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25           **WHEREAS**, participation in soccer not only promotes physical fitness but  
26 also instills valuable life skills such as teamwork, communication, discipline,  
27 perseverance, and resilience, transcending cultural and social boundaries and  
28 enriching the lives of players; and

29           **WHEREAS**, despite the enthusiasm for soccer, challenges such as access to  
30 soccer fields, the cost of leagues and field maintenance, and a lack of  
31 transportation options have been identified by various stakeholders as major  
32 barriers to expanding access to soccer programming in Austin; and

33           **WHEREAS**, the lack of soccer field space in Austin makes it difficult to  
34 accommodate the City's numerous leagues and organizations, host tournaments  
35 and generate local revenue; and

36           **WHEREAS**, soccer is a source of economic development for the City,  
37 attracting visitors, fostering local business opportunities, and contributing to the  
38 City's vibrant sports landscape; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

40           The City Manager is instructed to begin a planning process to establish  
41 Austin as a recognized soccer city, with the aim of promoting community benefits  
42 and economic growth and cultivating a robust soccer culture and pipeline. As part  
43 of this planning process, the City Manager is directed to provide a report to  
44 Council that includes the following elements:

- 45           • An inventory of public land owned by the City, counties, and school  
46 districts that is used or could be utilized to play soccer, to include an  
47 assessment of the conditions of the land, which fields are suitable for  
48 what level of play, the costs to adapt and/or maintain the land for

49 soccer purposes, and which fields currently provide open access to the  
50 public.

- 51 • An inventory of existing soccer programming, including soccer  
52 leagues and community and youth soccer programs.
- 53 • An assessment of all City park vision plans to identify opportunities  
54 for soccer field development for all levels of play.
- 55 • An assessment of soccer fields and programming needs based on the  
56 size and population of our City and the number of existing soccer  
57 leagues, community, and youth soccer programs, to include  
58 recommendations to help address the existing need for soccer fields  
59 and soccer programming, including:
  - 60 ○ Fostering collaboration between the City, Travis County, school  
61 districts, and the soccer leagues and organizations in Austin.
  - 62 ○ Seeking public and private partnerships to expand public access  
63 to soccer facilities and programs and to attract new soccer  
64 sporting events to the City, including considering establishing  
65 an interest group coalition with appropriate stakeholder  
66 organizations.
  - 67 ○ Ways to increase the number of fields and parks that can be  
68 utilized to play soccer at all levels of play, including additional  
69 mini-pitches and fields for professional levels of play and  
70 tournaments.
  - 71 ○ Ways to expand PARD's Financial Assistance for Youth  
72 Programs to increase program participation, including outreach  
73 efforts to promote the program and ways for residents to donate  
74 to the PARD Financial Assistance Program.

75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

76 The City Manager is further directed to return to Council with the public  
77 land inventory, the needs analysis, and recommendations to address challenges by  
78 September 2024.

79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

80 The City Manager is further directed to review whether the  
81 recommendations to address the identified challenges, including park maintenance  
82 and soccer field development, could be funded through general fund expenditures  
83 and/or bond instruments to be approved in a future election.

84 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

85  
86 Myrna Rios  
87 City Clerk  
88