



July 15, 2025

Hon. Mayor Bruce Alexander and City Council  
Castroville, Texas 78009

Re: Support for Inclusive Playground Equipment at Lion's Park

Mayor Alexander and City Council:

I am the Board President of Castroville United Futbol Club, Inc. (CUFC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with a purpose of providing Medina County youth whose passion is soccer with a local option to pursue club-level competition. As you know, our home is Lion's Park located at 1101 Houston Street, Castroville, Texas. Members of our Club include approximately 70 boys and girls and their families.

Since establishing Lion's Park for CUFC's home, we have collaborated with the City to transform the facility from an under-utilized, dangerous open field to a vibrant public park that provides an outlet to our local families looking for a venue for outdoor activities. Over the past several years, Lion's Park capital improvements have included installation of restrooms, public parking, walking trails, trees, sod, sprinkler systems, and lights, the costs of which have been borne by the City, by CUFC, and by local grants. The results of our joint investments are demonstrated by the before and after photos included with this letter.

As a non-profit youth organization and a growing Texas suburban city, our respective budgets are limited, and the needs of our community and its families are great. Lion's Park needs additional capital investment and playground equipment that accommodates children of all levels of need and ability fits perfectly within the scope, and continues and furthers the progress, of local investment to improve Lion's Park already made to date. In my role with CUFC, I am passionate about bringing amenities to our community that otherwise require travel into San Antonio and beyond, while maintaining affordability. Time not spent in the car and fighting traffic is time spent with family, focusing on homework, and pursuing other, important activities that produce well-rounded, self-confident young adults. This is the ultimate mission of CUFC and one that is furthered by additional improvements to Lion's Park.

This request for grant funding to install inclusive playground equipment at Lion's Park has our Club's complete and total support. We appreciate the opportunity for consideration and will gladly provide additional information or support, as needed, to secure this grant funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clay Binford".

Clay Binford  
Board President



July 15, 2025

Dear sir or madam,

I'm writing to support the City of Castroville's grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a new playground at Lion's Park. This is a much-needed project, and I'm excited to see it moving forward.

Right now, there are not quality public playgrounds in that part of Castroville, and it leaves a gap for families like us who live nearby. A new, safe, and inclusive playground at Lion's Park would go a long way in giving my four kids a place to play and be active—something every community should have.

I believe the City has the ability and commitment to carry this project through successfully. It's a great idea and one that I know will make a real difference for Castroville families.

Thanks for all the work being done to make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joshua Kempf', with a stylized, cursive script.

Joshua Kempf

1813 San Jacinto  
Castroville, TX 78009



## Lion's Sports Complex Before and After



**Before Lion's Sports Complex August 2020**



**After Lion's Sports Complex January 2025**  
**Proposed Universally Accessible Playscape (UAP)**

Patrick Conner  
811 Washington St.  
Castroville, TX. 78009  
July 15, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council of Castroville Texas

RE: Support for a grant application to install a Universal Playground System and other Lions Park improvements from the Texas Parks and Recreation Department (TPWD).

Aloha Mayor and City Council,

Please accept my full endorsement and support for a grant application to install a Universal Playground Playscape System and other Lions Park improvements from the Texas Parks and Recreation Department (TPWD).

Look at the before and after photos of Lion's Sports Complex.  
In 2020, this park looked like an overgrazed cattle pasture.  
Now, this park is starting to look like and function as a 'Real Park'.

**Many Thanks!!** to the Mayor, City Council and Park's & Recreation Department for making this a reality.

**Let's keep the progress in Lion's Sports Complex moving forward!**

I fully endorse and support the Park's Advisory Board's recommendation to apply for a TPWD Grant to complete the major infrastructure items listed in the Park Master Plan.

This park now has soccer, softball and football as active organized sports areas.  
This park lacks passive unorganized recreational activity areas.  
Such as an 'all ages and abilities', Universally Accessible Playscape (UAP).

The addition of this UAP to the Lion's Sports Complex, will make Castroville the only city with a structure of this kind, within 35 miles west of San Antonio. There are no UAPs west of Castroville to the Rio Grande, and none south to Brownsville.

