



**CITY OF TYLER  
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

**Agenda Number: R-4**

**Date: January 10, 2007**

**Subject: Request that the City Council consider approval of a resolution that supports increased funding for the Texas Recreation and Parks Account and the State Park System.**

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**Item Reference:**

Funding for the Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) has decreased the past two legislative sessions. The TRPA is a grant program for parkland acquisition and development, and for the development of recreational facilities administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The annual funding in the TRPA prior to the 78th Legislature was \$15.5 million. The TRPA was reduced to \$8.1 million annually during the 78th Legislature and to \$5 million by the 79th Legislature.

Appropriations for the maintenance and operation of the State Parks and historical sites in Texas has been reduced over the past two Legislative Sessions resulting in park closures, reduced hours and days of operation as well as layoffs of staff. This has come at a time when the population of the state is expanding and the need for open space is greater than it has ever been.

The attached resolution requests that members of the 80th Legislature support increased funding for the TRPA, at least to the level prior to the 78th Legislative Session. The resolution also requests that members of the 80th Legislature support increased funding for the State Park System.

The City of Tyler has received several park development grants from TPWD over the past several years and will continue seeking grant opportunities to assist with the development of various City parks.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council consider approval of a resolution that supports increased funding for the Texas Recreation and Parks Account and the State Park System.

**Drafted/Recommended By:  
Department Leader**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Webb', is written over a horizontal line.

**John Webb**

**Edited/Submitted By:  
City Manager**

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2007-4**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE 80<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE TEXAS RECREATION & PARKS ACCOUNT LOCAL PARK GRANT PROGRAM AND THE TEXAS STATE PARK SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (“TPWD”) administers the Texas Recreation & Parks Account Local Park Grant Program (“TRPA”) and manages 114 State parks and historical sites in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, TPWD has a separate account in their general revenue fund referred to as the TRPA for the purpose of providing matching grants to political subdivisions for parks and recreation projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the matching grants provided by the TPWD are utilized for the planning, acquisition, and development of local park, recreation and open space areas to be owned and maintained by political subdivisions; and

**WHEREAS**, funds granted to political subdivisions under the TRPA guidelines have funded 1,029 projects of the 2,851 submitted over 25 years delivering over \$623 million dollars to the local Texas economy; and

**WHEREAS**, political subdivisions throughout the State of Texas depend on grants from TPWD through the TRPA to stimulate the acquisition and development of parks and recreational areas for the benefit and enjoyment of their citizenry; and

**WHEREAS**, the TRPA and State parks are funded from sales tax on sporting goods and that the development of new parks stimulates the purchase of sporting goods; and

**WHEREAS**, continued cutbacks in appropriations for State park and historic sites have resulted in a backlog of deferred maintenance issues, park closures, reduced hours and days of operation, staff layoffs, the conversion of some parks to day use only and elimination of important visitor services, regardless of the growing need for new parks due to the State’s expanding population and extensive tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the development of parks encourages and promotes public health, economic development, job creation, education; corporate relocations, an improved quality of life, and juvenile crime prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of this City Council that a copy of this resolution with appropriate names affixed be presented to the Governor of Texas and the leadership of the 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS:**

**PART 1.** That members of the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Texas seek passage of legislation maximizing the use of revenue from the sporting goods sales tax to increase funding for parks

and recreation programs fairly for both Local and State parks and that all TRPA funded park projects be subject to the established TPWD competitive scoring system.

**PART 2.** That this Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and approval.

**APPROVED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2007.

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JOSEPH O. SEEBER, MAYOR  
OF THE CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS

A T T E S T:

APPROVED:

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CASSANDRA BRAGER, CITY CLERK

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CITY ATTORNEY