



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10/23/18

Contact: Stacey Ford Osborne
Interim Communications Manager
stacey.osborne@taylortx.gov
512-352-5448 (ofc.)
512-365-9310 (cell)

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE COMMISSION PROVIDES GRANT FUNDING FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Project Will Allow the City to Better Serve Residents and Visitors to Taylor Regional Park

TAYLOR, TEXAS – The City of Taylor is pleased to announce that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation grant program that will fund needed improvements at Taylor Regional Park and Sports Complex (TRP) and Doak Street Park. The City submitted a grant proposal earlier this year that was approved by the Commission on March 22, 2018, and the City recently received the final agreement from Texas Parks and Wildlife staff. City Staff is developing a timeline for the project and will announce a start date after conferring with the various entities involved.

The overall cost of the project is \$1,105,000. The Lonestar Soccer Club, an organization that hosts multiple tournaments in the City of Taylor throughout the year, contributed a significant portion of those funds, providing \$200,000 for the creation of new soccer fields, which will bring more soccer activity to the City of Taylor, including tournaments and clinics. The City's matching amount also included an estimated value of 9 acres of land donated by the Taylor Parks Foundation; a \$40,000 cash contribution from the Taylor Parks Foundation; and \$80,000 in engineering services and permits paid by the City.

The grant project includes two lighted soccer fields at TRP, as well as ten batting cages (five near each of the two five-field areas), shade structures and picnic tables near the concession areas within the complex, a shade structure over the existing play equipment, almost a half of mile of trail extension, and a fishing pier. Additionally, the TRP football field will be improved to accommodate full sized field soccer play. As part of the grant project, playground elements will also be added at Doak Street Park.

Mayor Brandt Rydell said that he is glad to see the grant funding awarded. "The council is committed to enhancing our already incredible park system for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. We are grateful to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission for its continuing support of the City of Taylor and its park improvements. And I can't say enough for what a great partner Lonestar Soccer Club has been for the city. The council is excited to see these upgrades to the Taylor Regional Park and Doak Steet Park."



City Manager Isaac Turner said that this project will contribute to Taylor’s quality of life, an important aspect of economic vitality. “With this funding we can now address three of the top five priorities found in the 2016 Parks Master Plan: trails, shade structures, and playgrounds. In addition, it will add several amenities that have been requested by Taylor residents and tournament guests. Ultimately, the park improvements will help us attract additional visitors to the City and increase the City’s sales tax revenue stream.”

For additional information about the Park renovations, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 512-352-5818. Visit www.taylortx.gov to sign up to receive news and information about city happenings via Notify Me.

-END-