



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 19-3601, **Agenda Item #:** 22.

11/14/2019

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center to conduct a grant-funded study of green schoolyards as a tool for urban heat island adaptation and health promotion in underserved communities.

### **Lead Department**

Parks and Recreation Department

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$341,014 has been received through a grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to cover the entire cost of the study, including an amount not to exceed \$123,835.36 for University of Texas costs. A City funding match is not required.

### **Prior Council Action:**

On January 26, 2017, Council approved Resolution No. 20170126-022 supporting the Austin Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Alter's second on an 11-0 vote.

On January 26, 2017, Council approved Ordinance No. 20170126-023 accepting \$50,000 in grant funds from the National League of Cities for the Implementation of the Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Alter's second on an 11-0 vote.

On March 22, 2018, Council approved Ordinance No. 20180322-020 authorizing acceptance of \$38,000 in grant funds from 3M Eco-Grant for Environmental and Conservation Education. The tem was approved on consent on Council Member Casar's motion, Council Member Houston's second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Pool was absent.

On August 8, 2019, Council approved Ordinance No. 20190808-031 authorizing acceptance of \$341,014 in grant funds from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The item was approved on consent on Council Member Adler's motion, Council Member Renteria's second on an 11-0 vote.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

October 22, 2019-to be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) is a national initiative that offers city government and community leaders support and guidance to enhance connections between children and nature. With this support, Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) collaborated with multiple partners to establish the CCCN-Austin implementation plan in 2016. PARC continues to work with community partners to advance the goals of CCCN -Austin.

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Council action on August 8, 2019, authorized PARD to accept \$341,014 in grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to further support CCCN-Austin. PARD, in partnership with the Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living at the University of Texas Health Science Center, will use the funding to investigate the impact of green infrastructure at joint-use school parks located at Barrington, Cook, and Odom elementary schools. This two-year project will enable PARD to more fully understand the impact of green infrastructure on children's health, to design increasingly effective programming and infrastructure, and to inform the PARD Long Range Plan. Following the grant period, organizations that participate in the CCCN-Austin collaborative, including PARD, will continue to prioritize access-to-nature initiatives within their ongoing programming, and will seek opportunities to expand on those efforts.

The roles and responsibilities for each party are as follows:

City of Austin:

- Exercise general oversight and management of the project;
- Monitor project activities to ensure compliance with the executed grant agreement with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation;
- Assist with participant recruitment, data collection, analysis, reporting, and presentation of findings;
- Review and approve requests for payment.

University of Texas:

- Lead the development and documentation of research methodology, participant recruitment, collection and analysis of data, and presentation of findings;
- Produce interim and final reports and submit to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and other key stakeholders;
- Prepare invoices and submit payment requests based on deliverables achieved.

The term for this agreement will begin retroactively on August 15, 2019 and extend through August 14, 2021. Renewal is contingent upon receipt of additional funding, either from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation or other sources.

The City Council's authorization of the agreement negotiation and execution will allow PARD and the University of Texas to document the impact of green infrastructure on children's physical activity and to apply findings to future planning and programming efforts.