



# **City of San Marcos**

## **City Council Work Session**

December 16, 2025



# Purpose

**Provide an update on the development of the newly created Office of Community Support and Resource Navigation.**

**Provide information and receive Council direction on Participatory Budgeting.**



# Community Support & Resource Navigation Structure & Support

- **Housed within the City Manager's Office**
- **Highly collaborative work with internal and external partners**
  - City Attorney
  - City Marshal
  - Communications
  - Economic Development
  - Finance
  - Fire Marshal
  - IT/GIS
  - Library
  - Neighborhood Enhancement
  - Parks & Recreation
  - Planning & Development Services
  - Police



# Community Support & Resource Navigation Elements

- **Data Insights and Metrics**
- **Programs and Initiative Development**
- **Support and Engagement**
- **Resource Navigation**



# Community Support & Resource Navigation Elements

- **Data Insights & Metrics**
  - Community Insights & Investments
  - Data Analysis
  - Metrics
- **Programs & Initiative Development**
  - Build upon the work, partnerships, and systems put in place to serve our neighbors
  - Co-create programs, pilot/test, and refine proactive and holistic solutions



# Community Support & Resource Navigation Elements

- **Support and Engagement**
  - Strengthen capacity through developmental and funding opportunities to support, expand, enhance effectiveness, and sustain impact
  - Continue fostering meaningful community outreach and engagement to continue building trust
- **Resource Navigation**
  - Direct Resource Navigation
  - Collective understanding of available resources



# October-December 2025

- **Completed**

- City Council supporting the creation of the office through budget approval process
- Assembled and held introductory meetings with internal partners in the Directors and Working Groups

- **In Progress/Ongoing**

- Contribute to the accessibility of information via Know Your Resources
- Establish relationships with key partners
- Analyze existing data and exploring the use of Risk Terrain Modeling
- Introduce Participatory Budgeting and Community Townhalls



# Next Steps

- **Community Townhalls**
- **Defining Goals and Action Plans for Focus Areas**
- **Frequent Reporting**
- **Participatory Budgeting**





# Participatory Budgeting

- **Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process where community members directly propose and decide how a portion of public funding is spent.**
- **Community members participate and engage in each phase of the process such as by**
  - Submitting a project idea
  - Volunteering to develop the project proposals
  - Voting on the final project proposals
  - Spreading the word



# Project Parameters

- **Projects should enhance the San Marcos community**
- **Projects must be**
  - Within the corporate city limits of San Marcos
  - Open to the public
  - Accessible
  - Low maintenance
  - Capital, one-time expenditures
    - Programs and services cannot be funded
- **Not exceed allocated funding (up to \$200,000)**
  - Funding Source: A portion of one-time funding set aside for City Hall now being used to acquire property on Lee Street

# Project Parameters

- **Examples of eligible projects (with approximate costs) include:**



**ADA Ramp**

\$4,000



**Bus Pad**

\$6,000-\$11,000



**Sidewalks**

\$203 per linear foot

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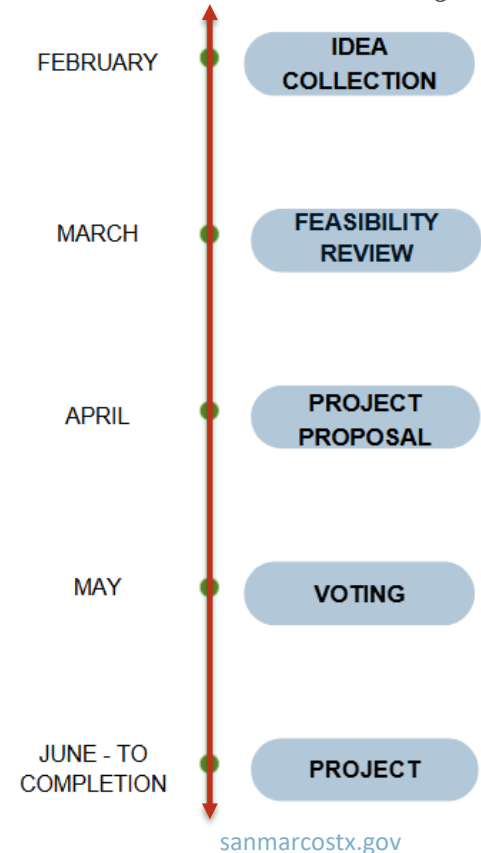