Mayor, City Council, please help continuing to improve the quality of life for 'ALL' of Castroville's citizens by supporting the application for this TPWD Grant.

Best wishes to you all,  
Patrick Conner

July 16, 2025

Re: Support for TPWD grant for Lions Park playground

Mayor Alexander and City Council:

I am writing to provide my strong recommendation for the application of the Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to construct a playground including swings in Lions Park.

As Chair of the Castroville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and a resident for 12 years, it has become obvious that Lions Park needs a playground. Lions Park was donated to support the community, and it is more than ready to be improved upon as the city and region are growing. The survey that the Parks Department conducted last year showed that a playground is the highest priority for the community (see page 2). The playground specified would be an inclusive playground which allows children of all abilities to enjoy the features — something that one would have to travel 30 miles to access in San Antonio. Additionally, Lions Park is very accessible both by foot and on bike for many neighbors.

As a mother to five children, I understand that having access to this kind of playground is essential to children's development. My family chose our current home of 10 years because of its close location to the Castroville Regional Park to access those playgrounds easily. I hope that the families on the north-side of Castroville could have the same opportunity in the future.

Most sincerely,

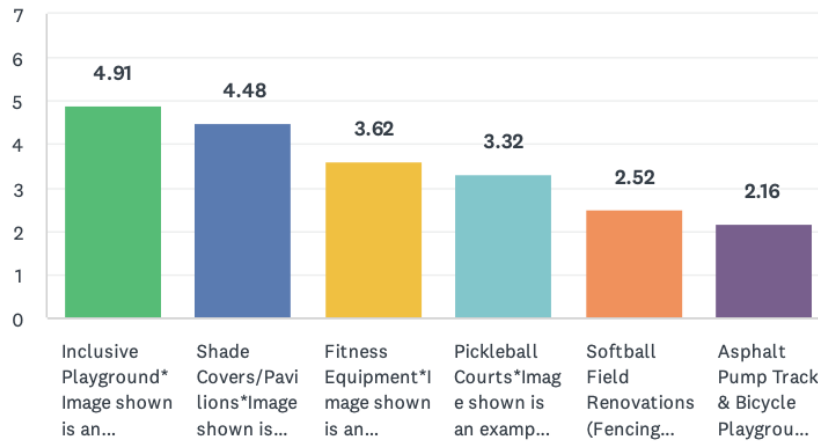








Adriana Arrington-Calk

Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
1114 Gentilz Street  
Castroville, Texas

Q3 Rank the following improvements to Lions Park.1 being your most preferred improvementPlease use the up and down arrows to rank the improvements. The first item in the list is the most preferred.

Answered: 369 Skipped: 10



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
 Inclusive Playground*Image shown is an example and used for visual purposes.	46.34% 171	22.49% 83	16.53% 61	7.86% 29	4.07% 15	2.71% 10	369	4.91
 Shade Covers/Pavilions*Image shown is an example and used for visual purposes.	18.97% 70	36.59% 135	24.93% 92	13.82% 51	4.34% 16	1.36% 5	369	4.48
 Fitness Equipment*Image shown is an example and used for visual purposes.	12.47% 46	17.34% 64	23.85% 88	20.60% 76	17.07% 63	8.67% 32	369	3.62
 Pickleball Courts*Image shown is an example and used for visual purposes.	14.91% 55	10.57% 39	15.99% 59	24.12% 89	18.97% 70	15.45% 57	369	3.32
 Softball Field Renovations(Fencing, lighting, additional field space in outfield, etc.)*Image shown is an example and used for visual purposes.	5.15% 19	4.34% 16	9.49% 35	20.60% 76	39.02% 144	21.41% 79	369	2.52
 Asphalt Pump Track & Bicycle Playground*Image shown is an example and used for visual purposes.	2.17% 8	8.67% 32	9.21% 34	13.01% 48	16.53% 61	50.41% 186	369	2.16

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## Grant Support

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**From** Priscilla Garrett <prismon@aol.com>  
**Date** Wed 7/16/2025 8:42 PM  
**To** Jonah Chang <Jonah.Chang@castrovilletx.gov>  
**Cc** lazyh@sbcglobal.net <lazyh@sbcglobal.net>

**Caution:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I fully support the request for a TPWD matching grant to build a new playground at Lion's Park. I recognize the need for improved playground facilities in our city, a much needed addition for years. I also have confidence in our ability to complete this project successfully.

