
Park Board

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Jessica Martinez, Deputy Director of Parks
MEETING: March 20, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive a report and provide staff feedback regarding current and upcoming grant opportunities (*Staff Contact: Jessica Martinez, Deputy Director of Parks*)

SUMMARY:

The Parks and Recreation Department has submitted applications for multiple grant opportunities aimed at enhancing community parks, urban forestry initiatives, and youth programming. These grants, if awarded, will provide funding to support tree planting efforts, park revitalization, and youth mentoring programs, aligning with the City's long-term vision for sustainable park development and community engagement.

The following grants have been applied for:

1. Texas A&M Forest Service – Municipal Forester Grant
 - Amount: \$100,000 (phased over 3 years)
 - Purpose: Funds a Municipal Forester/Arborist position to enhance urban forestry management.
 - Status: Applied
2. Texas A&M Forest Service – Tree Planting Grant
 - Amount: Up to \$20,000
 - Purpose: Supports tree planting efforts to increase urban canopy coverage, improve environmental quality, and engage the community in conservation.
 - Status: Applied
3. Lowe's Hometowns Grant
 - Amount: Up to \$200,000
 - Purpose: Provides funding for park revitalization, including infrastructure improvements, accessibility enhancements, and beautification. Project tied to Warren Park Improvements.
 - Status: Applied
4. NRPA OST Youth Mentoring Grant
 - Amount: \$60,000

- Purpose: Supports youth mentoring programs focused on environmental education, tree care, and hands-on conservation experiences. Project tied to the Trees for Tomorrow Program.
 - Status: Applied
5. TxDot Green Ribbon Grant
- Amount: \$400,000
 - In addition: \$250,000 has been awarded to Keep Burleson Beautiful as part of a GCAA grant. Keep Burleson Beautiful would like to utilize this funding to enhance the Green Ribbon Project if awarded
 - City Cost: \$150,000 in design and construction administration
 - Purpose: To extend the current Green Ribbon Project along John Jones from S Town Dr to Greenridge Dr.
 - Status: Submitted to local area office for review, official submittal due March 28
6. TPWD Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant
- Amount \$700,000
 - City Cost: \$700,000 (grant is a 50/50 match)
 - Purpose: To design and build an inclusive playground at the community park site currently being designed
 - Status: Grant scheduled to open in April with submittals due in August

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to proceed with these grants, if awarded. These grants align with division goals and will contribute to urban sustainability, park enhancements, and increased youth engagement.

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

Grant applications have been submitted. This memo serves as an update and a request for approval to move forward with grants, if awarded.

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

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