

RESOLUTION NO. 20230831-083

WHEREAS, the City is committed to creating accessible and inclusive recreational opportunities for all residents, regardless of their abilities; and

WHEREAS, Council Member Kelly's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Rider to Ordinance No. 20220817-004 directed the City Manager to establish the costs and resources needed to create an all-abilities play site and to identify possible park locations for such a site; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has identified Springwoods Neighborhood Park in northwest Austin as a suitable location for the development of an All-Abilities Playground, offering existing amenities and infrastructure, including shade, restrooms, and parking, that can be enhanced to provide a safe and inclusive environment for children of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, children and individuals of all abilities deserve equal access to recreational spaces that foster social interaction, physical development, and overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, the All-Abilities Playground will contribute to the City's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by providing a space where people of varying physical, sensory, and cognitive abilities can engage in shared experiences; and

WHEREAS, the All-Abilities Playground aligns with the City's sustainability goals by creating a space that is accessible to all residents, reducing transportation needs, and encouraging outdoor physical activity; and

WHEREAS, the development of an All-Abilities Playground will foster community engagement and collaboration, as local residents, businesses, and organizations unite to support and enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of the playground; and

WHEREAS, the All-Abilities Playground initiative serves as an integral component of the broader efforts by the City to enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of public spaces, reinforcing Austin's reputation as a progressive and welcoming community; and

WHEREAS, the All-Abilities Playground will not only benefit individuals with disabilities but will also educate the broader community about the value of diversity and the importance of inclusive design in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of an All-Abilities Playground aligns with the principles of universal design, aiming to create an environment that accommodates the widest range of abilities and ages and serves as a model for future playground developments across the City; and

WHEREAS, an All-Abilities Playground will enhance the quality of life for residents in northwest Austin by offering a unique and enriching environment that promotes play, learning, and positive interactions among community members; and

WHEREAS, the Round Rock Play for All Park has demonstrated the profound impact that a well-designed, fully accessible play facility can have on a community, serving as a safe and engaging space for children of all abilities in Round Rock and the broader Williamson County area; and

WHEREAS, Round Rock Park's innovative funding model, which includes community partnerships and public engagement, has proven effective in garnering financial support and sustaining ongoing development, contributing to the expansion and enhancement of the park's amenities and offerings; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary budget estimate for the design and construction of the All-Abilities Playground at Springwoods Neighborhood Park is projected to be between three million and four million dollars; and

WHEREAS, existing funding sources, including parkland dedication fees, are insufficient to fully support the project, and additional funding avenues, including partnerships with nonprofit organizations, need to be explored; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of collaborating with community stakeholders, including but not limited to the Austin Parks Foundation, to ensure the successful realization of the All-Abilities Playground initiative; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between the City and nonprofit organizations will amplify the community's ability to secure the necessary financial resources to construct and maintain the All-Abilities Playground, thereby spreading the benefits of the project throughout the City; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to determine the necessary resources and costs associated with the completion of the Play for All Abilities Playground at Springwoods Neighborhood Park, including potential design, construction, and ongoing maintenance expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is further directed to explore partnerships with nonprofit organizations to meet the financial needs of the All-Abilities Playground project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

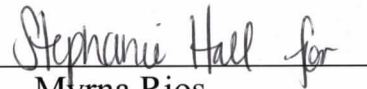
The City Manager is further directed to engage with relevant stakeholders, including the Austin Parks Foundation and other local nonprofit partners, to identify and secure funding opportunities that will contribute to the successful implementation of the project and to actively seek opportunities to leverage public funds with funds from nonprofit organizations to maximize the impact of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is further directed to issue a public memorandum detailing the findings and progress of the exploration of funding options for the All-Abilities Playground initiative by November 29, 2023.

ADOPTED: August 31, 2023

ATTEST:


Myrna Rios
City Clerk