



Resolution 2024-06-02

**Local Park Grant Program
Resolution Authorizing Application**

A resolution of the City of Commerce as hereinafter referred to as "Applicant," designating certain officials as being responsible for, acting for, and on behalf of the Applicant in dealing with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, hereinafter referred to as "Department," for the purpose of participating in the Local Park Grant Program, hereinafter referred to as the "Program"; certifying that the Applicant is eligible to receive program assistance; certifying that the Applicant matching share is readily available; and dedicating the proposed site for permanent (or for the term of the lease for leased property) public park and recreational uses.

WHEREAS, the Applicant is fully eligible to receive assistance under the Program; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant is desirous of authorizing an official to represent and act for the Applicant in dealing with the Department concerning the Program;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE APPLICANT:

SECTION 1: That the Applicant hereby certifies that they are eligible to receive assistance under the Program, and that notice of the application has been posted according to local public hearing requirements.

SECTION 2: That the Applicant hereby certifies that the matching share for this application is readily available at this time.

SECTION 3: That the Applicant hereby authorizes and directs the Assistant City Manager-Financial Services to act for the Applicant in dealing with the Department for the purposes of the Program, and that Assistant City Manager- Financial Services is hereby officially designated as the representative in this regard.

SECTION 4: The Applicant hereby specifically authorizes the official to make application to the Department concerning the site to be known as Centennial Park in the City of Commerce or use as a park site and is hereby dedicated (or will be dedicated upon completion of the proposed acquisition) for public park and recreation purposes in perpetuity (or for the lease term, if legal control is through a lease). Projects with federal monies may have differing requirements.

Introduced, read and passed by an affirmative vote of the "Applicant" on this 18th day of June, 2024.

Signature of Local Government Official

Teddy Reel, Mayor

Typed Name and Title

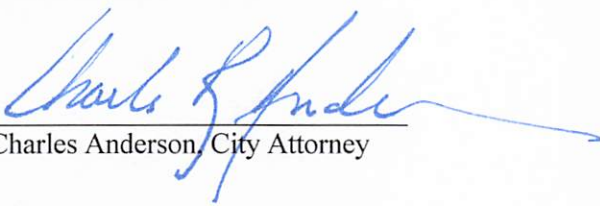
ATTEST:

Signature

Molly Jacobsen, City Secretary

Typed Name and Title

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Charles Anderson, City Attorney



LOCAL PARK GRANT PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

Overview:

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Funding for these programs comes from a portion of the state sales tax on sporting goods through the Texas Recreation and Parks Account, the Texas Large County & Municipality Recreation & Parks Account, and from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The source of project funding varies from year-to-year. In some cycles, we may have more federal funds. Federal funds can impose additional restrictions and can lead to a longer period between award and the receipt of a grant agreement. Please see the sections on land acquisition, leases, and project timeline for further information.

Grant Program	Eligible Population
Small Community	<20,000
Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation	<500,000
Non-Urban Indoor Recreation	<500,000
Urban Outdoor Recreation	>500,000
Urban Indoor Recreation	>500,000

Matching Funds:

Grant funds are provided on a matching basis with the local applicant providing 50% of the project costs. The match **MUST** be available at the time of application. The applicant's matching share may come from multiple sources including, but not limited to, the following:

- Voter approved bonds
- Applicant cash and EDC funds
- Applicant in house labor, equipment, and materials
- Applicant publicly-owned non-parkland
- Fees or cash in-lieu of mandatory dedicated parkland
- Donated land, cash, labor, equipment, and materials.
- Other grants awarded

Applicant Eligibility:

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions of the State of Texas legally responsible for providing public recreation services to their citizens. This includes cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts, and other special districts.

