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## City Council Regular Meeting

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks and Recreation  
**FROM:** Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation  
**MEETING:** June 16, 2025

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**SUBJECT:**

Consider a resolution authorizing the application for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant. *(Staff Contact: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation)*

**SUMMARY:**

The City of Burleson Parks and Recreation Department seeks City Council approval of a resolution authorizing submission of a grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for the Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Local Park Grant Program. The application supports Phase II of Community Park, which includes the construction of an inclusive, nature-based play area designed for universal accessibility, sensory interaction, and family engagement. This resolution designates the Parks and Recreation Director to act on behalf of the City, certifies the availability of matching funds, and dedicates the site to long-term public park use.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW – PHASE II OF COMMUNITY PARK:**

Phase II will enhance the Community Park located at the intersection of Hulen Street and Alsbury Boulevard through the development of a custom, inclusive natural play area. Key components include:

- Custom-designed play structures with natural elements supporting inclusive and sensory-rich play
- Pour-in-place surfacing for safety and ADA accessibility
- Integrated shade structures to protect children and families from sun exposure
- Furnishings including benches and trash receptacles
- Trail and infrastructure connections ensuring integrated access to surrounding amenities

**FUNDING AND MATCHING SHARE:**

The estimated project cost is \$1,574,000, with a 50/50 match required under the grant program. The City's \$787,000 match is identified and allocated in the approved FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). While only a 50% match is required, exceeding this minimum ("overmatch") improves the application's competitiveness and may increase the project's overall score.

### GRANT SCORING CRITERIA & CITY ALIGNMENT:

The TPWD Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant application is evaluated using a 100-point scoring rubric, with the following key criteria:

Category	Max Points	Burleson Strategy
Project Need & Site Suitability	20	Phase II fills a documented gap in inclusive play and natural play environments, as identified in community engagement and master planning.
Quality of Park Design	18	The project includes universal design, natural aesthetics, integrated trails, shade, and modern surfacing – contributing to a high-quality layout.
Incorporation of Required Recreation Elements	10	Project will meet or exceed TPWD's required minimum facilities checklist with compliant features.
Public Participation	10	Public engagement was completed as part of the park master planning process, including surveys, town halls, and advisory board input.
Project Connectivity	8	The site includes direct trail and infrastructure connections to future park amenities and neighborhoods.
Operation and Maintenance Commitment	8	The Parks Department has allocated long-term O&M resources and has a maintenance plan for inclusive play features.
Site Acquisition and Control	6	The park is City-owned and dedicated for public recreation use in perpetuity.
Sustainability Features	6	Use of natural materials, long-lasting surfacing, and

		drought-tolerant landscaping supports long-term sustainability.
Project Readiness and Matching Funds	6	Matching funds are secured in the 2027 CIP. The City may exceed the 50% match threshold to strengthen application score.
New Park Development / Park Expansion	4	The proposed development meaningfully expands an existing community park and provides regionally impactful features.
Population Served / Underserved Areas	4	Inclusive features ensure equitable access, especially for residents with disabilities and younger children.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the resolution, authorizing application to the TPWD Local Park Grant Program for Phase II of Community Park and designating the Parks and Recreation Director as the official representative.

**PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):**

N/A

**REFERENCE:**

Insert CSO# if applicable  
Insert resolution or ordinance change

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Proposed Expenditure/Revenue:  
Account Number(s):  
Fund:  
Account Description:

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Jen Basham, CPRE  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
[jbasham@burlesontx.com](mailto:jbasham@burlesontx.com)  
817-426-9201