



City of Murphy
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Press Release

For Immediate Release
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City of Murphy Awarded Texas Parks and Wildlife Indoor and Outdoor Park Grants

On January 28, 2010, the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission awarded the City of Murphy a \$750,000 Matching Indoor Grant and a \$500,000 Matching Outdoor Grant. This is a great achievement and allows the City of Murphy to continue forward with the development of new and improved amenities within its parks system. Murphy had two outstanding and unique projects that matched the goals and objectives of the *Texas Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* and were therefore awarded these grants.

The award of the \$750,000 Matching Indoor Grant, applied for in July 2009, will allow the City of Murphy to renovate the Old Murphy School Community Center at 205 N Murphy Road. For this annual grant cycle, TPW received eight (8) grant applications in this category requesting approximately \$5 million. TPW awarded two projects, with Murphy's project ranking first in the state. The city matching funds for the project will include the voter approved November 2008 bond funds specified for such use and dedication of the city-owned non-parkland. The Old Murphy School Community Center project will include renovations of the existing building, gymnasium, stage, lobby, meeting rooms, and office. Some additions to the building will include a new kitchen, restrooms, multipurpose recreation rooms, landscaping, and parking.

In reviewing this grant application, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) determined that the Old Murphy School building, which was constructed in 1938, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under the criterion for social history and for architecture. THC will assist the city with design options to maintain the historical integrity of the building. The city wants to maintain the historical significance of the building and make it a viable community center that is desired for all the citizens of Murphy.

On February 16, the Parks & Recreation Board will be requesting comments from the public as to the desires, requests, and ideas for maintaining the historic integrity of the Old Murphy School building and needed amenities for the community center. The city is seeking copies of historical pictures of the building and/or students/teachers that attended the school. The city will make copies of any pictures the citizens bring to City Hall.

Additionally, the award of the \$500,000 Matching Outdoor Grant, also applied for in July 2009, will allow the city to begin the Park project on the property surrounding the City Municipal Complex. For this bi-annual grant cycle, TPW received 32 Outdoor Grant Program applications requesting \$14.4 million with approximately \$3 million available to award. TPW awarded seven projects, Murphy's project ranked second in the state.

City matching funds for this project will be from donation/dedication of city-owned non-parkland, MCDC funds, trail bond funds, in-kind labor/equipment, and community donations. The project includes a large community spray ground with shade structures, a small playground, phase I of an amphitheater, two irrigated lacrosse/soccer fields, pavilion, picnic tables, a nature trail, concrete trail connections from the city complex to The Preserve on Maxwell Creek Trails,

and a pedestrian bridge and trails on the southern end of the existing trail to North Maxwell Creek Road with trail connections to Murphy Marketplace.

On February 17th, the Murphy Community Development Corporation Board will be reviewing design options for the proposed amphitheater prepared by park planners Dunkin Sims Stoffels Inc. of Dallas.

Planning and design for both projects will proceed over the next five months. Several public hearings and town hall meetings will be announced as the plans are prepared. For additional information on either of these projects, please contact Kim Lenoir at klenoir@murphytx.org.

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