

SECTION 6: PROJECT NARRATIVE

Wylie-Municipal Complex Trail Lighting Project

1. Project Description:

The City of Wylie seeks funding in the amount of \$310,666.00 for construction and installation of trail lighting along the concrete hike and bike trails in the Municipal Complex Trail located at 300 Country Club Rd., Wylie, TX, 75098. The requested funding would be used for the following items:

- Installation of 36 light poles for Phase 1 and 45 light poles in Phase 2 for a total of 81 light poles.
- Installation includes trenching, electrical services, conduit, and pole bases.

The City will undertake any engineering costs for the project and comply with current accessibility standards. The City will purchase the poles and their installation under a current cooperative contract, ensuring the lowest possible price. The purchasing of the poles and installation will be performed by a reputable contractor contracted by City Council action.

The Municipal Complex Trail is situated on the 200 plus acre Municipal Complex that currently has the Wylie City Hall, Smith Library, and Wylie Recreation Center on the property. The trail consists of a 12-foot concrete hike and bike trail that weaves approximately 2 miles throughout the nature areas of the property. The current trail was developed in two phases with the last phase being completed in 2017. In 2018 Parks and Recreation staff contracted with the consulting firm Kimley-Horn Inc. to design the lighting program for the trail.

The intent of this project is to add lighting to the existing trail areas for extended use and for safety. The trail is centrally located in the City and is accessible to not only adjacent neighborhoods, but can also be used by residents driving from other parts of the City or even those outside the City limits. The trail also connects to some recently added trail that was installed by Collin College adjacent to their new Wylie campus. This project is part of a long-range effort by the City to provide premium quality amenities for the enjoyment of its citizens, the citizens of neighboring municipalities, and the entire County. This updated lighted trail will be the first large lighted trail in southern Collin County and would be easily accessible to communities within Wylie and surrounding communities such as Sachse and Murphy.

Overall, various aspects of this project address multiple issues identified in the *Collin County Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan*. For instance, Section 4.3.1 of the plan states:

The proposed trail system is designed to enhance public accessibility to park and open space resources Countywide and to enhance social and cultural connectivity and the sense of community, and the same section also says the expansion of the parks and open space in the county utilizing the natural drainage system will help to preserve the natural "sense of place" for residents...creeks, prairies, fields, hilltop views and woodlands define the natural "sense of place" in Collin County.

The proposed improvements concentrate on satisfying the needs recognized in the *Collin County Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan*, and strive to meet the demand for improving the level of recreational facilities for Collin County residents.

2. Objectives and Need for Project:

The City of Wylie has a population of approximately 53,653 and has been one of the fastest-growing communities in the state of Texas. The City's population has increased nearly 160% since 2000. As the City and surrounding areas continue to experience this high rate of development, high levels of demand have been placed on the City to provide recreational opportunities.

In 2018 the City began an update of its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The plan was adopted in 2020 by the City Council and it identified areas of improvement based on citizens, elected officials, consultant, and staff input.

PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

The purpose of this Master Plan is to focus on identifying and preparing for implementation of the City's parks and recreational needs for the next five-year to ten-year period. It addresses the entire City limits including existing, proposed, and future parks & recreation opportunities. The planning team interacted with a diverse Steering Committee, as well as various City staff, community leaders, and citizen groups during the planning process.

In preparing this plan, some of the key objectives for future direction of the Wylie park system include the following:

- Provide high-quality parks and recreation resources that offer a balanced variety of year-round recreational needs of the Wylie community;
- Determine a practical means of maintaining and upgrading existing parks and facilities to a prescribed standard and purpose;
- Improve the overall appearance and usability of park and recreation resources;
- Acquire park land and develop outdoor recreational facilities;
- Encourage cooperation and develop partnerships with the school district, governmental agencies, area corporations, and community organizations to assist with funding, development and maintenance of park & recreational facilities
- Obtain adoption of the Master Plan by City Council in order to provide direction to City officials, City staff, and residents for implementing the Master Plan

The Action Plan identified park amenities that are needed, see below:

