

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	60631	Agenda Number	27.
Meeting Date:	8/4/2016		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 \$30,000 for Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Funding in the amount of \$30,000 is available from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The grant period is from August 2016 to August 2026.				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is attached.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	On September 8, 2015, Council approved Ordinance No. 20150908-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget.			
For More Information:	Cora Wright, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 512-974-6743; Lara Schuman, Program Manager, Urban Forestry, 512-974-9545; Vera Labriola, Business Process Specialist, Office of the Director, 512-974-6716			
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				
<p>This ordinance seeks approval to accept funds from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to restore the habitat at Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary back to Blackland Prairie. (See Attached Maps).</p> <p>Blackland Prairie Ecoregion of Central Texas spans 6.1 million acres, from the Red River to the San Antonio River. The Blackland Prairie is characterized by a high degree of plant community diversity, soils that are resistant to erosion, and are beneficial to migratory birds, pollinators and the monarch butterfly. By restoring the native warm season grasses and forbs, this program will improve ground cover conditions, provide essential nesting habitat and increase productive usable space for upland birds and other wildlife.</p> <p>This is a \$30,000 grant from USFWS. With this funding, PARD will implement, or engage a contractor to implement, wildlife habitat improvements. This will include brush management, herbicide treatments on individual plants, and reduction of undesirable woody plants and non-native vegetation. In addition, USFWS will assign a biologist to collaborate with PARD in reviewing, approving, and carrying out the scope of work at each stage, as well as assisting with determination of the best available pollinator-friendly seed mix and appropriate planting rate and depth. USFWS will also provide technical assistance and monitoring as requested by PARD.</p>				

The type of herbicide treatments that would be used are approved by the City. Urban Forestry holds a herbicide applicator license, and several PARD employees are licensed applicators. PARD has used this approved type of treatment on the Barton Creek Greenbelt with the approvals of Watershed Department when doing invasive species removals. Herbicide treatments have been used in several of the preserves as well, including Blunn Creek.

The scope of this work will consist of mechanical treatments of brush species with follow-up of herbicide treatments in year one, supplemental planting of native grasses and forbs to benefit wildlife in year two, and ongoing maintenance from year three to 10.