



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 30

Agenda Date: June 23, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 5

SUBJECT:

Local Park Grant Application to Texas Parks and Wildlife for Normoyle 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 Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant as part of the Local Park Grant Program in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 for Phase 1 expansion and development at Normoyle Park located in Council District 5, leveraging 2022-2027 Bond Program funding, and authorizing 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 Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant with applications due on August 1, 2022. The TPWD will consider grant requests at their annual meeting in May 2023 and funding will be provided in the Summer of 2023. If awarded, the grant period is for three years with optional extensions, if requested.

The 2022-2027 Bond Program provides funding of \$6,750,000.00 for development and improvements at a destination park which will be an expansion of Normoyle Park located in

Council District 5. The proposed expansion site of Normoyle Park utilizes existing City-owned surplus property formerly used as a site for various City Departments and will essentially double the size of the current 31-acre park. This proposed project will provide direct park access from a major thoroughfare and support the “10-Minute Walk to a Park” initiative. The new expanded park may include recreational amenities and active community spaces and other park amenities based upon public input through a master planning process. Community meetings will be conducted with park users for public input for the Bond-funded improvements. The TPWD grant would leverage 2022-2027 Bond Program funding to provide additional support for Phase 1 of the project.

ISSUE:

Normoyle Park can be expanded into a Large Urban Park, serving this under-parked area of the city. This park was chosen based on a review of existing conditions of the site and adjacent areas. In the area immediately surrounding Normoyle Park, the combined Equity Atlas scores reflect the highest need areas for these census tracts which represent a high concentration of low-income communities of color. Environmental health factors such as urban heat island effects and respiratory hazards are also a consideration. The new areas of the park will provide activities that are not currently available at Normoyle Park, or other District 5 parks, and would become a destination for the area while strategically alleviating pressures on other nearby regional park spaces which experience high use.

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 submit the grant application to leverage Bond funds to benefit Normoyle Park and could evaluate other uses for potential leveraged funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Texas Parks & Wildlife grant requires a one-to-one match of \$1,500,000.00. Matching funds will be provided by the 2022-2027 Bond Program. There is no General Fund impact with this action.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the submission of a grant application and the acceptance of \$1,500,000.00 upon award from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for the Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant as part of the Local Park Grant Program for park improvements at Normoyle Park located in Council District 5 and the Parks and Recreation Director to execute any and all related documents.

