

## Subject: Response to CAPRA Review Team – Chapter 10.6 Research Investigation

PARD updated all supporting documents to include relevant dates, ensuring clarity on project timelines, evaluations, and updates. Below is a summary of the research initiatives with corresponding dates:

- Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (2023)

The Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) study highlighted a decline in Garland's tree coverage due to increasing development pressures. Using these findings, we successfully secured a grant to support citywide reforestation efforts. In response, “Tree Garland” was launched in 2024 with the ambitious goal of planting 5,000 trees over the next five years, enhancing our community’s green spaces and sustainability.

- Preemergent Application Research Program (2023)

In 2023, the Park Operations Team identified significant challenges concerning the effectiveness of preemergent herbicide applications across the park system. The primary issue arose from applicators facing difficulty in determining accurate product mixtures, resulting in insufficient coverage and prominent weed growth, particularly within Class AA (athletic fields) and Class A (irrigated parks) areas.

To mitigate these challenges, the team conducted trials using granular herbicides as an alternative to traditional liquid applications. The findings indicated that granular products substantially simplified the application process, enabling applicators to achieve more precise and uniform coverage, consequently enhancing overall weed control.

Currently, the research program is in its monitoring phase, during which the effectiveness of the granular herbicides in managing targeted weeds is being evaluated. Comprehensive assessment and necessary adjustments based on observed results will require multiple growing seasons to fully ascertain efficacy.

- Garland Police Department Pilot Program (2024)

In fiscal year 2023-2024, Garland Parks launched a pilot program employing off-duty Garland Police Officers to patrol city parks during overnight hours, enhancing safety and security. Within the first six months, officers conducted over 2,500 park checks, completed 11 field interviews with individuals found inside or loitering around restrooms after hours, issued five citations, and made three arrests.

Due to the program's success in deterring unauthorized activity and improving park safety, funding was approved for a second year in the 2024-2025 budget, ensuring continued protection for our community spaces.

- TurfTank Robotic Field Painter (2022)

Garland Parks introduced the TurfTank Robotic Field Painter to streamline the labor-intensive process of painting 21 soccer fields. While the TurfTank proved highly effective for initial field layout and painting at the start of each season, we found that consecutive re-painting was more efficiently handled by a single staff member using a traditional paint machine.

The TurfTank remains an asset, significantly reducing setup time for seasonal layouts and specialized field markings for tournaments. As a result, we continue to renew the lease annually, ensuring we maximize efficiency while maintaining high-quality field markings for our athletes and community.

- Smartsheet Automation (2020 – Present)

Initially piloted for Accounts Payable and expanded to include:

2021: P-Card processing, deposits, accounts receivable requests, automated checklists, budget reports, journal voucher tracking, purchasing requisitions, preliminary budget requests, PARD Strategic Initiatives

2023: Recreation Work Plan

2024: CIP, CAPRA Tracking

2025: New employee onboarding

The system continues to evolve, with regular reviews and annual updates.