# Participatory Budgeting Process

<b>Idea Collection</b>	<b>Feasibility Review</b>	<b>Project Proposals</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Project</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June- To Completion</b>
Community members are asked how they wish to spend \$200,000 to enhance San Marcos.	City staff will review all project ideas to determine feasibility, providing updates on the status of submission.	Community volunteers will create project proposals.	Residents will vote on project proposals.	Project winners are announced and project is funded. Completion dates may vary.

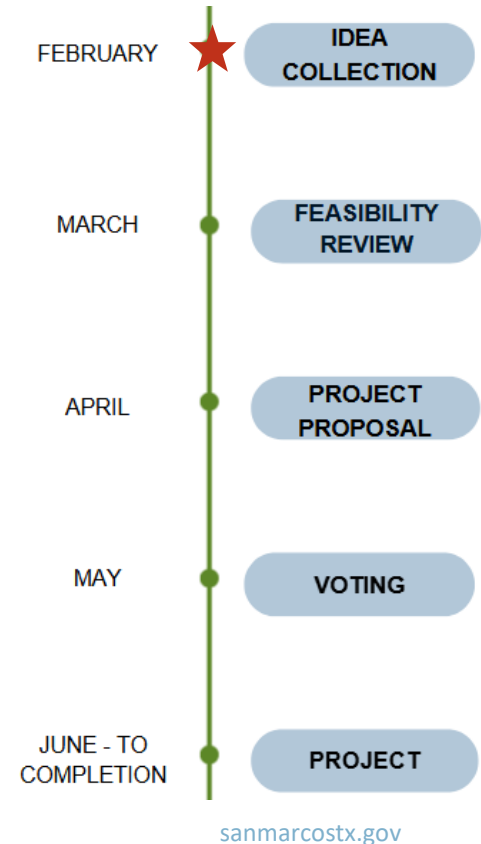
# Outreach

- **Timeframe: Outreach will span the entire process**
- **Digital**
  - Social Media, Website
  - Newsletters
- **In-Person**
  - Events and Open Houses
  - Tabling
  - Community Organizations
  - Neighborhood Commission
- **Print**
  - City Facilities
  - Bookmarks
  - Library Receipts
  - Bus Shelters
  - Buses (TBD)



# Project Idea Collection

- **Timeframe: February 2026**
- **Project ideas will be accepted via online form or paper form.**
  - Paper form may be submitted at
    - City Hall
    - San Marcos Public Library
    - Utility Billing
- **Submissions will include**
  - Project Idea
  - Submitter contact information and interest in remaining engaged in the process



# Project Idea Collection



## Participatory Budgeting 2026 Idea Collection

FEBRUARY



IDEA  
COLLECTION

The City of San Marcos invites you to take part in the 2026 Participatory Budgeting.

### How would you spend \$200,000 to enhance San Marcos?

Project ideas must enhance San Marcos, and be:

- Open to the public
- Accessible
- Low maintenance
- Capital, one-time expenditures

