



# TPWD Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant

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CITY COUNCIL, JUNE 16, 2025

STAFF CONTACT: JEN BASHAM, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

# Grant

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Purpose of the grant: Assist with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the state of Texas.

The program provides a 50% match on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants.

For the non-urban outdoor recreation grant the maximum award is \$750,000

Application Due Date: August 1, 2025

Award Date: TBD





Example: Willow Bend Park, Loveland Colorado,  
Opened June 5, 2025

# Project Scope

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Phase II will enhance the Community Park located at the intersection of Hulen Street and Alsbury Boulevard through the development of a custom, inclusive natural play area. Key components include:

- Custom-designed play structures with natural elements supporting inclusive and sensory-rich play
- Pour-in-place surfacing for safety and ADA accessibility
- Integrated shade structures to protect children and families from sun exposure
- Furnishings including benches and trash receptacles
- Trail and infrastructure connections ensuring integrated access to surrounding amenities

# Funding and Match

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The estimated project cost is \$1,574,000, with a 50/50 match required under the grant program. The City's \$787,000 match is identified and allocated in the approved FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). While only a 50% match is required, exceeding this minimum ("overmatch") improves the application's competitiveness and may increase the project's overall score.

Once the final design is selected, any overruns would be the City's responsibility



# Project Scoring Rubric

Category	Max Points	Burleson Strategy
<b>Project Need &amp; Site Suitability</b>	20	Phase II fills a documented gap in inclusive play and natural play environments, as identified in community engagement and master planning.
<b>Quality of Park Design</b>	18	The project includes universal design, natural aesthetics, integrated trails, shade, and modern surfacing – contributing to a high-quality layout.
<b>Incorporation of Required Recreation Elements</b>	10	Project will meet or exceed TPWD's required minimum facilities checklist with compliant features.
<b>Public Participation</b>	10	Public engagement was completed as part of the park master planning process, including surveys, town halls, and advisory board input.
<b>Project Connectivity</b>	8	The site includes direct trail and infrastructure connections to future park amenities and neighborhoods.

# Project Scoring Rubric

Operation and Maintenance Commitment	8	The Parks Department has allocated long-term O&M resources and has a maintenance plan for inclusive play features.
Site Acquisition and Control	6	The park is City-owned and dedicated for public recreation use in perpetuity.
Sustainability Features	6	Use of natural materials, long-lasting surfacing, and drought-tolerant landscaping supports long-term sustainability.
Project Readiness and Matching Funds	6	Matching funds are secured in the 2027 CIP. The City may exceed the 50% match threshold to strengthen application score.
New Park Development / Park Expansion	4	The proposed development meaningfully expands an existing community park and provides regionally impactful features.
Population Served / Underserved Areas	4	Inclusive features ensure equitable access, especially for residents with disabilities and younger children.

## OPTIONS:

Approve the resolution

Deny the resolution