

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

MEETING DATE: 8/10/2026

PREPARED BY: Jason O'Mara, Director of Parks & Recreation

AGENDA CONTENT: Update and discussion on the Phillips 66-funded pollinator garden project at Abigail Arias Park.

AGENDA ITEM SECTION: Regular Agenda

BUDGETED AMOUNT: NA **FUNDS REQUESTED:** NA

FUND: NA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Through a partnership with Phillips 66 and Tandem Global, the City has the opportunity to develop a native pollinator garden at Abigail Arias Park. The pollinator garden will be incorporated into one of the park's designated native planting area near the entrance of the park and is intended to support bees, butterflies, birds, and other beneficial wildlife while providing an environmental and educational feature within the park.

David Heinicke has taken a significant role in supporting the development of the project, assisting with species selection, planting area design, and coordination with project partners. His involvement has helped guide the proposed planting plan and overall approach for establishing the pollinator habitat.

An important component of the project is also the incorporation of a **llama memorial feature honoring Abigail Arias and her love of llamas**. The current concept includes a freestanding llama-shaped memorial marker that would serve as the focal point of the garden, with dedication language honoring Abigail and a small integrated native bee habitat feature. A companion interpretive sign would provide additional information about Abigail, the purpose of the pollinator garden, biodiversity, and project partners. Staff is coordinating with Phillips 66, Tandem Global, and Keep Angleton Beautiful on a collaborative planting event planned for November 6–7, 2026.

A master species list identifying the proposed plant species and the llama memorial concept plan is included in the packet for Board review. Staff is also developing "Habitat in Progress" signage to communicate the purpose of the area while the native habitat becomes established.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Parks Board discuss and provide feedback regarding the pollinator garden, "Habitat in Progress" signage, and llama memorial concept honoring Abigail Arias.