Priscilla Garrett



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**Grant letter - TPWD**

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**From** kyle mcvey <klmcvay@hotmail.com>  
**Date** Wed 7/16/2025 7:45 PM  
**To** Jonah Chang <Jonah.Chang@castrovilletx.gov>

Caution: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The City of Castroville is applying for a matching grant for playground equipment for Lions Park in Castroville. The equipment would be all inclusive so to accommodate all children . Our Lions Park is located in the heart of our City that has no play parks for children. This addition would be asset to all families in the area.

Thank you for considering our request,  
Kyle McVay

**City of Castroville**

**Mayor and Council**

**RE: Lions Park**

**Mr. Mayor and Council Members.**

**It has come to my attention that there is a possibility for a matching grant for one of our city parks. As a long time, resident and former Mayor and member of the city Council I feel we have a responsibility to make every effort to improve city services and facilities at every opportunity. Therefore, I would like to go on record in support of the application for the matching grant.**

**Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.**

**Respectfully,**

**Dwight M. Green**



To Whom it May Concern.

My name is Beth Farley, and I am the Library Director for the Castroville Public Library. As w  
San Antonio begins to creep into our small community, I see the need for so many things for  
our community children.

One of them is a playground. Lion's Park needs a playground which would enhance the  
park and be utilized by children. I am in full support of anything we can provide for our  
community that promotes friendships, connections and a space for outside play.

Warm Regards,

Beth Farley-Director

Castroville Public Library

On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 06:48:45 AM CDT, Larry Sittre <sittrel@yahoo.com> wrote:

To TPWD as County Commissioner of Medina County for over 15 years and family settling this Community of Castroville in 1846 the growth and needs have outpaced any financial stability in being able to provide much needed outside recreation for the youth and families in and around the community. With our entire eastern border with San Antonio, the growth in MVISD is growing at a pace of over 1000 students a year alone , Lions Park has served our community for decades but is seriously in need of a Total makeover or complete rebuild, I as an Elected Official and personally ask for the state's financial assistance to help us keeping up with the needs and outside recreation in the heart for our community .

Please contact Me for any questions

Respectfully Yours

County Commissioner PCT 2

Larry Sittre

1 210 2871240

Sent from my iPhone.

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**Fwd: Lions park**

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**From** Larry Sittre <sittrel@yahoo.com>  
**Date** Wed 7/16/2025 8:20 AM  
**To** Jonah Chang <Jonah.Chang@castrovilletx.gov>  
**Cc** lazyh@sbcglobal.net <lazyh@sbcglobal.net>

<b>Caution:</b> This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
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Sent from my iPhone

Yes, thank you so much.

On Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 06:48:45 AM CDT, Larry Sittre <sittrel@yahoo.com> wrote:

To TPWD as County Commissioner of Medina County for over 15 years and family settling this Community of Castroville in 1846 the growth and needs have outpaced any financial stability in being able to provide much needed outside recreation for the youth and family's in and around the community. With our entire eastern border with San Antonio, the growth in MVISD is growing at a pace of over 1000 students a year alone , Lions Park has served our community for decades but is seriously in need of a Total makeover or complete rebuild, I as an Elected Official and personally ask for the states financial assistance to help us keeping up with the needs and outside recreation in the heart for our community .

