



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting October 14, 2025

DATE: October 14, 2025

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Robert Dodd, Director of Parks & Recreation Department
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361-826-3133

<p>Ordinance accepting & appropriating grant funds from the National Recreation & Park Association for Heart Your Park Volunteer Days.</p>

CAPTION:

Ordinance accepting and appropriating grant funds totaling \$15,000.00 from the National Recreation & Park Association for funding for the Heart Your Park Volunteer Days for the Parks & Recreation Department and appropriating the funds in the Parks & Recreation Grant Fund.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the Parks & Recreation Department to accept and appropriate grant funds from the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA). NRPA is managing the administrator of this grant made possible through the support of CITGO Petroleum Corporation. Grants made through this Program (Caring for the Coast) are intended to support building coastal communities that may be impacted by natural disasters by investing in enhancements in local parks and recreation and facilitating community engagement and environmental education events.

The City Manager, or designee, may reject or terminate this grant. Furthermore, the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to execute contract amendments pertaining to these grant funds in the following instances: a) for the carry-over of funds, when ascertained and approved by the funding agency through a revised notice of award; b) a no-cost extension; c) when an amendment will provide supplemental grant funds in an amount not to exceed 20% of the original grant amount; d) for reimbursement increases of administration funds for each participant served; e) to comply with applicable State or federal laws and regulations; and f) for matters which do not change the essential purpose of the grant.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Parks and Recreation Department has been a grant recipient of the Heart Your Park grant from 2018 to 2025, excluding 2020 due to COVID. For FY25, the Mayor and City Council approved a similar ordinance on July 22, 2025, to accept \$15,000 in grant funds for the Heart Your Park Volunteer Days. This specific ordinance for consideration is to accept and appropriate grant funds for FY26.

This grant has been beneficial in expanding community engagement opportunities and educating the community on the importance of conserving, preserving and improving park lands in our local community. Throughout the years, Heart Your Park events have been conducted at Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve (Council District 4), Doddridge Park (Council District 2), and Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge (Council District 4) which includes general park clean ups, beautification and educational signage. Prior projects have utilized approximately 33 volunteers, totaling 100 volunteers for the three events.

By accepting this grant, the Department's efforts will focus on the following parks within our park system where volunteers can best assist in ground cleaning efforts:

- Blucher Nature Park, 209 S. Tancahua Street (Council District 1)
- Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge, 909 Ennis Joslin Road (Council District 4)
- Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve, 2446 N. Oso Parkway (Council District 4)

The following grant objectives are opportunities for hands-on volunteer service to educate the community on the importance of environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for residents:

- Engage 100 community volunteers in a total of 400 hours of work to conserve/restore public park lands/resources through a minimum of three total events.
- Conduct local community outreach through web, social media, and local press release for promotion.
- Provide opportunities for corporate employees and individuals to contribute to the Project through hands-on volunteer activities and/or educational experiences.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to accept the grant. However, doing so would eliminate beneficial opportunities to conserve, preserve and improve park land for people and wildlife by engaging the community.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact for the application process. No City cash match is required if the funding is awarded.

Funding Detail:

Fund:	1067 Parks & Recreation Fund
Organization/Activity:	844125L
Department:	27 Parks & Recreation
Account:	520070 Food/Food Supplies; 520180 Landscaping Materials; 530500 Printing Advertising & PR

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend authorizing the ordinance to accept and appropriate grant funds from NRPA in the amount of \$15,000.00.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance
Memorandum of Understanding
Presentation