The following criteria will be used to determine applicant eligibility for additional funding:

- All previously completed Recreation Grant Projects must follow all the terms of the Project Agreement under which they received assistance and all program guidelines; and
- For active grants, all required project documentation (such as appraisals, construction plans, quarterly status reports, and reimbursement requests) must be complete and have been received on schedule, if due; and
- For the Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation, Small Community and Non-Urban Indoor Recreation Grant Programs:
 - all active projects which are at least two years old at the time of application must be reimbursed for a minimum of 50% of the approved grant amount; and
 - the total of approved grant funds which have not been reimbursed at the time of application may not exceed \$2 million for all active grant projects.
- For the Urban Outdoor Recreation and Urban Indoor Recreation Grant Programs:
 - all active projects which are at least two years old at the time of application must be reimbursed for a minimum of 25% of the approved grant amount; and
 - the total of approved grant funds which have not been reimbursed at the time of application may not exceed \$4 million for all active grant projects.

A grantee may also be "high risk" based on financial stability or non-conforming management standards, requiring additional special conditions and restrictions as determined by grant management standards.

Project Eligibility:

Development projects may consist of basic outdoor recreation facilities and related support facilities to serve the public, provided that the funding of the project is in the best public interest in accord with local plans. Facilities may be developed, renovated, or redeveloped on lands or waters owned or adequately controlled by the project applicant. Plans for recreational development should be based on public needs, expected use, and the type and character of the project areas.

Facilities should be attractive to the public and consistent with the natural setting and topographic limitations of the site. Recreational improvements should be designed to be harmonious with the natural environment. Emphasis should be given to public health, safety, the natural environment, barrier-free access, and the protection of recreational and community values of the area. These considerations should be part of the planning, design, and maintenance criteria for all grant-assisted areas.

Development projects may consist of the complete or partial development of a public recreation area. All projects must be logical units of work to be accomplished within four years.

Legal Control of Property:

Applicants requesting development funds are required to have full legal control of the property proposed for development. Adequate legal control of the property means that the applicant either has fee simple title to the property, is proposing to acquire the property as part of the project or will lease the property from another government entity.

Under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, only land leased from the federal government is eligible for grant assistance. Projects on land leased from city, county, school district, or other non-federal government entities can only receive funds from the state Sporting Good Sales Tax. The source of funding in each grant round is subject to change without notice. Therefore, the Department cannot guarantee that projects on land leased from non-federal entities can be funded.

Leased property will only be eligible for fund support if it meets all the following requirements:

- Applicant has (or will have) full surface legal control of the property proposed for assistance; and
- Applicant and lessor can guarantee that the project area will remain dedicated to public recreation use throughout the term of the lease. The lessor must be willing to comply with all program guidelines for the entire term of the lease; and
- Project area must be leased to the applicant for a minimum of 25 years for most projects, and in some cases up to 40 years for major capital expenditures like aquatic, indoor, and related facilities; and
- The lease cannot be revocable at will by the lessor.

Barrier Free Access:

All recreational facilities acquired and/or developed with grant assistance must be designed in accordance with the [Texas Architectural Barriers Act](#) and must comply with the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA). Texas Accessibility Standards can be found on the Texas Department of Licensing & Registration's website <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/ab/2012TAS/2012tascomplete.pdf>.

Prevention of Surface Drilling and Mining:

The applicant must provide evidence that the surface of the project site is protected from any drilling or mining, or can demonstrate protection through the following:

- Existing ordinance or resolution
- Zoning
- Ownership of mineral rights by applicant
- Draft of ordinance, resolution or zoning, and statement that if funded, will authorize the ordinance or resolution.

Reservations and Rights Not Acquired:

Reservations and rights held by others (i.e. - mineral rights, property liens, easements, etc.) are permissible only if it is determined that the outdoor recreation activities and environment would not be adversely affected. The applicant shall list all outstanding rights or interests held by others on the boundary map. Reservations must also be discussed in the application to explain how these outstanding rights are to be dealt with to assure that recreation interests and the environment will not be adversely affected.

Public Hearing Requirements:

All grant applications must receive at least one public hearing prior to submission in compliance with the [Texas Open Meetings Act](#). The hearing may be a separate public meeting, or it may occur at the time the governing body regularly meets. At this public hearing, the governing body must pass the resolution authorizing application submission. The public hearing must be properly posted and advertised in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, and there must be an opportunity for public comment.