Please contact Me for any questions

Respectfully Yours

County Commissioner PCT 2

Larry Sittre

1 210 2871240

Sent from my iPhone





## Castroville Lions Club

109 River Bluff  
Castroville, TX 78009

July 15, 2025

Mayor & City Council  
City of Castroville  
1209 Fiorella Street  
Castroville, TX 78009

### **RE: City of Castroville TPWD Grant Request**

Dear Mayor & Councilors,

This letter from the Castroville Lions Club is in support of and for the application of the City of Castroville's request to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) funding assistance for the betterment of Castroville's Lions Park, one of its two main park facilities. And, I'm also representing the Castroville Lions Club of which I'm President, and have been heavily involved in prior attempts to enhance Lions Park and to continue offering facilities and sporting options for the residents of the city.

Castroville's Lions Park is in need of support to allow the city to expand traditional park amenities and meet the needs of the current and rapidly expanding population in this area. Since the park supports not just the citizens of the city, but also our region, I feel certain the TPWD grant, if awarded, will help in meeting the current and future demands for the needed inclusive playground, sport courts, open fields and special needs use.

A recent Castroville Park & Recreation city-wide survey ranked the need for inclusive playground opportunities number one, shade covered pavilions two, and fitness equipment, pickle ball courts and upgrading the existing softball field as other significant needs at Lions Park. This grant will allow the city to make giant strides in meeting the requests and goals of the citizens.

Lions International is a 501 (c) 4 nonprofit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service.

The park is physically located a couple of blocks north of busy US Highway 90, with few pedestrian crossing points, which will not be changing anytime in the near future, so enhancing Lions Park will greatly offer safe access and meet the needs of the residents on the north side of town, and also prepare for the growth coming to the city and region. One indicator of the growth is our Medina Valley ISD (MVISD), which is anticipating student numbers to grow from about 9,800 today to over 15,000 in the next six years. Lions Park is located directly across Houston Street from Castroville Elementary School, thereby offering another option for the school to provide those students expanded PE options during the school year.

Much of that growth is in the rural areas of Medina County and western Bexar County, all within the MVISD attendance territory. Most of the new residents regard Castroville as their focal point, not just for educational purposes, but shopping and recreational activities as well. Hence our need to expand and upgrade the park for use for all forms recreation for youth and adult sports.

And, with this being written on Lions Club letterhead, shows support from the community for a space donated by the Lions Club in 1957 of two city blocks of land as a multi-use park. This will allow more of the dream to become reality. I personally believe the TPWD award will also be a momentum builder to encourage others to consider support of this city park in the future.

The community is "hungry" for more park amenities, the growing population will only place more demand on our limited facilities, and this TPWD grant will be an investment for the current and future users of the parks and a major opportunity for all the community represents.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Arnold E. Dollase

President

970-309-3079 (cell)

# CASTROVILLE SPECIAL EVENTS Foundation

109 River Bluff

Castroville, Texas 78009

castroillespecialevents@gmail.com

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July 15, 2025

Mayor & City Council  
City of Castroville  
1209 Fiorella Street  
Castroville, TX 78009

## **RE: City of Castroville TPWD Grant Request**

Dear Mayor & Councilors,

This letter is from the Castroville Special Events (CSE) foundation and is in support of and for the application of the City of Castroville's request to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) funding assistance for the betterment of Castroville's Lions Park. CSE supports a variety of community physical activities and sporting events, as well as, community celebrations and festivals throughout the year.

CSE is pleased to join others in supporting Castroville's Lions Park, which is very much in need of expanding options to the citizens of all ages, in particular youth, to meet the needs of the current and rapidly expanding population in this area. Since the park supports not just the citizens of the city, but also our region, I feel certain the TPWD grant, if awarded, will help in meeting the current and future demands on the park. A recent citizen survey that focused upon Lions Park ranked several specific current and future needs. These are an inclusive playground as number one, shade covered pavilions two, and fitness equipment, pickle ball courts and upgrading the existing softball field as other significant needs. This grant would allow the city and citizens to realize these goals and afford all ages needed and healthy options for physical activities on a year round basis.

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The Castroville Special Events (CSE) is an IRS designated 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. No goods or services were exchanged for this donation.

Since the Castroville Lions Club donated the land to the City in 1957 to be a park in perpetuity, the activities available to the public were limited to a ball field and other open space where scratch football and soccer games were held. In more recent years, community growth, the expanding need for parks and amenities and citizen input has brought about a resurgence of interest in Lions Park and it now is used heavily, but still mostly for the same sports. Some other enhancements have occurred, but it needs more amenities to take care of the demands of use and variations of activities, which is what this grant when funded will allow to occur.

