



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT REPORT

Council Date: December 12, 2023	Department: Planning & Development and Parks	Presented By: Toni Fisher
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AGENDA ITEM: **PARKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

This is the first Parks Department report given to City Council:

Christmas Lighting: This budget was increased to include the 30' Christmas Tree and the beautiful embellishments on the new City Hall, while trees and rooflines within Memorial Park and Cross Timbers Park were still included for illumination for a magical display within our City properties.

Landscaping & Mowing Contract: I&E Services, Inc. continues to do an outstanding job as we move into our second of a 3-year contract. They will be adding Kings Gate Park as an additional mowing area as soon it is closed.

Parks Budget: FY2023-24 allotted the Parks Department its own budget from which it will fund all park improvements and maintenance.

Willow Park Trail System: The Addendum to the Parks & Trails Master Plan was adopted by City Council, which includes a realistic trail map from which the City can begin trail planning and construction. This trail will be the connecting piece of the Weatherford and Aledo trail systems and the heart of Larry Colvin's newly imagined "East Parker County Trail" (EPCOT). A grant has been submitted by Mr. Colvin, President of the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club, to IMBA organization, and fundraising will be required. More to come on this.

Cross Timbers Park: A non-verbal sign, sponsored by generous donations from Parks Board member, Ever Gomez, and Railhead Realty, was installed by Public Works on the playground side of the park. It aids those in our community who are not able to verbally articulate or communicate. This includes those a broad range of special needs, elderly, or do not speak English, and the sign also includes braille. This was presented to the Parks Board and orchestrated by WPPD Lieutenant Jaclin Ramiriz, who recognized this need for those in our community and, having a son with autism, understood the challenges for those unable to communicate effectively at all times, especially when afraid or angry. This sign appears to be the first in this region of the country, and a wonderful addition to our inclusive playground.

Memorial Park: The pergola at the entrance of the park showed its years of wear, as did the sign showing its dedication to Ofc. Paul Balint, Jr., and earlier in the year, the family was contacted that it needed repair. Unfortunately, they weren't able to coordinate and this fall, we had to remove the pergola due to unsafe conditions. In Spring 2024, the sign bearing Ofc. Balint's name will be placed elsewhere in the park. Staff met with I&E

Landscaping, the city's contractor, to discuss removal of dead trees and foliage, redesign of the flower bed, and repair and/or reinstallation of the sprinkler system in the early Spring months. Staff has also reached out to the Parker County Master Gardeners to assist in its redesign. Public Works has ordered a new flag pole for the park and a US Flag will be flown there. Staff has also reached out to a local Boy Scout troop to inquire about "adopting" the park, but has not yet received a reply.

Kings Gate Park: The city requested Wilks Development to convey the park earlier than originally agreed by the Planned Development district, to allow the start of the trail system and additional park land the city so desperately needed. The park has been surveyed and replatted, and following a few final title company details, the park will be conveyed to the city. See replat attached.

City Hall Grounds: Dorothy Witmeyer of Westwood Professional Services, Inc. has submitted a proposal, upon our request, to help with design and engineering for the south lot of City Hall, to include a parking lot and landscaping. It is being presented at this meeting.

TXDOT Green Ribbon Grant Program: Dorothy Witmeyer of Westwood Professional Services, Inc. presented the city with a general proposal to assist with our application to this grant for beautification of our I-20 service road, specifically, the northern side from City Hall working west. Her assistance for application was requested of the Parks Board in February 2023, but its majority could not agree on an action and the item was postponed until more information could be gathered. In response, Ms. Witmeyer has provided us with a more comprehensive proposal, which includes monument signs at the eastern and western ends of our city, and Staff will present this at the next Council meeting.

EXHIBITS:

- Kings Gate Park – Final Replat