



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 21-1914, **Agenda Item #:** 21.

6/3/2021

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with Travis County for prescribed fire management, training, and planning and assistance for certain hazardous events.

### **Lead Department**

Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

This item has no fiscal impact.

### **Prior Council Action:**

August 23, 2018 - Council approved Resolution No. 20180823-02 authorizing negotiation and execution of a similar interlocal agreement with Travis County for the Austin Water Wildland Conservation Division to coordinate prescribed fire planning and implementation on Council Member Alter's motion, Council Member Casar's second on an 11-0 vote.

### **For More Information:**

Lucas Massie, Assistant Director, 512-974-6772; Matt McCaw, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, 512-974-6770; Sammi Curless, Business Process Specialist, 512-974-6716.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

To be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board on May 25, 2021.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The Parks and Recreation Department and Travis County manage multiple open-space properties near each other and provide similar services, within their jurisdictions, that often require greater resources and expertise than a single party has readily available.

The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of cooperation for each of the parties to provide mutual support, cooperation and assistance for prescribed fire management, fire preparedness and for assistance on certain hazardous events or land management activities where specific skills and equipment are required. It will also provide for technical support and training and will allow each party to request equipment, personnel and appropriate personal safety items as necessary to ensure the safety of employees participating in interagency projects. Likewise, the parties understand that the resources available from the City under this Agreement are limited to the resources of the Parks and Recreation Department. The lands to benefit most directly from this agreement are anticipated to be any natural areas managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The City Council's approval for the negotiation and execution of this interlocal agreement will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to coordinate efforts with Travis County for mutual support and cooperation for prescribed fire management and training, land management planning, as well as planning and assistance for

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certain hazardous events. While this agreement is unilateral with Travis County, it will serve as one in a suite of similar agreements the Department is developing with other local partners - such as the University of Texas at Austin, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Austin Water Utility - that will allow the Department to benefit from the broader support of a regional land management collective.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Safety; Health and Environment; Government that Works for All.