



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 27

Agenda Date: March 7, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 7

SUBJECT:

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program Grant Application to Texas Parks and Wildlife for Woodlawn Lake Park

SUMMARY:

This ordinance approves the submission of a grant application and the acceptance of funds upon award from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program Grant as part of the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the amount of up to \$3,255,000.00 for revitalization and development at Woodlawn Lake Park located in Council District 7. This grant requires a one-for-one in-kind match of \$3,255,000 consisting of \$2,020,000.00 of funding from the 2022-2027 Bond Program, reallocation of \$900,000.00 from the Tree Planting Project, the reallocation of \$250,000.00 from the Council Infrastructure Program, and a \$85,000 in-kind contribution from the San Antonio River Authority. This ordinance also authorizes the Parks and Recreation Director to execute any and all related documents as well as the acceptance of additional grant funds if awarded, in an amount up to 20% of the total amount listed above.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) released a call for applications for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP) Grant with applications due on March 15, 2024. The TPWD will consider grant requests from across the State of Texas to be forwarded to the National Park Service (NPS), which notification to the City, if selected, will be Spring 2024. Invitations to continue the application process from the NPS will be sent to project sponsors in November 2024 with final award notification in November 2025. If awarded, the grant period allows for two years for project completion.

The 2022-2027 Bond Program provides funding of \$2,020,000.00 for development and improvements at Woodlawn Lake Park located in Council District 7 which is being utilized for a substantial portion of the one-to-one grant match requirement. Additional matching funds include up to \$900,000.00 from the Tree Planting Project; \$250,000.00 from the Council Infrastructure Program fund; and an in-kind contribution of design services of green infrastructure elements valued at up to \$85,000.00 from the San Antonio River Authority for a total of up to \$3,255,000.00.

Community engagement for the master development plan for Woodlawn Lake Park dates to 1997 with an update in 2010. Since then, this plan has been driven forward by three successive bond elections, most recently in 2022. Consistent during this more than two-decade period of community feedback and support is the need to improve the parks ecology through its built and natural elements for recreation. The Woodlawn Lake Park project has been supported by six community engagement opportunities, which expressed their priorities are to increase green infrastructure; increase shade; address shoreline conditions including new lakeside seating; and active water play. The TPWD grant would leverage 2022-2027 Bond Program funding for improvements to the park including construction of a splash pad.

In addition to the new amenities, approximately 500 new trees will be planted in the park which will increase its canopy and provide natural shade opportunities for the community. This will also contribute to the parks ecological revitalization and complements the planned nature-based solutions and best management practices aimed at improving water quality.

ISSUE:

Woodlawn Lake Park can be improved for increased and additional use, providing opportunities for a historically underserved area of the city. This park was chosen based on the status of the existing process for park bond project improvement planning efforts and other eligibility requirements for the National Park Service's Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program which favors nature-based project for this grant opportunity.

The National Park Service's Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program administered through the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department 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 directly supported by the principles of SA Tomorrow and the SA Parks System Plan's goals.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City could choose not to submit the grant application to leverage 2022 Bond and other eligible match funds to benefit Woodlawn Lake Park and seek other opportunities to augment the project budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves the submission of a grant application and the acceptance of funds upon award from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program Grant as part of the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the amount of up to \$3,255,000.00 for revitalization and development at Woodlawn Lake Park located in Council District 7. This grant requires a one-for-one in-kind match of \$3,255,000 consisting of \$2,020,000.00 of funding from the 2022-2027 Bond Program, reallocation of \$900,000.00 from the Tree Planting Project, the reallocation of \$250,000.00 from the Council Infrastructure Program. These funds are included in the FY 2024-FY 2029 Capital Improvement Budget. Additionally, an \$85,000 in-kind contribution from the San Antonio River Authority is included.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends acceptance of grant.