Wylie Priority Rankings

Rank	Action Plan	High	Moderate	Low
1	Hike/bike/walk trails that are connected throughout the city	◆		
2	Sprayground	◆		
3	Expand amenities at Lavon Lake (fishing, picnicking, swim beach)	◆		
4	Hike/bike/walk nature trails along the lake/dam	◆		
5	Aquatic Center (indoor – leisure area and lap lanes)	◆		
6	Aquatic Center (outdoor – leisure area and lap lanes)	◆		
7	Special events in parks	◆		
8	Additional lighting in parks	◆		
9	Multipurpose sports fields (football, soccer, baseball, softball)	◆		
10	Additional practice fields (football, soccer, baseball, softball)	◆		

The Master Plan identified trails and lighting in parks as the #1 and #8 priorities for development. The proposed trail lighting project would support both of the identified priorities.

3. Funding Mechanism:

Funding for the construction of the improvements is proposed to be a joint effort between the City of Wylie and Collin County. The City used operational funding to pay for any engineering needed to design the trail lighting system.

For the actual construction, the City intends to utilize funds from its Parks and Recreation 4B ½ cent sales tax Fund. Sufficient funding is available in this fund to meet the match amount.

The City anticipates using any funding received as a result of this request for the following purposes:

- Installation of 81 light poles and concrete bases.
- Install electrical connections for all the light poles.

The City requests funding for the trail lighting components and installation of the components for the project. As its match, the City will utilize funds in the Parks and Recreation 4B ½ cent sales tax Fund.

The City's goal is to improve this site so that it will address the community needs expressed throughout earlier planning stages, both by the City of Wylie and by Collin County. The trail lighting will enhance the current concrete trail, and it will continue to receive considerable usage and be available to the greatest number of County residents.

We respectfully request that the Collin County Parks Foundation Board agree to provide a match in the amount of \$310,666.00 to assist in the construction of the proposed improvements.

4. Project Action Plan:

The City has completed design and engineering for this project with the assistance of the engineering firm Kimley-Horn Inc. If the City receives notification of the award in October 2021 and following the City and County approval of the Interlocal Agreement, the City will be ready to purchase the lighting poles and installation utilizing an existing cooperative purchasing agreement. The City anticipates completing a contract with the vendor and ordering the light poles in late 2021 and beginning installation in the spring of 2022. Anticipated completion of the project will be the summer of 2022.

The site improvements will generally follow the sequence below:

1. Trench and install electrical conduit.
2. Installation of the light bases and poles.
3. Installation of the wire and powering up the poles.
4. Electrical inspections and final site grading/clean up.

The City proposes to have all work performed by a reputable contractor with a proven ability to perform similar work on projects of similar scale. City personnel and representatives with Kimley-Horn Inc. will perform daily site inspections and coordinate with the contractor to ensure that all work is being performed as specified.

5. Implementation and Maintenance:

“The parks and open space system should reflect the coordinated planning and conceptualization of the park and open space system at a countywide scale, with implementation at the local community scale.” *Collin County Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan (Section 4.1.4)*

Personnel in the Wylie Parks and Recreation Department have a successful track record in land acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of municipal park facilities since the division was established in the mid 1980s. The present managerial staff alone has a combined total of nearly 30 years of directly-related experience involving all phases of parkland development and operation. Senior managerial staff in the Department has over 20 years' experience in coordinating and administering construction contracts ranging from a few thousand dollars up to and including multi-million-dollar projects.

The City's personnel are experienced and effective in the management of citizen tax dollars to achieve project goals, comply with all accounting and reporting requirements, and to deliver a finished product which is on budget.

After construction is completed, maintenance crews (under general supervision of the Parks Manager) will perform routine inspections of the facilities. Routine performance of maintenance duties includes, but are not limited to: changing light bulbs and transformers, address any vandalism of the light poles and fixtures, and replacing light poles and fixtures due to wear.

Annual operating and maintenance costs will be funded in all future City of Wylie Parks and Recreation budgets to preserve the investment so that the citizens of Collin County will have a first-class facility that meets their outdoor recreational needs.