

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	51987	<b>Agenda Number</b>	43.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	11/19/2015	<b>Department:</b>	Parks and Recreation
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**Subject**

Approve a resolution authorizing the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for \$25,000 in grant funding from the National League of Cities to support connecting children to nature.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$25,000 is available from the National League of Cities.

**Fiscal Note**

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

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
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<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	
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<b>For More Information:</b>	April Shaw (512) 974-6716; Angela Means (512) 974-6712; Marty Stump (512) 974-9460.
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<b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:</b>	
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<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
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<b>Related Items:</b>	
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**Additional Backup Information**

Connecting children to nature has long been a core principle for the Austin Parks and Recreation Department’s youth programming. With the publication of Richard Louv’s “Last Child in the Woods”, Austin has joined the national movement of Children in Nature through building collaboratives, setting goals for nature programming across areas, and increasing access to nature.

The work completed by the City of Austin was summarized in a survey for the National League of City’s Connecting Children to Nature Leadership Academy and resulted in Austin being chosen as one of a select number of cities invited to participate in the conference. Following the conference, a request for proposal for a planning grant was directed to the sixteen cities that attended the academy, with an emphasis on underserved populations.

The goal of this planning grant will be to create a comprehensive plan that identifies the current gaps in service and overlapping missions amongst various city departments and external partners. The purpose is to better identify and target resources for connecting children from underserved populations to nature.

The planning work may include, but is not limited to: identify shared measurements, create standards for access to green space across parks and school campuses, build an inventory of fallow properties in all departments and compare to the gap analysis of green spaces, analyze equity across geographic and district boundaries, view the work through the lens of impacts to climate, address the overlapping program content by informal providers, and build in time for stakeholder input, planning, and building consensus.