



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1410, **Agenda Item #:** 18.

3/12/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance accepting grant funds from the St. David's Foundation and amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) in the amount of \$199,122 for the Parks and Recreation Department, of which, \$19,820 will be used to activate park space, and in the amount of \$10,004 for the Austin Transportation Department, for a total of \$209,126; and amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) to transfer in and appropriate \$179,302 for the Parks and Recreation Department's Walnut Creek Metro Park Playscape Replacement project and to transfer in and appropriate \$10,004 for the Austin Transportation Department's Airport Blvd - MLK Jr Blvd to U.S. 183 project to assist with consulting and community engagement relating to park improvements in the right-of-way, for a total of \$189,306.

Lead Department

Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$209,126 is available from the St. David's Foundation. A City funding match is not required. Fiscal notes are attached.

Prior Council Action:

On September 10, 2019, Council approved Ordinance No. 20190910-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund with staff amendments by a motion made by Council Member Renteria and seconded by Council Member Tovo. No funds for this grant were appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget.

On August 8, 2019, Council approved Ordinance No. 20190808-031 authorizing acceptance of \$341,014 in grant funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study the effects of green infrastructure installed at joint-use school parks located at elementary schools. The ordinance was approved on consent on Council Member Alter's motion, Council Member Renteria's second on an 11-0 vote.

On March 22, 2018, Council approved Ordinance No. 20180322-020 authorizing acceptance of \$38,000 in grant funds from a 3M Eco-Grant for Environmental and Conservation Education. The ordinance was approved on consent on Council Member Casar's motion, Council Member Houston's second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Pool was absent.

On January 26, 2017, Council approved Resolution No. 20170126-022 supporting the Austin Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Alter's second on an 11-0 vote.

On January 26, 2017, Council approved Ordinance No. 20170126-023 authorizing acceptance of \$50,000 in grant funds from the National League of Cities for implementation of the Connecting Children to Nature initiative on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Alter's second on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, 512-974-9452 and Sammi Curless, Business Process Specialist,

512-974-6716.

Additional Backup Information:

This budget amendment will provide grant funds from the St. David's Foundation to the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) and the Austin Transportation Department's Corridor Program Office (CPO). The funds will be used for the purchase and installation of play equipment in Walnut Creek Park as an additional scope to a planned bond-funded playground replacement project. The proposed nature play elements include climbing boulders, a berm slide, seating boulders, a log tunnel, an art wall and music station, stonework, a nature building station, a stump jump, and a climbing arch. Of the total budget, \$12,020 will be used to provide active programming for the park.

The portion of the grant which will be used by CPO will be used to enable the CPO to provide consulting advice to the Thinkery to create a series of interactive Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)-based exhibits to enhance the 6,000 square foot currently unused portion of Right-of-Way, or a "pocket green," located at the intersection of Airport Boulevard, Bolm Road, and Shady Lane. This project will invite families to engage in STEAM-based learning experiences and connect to nature through Govalle Park, Trail, and Pool. This grant will also continue the effort to meet the City's goal of increasing accessible green space. This project is part of the 2016 Mobility Bond Corridor Construction Program. The project will be handled with ATD by the Corridor Program Office.

At this location, there is a Capital Metro bus stop for route 350 and ADA accessible ramps and pedestrian crossings on all corners of the space. Across from the park's eastern corner is the Govalle Neighborhood Park and access to the Southern Walnut Creek Trail. The pocket green serves as a potential gateway to access these nature-based community resources. Both are high priority community assets that would benefit from the visibility and family-oriented activities proposed. In addition to the proposed interactive exhibits, CPO's improvements planned for this location include new 8-foot-wide shared-use paths on all sides of the pocket green, improved ADA-accessible pedestrian and bicycle crossings at each street crossing, and a new bus stop facility on Airport Blvd. \$10,064 of the grant is to cover the consulting fee for CPO, including salaries and Administrative/Operating expenses for site design and feasibility, public engagement, and project management.

As outlined in the fiscal notes for this item, the General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted for this grant. When the grant funds expire, PARC and CPO's continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied. No matching funds are required.

Health and Environment.