



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 22

**Agenda Date:** January 26, 2023

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Homer Garcia III

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** District 5

**SUBJECT:**

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP) Grant Application to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Cassiano Park

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance approves the submission of a grant application and the acceptance of funds upon award from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program Grant as part of the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 for revitalization and development at Cassiano 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 Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program Grant (Grant) with applications due on January 31, 2023. The TPWD will consider grant requests from across the State of Texas to be forwarded to the National Park Service as part of their Land and Water Conservation Fund. Grant award notifications will be sent in September 2023. If awarded, the grant period is for three years with optional extensions, if requested.

The 2022-2027 Bond Program provides funding of \$3,750,000.00 for development and improvements at Cassiano Park located in Council District 5 to meet a matching one-to-one grant requirement. This was augmented by the Council Office in the amount of \$230,000.00 from Fiscal Year 2022 funding for capital investments. As part of the bond project planning process, three community engagement events have occurred to date and most recently in December 2022 with additional opportunities planned. The community expressed their priorities are to capture the historical culture of the community while addressing the swimming pool facility and playground with other park amenities as secondary.

The TPWD grant will leverage 2022-2027 Bond Program funding to support a complete project as envisioned by the community. Additional park improvements may include a splash pad, new bath house, and enhanced inclusion-based play and multigenerational elements exceeding basic Americans with Disability Act requirements.

These efforts, combined with the conservation of Apache Creek bordering to the south of Cassiano Park and greenway growth into the park, will directly support the principles of SA Tomorrow and the SA Parks System Plan's goals.

#### **ISSUE:**

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program Grant via the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department is consistent with City policy to apply for grants to enhance service delivery by supplementing local funds. Grant funds in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 will be utilized for development of parks and facilities located at Cassiano Park and is consistent with the SA Parks System Plan.

Cassiano Park was chosen based the status of the existing park bond project and grant criteria focused on investment in a high need area, which the park exists in a neighborhood with a combined Equity Atlas score of 10 representing a high concentration of low-income communities of color. Environmental indicators in this area also reflect urban heat island effects and respiratory hazards as prevalent for the community around Cassiano Park.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The City could choose not to submit the grant application to leverage Bond funds to benefit Cassiano Park and evaluate other park properties suitable for this grant opportunity.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The TPWD grant requires a one-to-one totaling \$2,500,000.00. Matching funds will be provided by the 2022-2027 Bond Program included in the FY 2023 – FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program. There is no General Fund impact with this action.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the submission of a grant application and the acceptance of \$2,500,000.00 upon award from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program Grant as part of the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund for park improvements at Cassiano Park located in Council District 5 and the Parks and Recreation Director to execute any and all related documents.