



City of Galveston

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH STAFF REPORT

Date: February 14, 2023

To: City Manager, Mayor and City Council Members

From: Barbara Ekelund-Sanderson,
Executive Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Outreach

Project location: 2326 Skymaster Road

Project: Boating Access Design Grant

Request: Discuss and consider providing guidance to the Parks and Recreation Department regarding a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant for the design of a boating access ramp at 2326 Skymaster Road.

Prior Council Action

On September 20, 2019, City Council adopted Resolution No. 19-037 supporting the application of a Boating Access Grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for City property located at 2326 Skymaster Road. On October 27, 2022, City Council approved a professional services contract with Intracoastal Consultants to complete the Engineering Design for the Skymaster Boat Launch (COG-CON-22-991).

Background

The City of Galveston Parks and Recreation Department has strived to achieve goals and objectives listed in the “City of Galveston Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan” adopted in March 2012. The second goal of the Master Plan is to “continue to increase the quality and diversity of amenities in the existing and future parks to attract and accommodate people of all ages for both active and passive activities.” One objective listed under this goal is: “As part of an overall Bay Access Plan, inventory the number and capacity of existing public access points to the bay shoreline; kayak access points; fishing piers; docks, wade areas; boat ramps, and associated parking facilities to ensure residents and visitors have adequate opportunity to enjoy the Island’s natural and recreational resources.”

In September 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department sought City Council support in applying for a boating access ramp grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Texas Parks and Wildlife administers the Boating Access Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.





City of Galveston

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH STAFF REPORT

This federally funded program receives its funding from the federal gasoline tax generated by sales of gasoline for recreational motorboats and a federal excise tax on the sales of fishing tackle and trolling motors. Fifteen (15%) of the state's annual apportionment from this federal program must be used to provide public recreational boating access.

The City of Galveston was awarded a Phase I Boating Access Ramp Grant for 2326 Skymaster Road in 2020, with the grant period running from August 1, 2020 until February 28, 2022. The grant has since been extended through February 28, 2024. The grant is for a total project cost of \$78,000.00 with a 75% match from TPWD (\$58,500.00) and a 25% match from the City (\$19,500.00) for the design, engineering and other pre-construction expenses related to constructing the Skymaster Road Boat Ramp. Should the City complete Phase I successfully, we would be eligible to apply for Phase II Construction funding with priority designation.

Part of the reason staff believes the City was awarded the grant is because Galveston currently only has one (1) public boat access ramp located at Lee and Joe Jamail Bay Park (1600 61st Street), which is unusual for a community surrounded by water. The addition of a boat ramp launch at 2326 Skymaster Road is proposed to benefit all citizens of Galveston by creating and allowing for marine vehicles such as boats, jet skis, and kayaks, as well as public fishing opportunities. The City's Parks and Recreation Department would maintain and operate the location, allowing for vehicle and trailer parking, landscaping, and potentially fish cleaning stations and a picnic area.

Staff has recently been made aware of a petition from a nearby neighborhood objecting to the boat ramp at 2326 Skymaster Road and seeks guidance from City Council on how to proceed with the project. While no major expenses have been incurred yet, and the City has not sought reimbursement from TPWD, staff from Parks and Recreation and Public Works have spent a considerable amount of hours working on the project since 2019. Staff met with the Council approved engineering consultant in December 2022 and had additional meetings scheduled until they were made aware of the petition.

Staff has spoken with TPWD and they have advised that the current grant opportunity is only available for 2326 Skymaster Road due to the application being approved for that location. Staff has concerns that if the grant were to be rescinded, it would be more difficult to be awarded grants from TPWD in the future.

Fiscal Impact Report

- **Total Cost.** \$78,000.00
(75% match from TPWD: \$58,500.00 / 25% match from City: \$19,500.00)
- **Funding Source.** TPWD Grant (75%) and Parks and Recreation Operating Budget (25%)





City of Galveston

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH STAFF REPORT

Alternatives

1. Authorize staff to proceed with fulfilling Phase I Grant requirements, including the engineering and design of a boat ramp launch and parking at 2326 Skymaster Road.
2. Instruct staff to contact TPWD and rescind the Phase I Grant opportunity. This could influence whether the Parks and Recreation Staff are awarded future grants from TPWD. Galveston would continue to only have one public boat ramp.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends authorizing staff to proceed with fulfilling Phase I Grant requirements, including the engineering and design of a boat ramp launch and parking at 2326 Skymaster Road.

Attachment(s)

Resolution No. 19-037

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Ekelund-Sanderson

Executive Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Outreach



RESOLUTION NO. 19-037

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, TEXAS SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF A BOATING ACCESS GRANT FROM THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT FOR CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2326 SKYMASTER ROAD; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Texas Parks and Wildlife administers the Boating Access Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Galveston is requesting a resolution supporting the application of a Boating Access Grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and,

WHEREAS, The Reimbursable Grant is a 25/75 match, up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00), with the City of Galveston providing 25% by appropriations or in-kind services, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department providing up to 75% matching funds for work accomplished, to a maximum amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00); and,

WHEREAS, the location of the Boating Access Grant project is 2326 Skymaster Rd. The only other public boat access ramp in Galveston at this time is Lee and Joe Jamail Bay Park, located at 1600 61st Street; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of this facility will benefit the citizens of Galveston by creating and allowing for new public access to Galveston Bay for marine vehicles such as boats, jet skis, and kayaks, as well as for public fishing opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council find it in the public interest to support the application for a Boating Access Grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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

SECTION 1. The findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this resolution are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted by the City Council and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. That the City of Galveston is hereby eligible for assistance and will enter into a project agreement with the Department to provide for said construction on a reimbursement basis, with the City of Galveston providing 25% by appropriations or in-kind services, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department providing 75% matching funds for work accomplished.

SECTION 3. The City Manager is herewith authorized to sign any or all documents pertaining to the grant application or construction of the boat access ramp.

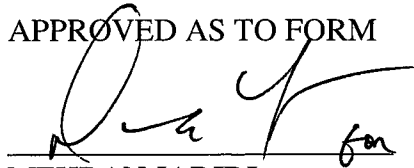
SECTION 4. The City of Galveston has or will have matching funds available to meet its obligations under any agreement for a Boat Access Grant with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

SECTION 5. That the City of Galveston will operate said facility; perform all necessary maintenance and repairs to ensure public use, health and safety; and provide security surveillance to eliminate creations of nuisance or hazard to the public or adjacent property owners; for the life of the facility (minimum 25 years).

SECTION 6. That said facility will be open at all reasonable times to the public, and that revenue from any user fees will only be used to offset operation and maintenance costs of any supported facilities.

SECTION 7. That this Resolution shall be and become effective from and after its adoption.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

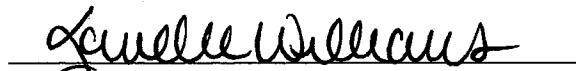


MEHRAN JADIDI
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

I, Janelle Williams, Secretary of the City of Council of the City of Galveston, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Galveston at its regular meeting held on the 19th day of September, 2019, as the same appears in records of this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I subscribe my name hereto officially under the corporate seal of the City of Galveston this 20th day of Sept., 2019.




Secretary for the City Council
of the City of Galveston