



June 8, 2010

National Recreation and Parks Society  
22377 Belmont Ridge Road  
Ashburn, VA 20148

Jim Rodgers  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

Dear NRPA,

With approval from the NRPA of Williamson County Park and Recreation Department's "Take Me Fishing" grant application, we will have the ability to become a clearinghouse for fishing equipment for cities in the county, allowing them to also establish "Take Me Fishing" programs. We will offer the full use of purchased equipment to local cities who are excited about the possibility of a collaboration that will enable them to expand their goals of promoting outdoor recreation.

Another collaboration partner is the Williamson Burnet Counties Opportunities (WBCO) a non-profit community action group that operates our local Head Start program. Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families. This program promotes healthy functioning families by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through educational, health, nutritional, social and other services. WBCO is eager to continue promoting these goals and strengthening family ties through the "Take Me Fishing" program.

The expense of purchasing fishing equipment, tackle and training materials has hindered many local city parks and recreation departments from beginning similar programs in the past. With approval of this grant, Williamson County Parks Department will lend the equipment at no charge to the local cities, thus allowing them to create new programs, or to expand current ones. With the opportunities for us to offer several different programs in each city throughout the year, we are expecting well over the minimum requirement of 2,000 participants.

The grant funding will allow Williamson County to purchase a "catch tank" to teach and train the younger, inexperienced anglers before they embark on larger

fishing areas available at events in the parks. We will also purchase 100 fishing poles that will be provided for families use during our learning programs, and our catch and release fishing events. In addition, grant funding would allow us to purchase 30 Backyard Bass training tool kits to teach participants to cast and reel in fish. Supplying these materials for the program lead to an optimum amount of hands on learning that will fully engage the participants.

The purchase of this permanent fishing equipment will allow us to create sustainable annual fishing events throughout the county, thereby inspiring a future generation of anglers. The portable fish pond with a pump will cost \$2,500, 100 fishing poles will cost \$2,000 and the bass kits will cost a total of \$270. All of the supplies combined bring the total to \$4,770.

We appreciate your consideration of our grant request that will allow us to teach the fundamentals of fishing to the children of Williamson County, along with hopefully an understanding of the joy that can develop into a lifelong family tradition.

Sincerely,

Jim Rodgers  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
Williamson County