



For Immediate Release

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Harlingen to Receive \$1M Grant for Development of Destination Park

Harlingen, Texas– The City of Harlingen and the Harlingen Community Improvement Board have approved an agreement that allows the City to accept a grant of \$1,000,000 from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The money is part of the 2020-2021 General Appropriations Act, enacted by the 86th Texas Legislature (House Bill 1) which included Rider 37 authored by State Representative Oscar



Longoria with appropriations to the TPWD. The appropriations included a grant of \$1,000,000 to the City of Harlingen with no matching fund.

“We are extremely grateful to Representative Longoria for authoring this rider to secure \$1,000,000 for the development of this park. This all inclusive park is a remarkable example of how partnering with the State of Texas, the Harlingen School District, local families like the Koppel family, the Sunburst Rotary Club, and our Community Improvement Board can make great things happen for all our children.”

The funds were granted to the City for the continued development of the Amalie L. “Amy” Koppel Memorial All-Inclusive Playground and surrounding area-more specically for the Lon C. Hill Destination Park which houses the All-Inclusive Playground.

News From The City of Harlingen

Meantime, the two boards also awarded a contract to Peacock General Contractors Inc. for the construction of the Destination Park. There were two bidders and Peacock was the lowest bidder coming in at \$3.3 million.

The grant allows the City to move forward with the development of Phase 1 of the Destination Park.

The park includes an entry court, center plaza, water features, landscaping, improvements to L & L ½ Streets, and a parking lot. The project should get underway within 30 to 45 days and is expected to be finished in the Fall of 2020.



The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department manages and conserves the natural and cultural resources of the state and provides hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Mayor Boswell says the development of the Lon C. Hill Destination Park falls in line with the goals and responsibilities of the TPWD because it too will provide an outdoor public benefit that can be enjoyed by generations to come.

The decision to accept the grant and award the bid was made during a special meeting of the City of Harlingen and the Harlingen Community Improvement Board held on September 25, 2019.

The City hopes to have a more formal opportunity to thank Representative Longoria at a later date.

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