Development:

Development projects may be individual or multi-site projects and may include new construction, renovation and/or redevelopment. General repair and maintenance projects are not eligible. The following definitions are used to clarify the differences between these types of projects:

- **REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE:** Normally consist of minor work intended to mend a specific part of a facility which has become broken or otherwise inoperative, to return it to a useful state, or periodic minor work designed to merely maintain a specific part of a facility so such facility will be in a good state of maintenance and repair.
- **RENOVATION:** Renovate is defined in terms of "to renew or make over". Work on existing facilities to completely renew, update, or modernize such facilities so the finished product will meet present-day standards and be comparable with newly constructed similar facilities is classified as renovation.
- **REDEVELOPMENT:** Redevelop is defined in terms of "to develop again." Redevelopment of existing park areas includes demolition of obsolete facilities and the construction of new facilities.

Examples of Eligible Development

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Sports fields | • Community Gardens |
| • Boating, Fishing, and Hunting Facilities | • Basketball, Volleyball and other sports courts |
| • Picnic facilities | • Small Amphitheaters |
| • Playgrounds | • Small Bandstands |
| • Splash pads | • Rodeo Arenas |
| • Swimming Pools | • Exhibit / Interpretive Displays |
| • Trails | • Golf Courses |
| • Camp Sites | • Landscaping using native plants |
| • Recreational Support Facilities | |

Examples of Ineligible Development

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Professional or semi-professional arts and athletics | cabins |
| • Monuments & landmarks | • Support facilities for ineligible facilities |
| • Amusement Parks | • Marinas and related support facilities |
| • Residences and furnishings | • Non-native plants |
| • Lodges, hotels, motels and luxury | |

Development on School Property

Development on school properties are not eligible for Land and Water Conservation Fund grant assistance. Our ability to fund this type of project depends on the amount of state Sporting Good Sales Tax funding we have in each grant cycle.

Although school districts are not eligible for grant assistance, facilities on public school grounds for joint school-public use are allowed provided that the following conditions are met:

- The property meets all requirements of the grant program, including requirements for development on leased property.
- The proposed facilities are not required as part of the normal curriculum of the educational institution and must be primarily intended for public use.
- The lease agreement must include:
 - schedule of times the fund-assisted facilities are available to the public,
 - metes and bounds description of the project area, which includes the areas to be developed, and
 - ingress/egress route to the assisted facilities.
- Adequate signage must be installed prior to the final grant payment/reimbursement that is:
 - maintained throughout the term of the lease at the project site
 - indicates when the fund-supported facilities are available to the public

Overhead Utilities

If funded, existing overhead utility lines will be required to be removed or buried in most circumstances. No new overhead utility lines will be allowed.

Acquisition Projects:

Acquisition of lands, man-made improvements and waters, additions to existing parks, forests, wildlife areas, beaches, wetlands, and other similar areas dedicated to public outdoor recreation may be eligible for assistance.

Acquisitions which occur prior to grant approval, department authorization, or which do not meet the acquisition criteria, are not eligible for assistance.

The value of sponsor owned non-parkland may only be used as the sponsor's matching share if it has never been dedicated, platted, managed, used, or acquired for a public park or recreation use. The Land and Water Conservation Fund will not fund this type of project. It is only eligible for state funding under the Sporting Good Sales Tax. The source of available funding may change without notice.

When proposing the acquisition of land or real property it is not appropriate to negotiate a price prior to grant and appraisal approval. You may contact the land owner to determine if the land is available for acquisition and you may determine if the owner is willing to donate, sell or partially donate the subject property.

Negotiation of an acquisition price prior to grant and appraisal approval may jeopardize the eligibility of the proposed acquisition for grant assistance. The level of grant assistance will be determined by an independent appraisal, approved by the Department. Projects approved for

federal (LWCF) funding are required to complete appraisals in compliance with Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition ("yellow book" standards).

