



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 9

Agenda Date: February 15, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 4

SUBJECT:

Grant award recipient for Habitat and Angler Access Program from Texas Parks and Wildlife for Miller's Pond Park Accessible Fishing Dock and Aerator

SUMMARY:

Ordinance approving the acceptance of grant funds from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) for the Habitat and Angler Access Program in the amount of \$35,000.00 and equipment valued at \$5,000.00. The Texas Parks & Wildlife grant will fund the purchase and installation of an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant fishing dock and aerator at Miller's Pond Park and authorizes the Parks and Recreation Director to execute any and all related documents.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) released a call for applications for the Habitat and Angler Access Program Grant applications due on April 7, 2023. TPWD informed the Parks and Recreation Department in December 2023 that a grant would be awarded in the amount of \$35,000 with an additional equipment contribution valued at \$5,000 for an aerator to be installed at Miller's Pond Park. The grant period is from the date the agreement is initiated through October 31, 2025 on a reimbursement basis.

Historically, the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department has participated in various community fishing programs with TPWD. Miller's Pond Park, located in City Council District 4, is currently a TPWD Neighborhood Fishin' Program site and is stocked with fish throughout the year.

Through previous community engagement activities, the Parks and Recreation Department obtained feedback from the community which has prioritized a fishing dock at Miller's Pond.

The Parks and Recreation Department design for a fishing dock for Miller's Pond includes interlocking dock sections of various shapes and sizes. The design has widths and railing that makes the project fully ADA accessible for the project to offer an inclusive fishing experience for the community. Additionally, habitat restoration will include an aerator that provides valuable oxygen to improve the water quality for Miller's Pond, especially in periods of drought.

There is no matching funding required; however, the grant will enhance a 2022-2027 Bond Program funded project in the amount of \$800,000 for improvements at Miller's Pond.

ISSUE:

Miller's Pond Park can be improved for increased and additional use, providing opportunities for a historically underserved area of the city. This location was chosen based partially on the existing TWPD Neighborhood Fishin' Program at Miller's Pond Park. Additionally, the park is in a high need area with a combined Equity Atlas score of 9 representing a high concentration of low-income communities of color. The improvements will increase current park usage and attract new visitors by strategically providing more accessible fishing opportunities.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grant is consistent with City policy to apply for grants to enhance service delivery by supplementing local funds. Grant funds will be utilized for development of parks and facilities, consistent with the SA Parks System Plan.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City could choose not to accept the grant funds and try to identify other funding to augment the 2022 bond for completion of this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance and appropriation upon award of up to \$40,000.00 from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) for the Habitat and Angler Access Program in the amount of \$35,000.00 and installation of equipment valued at \$5,000.00. This grant does not require any matching funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the acceptance of grant funds.