974-9455; Kevin Johnson, Project Coordinator, 512-974-9506; Suzanne Piper, Acting Division Manager, 512-974-6753; Vera Labriola, Business For More Information: Process Specialist, 512-974-6716 Council Committee, Boards and **Commission Action:** MBE / WBE: Related Items: Additional Backup Information

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) received \$1.7 million under the 2012 General Obligation Bond program for preliminary design scoping and Phase 1 improvements to Emma Long Metropolitan Park. After a rigorous public engagement effort, the project team has developed a governing Vision Plan for prioritized needs at the park. Phase 1 improvements will focus on infrastructure needs, centering on improved utility capacity to campsites, circulation and parking improvements, and enhancements to the boat launch/water access area.

PARD has approximately \$1 million available for construction, but grant match funding will allow for a more robust scope of work to address challenges to circulation, access and user experience, while also enhancing amenities available to both tent and recreational vehicle campers, which could result in increased fees for use of the park.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Local Park Urban Outdoor Grant Program is available to cities and counties with populations over 500,000 for the acquisition and development of parkland. The timeframe of the grant is three years with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2017, although the actual start date of the grant is contingent upon TPWD review and award.

Leveraging of this \$1,000,000 grant funding from TPWD with other City funding sources will help complete an essential phase of improvements to this heavily utilized Metro Park.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, PARD's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.