Delayed Development

Assistance may be available to acquire property on which recreational development is not planned until a future time. During the interim between the time the property is acquired and the time it is developed, the property should be open for those public recreational purposes which the land can support, or

which can be achieved with minimum public investment. Applicants submitting grant applications to acquire land for future development must submit a conceptual plan for development with the application. Non-recreational uses, such as agriculture or grazing, which are occurring on the property at the time of acquisition, may continue for up to three years, or the remainder of the grant period, contingent on prior Department approval.

In such cases the project applicant shall not receive reimbursement for the land until the non-recreational use is terminated.

If development will be delayed for more than two years from the date of acquisition, the following information must be included in the grant application:

- Justification as to why the immediate acquisition is necessary;
- A schedule for development, pursuant to the conceptual plan;
- Discussion of any non-recreational property uses, including when such uses will terminate.
- Non-recreational uses must terminate within three years from the date of acquisition;
- Assurance that any income derived during the interim period will be used on the project site only;
- Identification of the type of public recreational access to be provided during the interim period.

It is not necessary that the eventual development be carried out with grant assistance, or that such unassisted recreational development is Department approved if it is in accordance with the conceptual plan and purpose for which the application was made. Once developed, all improvements on land acquired with fund assistance must be operated and maintained in accordance with program requirements. If acquisition assistance is received, development on the property must begin within three years of project approval. Public access to the site must be made available immediately after the site is acquired.

Waiver of Retroactivity

For land which may be under eminent threat of loss as an acquisition opportunity, the Department may authorize such acquisitions to occur prior to grant approval through a waiver of retroactivity. A waiver must be in place before the transfer of land occurs. In addition, land may be transferred to a non-profit holding organization until an application has been reviewed and approved.

Ineligible Acquisitions

- Historic sites and structures. Exceptions may be made with Department approval only when it is clearly demonstrated that the acquisition is primarily for public recreation

purposes. This exclusion need not prevent the consideration of a project calling for the acquisition of real property interest contiguous to (or near) historic sites/structures which meet priority recreation needs. The acquisition must be in accordance with the [Texas Antiquities Code](#) if it is adjacent to or includes a site listed as a State Archaeological Landmark (SAL) or if it is a site eligible for listing as a SAL.

- Museums, sites for museums or sites primarily for archaeological excavation.
- Public school property. Acquisition will not be made for school property to help meet minimum acreage requirements, as established by state law or local regulations.
- Areas and facilities to be primarily used for semi-professional or professional arts or athletics.
- Areas/facilities to be used solely for game refuges or fish production.
- Areas containing luxury lodges, motels, cabins or similar elaborate facilities.
- Land primarily for agricultural purposes.
- Areas for which the primary purpose of the acquisition is for non-recreational uses (such as an area to be impounded or excavated to serve as a future public water supply).
- Lands already within the public domain which were previously dedicated, platted, managed, used, or acquired for public parks, recreation and open space use are not eligible to serve as the applicant's matching project share.
- Land which has been designated for acquisition as mitigation for other public domain activities may not be used for matching fund purposes and will not be eligible for acquisition assistance. Land acquired for mitigation of projects undertaken by the private sector are, however, eligible for acquisition under this program and may be used as matching funds if proposed as a donation in the grant application.

Means of Acquisition

Acquisition of lands / waters or interests therein may be accomplished through purchase, transfer, donation, or a combination of these methods. When the acquisition is proposed by donation, the nature of any restriction on the use of the area or condition of donation will be examined to ensure that it is compatible with the purpose of the project. Full title must rest with the applicant with no outstanding liens on the property.

Acquisition of land through dedication is not eligible for funding or to be used as match under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Availability of state funds through the Sporting Good Sales Tax will inform the Department's ability to fund this type of project.

Acquisition of Structures

Acquisition projects may include structures and impoundments which are:

- To be used for public recreation or related support facilities; or
- A part of the recreation area to be acquired and are to be removed, demolished, or drained in the case of an impoundment.

Grant applications must identify all improvements and discuss the proposed use, disposition, or mitigation of these structures.

Acquisition of Lesser Interests

Proposed acquisitions of interests in lands/waters of less than fee simple title is acceptable where such lesser rights will ensure the desired public use. Proposals such as a permanent

park or conservation easements will be evaluated on their merit and contribution to public recreation.

