

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	41094	<b>Agenda Number</b>	15.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	3/5/2015	<b>Department:</b>	Parks and Recreation
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**Subject**

Approve a resolution authorizing the City to apply for up to \$1,000,000 in grant funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Local Park Urban Outdoor Grant Program for the Waller Creek District.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 is available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The City match will be 50% of total approved project cost up to \$1,000,000. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget to meet matching requirements.

**Fiscal Note**

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	
<b>For More Information:</b>	Marty Stump (512) 974-9460; Angela Means (512) 974-6712; April Shaw (512) 974-6716.
<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	Recommended by the Waller Creek Local Government Corporation on February 11, 2015.
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

**Additional Backup Information**

The City is working in partnership with the Waller Creek Conservancy on the redevelopment of the Waller Creek District and is formalized through the Joint Development Agreement. The redevelopment of this dynamic downtown district is made possible in part due to the Waller Creek Tunnel project that allows for both private and public re-investment along this urban creek corridor.

The vision for Waller Creek District was established in 2012 through a design competition, whereby Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. and Thomas Phifer and Partners were selected as the design team for the corridor. Implementation of this vision is now governed by the Waller Creek Local Government Corporation which was authorized under Resolution No. 20110428-014.

The Waller Creek Local Government Corporation was created by Council under the authority of the Texas Transportation Code Chapter 431 to assist with the implementation of the Waller Creek Redevelopment Project. The

purpose of the corporation is to implement the financing, design, construction, maintenance and operation of certain public improvements located within the Waller Creek Redevelopment Project.

The Waller Creek Local Government Corporation holds open meetings and the records of these meetings are maintained on the City web site. For more information about the Waller Creek Local Government Corporation, please see the following link: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/waller-creek-local-government-corporation>

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 3 years with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2015 to align with the City's annual budget process, although the actual start date of the grant is contingent upon TPWD review and award. This application would seek the maximum grant funding at \$1,000,000 with a required City match of \$1,000,000. The City match is currently identified as funding from the 2012 General Obligation Bond Program under Proposition 14 for Parks.

Leveraging of this \$1,000,000 grant funding from TPWD with other City funding sources and private funding from the Waller Creek Conservancy will help complete an early phase of improvements within the Waller Creek District. The specific set of amenities to be constructed under this grant funding will be selected collaboratively with the Waller Creek Conservancy to meet the criteria of the TPWD grant.

According to guidelines set forth by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in their grant application process, the Parks and Recreation Department seeks City Council authorization to apply to the Local Park Urban Outdoor Grant Program for improvements for up to \$1,000,000 in grant funding for Waller Creek District.