
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

FROM: Jen Basham, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING: September 2, 2025

SUBJECT:

Consider and take possible action on a resolution to accept two grant awards from the Texas A&M Forest Service totaling \$120,000 over three years—\$20,000 for the Canopy for Community Resilience Tree Planting Initiative and \$100,000 to support the establishment of a full-time Urban Forester position. *(Staff Contact: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation)*

SUMMARY:

The City of Burleson Parks & Recreation Department has been awarded two Community Forestry Grants from the Texas A&M Forest Service, designed to enhance the city's long-term resilience and environmental equity through strategic urban canopy expansion and professional urban forestry management.

1. Tree Planting Grant – \$20,000 over three years

The Canopy for Community Resilience project will fund the planting of 40 native and adaptive trees across three high-traffic and underserved areas. This initiative will help restore lost canopy, improve pedestrian comfort, and support storm water management while fostering community engagement through volunteer planting events.

2. Urban Forester Grant – \$100,000 over three years

This grant will support the creation of a dedicated Urban Forester position, with funding distributed over three years. The grant will offset salary, benefits, certification pay, and a cell phone allowance as follows:

- Year 1 (FY 2025): \$50,000
- Year 2 (FY 2026): \$25,000
- Year 3 (FY 2027): \$25,000

The Urban Forester will lead efforts to expand and manage Burleson's urban tree canopy, including conducting a full tree inventory, developing maintenance schedules, engaging the public through planting events and workshops, and integrating best practices in sustainable

forestry across departments. The position is anticipated to be fully absorbed into the General Fund beginning in FY 2028.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to accept both grant awards to support Burleson's growing urban forestry program.

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

At the July 21, 2025 City Council meeting, CMO-recommended supplementals were presented and included the proposed addition of a full-time Urban Forester position, as well as tree planting funds—both supported by grant awards from the Texas A&M Forest Service.

REFERENCE:

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Expenditure/Revenue:

Account Number(s):

Fund:

Account Description:

STAFF CONTACT:

Name: Jen Basham

Title: Parks and Recreation Director

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