Application Review:

The process of reviewing grant applications requires about five months. A technical review by Recreation Grants staff will be followed by a review by agency resource staff. If environmental concerns are identified such as potential endangered species being located on the project site, additional environmental coordination and/or a survey may be required. Recreation Grants will also coordinate the review of your project with the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

When all the information necessary to complete the application is received, the project is scored, put in priority order by score, and recommendations are presented to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission.

The TPW Commission makes all final decisions regarding awards of program funds. Each project applicant will be notified of the staff's recommendation shortly before the TPW Commission hearing. The public is welcome to attend and participate at the hearing.

Funded Projects:

Sponsors are allowed approximately four years from the date of Commission approval to complete all project elements.

Approved projects shall be pursued in a timely manner by the sponsor, unless delays result from extraordinary circumstances beyond the sponsor's control. Failure to meet the following time frames may be grounds for the Department to initiate cancellation of the affected project to recommend reallocation of available funds to other projects, or to deny requests for additional grant funds for new projects.

The timelines for state-funded and federal-funded projects differs.

State-Funded Project Timeline (Sporting Good Sales Tax)

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Commission Approval	Begin 4-year project period
Grant Agreement Execution (Department & Sponsor)	As soon as possible after Commission approval and no later than August 31 st
Pending Documentation such as: • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 • Environmental Resources Survey • THC Cultural Resources Survey and Clearance • TPWD Biological Consultations • Right-of-Way Abandonment • Lease/Joint-Use Agreement Execution, etc.	Within 6 months of grant agreement date
Quarterly Status Reports (beginning with Commission approval)	On or before January 15 th , April 15 th , July 15 th & October 15 th
USPAP Appraisal Submission	As soon as possible after grant agreement date
Appraisal Approval	Within 6 months of appraisal submission
Land Acquisition	As soon as possible after appraisal approval
Construction Plan Submission	Within 6 months of land acquisition for projects involving acquisition, or Within 6 months of grant agreement date for development only projects
TDLR Registration	As soon as possible after construction plans submission and before starting construction
TCEQ Stormwater Compliance	Before starting construction
Periodic Reimbursement Billings	Every 90 days if possible
Project Completion and Grant Close-Out	Within 4 years after Commission approval

Federal-Funded Project Timeline (Land and Water Conservation Fund)

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Commission Approval	Begin 4-year project period
Pre-Agreement Compliance: NHPA, NEPA, and Tribal Consultation: - US Army 404 Permits - NEPA Compliance - Environmental Assessment, Public Comment Period, FONSI - NHPA Compliance - THC Cultural Resources Survey and Clearance - Lease (from Federal government only) and Joint-Use Agreement Execution - Right-of-Way Abandonment	As soon as possible after Commission approval
Submission to NPS on Grants.gov (Department)	April 30 th , July 31 st , or January 1 st
Receipt of Federal Agreement (NPS & Department)	Approximately 3 months after submission to NPS
Grant Agreement Execution (Department & Sponsor)	As soon as possible after federal agreement
Pending Documentation such as: TPWD Biological Consultations State and Local Law Compliance	Within 6 months of grant agreement date
Quarterly Status Reports (beginning with Commission approval)	On or before January 15 th , April 15 th , July 15 th & October 15 th
UASFLAS "Yellowbook" Appraisal Submission	As soon as possible after grant agreement date
Appraisal Approval	Within 6 months of appraisal submission
Land Acquisition	As soon as possible after appraisal approval
Construction Plan Submission	Within 6 months of land acquisition for projects involving acquisition, or within 6 months of grant agreement date for development-only projects
TDLR Registration	As soon as possible after construction plans submission and before starting construction
TCEQ Stormwater Compliance	Before starting construction
Periodic Reimbursement Billings	Every 90 days if possible
Project Completion and Grant Close-Out	Within 3 years after Commission approval (but not after the 4th fiscal year)

Single Audit Requirement

It is the responsibility of the grantee to have a Single Audit done annually according to the Texas Single Audit Circular for state funded projects, and according to OMB Circular A-133 for federally funded projects.

