




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW Assistant City Manager

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, M.Ed., CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

DATE: November 29, 2022

SUBJECT: Staff Response to Festival Beach Food Forest Expansion (Resolution No. 20210729-115)

This memo serves a response to [Resolution No. 20210729-115](#) directing the City Manager to work with the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) to partner with the Festival Beach Food Forest to plan, design, implement, and maintain a three-acre phased expansion of the Festival Beach Food Forest, and if needed to update the Holly Shores Vision Plan.

Over the last year, City staff conducted a feasibility study to gain input from Department staff on the maintenance and forestry needs and impacts from the Festival Beach Food Forest Phase 2 Expansion. Comments and suggestions were provided to the Festival Beach Food Forest team and will be used to modify final conceptual designs of the Phase 2 Expansion. In addition, the Department is partnering with the Festival Beach Food Forest to develop a Parkland Improvement and Maintenance Agreement that defines the scope of long-term maintenance responsibilities and expanded programming opportunities on the complete 5-acre site. All improvements made on parkland will be owned by the City but maintained by Festival Beach Food Forest. The agreement will undergo legal review before final approval by the Parks and Recreation Department Director.

The Festival Beach Food Forest has received initial approval from the Department to begin implementing its Phase 2 Expansion. The first elements include adding a needed storage building and additional tree plantings. Over the next several years, the Department will continue to partner with the Festival Beach Food Forest to implement the Phase 2 Expansion with elements that will focus on built components for public use including an outdoor pavilion and teaching kitchen. Updates on progress of the expansion will be shared via the [Festival Beach Food Forest Website](#).

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Lucas Massie, M.Ed., CPRP, Assistant Director
Suzanne Piper, DBA, Chief Administrative Officer
Amanda Ross, Natural Resources Division Manager
Cindy Klemmer, PhD, Environmental Program Manager
Jennifer Stevenson, MSCRP, Community Garden Program Coordinator