

## A G E N D A



### Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	54573	Agenda Number	20.
Meeting Date:	2/25/2016	Department:	Parks and Recreation	
Subject				
Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20150908-001) to accept and appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$25,000 for the Connecting Children to Nature Planning Grant.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Funding is available from the National League of Cities in the amount of \$25,000. There is no required match.				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is attached.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	Marty Stump, 512-974-9460; Angela Means, 512-974-6712; April Thedford 512-974-9408			
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

### Additional Backup Information

Connecting children to nature has long been a core principle for the Austin Parks and Recreation Department's youth programming. Inspired by the recent publication of Richard Louv's "Last Child in the Woods", Austin has joined the national movement of Children in Nature through the building of collaborative projects, setting of goals for nature programming across areas, and increasing access to nature for Austin youth.

The work completed by the City was summarized in a survey for the National League of Cities' Connecting Children to Nature Leadership Academy and resulted in Austin being chosen with a select number of cities to participate in the Academy. In a follow-up to the Academy, the National League of Cities issued a request for proposal for a planning grant for work related to connecting children with nature, with an emphasis on underserved populations.

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

Funding will provide for community engagement meetings to develop criteria, as well as to develop best practices for integrating nature access into programming for underserved communities. The final goals are not currently associated with specific capital improvement projects, but will identify promising city practices and opportunities for implementation of future projects and programs.

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