



CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

P.O. Box 384 511 Mercer Street Dripping Springs, Texas 78620 (512) 858-4725

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Dripping Springs is awarded \$1.7 Million from Hays County Park Bond Fund for Harrison Ranch Park

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Editors Note: If you have any questions regarding this press release, please call City Administrator Michelle Fischer or Deputy City Administrator Ginger Faught at 512-858-4725.

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS – At Hays County Commissioners Court today, the City of Dripping Springs was awarded a \$1.7 million dollar grant for Harrison Ranch Park from a Hays County \$30 million bond passed in 2007 for parks and recreation.

Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Chair Jim Camp announced that the City of Dripping Springs application scored the highest out of 12 projects that were in the running for the remaining \$3.35 million left in the park bond money. Other top scoring projects included Trust for Public Land's Purgatory Creek in San Marcos, Buda Bradford Park Trail and Buda's Skate Park.

Hays County Precinct 4 Commissioner Karen Ford said she was so proud to have been a part in realizing County grant funds for the development of Harrison Ranch Park . "It was definitely my privilege to champion Harrison Ranch Park for County Bond Funds. The Dripping Springs' leadership and the Harrison Ranch Park Commission did a terrific job of planning a park place that will connect children and families with our rural heritage and nature for years to come. Our community is getting an A+ park facility."

Harrison Ranch Park is a City-owned park that spans 68 acres and faces Ranch Road 12, across from Dripping Springs Elementary School. The property is heavily wooded with a rolling landscape and natural open space. Little Barton Creek runs through the property, supporting an abundance of native plants and wildlife. More than six acres have been set-aside as a wildlife conservation and preservation area.

Planned park developments include a multi-use, open air pavilion, a playground, primitive tent campsites, a crushed granite pedestrian trail for walkers, hikers and runners, a path which will support bicycles and wheelchairs, open play area, equestrian trails, an 18-hole course for Frisbee disk golf, two regulation horseshoe and washer courts and designated picnic areas.

City of Dripping Springs Mayor Todd Purcell said with the help of the Hays County Grant, the Harrison Ranch Park project will truly become a “shovel-ready” project. Purcell said he was grateful to the County’s partnership in the project because it is important to economic development in northwest Hays County. “Once the park is completed, jobs and revenue will be generated. It’s an investment that will produce many benefits for our region.”

Dripping Springs City Council Member Joe Volpe said the completion of the Harrison Ranch Park project will help establish the community as a destination. “We don’t want to be a bedroom community or a suburb. We want to be a stand-alone community with our own identity,” Volpe said. “This park will make our community stronger,” he added.

While under development, the park has been utilized by City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Summer Programs, the tremendously popular Wild West Festival, Future Farmers of America and Ag-Boosters events, dog shows, reunions, weddings, summer youth camps, adult wine tastings, barrel racing, as well as other riding and equestrian competitions and community-wide events.

June Baumel, Chair of the Harrison Ranch Park Commission, said the project will satisfy many elements of both the City’s and County’s Master Plans for parks and recreation. The priorities listed in the Plans include natural open space, trails, a multi-use pavilion, and an equestrian facility; all of which have been intricately planned into the Harrison Ranch Park project. “This park has been deeply wanted by our citizens and will serve all of Hays County well,” Baumel said.

Once completed, specific activities slated for the park include a large and diverse number of events in the multi-purpose covered pavilion and arena, including music concerts, trade shows, antique markets, banquets, horse competitions, rodeos, live stock and breeder shows and events of regional interest. Harrison will also offer passive recreation opportunities for young and old alike. From walkers, to campers, to horse riders, to spectators and event-goers of all kinds, Harrison Ranch Park will be utilized by a large majority of the citizens in the area.

Most importantly, Mayor Purcell said it is his hope that the multi-purpose park will provide the citizens of Dripping Springs and Hays County a place to enjoy outdoor activities with Texas history and values.