



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION 20240722-7

Date: July 22, 2024

Subject: Additional Funding for Maintenance and Homeless Response

Motioned By: Pedro Villalobos

Seconded By: Kathryn Flowers

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Board Recommends that Austin City Council allocate an additional \$2.62 million to the Parks and Recreation Department's budget for the upcoming fiscal year; and that of this amount, \$2.24 million be allocated towards parks maintenance, including \$1.5 million in ongoing funding and \$740,000 in one-time funding, to support 16 year-round full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and necessary supplies; and that \$385,000 be allocated towards the Homeless Encampment Response Team, including \$375,000 in ongoing funding and \$10,000 in one-time funding, to support 4 year-round FTE positions, operations, and necessary supplies.

Rationale:

Whereas, the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is responsible for maintaining the city's parks, green spaces, and recreational facilities, contributing to the overall quality of life and well-being of Austin residents; and

Whereas, the demand for park maintenance has increased significantly due to the growing population and the increased use of park facilities, necessitating additional resources to ensure these spaces are safe, clean, and accessible to all residents; and

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Department is currently underfunded, limiting its ability to adequately maintain park facilities, leading to deteriorating conditions and reduced enjoyment for the community; and

Whereas, the Homeless Encampment Response Team (HERT) provides essential services by addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness within parks and ensuring the safety and cleanliness of these public spaces for all users; and

Whereas, the HERT requires additional funding to effectively manage and respond to homeless encampments, ensuring that all park users, including those experiencing homelessness, receive the support and services they need;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Austin City Council is hereby recommended to allocate an additional \$2.62 million to the Parks and Recreation Department's budget for the upcoming fiscal year; and

Be it further resolved, that of this amount, \$2.24 million be allocated towards parks maintenance, including \$1.5 million in ongoing funding and \$740,000 in one-time funding, to support 16 year-round full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and necessary supplies; and

Be it further resolved, that \$385,000 be allocated towards the Homeless Encampment Response Team, including \$375,000 in ongoing funding and \$10,000 in one-time funding, to support 4 year-round FTE positions, operations, and necessary supplies.

Vote **The motion to recommend that Austin City Council allocate an additional \$2.62 million to the Parks and Recreation Department's budget for the upcoming fiscal year; and that of this amount, \$2.24 million be allocated towards parks maintenance, including \$1.5 million in ongoing funding and \$740,000 in one-time funding, to support 16 year-round full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and necessary supplies; and that \$385,000 be allocated towards the Homeless Encampment Response Team, including \$375,000 in ongoing funding and \$10,000 in one-time funding, to support 4 year-round FTE positions, operations, and necessary supplies was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second, on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Orme and Taylor absent.**

For: Pedro Villalobos, Kathryn Flowers, Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Cathleen Eady, Jennifer Franklin, Nicole Merritt, Holly Reed.

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Shelby Orme, Kim Taylor.

Attest: Tim Dombeck, Board and Council Liaison, Parks and Recreation Department.