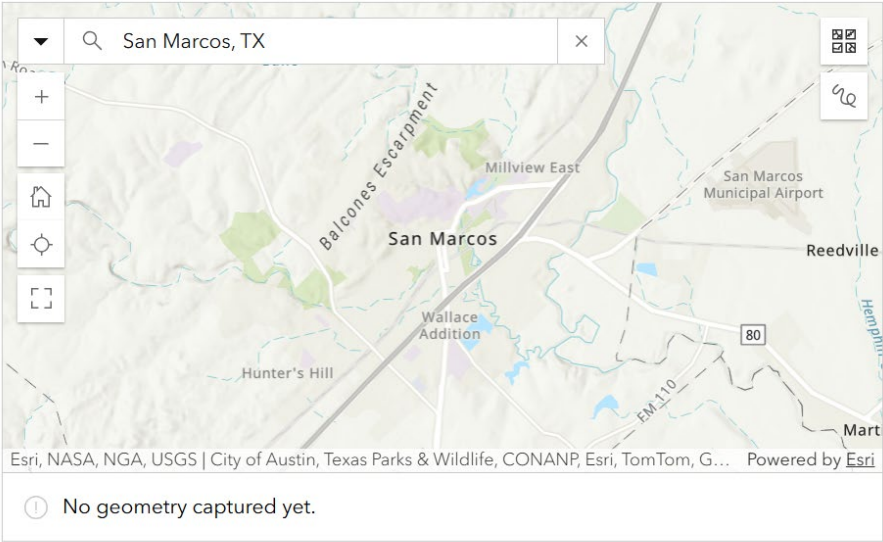
[Learn more about participatory budgeting and other ways to get involved with the City of San Marcos' budget.](#)

### Project Idea and Description\*

Provide details on your project idea.

### Provide details of your idea on the map.

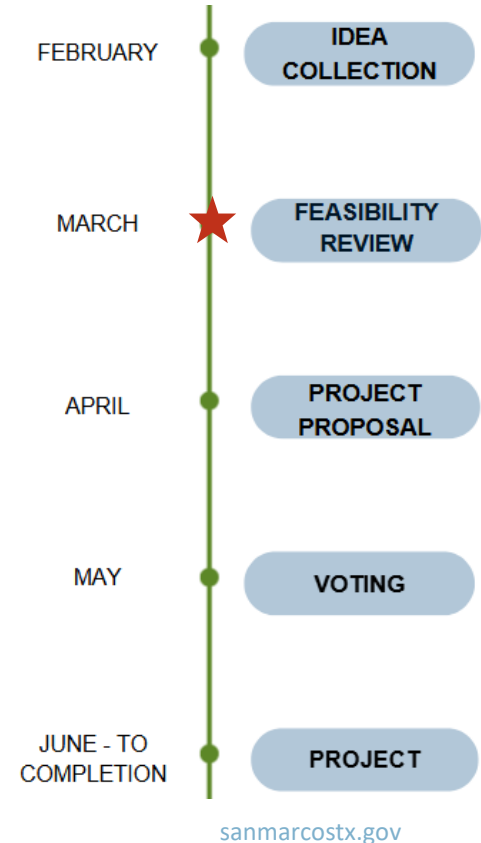
The location and details of your project idea can be drawn on the map.





# Feasibility Review

- **Timeframe: March 2026**
- **Project ideas will be reviewed by staff to determine project feasibility**
  - Ensure project idea meets project parameters
  - Not currently in development or in process
  - Reviewed for other considerations, such as environmental impact, zoning and legal compliance
- **Submitters will receive update on status of project**
  - Projects not advanced to the next phase will be provided with an explanation