CSE has supported other efforts at Lions Park within the past few years, and is pleased to do so again. It is our pleasure to support this grant application and request for funding. Funding will truly enhance the lives of multitudes of youth and generations to come. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me to discuss and answer them.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold E. Dollase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arnold" being the most prominent.

Arnold E. Dollase  
Registered Agent  
970-309-3079 (cell)

Alli Welch  
704 Lisbon Street  
Castroville, TX 78009  
alli@kinetickidstx.org  
512-497-3626

July 17, 2025

Dear Texas Parks and Wildlife Team,

My name is Alli Welch, and I am writing to respectfully request your support in funding an inclusive playground for the City of Castroville through your grant program. I am a proud Castroville resident, a parent, an advocate for children with special needs, and the current secretary of the city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

In addition to my role on the board, I work with Kinetic Kids, a nonprofit organization that has provided adaptive sports programs for children with disabilities since 2001. Three years ago, we launched a satellite program right here in Castroville. What began with two programs serving 30 children has grown into eight seasonal programs and multiple one-day events, now reaching over 160 children—many of whom are on a waitlist due to limited resources and space.

This remarkable growth reflects the urgent need for more inclusive recreational spaces in our community. Children with disabilities deserve more than access—they deserve a place to truly belong.

Castroville may be a small city of just over 3,000 residents, but it serves as the heart of the Medina Valley Independent School District, which spans over 296 square miles and educates more than 7,500 students across multiple communities. Of those students, roughly 1 in 6 receive Special Education services—that's over 1,200 children in our district who could benefit from a thoughtfully designed inclusive playground. Castroville might be small in population, but its reach—and its responsibility to serve children of all abilities—is significant.

An inclusive playground in Castroville would serve these children by offering:

- Ground-level and accessible equipment
- Sensory-friendly zones
- Adaptive swings
- Intentional design that encourages play *together*, not apart

Currently, the closest inclusive playground is more than 24 miles away, making daily or spontaneous play inaccessible for many families. Our community deserves a space where children of all abilities can laugh, move, and build friendships—right here at home.



More than just meeting a need, this playground would send a clear message: Castroville is a place where *everyone* belongs. Where inclusion is not just a goal, but a value we live by. It would be a vital step forward in building a city that grows with intention, compassion, and heart.

Thank you for considering this request. With your support, we can build more than a playground—we can build a place of connection, joy, and inclusion for all.

With sincere gratitude,  
Alli Welch  
Secretary, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Kinetic Kids –Satellite Coordinator



Dear Texas Parks and Wildlife,

Hi, my name is Tessa and I'm 8 years old. I live in castroville and I love going to the park. I go with my friends, but my friend Pate can't play on most of the Playground. He's 8 too and has Down syndrome. I wish we had a playground where we could all play together.

Please help us get a playground that's fun for everyone. I promise we'll use it a lot and take care of it!

thank you!

Love,

Tessa Welch





**The American Legion**  
**Weiss-Wurzbach Post 460**  
P. O. Box 156 · Castroville, Texas 78009



**Past Commanders:**

Otto Naegelin  
1940 - 1941

A. A. Murrell  
1944 - 1945

Otto Naegelin  
1945 - 1946

Leslie C. Howard  
1946 - 1947

Howard L. Haas  
1947 - 1948

Charles L. Suehs  
1948 - 1949

Richard J. Schott  
1949 - 1950

Daniel M. O'Connell  
1950 - 1952

Floyd L. Tondre  
1952 - 1954

Maurice A. Rihn  
1954 - 1955

L. D. Nuckles  
1955 - 1956

Leon C. Groff  
1960 - 1962

Howard H. Haby  
1962 - 1964

Marion H. Tschirhart  
1964 - 1965

Stanley C. Keller  
1965 - 1967

Alton Moak  
1967 - 1969

Irvin A. Kilhorn  
1969 - 1971

Marion H. Tschirhart  
1971 - 1973

William A. Iltis  
1973 - 1974

Robert D. Hester  
1974 - 1975

Lynn F. Boehme  
1975 - 1976

Royce Groff  
1976 - 1977

Richard H. Gass  
1977 - 1978

Gilbert V. Kempf  
1978 - 1981

Milton T. Tschirhart  
1981 - 1983

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744  
Attention: Executive Director

