



Agenda Item Report

Legislative Board: Parks and Recreation Commission
Date: May 20, 2026
Contact: Anthony Host
Agenda Item ID / Number: 2026-472- / F.1

ITEM TITLE: Presentation and deliberation regarding the Garison Park Capital Improvement Project (CIP) design, bid, and proposed construction schedule. (Tony Host Parks Director)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Parks and Recreation Commission with an update regarding the status of the Garison Park Capital Improvement Project (CIP), including current design, bidding timeline, proposed construction schedule, and project implementation strategy.

The Garison Park CIP project is part of the 2021 Bond Program, which was voted on as Proposition B for Parks and Recreation project. It is intended to enhance recreational amenities, improve park accessibility, expand community use opportunities, and address long-term park infrastructure needs identified through the City's Parks Master Plan and ongoing community feedback. The project is anticipated to include park improvements such as trails, site amenities, recreational elements, drainage and grading improvements, landscaping, and associated infrastructure enhancements.

Garison Park is located just north of downtown Buda along Onion Creek. Phase I of the Garison Park improvements as identified in the City's Capital Improvements Plan include:

- Park and land restoration
- Addition of parking lots
- Construction of new amenities such as parking lots, pavilions, watering hole access, nature preserve lookouts, and restrooms
- Addition of walking trails and public access to Onion Creek

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Garison Park has been identified as a priority improvement project within the City's Capital Improvement Program and Parks planning efforts. The park continues to experience increased community utilization and serves as an important neighborhood and recreational asset for residents.

- The City of Buda acquired ~4.5 acres to add to Garison Park's 40-acre property. The acquired property, located at 901 Garison Road, will provide continuous access along Onion Creek to Garison Road and, eventually, all the way to Stagecoach Park.
- Ten Eyck finalized the preliminary/schematic design in December 2023. The consultant began the 60% design in March 2024 and completed the design development plans in July 2024.

The Buda Bond Oversight Committee reviewed the design at a joint meeting with the Parks Commission on July 15, 2024. Council reviewed the updated design with the Parks Commission on August 6, 2024. Final plans for construction began in the Fall 2024. The Buda Bond Oversight Committee reviewed the updated design at a joint meeting with the Parks Commission on January 15, 2025.

- In February 2025, the City of Buda received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the development of the new Garison Memorial Park. The grant will support the project plans for the restoration of the open prairie areas, trails that connect to the Onion Creek Trail, multiple water access points, installation of a swimming hole, a kayak/canoe launch with a washing station, bird blind and canopy walk, an overlook with elevated views, a nature play area, and other site amenities such as two parking lots, a restroom, and an open pavilion.
 - Check out the photos to see digital renderings of the planned improvements below!
- The design was completed in early 2026 with approval from Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD). The project began advertising for construction bids in March 2026.
- The project went to bid on February 25, 2026 and opened on April 23, 2026. Three (3) vendors submitted proposals and one (1) was unqualified.
- Staff continues to evaluate the proposals. Contract award is tentatively scheduled to go to City Council for action in June.

3. ANALYSIS

The Garison Park CIP project represents a significant investment in neighborhood park infrastructure and recreational opportunities. Improvements are intended to increase usability, safety, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of the park.

During construction, portions of the park may experience temporary closures or restricted access for public safety purposes. Staff will coordinate signage, communication, and phased access strategies to minimize disruption to park users whenever feasible.

Proposed Schedule Highlights:

Notice to Proceed - June 2026

Sitework - 216 days

Earthwork- 120 days

Site utilities- 130 days

Landscaping & Site Furnishings- 119 days

Restrooms- 143 days

Buildings & Structures- 143 days

- restroom-70
- overlook -53
- canopy walk- 75
- ramp- 50
- picnic pavilion-27

Substantial Completion June 2027

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

Garison Park design and construction is part of the 2021 Bond Program. Design and construction are funded by general obligation bonds in the amount of \$6M. In addition, a grant from Hays County in the amount of \$6M and a grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in the amount of \$750,000 fund construction costs.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

FUN EXPERIENCES FOR ALL

6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Expand and develop Garison Park and Onion Creek with a variety of outdoor amenities

7. PROS AND CONS

Pros

- Enhances recreational opportunities for residents
- Improves Park safety and accessibility
- Supports long-term Parks Master Plan goals
- Addresses aging infrastructure and maintenance concerns
- Increases community gathering and programming opportunities
- Improves overall park aesthetics and functionality

Cons

- Temporary park access disruptions during construction
- Potential schedule delays due to weather or material procurement
- Construction cost escalation risks
- Increased long-term maintenance obligations associated with new amenities

8. ALTERNATIVES

N/A

9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION

No recommendation.

Attachments:

[Garison Design Overview](#)