A copy of this audit must be furnished to the Department when completed.

POST PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

Retention and Use

Property acquired or developed with grant assistance shall be retained and used for public recreation. Any property acquired or developed shall not be converted to other than public recreation uses without Department approval. Such approval will be given only with the

substitution of other properties of at least equal fair market value and equivalent usefulness, quality, and location. Conversion Guidelines are available by contacting the Recreation Grants office.

Operation and Maintenance

Property acquired or developed with program assistance will be operated and maintained as follows:

- The property will be maintained as attractive and inviting to the public.
- Sanitation and sanitary facilities will be maintained in accordance with applicable health standards.
- Properties will be kept reasonably safe for public use.
- Buildings, roads, trails, and other improvements will be kept in reasonable repair throughout their estimated lifetime to prevent undue deterioration and to encourage public use. It is not necessary that assisted improvements be maintained in perpetuity. Once assisted improvements have exceeded their estimated lifetime (25 years, 40 for indoor and aquatic facilities), or they are no longer economically feasible to operate or maintain, they may be demolished as long as the area remains in use for public recreation and prior Departmental approval is received.
- The facility will be kept open for public use at reasonable hours and times of the year.
- Property which includes natural area, wetland, or open space dedication should be maintained to preserve the original characteristics of the area which were suitable for these designations. This might include restrictions on development, mowing, drainage, landscaping, intensity of use, or other considerations which could affect the habitat or species within these designated areas.

Availability to Users

Non-Discrimination: Property acquired or developed with program assistance shall be open to persons regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or handicap. Discrimination based on residence, including preferential reservation or membership systems, is prohibited, except to the extent that reasonable differences may be charged based on residence.

Reasonable Use Limitations

Participants may impose reasonable limits on the type and extent of use of the areas and facilities acquired or developed with program assistance when such a limitation is necessary for maintenance or preservation.

Additional on-going commitments

All property acquired and/or developed with fund assistance must remain dedicated in perpetuity and be used only for public recreation, except for leased lands which may revert to other uses upon lease expiration.

- No overhead utility lines may be installed;
- The project area(s) must be open to the public and utilized for public recreation, free from discrimination pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- The project area(s) must be maintained so that it is safe, attractive, and inviting to the public;
- A permanent program acknowledgement sign or plaque must be installed and

- maintained at all project sites;
- Periodic post completion inspections by Department staff will generally be unannounced, and are intended to ensure that program compliance continues after the project is completed. The applicant may be asked periodically to participate in post completion self-inspection. Applicants who fail to comply with long-term program commitments may jeopardize future eligibility for funds for new projects and/or be subject to legal actions by the state and/or federal government to enforce program compliance.

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TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies and is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and state anti-discrimination laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or facility, or need more information, please contact Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.



**Project Priority Scoring System
Texas Recreation & Parks Account
Small Community Grant Program
(Effective 9-1-2019)**

Applicant Eligibility

All previously completed Recreation Grant Projects must be compliant with all program guidelines and all terms of the Project Agreement under which they received assistance. For active grants, all required project documentation must be complete and have been received on schedule.

1. Goals and Objectives

Total Range: 0-10 points

The project proposal identifies specific, well-defined goals and objectives that both clearly explain the local priorities to be addressed by the proposed project and illustrate how the proposed project, if funded, will support the department's Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan, Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan, and Local Park Grant program objectives, as applicable. Project goals are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely (SMART).

2. Project Timeline and Cost

Total Range: 0-5 points

The project proposal includes a detailed timeline and budget that are both feasible and credible in terms of land acquisition and/or construction. Information provided should be consistent with the project scope, narrative and site plan.

3. Site Design

Total Range: 0-10 points

Proposed site plan and boundary map are clear, easy-to-read and contain all information requested in the application. Proposed development prioritizes direct recreational opportunities. Acquisition-only projects include conceptual plans and schedule for future development.