Dear Mr. Smith,

The overarching purpose of The American Legion is "For God and Country". Legionnaires fulfill our purpose to serve God and our country by virtue of serving our local community. Our Post has a rich legacy of serving the greater Castroville community for well over half a century through its programs that support the four pillars upon which our noble organization was founded: 1.) Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, 2.) National Security, 3.) Americanism, 4.) Children & Youth.

As fellow community servants, we appreciate your legacy of service to communities throughout the State of Texas by virtue of your grant program. We hope that our hometown may benefit from the generosity of your service. In that regard, we support the application by the City of Castroville for funding assistance offered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

If awarded, the grant money will be used to improve the underutilized Lions Park. We firmly believe that the proposed improvements are entirely consistent with the TPWD mission to provide "outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." Consequently, because of the need justified in the grant application, we're convinced that Castroville is a prime candidate for the TPWD grant. The return on the investment would be maximized in terms of the community's immeasurable enjoyment of the proposed recreational opportunities that the grant will provide.

On behalf of the members of Weiss-Wurzbach Post 460, I respectfully request your kind and thoughtful consideration of the City's worthy request.

We are "For God and Country",

  
Jerome A. Iltis  
Past Commander

***For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:***

*To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and goodwill on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.*

July 17, 2025

**Past Commanders:**

Irvin A. Kilhorn  
1983 - 1985

Lee Tschirhart  
1985 - 1986

R. Q. Stinson  
1986 - 1987

Lee Tschirhart  
1987 - 1988

Hugo C. Wurzbach  
1988 - 1990

Albert J. King  
1990 - 1992

Glenn O. Sherill  
1992

Jerald R. Foxworthy  
1993

Albert J. King  
1993 - 1995

Felix Lange  
1995 - 1997

William G. Nye  
1997 - 1999

Robert D. Hester  
1999 - 2001

Donald F. Mottram  
2001 - 2002

Sam Tomlinson  
2003 - 2006

Roy Clement  
2006 - 2008

Donato Rios  
2008 - 2010

Jerome A. Iltis  
2010 - 2012

Alex Tschirhart  
2012 - 2014

Victor Ortiz  
2014 - 2016

Malcolm Wallace  
2016 - 2017

Jesus Mendoza  
2017 - 2018

Albert Salinas  
2018 - 2019

Victor Ortiz  
2019 - 2021

Christopher Powers  
2021 - 2022

Jerome A. Iltis  
2022-2023

Abigail Figueroa  
2023 - 2024

Jesus Mendoza  
2024-2025

July 17, 2025

Dear Mayor Alexander,

My name is Ashley Hundley. I am President of the PTO at Castroville Elementar (located directly across the street from Lions Field), and a certified personal trainer. I own a small business here in Castroville, called The She Shed. As president and business owner, I am passionate about enhancing the lifestyles of the children and families in our community.

I am writing to formally recommend and advocate for a grant to help fund the installation of a children's playground at Lions Field. This location is already a valued and frequently used space, and adding a safe, well-designed play structure would significantly enhance its value to our community.

Each year, our 3rd through 5th grade students enjoy their end-of-year park days at the Lions Field, and because of its close proximity to the elementary school, it has become a safer alternative to our previous location, the Regional Park. Each grade level, of over 100 students, spends a day at the park. Typically, they all gather around the water features or start a game of kickball. If there was an addition of a play structure, our elementary kids could spread out and have a broader range of activities.

