



PRESS RELEASE

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CITY SEEKS INPUT ON PARKS MASTER PLAN

Online Survey Available for Public Responses; Paper Versions Also Available

TAYLOR, TEXAS – The City of Taylor Parks and Recreation Department is seeking public input on the future of Taylor’s parks and open spaces. All Taylor residents are invited to provide their opinion of the City’s Parks Master Plan by filling out an online survey that shows the plans being considered for three of Taylor’s major parks: Bull Branch Park & Trail, Murphy Park, and Fannie Robinson Park. Residents can find the survey online at bit.ly/2020TaylorParks. The survey is available in Spanish and English, and paper versions will be available at City Hall, 400 Porter St.; at the Parks & Recreation Department, 1424 N. Main; and also at the Farmers Market held on Saturdays at Heritage Square. There will be signs posted at various parks and trails with an illustration of the master plan, as well as a QR code that will take viewers directly to the survey. The final day to submit comments will be Sunday, September 13, 2020.

The City of Taylor last completed a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan in July, 2016. The plan was meant to be updated regularly, and in the Fall of 2019 the City commissioned Halff Associates, Landscape Architects and Planners to update the plan, concentrating on improvements to Bull Branch Park & Trail, Murphy Park, and Fannie Robinson Park. Open house community meetings were held on January 15 and 16 to gather input and feedback from the community on issues, future needs and ideas for the three parks. Halff Associates then created a preliminary Master Plan for each park based on the input they received and presented that plan to the Parks Board and City Council in May and June, respectively.

In a year when the community and the world are not experiencing a global pandemic, the next step would be to present the preliminary plans to the public in another open house community meeting. But the pandemic has made it difficult to host public gatherings, so Halff Associates were tasked with finding a creative way to solicit public input virtually. Both the virtual presentation and the paper version summarize stakeholder and public input received for each park plan, recommend improvements based on that public input, present preliminary master

plans for each park, and a survey for additional stakeholder and public input. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be discussing the plan at their monthly meeting on August 26.

Parks Director Larry Foos said that he is looking forward to seeing what residents have to say about the Parks Master Plan. “We had several public meetings about this plan and we got some really good input from folks that resulted in the plans being considered today. I’m looking forward to hearing from those residents who might not have been able to attend those meetings. I’m glad that Halff Associates was able to come up with a way to get public input in a way that doesn’t require a public gathering and allows people to provide their opinion at a distance.”

For information about the Parks Master Plan, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 512-365-7669. Information is also available on the City’s website, www.taylor.tx.gov.