

Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund Policy is to provide guidelines and regulations relating to the distribution of funds from the Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund which was established by Williamson County through collections of fees at the Williamson County Landfill.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Texas Constitution bars a transfer of county funds to a private entity unless the transfer serves a public purpose of the county and the transfer is subject to adequate controls, contractual or otherwise, to ensure that the public purpose is accomplished. This Policy has been created to ensure that funds from the Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund Policy are transferred and used to serve a public purpose of Williamson County and to ensure that adequate controls, as set out herein and as may be further required by the Williamson County Commissioners Court, are in place in order to ensure that the public purpose is accomplished.

FUNDING POLICY

1. Request for Funding.

Community organizations, groups and individuals may submit to Williamson County a request for funding of the construction, improvement or remodel of community recreational facilities located in Williamson County. Such request for funding must provide and include the following:

- a. The name of the community recreational facility subject of the request.
- b. The name of the organization, entity or individual(s) that manage and control the community recreational facility.
- c. The amount of funding that is requested.
- d. A description of the current and future public purposes and public uses of the community recreational facility.
- e. A description of how the community recreational facility is primarily used for public purposes as opposed to use by private parties for the purpose of making a business profit.

- f. A description of the planned construction, improvement or remodel of the community recreational facility, along with any available plans, sketches and diagrams.
- g. A detailed description of how the funding will be used in relation to the community recreational facility, along with any budgets that outline or otherwise detail the planned use of the funding.
- h. A description of how the funding will assist or aid the community recreational facility in providing a public purpose to citizens of Williamson County.
- i. Provide a signed acknowledgement and agreement to comply with this Policy, which must be in the form attached to this Policy.

2. Consideration of Request for Funding.

Once the funding request is submitted to Williamson County, the request will be placed on the Williamson County Commissioners Court's agenda for consideration.

In the event the members of the Williamson County Commissioners Court determines that the requested funding of the construction, improvement or remodel of a specific community recreational facility will serve a public purpose of Williamson County, the members of the Williamson County Commissioners Court will set the specific amount of funding to be granted.

The Williamson County Commissioners Court may also set out additional controls, contractual or otherwise, to ensure that the public purpose of the funding is accomplished. No funds shall be distributed until which time any additional controls have been satisfied.

3. Right to Audit.

Williamson County or its duly authorized representatives shall, until the expiration of three (3) years after the final disbursement of funds to a community organization, group or individual(s) under this Policy, have access to and the right to examine and photocopy any and all books, documents, papers and records of the community organization, group or individual(s) which are directly pertinent to its expenditure of funds from the Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. By accepting funds from the Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund, the community organization, group or individual(s) agrees that Williamson County shall have access during normal working hours to all of its facilities and shall be provided adequate and appropriate work space in order to conduct audits in compliance with the provisions of this section. Williamson County will give reasonable advance notice of intended audits.

4. Suspension or Termination of Funding.

The Williamson County Commissioners Court shall have the right, at any time, to suspend or deny any transfers of any funds from the Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund to a particular organization, group or individual should Williamson County determine that such organization, group or individual is not using the funds in the manner that was approved by Williamson County or in any manner that violates any provision of this Policy.

5. Reimbursement.

In the event Williamson County determines that an organization, group or individual(s) has not used the funds in the manner that was approved by Williamson County or in any manner that violates any provision of this Policy, the organization, group or individual must, upon Williamson County's notice and demand, immediately return all funds that were previously transferred to the organization, group or individual.

6. Presentation.

Upon the completion of the construction, improvement or remodel of a funded community recreational facility project, the community organization, group or individual(s) that was granted the funding must provide, at the request of the Williamson County Commissioners Court, a report and presentation to the Court which sets forth an overview of the completed project and a description of the items purchased, constructed and/or developed through the use of the funds.

This Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund Policy was considered and approved in a duly called session of the Commissioners' Court of Williamson County, Texas, on _____, 20____.

Williamson County, Texas

By: -----
Dan A. Gattis,
Williamson County Judge

Date: _____, 20__

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, on behalf of myself and the organization, group or individual(s) named below, hereby acknowledge and understand the terms and conditions of the Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund Policy and hereby agree to comply with all such terms and conditions of the said Policy.

Name of Organization: City of Taylor

Name of Community Recreational Facility: Heritage Square Park

By: 

Printed Name: Isaac D. Turner _____

Title: City Manager _____

Date: 2/16/18 _____

Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund Policy

I. Funding Policy

- a. The name of the community recreational facility subject of the request.

The funds are being requested by the City of Taylor, for use in Heritage Square Park, located at 400 Main St in Taylor, Texas.

- b. The name of the organization, entity or individual(s) that manage and control the community recreational facility.

The recreational facility is controlled and maintained by the City of Taylor, Parks and Recreation Department.

- c. The amount of funding that is requested.

The City of Taylor is requesting \$100,000 (one-hundred thousand dollars).

- d. A description of the current and future public purposes and public uses of the community recreational facility.

Currently, the Heritage Square Park facility is a City Park in downtown, Taylor Texas. The Park is used for public gatherings and events, such as the annual Blackland Prairie Festival, held each May. The Park is also used for the 911 Memorial Commemoration, Movies in the Park, and other community activities. The Park is also available for public use at any time for picnics, walking or just relaxing. The Park is used daily by the students of the Taylor Early Legacy School, which is located next to the Park. Additionally, the park is converted each winter into a showcase of holiday lighting, provided by local donors to from the community and free to the public.

In the future, the City of Taylor will focus on drawing more families and visitors into the Taylor downtown with a beautifully renovated park. Additional events will be programmed as well, such as Concerts on the Park, additional holiday events and more.

These events reflect the community of Taylor, while honoring our past. Many of these types of events have been held in the Park since the early 1900's.

- e. A description of how the community recreational facility is primarily used for public purposes as opposed to use by private parties of the purpose of making a business profit.

The City of Taylor has strict policies and ordinances that prohibit the use of public property for profit or personal gain. Any use of the facility by a private party or organization must submit a detailed Special Event Permit, so that City staff can monitor and regulate the park for appropriate use. Special consideration is given to organizations that serve a public purpose or would like to use the facility for a public event.

- f. A description of the planned construction, improvement or remodel of the community recreational facility, along with any available plans, sketches and diagrams.

The planned construction of the facility will include a full upgrade and remodel of Heritage Square Park. Plans include the installation of a splash pad, amphitheater, garden area, farmer's market pavilion children's play area, a new entrance to the park with plaques and signage, new sidewalks and seat walls. A conceptual plan, approved by the Taylor City Council, is attached.

- g. A detailed description of how the funding will be used in relation to the community recreational facility, along with any budgets that outline or otherwise detail the planned use of the funding.

The funding, if provided, will be used towards construction costs of the major elements of the park. This will allow for additional park elements to be constructed or upgraded. Current City funds towards the project include Certificates of Obligation and grant funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife. Please see the budget breakdown:

Budget – Heritage Square Park Reconstruction	
Park Elements	Soft Costs, Flat Work, Utilities
\$2,005,945	\$1,800,000
Total Budget	\$3,805,945

If funding is awarded through this application, the provided funds will be allocated into the construction of the park elements, thus providing the greatest impact on the public use of the park.

- h. A description of how the funding will assist or aid the community recreational facility in providing a public purpose to citizens of Williamson County.

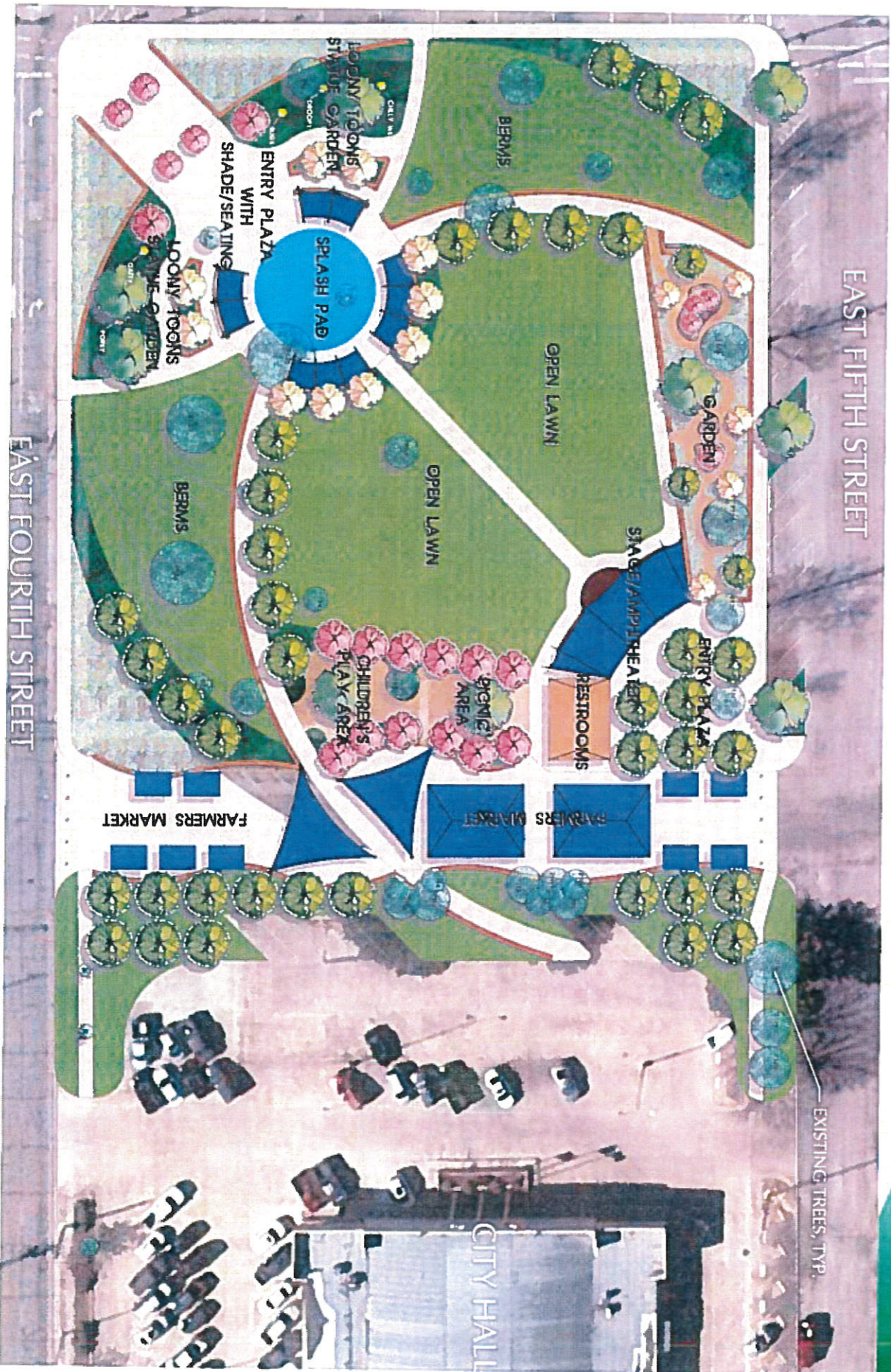
Through the construction of elements in the Park such as a splash pad or amphitheater, a renewed community asset will be created in Taylor's downtown and the City will provide additional recreational opportunities. This creates new amenities for the community of Taylor to enjoy at no cost. The development and reconstruction of the Park is a true public benefit, in that it provides new, direct recreational opportunities to the community of Taylor as well as visitors from throughout Williamson County. The Park will indirectly benefit Taylor and the County through increased activity in the community, including not only the public park, but the local businesses, restaurants and other sites throughout the City and County.

- i. Provide a signed acknowledgement and agreement to comply with this Policy, which must be in the form attached to this Policy.

See signed last page of the Policy



Approved Concept Plan



EAST FIFTH STREET

EAST FOURTH STREET

EXISTING TREES, TYP.

CITY HALL