From a public health perspective, the absence of playground limits the opportunities for safe and age-appropriate physical activity, particularly for younger siblings and community members who visit year-round. A playground would not only improve the experience of events like Park Day but would serve as an everyday resource to encourage physical activity for children and families across Castroville

I encourage you to consider supporting this initiative by pursuing funding options toward this project. I would be happy to collaborate or provide additional information as needed. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to the well-being of our city and its future generations.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Hundley

July 15, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I cannot tell you how delighted I am to have been given an opportunity to submit a letter supporting the application by the City of Castroville for funding assistance offered by your organization.

The City's goal of providing an inclusive playground and other improvements for Lion's Park, is a worthy one indeed, for presently, there is no playground or place for kids to play on the North side of Hwy. 90. in my hometown of Castroville. There is a playground at the Regional Park, but kids have to cross a very busy highway to get to it.

I can assure you that, if awarded this grant, the money will be well spent and closely watched. Your serious consideration of their application will be more appreciated than you could possibly know.

If additional information is needed, you have only to contact me. Thank you from the bottom of my aging heart.

Most sincerely,

Helen Delavan  
Box 117 1105 Lisbon Street  
Castroville, Texas 780090  
Cell: 830 931 4176  
[lazyh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazyh@sbcglobal.net)



July 18, 2025

Dear Mayor Alexander and Council:

I am writing in strong support of the City of Castroville's grant application to develop a new playground at Lion's Park. As a certified elementary educator and community advocate, I believe this project would have a significant impact on the well-being of families in our area—particularly on the underserved northwest side of Castroville, where there are currently no public playgrounds available for children to enjoy.

Lion's Park is a beautiful open space with large soccer fields and natural shade trees, but it lacks dedicated playground facilities. The spacious and very nice Splashpad is also an entertaining new addition to the park; however, due to the city's water restrictions, it has its limitations. During the "no water usage" months, the Splashpad is simply a concrete pad. Adding a thoughtfully designed play environment would turn the park into a more inclusive destination for families, providing children with a safe, accessible place to engage in physical activity, imaginative play, and social interaction.

Playgrounds offer more than just fun—they are essential for a child's healthy development. Research consistently shows that unstructured play supports physical fitness, improves cognitive functioning, and strengthens emotional and social skills. A new playground at Lion's Park would directly address these needs, especially for children between the ages of 1–8, by creating opportunities for climbing, running, balancing, and cooperative play. The possibility of two well-designed playgrounds, specific for the wide range of age groups, could also be considered: one designed for children 12 months–4 years, and one designed for stronger, more mature children 5–8 years of age.

In addition, the development of this playground would promote community connection. It would give neighbors a place to meet, encourage outdoor time for young families, and enhance overall quality of life in the area. The presence of shade trees at Lion's Park makes it a particularly ideal location for active play, even during the hot Texas summer months.

A well-planned playground at Lion's Park would provide not only physical benefits but also long-term investment in the health and happiness of our community's children. Thank you for considering this grant on their behalf.

Sincerely,

Nadine Kempf

Resident and Advocate, Castroville, TX

# CASTROVILLE SPECIAL EVENTS Foundation

109 River Bluff

Castroville, Texas 78009

castroillespecialevents@gmail.com

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July 11, 2025

City of Castroville  
1209 Fiorella Street  
Castroville, TX 78009

Attn: Leroy Vidales

Good day Leroy.

This letter is to inform you that the Castroville Special Events (CSE) foundation Board has made a determination on the annual donation to the City from the proceeds of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour de Castroville Walk/Run/Ride event. The specific restrictions are noted below.

CSE is donating five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to the "Special Parks Project Fund", to be used exclusively at Lions Park for the planned shaded pavilion(s). If this donation amount is such that a pavilion's cost is less than the donation, the remainder is to be held in the account and be spent only on another shaded pavilion(s) in the future.

If you have any questions about the donation or contents of this letter, please contact me as needed. Thanks for your support on this matter.


Sincerely,



Arnold E. Dollase  
Registered Agent  
970-309-3079 cell

*COPY*

ENC.: Check #1017

Cc:  Jonah Chang & Adriana Calk

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The Castroville Special Events (CSE) is an IRS designated 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. No goods or services were exchanged for this donation.