

MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Department: Administration

Date: May 8, 2025

Subject: Consideration of Dedicated Park Bench Program

Background

Recently, a community member inquired about the possibility of dedicating a park bench in memory or honor of a loved one. While the City of La Vernia has not previously offered such a program, it may be worth exploring a structured approach to allow for this type of donation and commemoration.

Discussion

If Council is supportive, staff could begin developing a **Dedicated Park Bench Program** that allows residents to sponsor a park bench with a personalized plaque or engraving. This program could support park enhancement efforts while offering meaningful opportunities for community engagement.

Key components for consideration might include:

- **Standardized Bench Style:** Selecting a specific model and design for visual consistency throughout the park system.
 - **Approved Vendor(s):** Establishing relationships with a bench manufacturer and engraver to streamline the process and maintain quality standards.
 - **Pricing Structure:** The City would collect payment from donors to cover the full cost of the bench, installation, and plaque/engraving, with the potential for a small administrative or maintenance fee.
 - **Location Guidelines:** Staff could work with donors to select appropriate placement, based on park layout, visibility, and future infrastructure plans.
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Next Steps

Staff seeks input from the City Council on whether to begin developing this program and what parameters or preferences you may have. If supported, we can return with a formal proposal and policy framework for adoption at a future meeting.