

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-25-183 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Dan Lewis

1 RESOLUTION

2 ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY PARKS GRASS AND TURF REPLACEMENT
3 FUNDING SOURCE TO ADDRESS THE DYING TURF GRASS IN PARKS CITY-
4 WIDE.

5 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque recognizes that its system of
6 neighborhood and regional parks is one of the community's most visible and
7 frequently used public assets; and

8 WHEREAS, much of the turf grass in the City's parks show signs of
9 significant deterioration, including large swaths of grass dying in parks City-
10 wide; and

11 WHEREAS, investment in the systematic restoration and enhancement of
12 parks, especially grass areas, is essential to protect these public assets,
13 ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities have equitable access to safe,
14 functional, and attractive recreational green spaces; and

15 WHEREAS, the City wants to avoid the total replacement of additional turf
16 grass areas which would cost more, and take those parks offline for at least a
17 year; and

18 WHEREAS, City parks are being overrun with weeds, including silverleaf
19 nightshade, spurge and puncture vines; and

20 WHEREAS, the City Council has repeatedly identified concerns with the
21 Parks and Recreation Department's capacity to adequately address park turf
22 grass deterioration through its existing resources and operational framework;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, during the FY26 budget hearings, the administration testified
25 their departmental budget was adequate, yet the visible and ongoing decline
26 of City parks, especially the dying grass, demonstrates this statement was

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion

1 inaccurate and misleading, leaving the Council without a credible plan to
2 restore these vital public spaces; and

3 WHEREAS, the absence of an intentional, dedicated strategy for restoring
4 and enhancing the grass and turf areas has contributed to a growing backlog
5 of needs; and

6 WHEREAS, without targeted investment in park restoration and renovation,
7 the City risks further decline in the quality and safety of public parks,
8 undermining community trust and diminishing the long-term value of these
9 critical public amenities; and

10 WHEREAS, establishing an emergency Parks grass and turf replacement
11 funding source will ensure a dedicated and transparent process for allocating
12 resources to restore dying grass areas in City Parks for current and future
13 generations.

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
15 ALBUQUERQUE:

16 SECTION 1. Following the finalization of Fiscal Year 2025 financial reports,
17 no less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) of fund balance shall be
18 appropriated to an emergency Parks grass and turf replacement project.

19 SECTION 2. The Mayor's Administration shall establish and execute an
20 emergency Parks grass and turf replacement project, dedicated to revitalizing
21 and enhancing City parks through targeted planning.

22 The scope of the project is to renovate, rehabilitate, restore, and
23 reconstruct existing City parks grass and turf areas for the purpose of
24 improving their appearance and public usability.

25 SECTION 3. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS. The funds appropriated pursuant to
26 Section 1 of this Resolution shall be distributed equally among the three (3)
27 Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) operations/maintenance areas. Each
28 area shall receive one third of the available funding.

29 SECTION 4. REPORTING. The Mayor's Administration shall provide a
30 written report, in the form of an Executive Communication, to the City Council
31 by December 1, 2025, detailing the project, parks in order of priority, budget
32 allocations, and implementation timelines. Monthly updates shall be provided
33 thereafter until funds are expended by Executive Communication.

1 **SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any section, paragraph, sentence,
2 clause, word, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid
3 or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall
4 not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Resolution. The
5 Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Resolution and each
6 section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word, or phrase thereof irrespective of
7 any provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion