



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2233, **Agenda Item #:** 157.

7/20/2023

Posting Language

Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution authorizing and directing the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department to act on the City's behalf with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in connection with the Local Park Grant program and to apply for a Local Park Grant for up to \$1,500,000, to be matched by the City, to partially fund the cost of the Walter E. Long Metro Park Improvement project.

Lead Department

Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of up to \$1,500,000 is available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department to meet the City's matching requirement of \$1,500,000.

For More Information:

Liana Kallivoka, Assistant Director, (512) 974-9455; Steven Linett, Capital Improvement Program Manager, (512) 974-9321; Tim Dombeck, Business Process Specialist, (512) 974-6716.

Additional Backup Information:

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant-assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained, and open to the public. Funding for these programs comes from a portion of the state sales tax on sporting goods through the Texas Recreation and Parks Account, the Texas Large County & Municipality Recreation & Parks Account, and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The source of project funding varies from year to year. The City is requesting a grant award of \$1,500,000 through the Local Park Urban Outdoor Recreation program.

City Council adopted the Walter E. Long Metro Park Vision Plan in October 2020, providing a phased vision for the park's rehabilitation and development. The current phase will rehabilitate the existing restroom, improve existing roads and vehicle connectivity throughout the Lakeside area, and provide for a nature trail. Other amenities, such as a playground, will be included as funding allows. Adjustments to road layouts and other amenities will be made based on their alignment with the vision plan. The City will provide its grant match through 2018 General Obligation Bond Proposition C funding. Gate entry fee revenue will also contribute to the project.

TPWD's grant application guidelines require the Parks and Recreation Department to obtain City Council authorization to apply to the Local Parks Grant program for up to \$1,500,000 in grant funding for the Walter E. Long Metro Park Improvement project.

The guidelines further require the City to hold a public hearing in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act, including the opportunity for public comment, prior to submitting the application. At this hearing, the governing

body must pass a resolution authorizing and directing the Department Director to act for the City in connection with the Local Parks Grant program and to submit an application to TPWD.

This Resolution is being posted on the Council's non-consent agenda to ensure the hearing and the opportunity for public comment. As required by TPWD, the Department will submit an application by August 1, 2023.