



## **PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT COUNCIL, BOARD and COMMITTEE ITEM FACT SHEET**

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**DATE:** June 20, 2019

### **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:**

Approve an ordinance accepting up to \$50,000 in grant funds authorized through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and amending the Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department, to appropriate \$50,000 for outdoor outreach and inclusive programming for underserved youth, teens, adults and seniors at the Camacho Activity Center.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The grant will increase both revenue and expenditures in the PARD budget by \$50,000. Matching funds are not required; however, the city will demonstrate a match of up to \$100,000 in staff hours and cost for vehicle rental and maintenance. A fiscal note is attached.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Camacho Activity Center is dedicated to providing quality outdoor recreation and environmental education programs to youth, teens, adults, and seniors. Located on the Hike and Bike Trail along the banks of Lady Bird Lake, Camacho specializes in adventure programming such as mountain biking, kayaking, rock climbing, film making, nature photography, and more. Camacho focuses its outdoor programming efforts on underserved youth and teen populations in East Austin.

Camacho Activity Center, in conjunction with the Austin Park Rangers Cadet Program and PARD's Centralized Program Division's "Lending Library" will develop outdoor adventure, natural science, and environmental education outreach programs to enhance programming for all 20 Austin Parks and Recreation centers, as well as partnering organizations to include but not limited to AISD, and charter schools. The program will service youth and teens from all of Austin, with a concentration on underserved populations and economically disadvantaged groups who normally have limited access and exposure to outdoor education and experiences.

Activities will commence upon execution of the agreement, expected to be May 2019, including purchase of summer outdoor activity equipment, outreach to target populations, and administering summer outdoor activities led by qualified PARD staff. Programming and equipment purchases will continue through January 2020. Final reporting will take place in 2020, with the grant term ending in November 2020. Seven weeks of outdoor outreach programming will occur across two programming sites. Twenty activity slots per week will be offered and scheduled with each group in advance. Although this is a seven-week summer outreach enhancement program, certain program offerings will continue outside the scope of the grant

reportage. Camacho and Park Ranger Staff will continue to offer outdoor outreach programming to youth enrolled in PARD afterschool programs and AISD partnering programs indefinitely.

### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION and OUTREACH EFFORTS**

PARD engaged the community by developing partnerships with community organizations that will offer in-kind services to the program. These organizations include Texas Parks and Wildlife Angler Education Programs, Westcave Preserve, AISD (Akins High School, whose Park Ranger Cadet class will provide teen leaders to help teach the youth activities.), the Texas Conservation Core. The commitments to participate in the grant are expressed in letters of support, submitted with the grant application.

### **KEY STAKEHOLDERS and PROJECTED IMPACT:**

Key beneficiaries of this activity include up to 1,000 youth 17 years of age and younger, of whom 75% are considered economically disadvantaged, 75% are ethnic minorities, and 15% are considered special-needs children. Program staff will actively seek out underserved youth populations to promote the outdoors and environmental education and stewardship to intentionally promote these ideals to future generations. The Ranger Cadet program and Camacho's ongoing outreach efforts have established and direct impacts on their graduating participants into the profession and continued outdoor education at the college level and beyond. These programs have and continue to produce employees in the field to include but not limited to TPWD, Treefolks, Youth River Watch, Austin Park Rangers, Austin PARD Aquatics, and more.