



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Stacey Ford Osborne  
City of Taylor Communications Office  
stacey.osborne@taylortx.gov  
512-365-9310 (cell)

### **PERCUSSION PLAYGROUND TO BE CREATED WITH GRANT FROM TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE Construction Costs for Playground at Murphy Park to Be Supplemented by Good Life Taylor**

**TAYLOR, TEXAS** – Thanks to a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Park Grant Program, the City of Taylor is one step closer to the construction of an innovative playground that will serve as a creative space for Taylor residents of all ages. The City of Taylor was recently awarded a \$107,351 grant from the Local Park Grant Program that will partially fund the construction of a Percussion Park Creative Playground in Murphy Park. The City submitted a grant proposal in November 2019 that was approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on August 27, 2020.

The concept for the playground was originally brought to the City by Good Life Taylor, an organization founded in 2012 to promote healthy families and outdoor activities. The idea was to create a vibrant, creative, musical space within the City of Taylor parks system where people of all ages can gather, create music, and enjoy the outdoors. Good Life Taylor offered to pay for the development of a concept plan for the playground and to fund construction costs not covered by other sources, and they have been hard at work raising funds for the past several years. In a City Council meeting on June 13, 2019, Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Taylor and Good Life Taylor for the establishment of a Percussion Playground in Murphy Park.

The playground, which will be created in the shape of a musical treble clef, will be located in Murphy Park between the lake and the swimming pool in an area that is currently a sand volleyball court. The concept proposal includes an ensemble of functioning musical playground pieces, at least one of which will be a solo instrument. The playground will also include native

landscaping, a shade structure, and site furnishings. The total cost of construction is estimated to be \$225,000.

Julie Rydell, Executive Director of Good Life Taylor, said that Good Life Taylor is committed to raising the remainder of the funds for construction, and she is excited that the Parks and Wildlife Grant will bring the project one step closer to fruition. "This playground will be for all ages and all abilities, which is an important focus for Good Life Taylor. It will also provide needed exposure to the creative arts for the City's young people, many of whom are not introduced to music in school until middle or high school. We saw in the City's Parks Master Plan that there was a need for more spaces in Taylor parks that can reach multiple generations and also engage more people in creative activities, and we're excited to be a part of a project that can help meet that need."

Larry Foos, Director of the City's Parks and Recreation Department, said that the park will enhance the City of Taylor's park system. "The City of Taylor is committed to enhancing our park system for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. We are grateful to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission for its continuing support of the City of Taylor, and we are especially grateful to Good Life Taylor bringing this project to us and raising the remaining funds for the project. I know that the Percussion Playground will be a great addition to Murphy Park and the entire parks system and will be enjoyed by Taylor residents for many years to come."

For additional information about the Percussion Playground, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 512-352-5818. You can learn more about Good Life Taylor and view conceptual drawings and a video about the Percussion Playground project at [goodlifetaylor.com](http://goodlifetaylor.com). Visit [www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov) to sign up to receive news and information about city happenings via Notify Me.

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