

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

***City of Forest Hill awarded grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department***

[Forest Hill, TX- January 29, 2010] The City of Forest Hill was awarded \$491,000 in grant money to make improvements at Griggs Park. The announcement was made yesterday in Austin.

Forest Hill is one of seven cities given the grant dollars as part of the Outdoor Recreation Grant Funding program administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The city will match the grant award with cash, land donations, and volunteer donations of time, equipment and supplies. Improvements scheduled to be made include replacing out-dated playground equipment, building a soccer/football field with a running track and bleachers, adding basketball and volleyball courts, an arborarium, an amphitheater or stage area for cultural events, a wetland garden area, a xeriscape garden and walking trails. The parking lot will be enlarged and resurfaced; trees and greenery will be shaped and beautified. In all, almost \$1 million dollars will be invested into the park.

"This is very exciting news for the City of Forest Hill," said Mayor James Gosey. "When the renovations are complete, our residents will have a first-class park that they can enjoy for decades to come," he added. The original application to TPWD was made in January, 2009. The city was informed in October that it did not receive grant money but that it could re-submit the application with the addition of more specific information that was requested from TPWD. The application was re-sent and in mid-January, the city was notified it had scored 90 of a possible 100 points as well as the \$491,000.

"Our parks offer valuable opportunities to exercise, enjoy time with families and experience all that the City of Forest Hill has to offer," said Pearl Jones, Vice-Chair of the Parks and Clean City Committee. "This grant will assist us with improving those opportunities," she added.

***About the City of Forest Hill***

The City of Forest Hill was established in 1946. It is home to more than 13,000 residents and over 300 businesses. It is located in southeast Tarrant County. In 2010, the City was named the 5<sup>th</sup> fastest growing city in Tarrant County by the *Fort Worth Business Press*.

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