



CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of January 27, 2026

DATE: January 27, 2026
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Robert Dodd, Director of Parks & Recreation Department
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Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Grant Application for Recreational Trail Connectivity at Bill Witt Park

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing submission of a grant application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department under its Recreational Trails Grant Program in the amount of \$300,000.00, with a required cash match of 20% of the total project costs, not to exceed \$75,000.00, for trail connectivity improvements to the Bill Witt Park.

SUMMARY:

The Parks & Recreation Department (PARD), in coordination with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD), propose to submit a grant application to the Recreational Trails Grant Program to improve trail connectivity at Bill Witt Park. TPWD requires that an authorizing resolution be submitted as part of the application process.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Bill Witt Park, a regional park located at 6809 Yorktown Boulevard, is highly visited and known for having expansive sports facilities and family-oriented recreational spaces. The park serves as a vital hub for youth athletics/community leisure, offering 12 natural grass soccer fields and two lighted multi-purpose fields. Beyond organized sports, the park provides many other substantial amenities, such as a large playground, a seasonal splash pad, a scenic hike and bike trail (Bear Creek), a dedicated dog park, and a public amphitheater. In 2025, amenities were substantially enhanced with the addition of the Bill Witt Aquatic Center, which features a 10-lane competition pool and a recreational pool with interactive water slides.

The Bill Witt Master Plan, which is part of the Parks & Recreation 10-Year Master Plan, prioritizes the expansion of trail networks to promote navigation and strengthen neighborhood connectivity. This proposal for trail connectivity aims to promote community engagement and outdoor activities by connecting the Bill Witt Park to a broader network of recreational amenities.

For the trail connectivity project at Bill Witt Park, PARD plans to execute the project in two phases. This application to acquire TPWD grant funds will only be for the Phase 1 of the project. Phase 1 is a stand-alone project that includes the design and construction of a new 2,300-foot trail to connect the existing Bear Creek Hike and Bike Trail with the Oso Creek Nature Trail. The existing Bear

Creek Hike and Bike Trail is constructed of decomposed granite and concrete.

For the future Phase 2 project, PARD intends to expand the network by adding 4,300 feet of trail that would focus on improving internal park circulation to the park's numerous athletic amenities, including the new aquatic center, splash pad, ball fields, dog park, and playground.

The funding for this grant request is a shared project cost between TPWD and the city. Upon execution, the City will provide a cash match of 20%, while TPWD will reimburse 80%. The estimated project cost for this proposal is \$375,000.00. PARD is seeking the maximum grant amount of \$300,000.00 to be reimbursed with a remaining City match of \$75,000. Future budgets will take into account funding for Phase 2 of the project.

It is expected that applicants for this grant will receive award notifications in June 2026. The grant agreement will be issued approximately 12 to 18 months after the award notification, setting forth approved work, allowable costs, and commitment to follow required procedures. Funds will become available for reimbursement once the agreement is approved and executed by TPWD and the City. The agreement will stipulate that the City has approximately four years for design and complete the construction of the trail.

The City has received funds from TPWD's Recreational Trails Grants in the past. In 2005, the City received a \$100,000 grant for a 4,700-foot concrete trail in West Guth Park.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to apply for the grant and for Park & Recreation department to search for a different funding source for the construction of the trail. This will further delay Master Plan priorities to expand trail networks within the park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for the application process. If awarded, a cash match of \$75,000.00 will be appropriated through the Park Development Fund in FY 2026.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	4720 – Park Development Fund
Department:	27 – Parks and Recreation Department
Organization/Activity:	21717 – Southside B Park Zone
Project # (CIP Only):	TBD
Account:	550030 – Improvements other than building
Amount:	\$75,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend approval of the resolution to apply for a grant from TPWD for funding in an amount up to \$300,000.00 with a City cash match of \$75,000.00 for the design and construction of a new trail located at Bill Witt Park.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution
Presentation