

Local Park Grants Awarded to Texas Cities

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“Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.” Dale Carnegie

Over the last four years, more than 30 small Texas cities have benefited from the determination and persistence of their officials. They have planned, applied (sometimes repeatedly), and received funds to improve the parks and recreation opportunities for their citizens.

Since 1993, the Texas Recreation and Parks Account has provided cities with funds for park acquisition and site development. According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, funding has been reduced from \$20 million per year in 2002 to approximately \$5.6 million in the current fiscal year. The decrease in funding has limited both the number of projects approved and the money allowed to complete them, causing city officials to rely on more local matching funds and donations to support their projects. Only 19 of the 54 cities that applied for grants in the last two years received approval.

The city officials who thought it was important enough to keep trying for the available parks and recreation grants should be recognized by their peer cities and their citizenry. The small cities that received funding approval for their projects are listed below.

In January 2007, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission awarded outdoor recreation grants for projects in the following amounts:

- \$390,000 to the City of **Anthony** to acquire three acres to expand and develop 32.73 acres of city-owned land adjacent to three city parks. The proposed development includes a three-acre open space dedication, multi-purpose trail and nature trail, lighted baseball field,



picnic tables, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities, plus a xeriscape demonstration garden and interpretive signs about landscaping, rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, and solar-powered lighting and irrigation controls.

- \$237,492 in matching funds to the City of **Boyd** to expand a park by ten acres and develop soccer fields, tennis courts, and other recreational facilities.
- \$400,000 in matching funds to the City of **Brady** to help construct the Brady Aquatic Complex.
- \$400,000 in matching funds to the City of **Canton** to expand and further develop Old City Lake Park to include a nature trail, 18-hole disc golf course, and an amphitheater.
- \$275,000 in matching funds to the City of **Clyde** to develop a 6.1-acre tract of land as a city park that would include a wetlands, multipurpose courts, horse-shoe pits, and other facilities.
- \$300,000 to the City of **Crawford** to expand Tonkawa Falls City Park and renovate Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) pavilions and RV campsites, as

well as to add a nature trail, volleyball courts, and other facilities.

- \$400,000 to the City of **Fate** to acquire 31.83 acres for the Fate Sports Complex, which would include restoration of native blackland prairies and development of a baseball/softball field, soccer field, and other facilities.
- \$400,000 to the City of **Kennedale** to acquire 13.3 acres to further develop the 38.3-acre City Park by adding a multipurpose trail, disc golf course, fishing pier, and other facilities.
- \$400,000 to the City of **Lampasas** to purchase and develop a 173-acre sports park that would include baseball, football, and soccer fields, as well as a two-acre wetlands with observation deck and other facilities.
- \$400,000 to the City of **Taylor** to help acquire 23.7 acres to expand East Williamson County Park II and further develop 40 acres to include soccer, softball, and baseball fields; a xeriscape demonstration garden; and other facilities. ★