- Site design takes into consideration the character and special features of the site, includes street names, acreage, and true north

arrow, identifies utilities, easements and special features, and clearly defines boundaries of existing parkland and acquisition tracts. (0-5 points)

- Project maximizes the use of funds for acquisition, recreation and conservation opportunities determined by dividing the direct acquisition, recreational, and conservation costs by the total project costs and multiplying the result by 5. (0-5 points)

4. Organizational Capacity

Total Range: 0-5 points

The applicant has the capacity to manage and implement the grant project and operate and maintain all facilities once the project has been completed.

- The applying entity has qualified staff and resources in place to manage the grant from inception to completion. If the entity lacks these resources, the applicant has effectively described partnerships in place to secure these resources.
- The applying entity has the resources in place to properly operate and maintain grant supported facilities into the future. If resources are not currently in place, the applicant has demonstrated a detailed plan to secure the needed resources.

5. Past Performance

Total Range: 0-10 points

Applicant is in full compliance with previously-funded & active TPWD Recreation Grant projects.

- Applicant is a first-time applicant. (10 points); or
- Applicant is in full compliance with the conditions of previously-funded and active recreation grants awarded by the department. (10 points); or
- Applicant is not in compliance with the conditions of previously-funded and active TPWD Recreation Grants but provides credible and feasible action plan and timeline for achieving compliance. (0-10 points).

6. Community Need

Total Range: 0-10 points

Community need for the project has been clearly demonstrated.

- Applicant has described the needs assessment process used for this project, explained the influence of community need on the site design, and provided details on the public input process including timing, methods, and results (0-5 points); and/or
- Identified other methods of needs assessment such as staff recommendations or threat of a lost opportunity. (0-5 points)

7. Geographic Distribution

Total Range: 0-5 points

The project will improve the geographic distribution of park and recreation lands and facilities in the project's service area or within the applicant's jurisdiction.

- Project provides the first public park in the applicant's jurisdiction or intended service area (5 points); or
- Project:
 - fills a critical parks and recreation gap as identified through research, public input, or other means. (0-3 points).
 - Project is safely accessible to the public via multiple methods of transportation (example: walking, biking, public transportation). (0-2 points).

8. Under-served Populations

Total Range: 0-10 points

The proposed project increases opportunity and improves access to parks and recreation facilities for under-served populations.

- Project improves opportunities for low-income citizens, defined as the percent of households making less than \$35,000 per year, based on economic and demographic data for the service area from the most recent federal census data; Determined by multiplying the percentage of population qualifying as low-income by 5. (0-5 points)
- Project improves opportunities for ethnic minority citizens, defined as the percent of a population that does not select "white alone" on the US Census, based on economic and demographic data for the service

area from the most recent census data; Determined by multiplying the percentage of population qualifying as minority by 5. (0-5 points).

9. Accessibility

Total Range: 0-5 points

The proposed project provides park and recreation opportunities for physically/mentally challenged citizens, which exceed the federal and state required accessibility standards.

10. Conservation

Total Range: 0-10 points

The proposed project actively protects or restores critical ecosystems and incorporates elements that cultivate support for and awareness of natural and cultural resources.

11. Sustainable Park Design

Total Range: 0-10 points

The applicant has successfully demonstrated the integration of sustainable design features and practices.

12. Coordination with Subject Matter Experts (SME's)

Total Range: 0-5 points

- The applicant demonstrates meaningful input to the proposed project by subject matter experts in natural and cultural resource protection, acquisition, planning, design, and construction.
- The proposed project reflects consideration and inclusion of best practices in all phases of project development.

13. Outside Partnerships

Total Range: 0-5 points

Project involves the contribution of resources from sources other than the applicant which serves as all or part of the applicant's matching share of funds. Include current and signed letters of commitment that include detailed information regarding what is being contributed, the value of the contribution, and how this value was determined.

- Points shall be awarded on a percentage basis, determined by dividing the total outside contribution value by the total match and

multiplying the result by 3. (0-3 points); **and/or**

- Project demonstrates outside support above and beyond the required match; this can include overmatch and/or documented community mobilization. (0-2 points)