

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: March 22, 2018

Item Number: 020

Parks and Recreation

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20170913-001) to accept and appropriate \$38,000 in grant funds from 3M to provide funding for the Environmental and Conservation Education in 3M communities-Eco Grant to be used for environmental or conservation education for youth in locations within Austin near 3M's facility locations.

District(s) Affected: District 4

Lead Department	Parks and Recreation Department
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$38,000 is available from 3M. The grant period is January 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2018. A city funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.
For More Information	Vera Labriola, Business Process Specialist, (512)974-6716; John Nixon, Acting Assistant Director, (512) 974-2464, Suzanne Piper, Division Manager, (512) 974-6753.

Additional Backup Information:

The 3M Eco Grant for Environmental and Conservation Education in 3M Communities - Connecting Kids to Nature is focused on improving science-based environmental and conservation education for youth in or near a 3M community (close to a company facility).

The 2017 municipal implementation plan "Connecting Children to Nature", supported with

funds from a National League of Cities grant, identified areas of town that were low in accessible green spaces and tree canopy, while high in diverse populations with large families and low income, and established the Nature Deficit Score for all zip codes. The Nature Deficit Score is determined by considering various nature factors including tree canopy, value of the greens spaces, and accessibility. In addition, income, demographic, crime, and child population information is evaluated to identify the underserved populations and overall “gaps” in providing green spaces.

The purpose of the grant is to continue the effort to meet the City’s goal of increasing accessible green space. The Parks and Recreation Department is working with AISD to utilize existing jointly-owned properties to create Green School Parks. Three elementary campuses in the Rundberg area on properties jointly-owned by the City of Austin and AISD (Cook, Wooldridge and Barrington Elementary Schools) are going through the process of the Parks and Recreation Department creating Green School Parks on their grounds to increase accessible green spaces in accordance with the Council’s request to provide access to parks within ¼ mile for all citizens. To ensure support of these green spaces by the school district, this grant will assist with training and programming to be put in place to increase the use of the outdoors in nature by teachers, families, and children of those communities. The work will be applied to additional campuses with nature deficits selected from two other areas of town-Montopolis/Dove Springs and East Central.

The agreement will cover the service period from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. The grant budget includes the part-time employment of a curriculum writer and school liaison. The liaison position funded by the grant will serve to build a bridge between the Department and AISD to reinforce and solidify the mutual benefit and goals of both organizations.

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.