

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	64060	Agenda Number	16.
Meeting Date:	12/08/2016		Department:	Parks and Recreation	
Subject					
Approve adoption of the Lamar Beach Park Master Plan as developed in conjunction with Design Workshop, Inc., which includes 65.4 acres of existing parkland along the north shore of Lady Bird Lake between Lamar Boulevard and MoPac. (District 9).					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Fiscal Note					
Fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	June 12, 2014 – Council approved a resolution to initiate the Lamar Beach Park Master Plan. June 18, 2015 – Council authorized award, negotiation, and execution of a contract with Design Workshop, Inc. to provide consulting services to develop a master plan for Lamar Beach at Town Lake Metro Park.				
For More Information:	Vera Labriola, Business Process Specialist, (512) 974-6716; Ricardo Soliz, Parks and Recreation Division Manager, (512) 974-9452; Charles Mabry , Park Development Coordinator, (512) 974-9481				
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	October 5, 2016--Unanimously approved by the Small Area Planning Joint Committee a 4-0-0 vote. October 10, 2016--Unanimously approved by the Animal Advisory Commission on a 7-0-0 vote with commissioners Kjellberg, Mier, Kaviani, and Shaw absent. October 11, 2016--Approved by the Planning Commission on a 10-0-1 vote with Commissioner Zaragoza abstaining and Chair Oliver and Commissioner Pineyro De Hoyos off dais. October 19, 2016--Approved by Downtown Commission on a 6-0-1 vote with Commissioner Lehman abstaining. October 24, 2016--Approved by the Design Commission on a 7-0-0 vote with Commissioners Coleman, Gonzalez, and Kenny absent. December 6, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board (Pending)				
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					

Additional Backup Information

In June 2014, City Council passed a resolution to initiate the master planning of Lamar Beach at Town Lake Metro Park. The desire to master plan Lamar Beach stemmed from the planning of the Pressler Street extension through the park and the approval of revised agreements for use of the park by West Austin Youth Association (WAYA) and Austin Pets Alive! (APA). Mitigation dollars due to the parkland change-of-use for the Pressler Street extension provided \$250,000 in funding from the Austin Transportation Department to the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) for the park master planning. Design Workshop, a local landscape architectural firm, was procured through an RFP process in June 2015. The planning process began in August 2015 and a draft master plan was completed in March 2016. Focus group meetings were conducted with numerous stakeholders, including Austin Independent School District (AISD), Austin High School, WAYA, APA, YMCA, Old West Austin Neighborhood and others. In addition, three public workshops were conducted to receive feedback. A Technical Advisory Group consisting of representatives from various City departments and other public entities such as AISD, Texas Department of Transportation and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority provided technical guidance to the master plan team.

Through the master plan process a preferred master plan alternative was developed that will provide the following major benefits to the Lamar Beach area:

- The creation of a larger contiguous waterfront park with an increase of approximately 7 acres to the park;
- More separation between highway-bound traffic on Cesar Chavez from the park and Austin High School;
- A connection to Pressler Street from Cesar Chavez providing additional vehicle access to downtown and pedestrian access to Lamar Beach;
- Increased recreational amenities at Lamar Beach for the general public while maintaining the existing park uses;
- Increased and safer mobility opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists to access and move through the park;
- A better relationship with Austin High School property allowing for potential expansion of school programming;
- A dedicated location for an animal services center;
- Increased parking for the park users, YMCA and Butler Hike and Bike Trail users; and
- Better collaboration efforts fostered among WAYA, YMCA, APA and Austin High School for more efficient use of parkland.

The master plan will serve as a guide for the future development of Lamar Beach to maximize its benefit for the general public and the organizations that rely on the park.