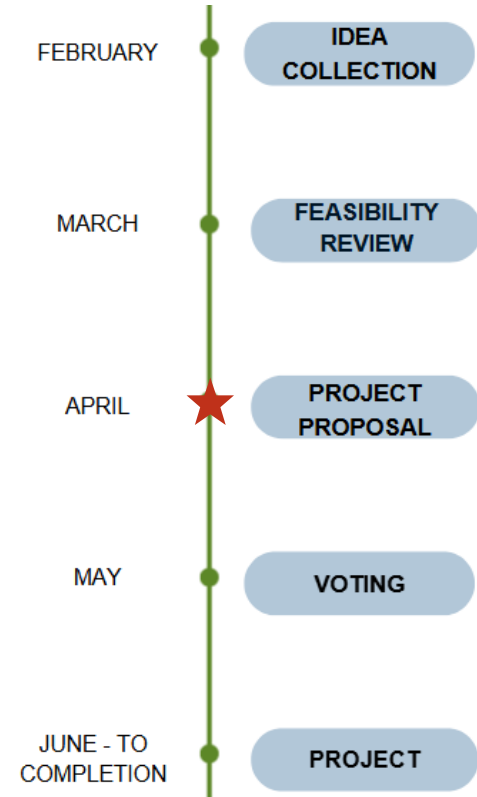






# Project Proposal Development

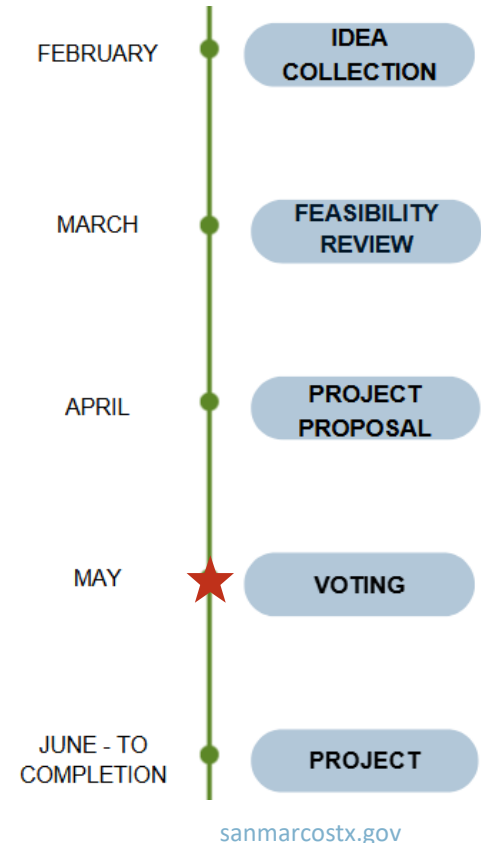
- **Timeframe: April 2026**
- **Volunteers will work together to develop project proposals from the project ideas, and develop a video pitch to be shared during the next phase**
  - Projects will be organized by categories
- **Staff will provide technical assistance, be available to answer questions, and ensure that proposals remain eligible based on parameters**



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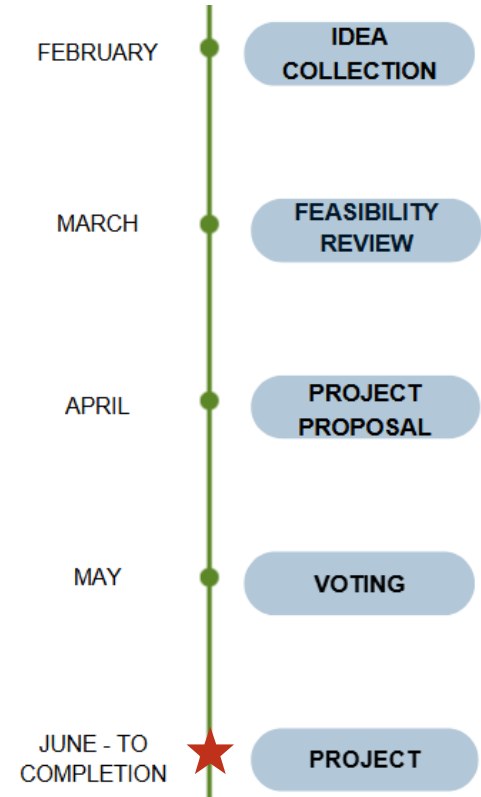
# Voting

- **Timeframe: May 2026**
- **Residents will be asked to rank their top choices up to \$200,000 value**
  - Name and contact information will be requested
- **Votes will be accepted via interactive online platform, Prioritize, or paper form.**
  - Paper form may be submitted at
    - City Hall
    - San Marcos Public Library
    - Utility Billing



# Project

- **Timeframe: June 2026 to Completion**
- **Winning projects will be announced**
- **Staff coordination to see project(s) forward**
- **Project updates will be provided on the website and with those who indicate an interest in remaining involved**



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# Council Direction



- **Does Council approve of the proposed participatory budgeting process?**