M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

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



THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager

DATE: February 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Staff Response to All-Abilities Park in Northwest Austin (Ordinance No. 20220817-004)

This memo serves as a response to Ordinance No. 20220817-004, CM Kelly Budget Rider – Play for All Abilities Park which directed the City Manager to work with the Department in establishing the required resources and costs associated with the completion of a Play for All-Abilities Park in Northwest Austin.

The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) explored existing parks in northwest Austin and determined that Springwoods Neighborhood Park is a good candidate for the addition of an All-Abilities Playground. Springwoods Neighborhood Park is a fifteen-acre park located at 9117 Anderson Mill Road. The park contains several amenities including a playground, sand volleyball court, tennis courts, a large pavilion, trails, and a park staff office. The park is a great candidate for an all-abilities playground due to these amenities, existing parking lots, an abundance of shade throughout the park, and existing restrooms. The park would require significant improvements to resolve accessibility issues in the restrooms, trails, courts and parking areas.

The existing playground area is sited under large oak trees and would be ideal for conversion to an all-abilities playground with a modest expansion. As part of the feasibility study, the Department developed a conceptual budget estimate to convert and expand the existing playground to an all-abilities playground, and to address the accessibility issues at Springwoods Neighborhood Park. The preliminary budget estimate for this project is between $3 and $4 million, depending on the scope. The Department will start identifying potential funding sources including Parkland Dedication Funds to help fund this new asset.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ricardo Soliz, Park Planning Division Manager, at Ricardo.Soliz@austintexas.gov, or Assistant Director Liana Kallivoka at Liana.Kallivoka@austintexas.gov.

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager