

CITY OF FLORENCE – Park Project

Information prepared for Mrs. Valerie Covey
Re: Park Development (Williamson County)

June 16, 2008

Williamson County Commissioners Court,

The City of Florence is presently pursuing the development of a City Park located at Hwy 195 and Hwy 970. There are approximately 5 acres the City presently owns in that area. There is also an additional tract of property owned by the City which could join the properties discussed in future expansion plans. Our City Attorney, Randy Stump is presently working with a generous donor of the community on 9 acres adjoining the 5 acres of city property. It is the understanding of the City that the 9 acres can be in a holding position with Williamson County Park Foundation while the processes of Master Plans and future Grant requests are pursued. Upon the completion of developed park property or at a particular stage of the development, the property would revert back to the City of Florence. After several months of discussion with council and community as well as legal process, the City of Florence desires to request funding from Williamson County. The financial request is for assistance on a Master Plan for Florence Park Project and the writing of future grants to develop the properties to the fullest potential for the city and surrounding communities. The remainder of the financial assistance will be used as match for any successful grants the City may obtain thereby maximizing the county's funds. The City of Florence appreciates your consideration on this request. Upon the decision of the Commissioners Court in reference to the assistance requested, the City of Florence will proceed as recommended.

Respectfully Yours,

Debra Cahill

City of Florence
Aldersperson

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Suggested Location: Hwy 195 and FM 970

Acreage: 8.5 - 9 acres donated by local land owner –*with option to purchase 5 additional acres (see attached form)* plus 5 adjoining acres recently purchased by City of Florence. (Potential total of 18.5 -19 acres of park land along Salado Creek to begin Project). Acquiring *two additional properties* in future could link this portion of park project to additional property owned by City of Florence (Boy Scout Property – 2 acres). The approximate total acreage of park property would be a minimum of 25 acres. All properties would be connected to Salado Creek allowing further expansion of hike and bike trail, etc.

Safe Routes to School Project: The City of Florence has been approved for a sidewalk safety program including sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle access (wider sidewalks) improvements between the elementary and middle schools. The high school and middle school properties adjoin allowing the sidewalk project to benefit safer access to the high school as well. This project (sidewalks) will also give access to the hike and bike trail in our Park Project Plans. The location of the hike and bike trail are adjacent to the Middle and High Schools.

Funds: Project funds will partially be obtained through community involvement including FYRA (\$5000.00), local area contractors that have agreed to assist with the project per their expertise, donations from local individuals involved and possible future funding from City of Florence after completion of sidewalk project for these monies are paid by the City and upon completion reimbursed. The estimated expense of the sidewalk project is \$309,000.00 over a limited time frame to complete. The City of Florence would be providing a portion of the property (14 acres). If future expansion of the park linked the "Boy Scout Property" an additional two acres would be included in total acreage the City provide. The maintenance and utilities would be provided by the City of Florence.

Use of Park:

Ball fields to accommodate the need of the area (local and surrounding communities), hike and bike trail, (enhancement with sidewalk safety program...could encourage use of our small park as well with safer access) community events, picnic areas (encouraging family gatherings), playground area to accommodate needs of different ages etc.

Needs:

(1)Hike and Bike Trail (2) Picnic Tables (3) Restroom Facility (4) Ball Fields & Playground Equipment (5) Concession Structure (6)Pavilion (covered area)
\$300,000 requested from County.

Notes:

Committee contact: Debra Cahill – 512.818.1870