



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

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**MEETING DATE:** 1/13/2025

**PREPARED BY:** Megan Mainer, Director of Parks & Recreation

**AGENDA CONTENT:** Discussion and possible action on program elements for Abigail Arias Park.

**AGENDA ITEM SECTION:** Regular Agenda

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**BUDGETED AMOUNT:** \$2,000,000                      **FUNDS REQUESTED:** \$0.00

**FUND:** 040-506-625.10

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The adopted 2019 Parks & Recreation Master and Strategic Plan outlines two short-term goals associated with service delivery on the south side of town including addressing gaps in the level of service and programming in the south side of the city and considering opportunities to provide more parks and recreation access and increase parks per population ratio.

In September of 2021, the Parks & Recreation Board requested a survey be developed for community feedback revolving around park development on the south side of town. The survey was posted from September 3 to September 30, 2021, and the City received input from 79 respondents. The top five park amenities desired on the south side of town were a playground for (5-12), trails, a splash pad, a playground (2-5), and swings. The City of Angleton acquired 6.93 acres of land on the south side of town located at 301 Cemetery Road for future park development. On March 8, 2022, this park was formally named Abigail Arias Park.

In 2022, 2023, and 2024, the City of Angleton held an Angleton University program designed to inform, educate, and empower participants so they can understand the inner workings of Angleton city government. During the Parks & Recreation Department session, participants were broken into “park designer groups”, were provided information from the September 2021 survey, and were instructed to place a sticker on the park amenity pictures posted around the room that they would like to see at Abigail Arias Park. They were asked to avoid choosing park amenities that fell within our minimum park standards for new development including sidewalks along the street frontage, all utilities, LED lighting along the street and within the park, wireless network infrastructure, a restroom facility, one playscape structure, covered picnic tables, grills, and trash containers, drinking fountain, and park benches. If you see these items, they must be included in the new park development. During the exercise, Angleton University students were given a budget constraint that required “park designer groups” to scale back their design and limit the number of park amenities for the final design. This exercise demonstrated the most important

park amenities for Abigail Arias Park from the perspective of Angleton residents. These Angleton University program “designs” were used during town hall meetings on March 25 and April 1 for additional community feedback. The top ranked design is enclosed in your packet.

In January 2024, the City of Angleton published a public survey to solicit additional feedback about desired park amenities, scale of park amenities, and design elements for Abigail Arias Park not including the minimum park requirements. The survey was posted from January 24 to February 20, 2024, and the City received input from 585 respondents. The top ten park amenities desired for Abigail Arias Park in priority order are a playground for 2-5 and/or 5-12, a splash pad, swings, trails, a bike path, a skate area, an obstacle course, green space, mini golf, and basketball courts. Survey results are enclosed in your packet.

On June 25, 2024, the City Council selected Burditt Land | Place as the landscape architect firm to complete park design, park construction document development, park project bidding, and park construction administration for the development of Abigail Arias Park.

Agreements between the City Council and Burditt Land | Place were executed by the City Council on September 24, 2024. Burditt Land | Place completed a site visit on December 10, 2024 and a project kickoff meeting was held on December 16, 2024.

Baker & Lawson was approved to complete a survey for Abigail Arias Park on January 8.

Staff and Burditt Land | Place is scheduled to meet with the Arias Family on Monday, January 13.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Parks & Recreation Board discuss program elements for Abigail Arias Park to initiate schematic design concepts.