

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 11/19/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-1018

LOG NAME: 22ENV COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT - GREENSPACE

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize the Application for and Acceptance of, if Awarded, an Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant for Greenspace Acquisition and Recovery Projects in Fort Worth from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an Amount Up to \$20,000,000.00, Authorize Execution of a Grant Agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Authorize Execution of a Partnership Agreement with Taking Care of Texas dba Texan by Nature in an Amount Up to \$50,000.00 from Grant Award, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the application for and acceptance of, if awarded, an Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant for Greenspace Acquisition and Recovery Projects in Fort Worth from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an amount up to \$20,000,000.00;
 2. Authorize execution of a grant agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency;
 3. Authorize the execution of a partnership agreement with Taking Care of Texas dba Texan by Nature in an amount up to \$50,000.00 from grant award; and
 4. Adopt the attached Appropriation Ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund, subject to the receipt of the grant in an amount up to \$20,000,000.00, for the purpose of funding the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program for Greenspace Acquisition and Recovery Projects in Fort Worth.
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DISCUSSION:

Grant funding is available through the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant (CCG) program to support local efforts to advance environmental and climate justice activities that benefit communities. If awarded, funds requested through this CCG application would be used to advance projects to support greenspace recovery and restoration activities, and environmental stewardship.

This grant application is a competitive federal funding opportunity. If awarded, funding is requested for Greenspace Acquisition and Recovery Projects in Fort Worth to support themes for greenspace recovery, brownfields restoration, stormwater management, and litter control for waterways. Grant funding is requested for example projects which may include: acquisition and demolition of abandoned grain elevators with site restoration as greenspace at 3700 Alice Street; acquisition and greenspace improvements near the former Fort Worth incinerator site at 3298 Yuma Street; stormwater/green infrastructure improvements and a litter control device near South Hulen and IH-20; and stormwater/green infrastructure improvements and a litter control device near La Gran Plaza. Additional greenspace acquisition and recovery projects will be identified, as all proposed projects and project elements are subject to funding availability and USEPA approval. These projects will support Mayor Mattie Parker's Good Natured Greenspace Initiative goal of preserving 10,000 acres of greenspace across Fort Worth in the next five years, while also growing and enhancing the City's park system.

CCG grant applications from local governments are required to include a partnership with a community-based, non-profit organization. For this application, Taking Care of Texas dba Texan by Nature (TxN) will serve as a statutory partner and subrecipient for an amount up to \$50,000.00, if awarded. This amount is less than 1% of the total grant award, and funds will be used by TxN to support these projects through collaborative community engagement with the City which may include social media, web presence, annual blogs detailing efforts and accomplishments. TxN Certification and storytelling will promote the value of greenspace and environmental stewardship within Fort Worth.

No local match is required. Indirect costs are limited to 20%. The Grant Application repository number is GRNT-APPL-0000000085.

No employee salaries will be supported with this grant.

If awarded, grant funds are expected in 2025, and the performance period of this grant is anticipated to end in 2028. If received, the performance period of this grant cannot exceed three years.

These projects will serve ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations, and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Environmental Services Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being

incurred, the Environmental Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is an advance grant.

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