

AGENDA ITEM #3

MEETING: Community Health, Environment, & Culture Committee

DATE: October 12, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III, Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT: Briefing on the Trust for Public Land ParkScore and 10-Minute Walk to a Park Initiative

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) annually publishes the ParkScore index that measures park systems across 100 of the largest cities in the U.S. The index measures five categories: acreage, investment, amenities, access – and new for 2021 – equity. The ParkScore measures publicly accessible land and amenities, and San Antonio's data incorporates City of San Antonio, Bexar County, San Antonio River Authority, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and National Park Service parkland in Bexar County. Private recreational amenities such as parks and greenspace in gated communities and private golf courses are not included.

In 2021, the ParkScore for San Antonio is 46.9 out of 100 points, achieving a 2021 rank of 60 out of the 100 largest cities in the U.S – an increase from a 2020 rank of 75.

A focused component of the overall ParkScore for San Antonio is access and the 10-Minute Walk to a Park Initiative. TPL listed San Antonio among the top three “Fastest Risers” this year – cities with the greatest increase of residents within a 10-minute walk to a park. San Antonio's percentage of residents within a walk to a park increased 5% within the last year and 11% within the last 3 years. The total percentage of residents within a 10-minute walk to a park is 48%.

To help bridge the park equity gap, Parks and Recreation partners with local school districts to expand the use of their outdoor amenities such as exercise stations, playgrounds, and walking paths with recreational school yards and San Antonio Sports School Parks. In FY 2022, Parks and Recreation will continue to pursue these strategies, evaluate other sites connecting through utility easements and the development of available City property - such as stormwater – where it is appropriate for park use. In addition to these strategies, Parks and Recreation continues to work with Council District offices and Public Works for the focused acquisition of potential parkland that bolsters the 10-Minute Walk to a Park.

ISSUE:

This briefing highlights the Trust for Public Land ParkScore and San Antonio's efforts related to the 10-Minute Walk to a Park Initiative.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.