

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** February 26, 2024
SUBJECT: Consider Resolution No. 2024-015, authorizing the submission of the application and acceptance of allocated funds if awarded for the Texas A&M Forest Service Community Tree Planting Grant for Iron Horse Boulevard.
PRESENTER: Adrien Pekurney, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUMMARY:

The Texas A&M Forest Service Grant Program, supported by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, seeks to develop sustainable forestry programs that provide communities with healthy trees and forests. Healthy urban forests are essential to a community's economics, environment, and the physical and mental well-being of its citizens. If awarded, the Parks and Recreation Department will utilize the funds for tree planting and irrigation in the future medians of Iron Horse Boulevard, currently under construction.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Parks and Recreation Department is seeking authorization to apply for and utilize grant funds, if awarded, offered by the Texas A&M Forest Service to improve the city's urban forest. The tree planting grant is dedicated to supporting initiatives that increase urban tree canopy coverage and promote the many benefits of trees in developed environments. The reimbursable grant can support up to 50% of the project cost with a maximum of \$20,000 in grant funding.

A future capital infrastructure project for annual tree planting will support the city's contribution at a maximum of \$20,000. The annual tree planting project utilizes tree mitigation funds to increase the public tree canopy at city parks, facilities, and rights-of-way. If awarded, the grant will provide for the installation of trees and irrigation within the medians currently being installed on Iron Horse Boulevard. The total grant application is for \$20,000 with a 50% match requirement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. 2024-015, authorizing the submission of the application and acceptance of allocated funds if awarded for the Texas A&M Forest Service Community Tree Planting Grant for Iron Horse Boulevard.