

SECTION 6: PROJECT NARRATIVE

Josephine City Park Capital Improvement Project

Phase I

The Josephine Community Development Corporation (JCDC) is a non-profit corporation governed by Chapter 505 of the Texas Local Government Code. It was organized specifically for public purposes as set out in Chapter 505. The JCDC is a unit of the City of Josephine's local government. See Attached certificate of filing, effective 1-21-2014.

The Josephine City Park Improvement Project will replace existing outdated and non-conforming playground equipment, correct park drainage problems, reposition some existing park equipment, flagpole and benches to align with the park redesign and install new age-appropriate playground equipment.

The Josephine Community Development Corporation is requesting \$56,000 from the Collin County Park and Open Space Funding Assistance Program. Matching funds have been committed from the JCDC of \$15,000, \$20,000 from the City of Josephine, and in-kind contributions of \$21,000. Total project cost \$112,000.

City of Josephine Park was dedicated in 1986. It has 3.54 acres of land and frontage along FM 547 and is just one block North of State Highway 6. See attached Google map showing Josephine's location in Collin County.

The park currently has a gazebo, three benches, flagpole, swing set, slide, merry-go-round, domed style jungle-gym, monkey bars, small wooden playground set and baseball backstop. The swing set and slide are non-conforming metal pieces that will be removed. The gazebo and wooden playground set will be refurbished with new paint and stain. The park's flagpole, three benches, domed jungle-gym, and monkey bars will be repositioned in the site preparation and to fit into the new design. The JCDC is planning to acquire additional adjacent park land, a pavilion, walking trails and refurbishing the existing baseball backstop will be addressed in Phase II of the Park's Capital Improvement Plans.

The park's topography has severe drainage issues which create flooding and standing water. Engineering, labor and equipment will be necessary to correct the drainage problem before installation of the new playground equipment. It is estimated to require fifteen truckloads or approximately three hundred yards of fill dirt, which is being donated and used as an in-kind match.

We are working with Child's Play, Inc. to purchase Burke equipment for \$74,000 in new age-appropriate playground equipment. (See attached renderings.) The contract for the equipment will be submitted to The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative which the JCDC has an Interlocal Participation Agreement which will facilitate compliance with state procurement requirements.

The City of Josephine is experiencing rapid population growth as most cities in Collin County. Growth from 2010 through 2014 was the fourth fastest growing city in North Texas with an increase of 37.6%, according to a Dallas Morning News article on May 25, 2015. See Attached graph.

A major developer has acquired more than thirteen hundred acres near Josephine and has requested the City to extend its ETJ area to include this new development. The City has agreed extend its ETJ to include this new development. The city is in the process of adopting new subdivision regulations which will require developers to dedicate 5% of land to be developed to parks and open spaces. This new regulation aligns with acquiring additional park land and preserving open spaces as set out in the Collin County Strategic Plan for Parks and Open Spaces.

This Josephine City Park Capital Improvement Project has broad support from the Josephine City Council, Josephine Volunteer Fire Department, the Fountain View Homeowners Association, and city residents. The Volunteer Fire Department, Josephine residents and contractors are committing to donate fill dirt, a portion of the grading costs, and labor to assist in installing the new playground equipment, all as an in-kind labor match.

The Project will begin November, 2015 with fill dirt and grading, removal of non-conforming and outdated equipment in preparation for the new footprint and base for the new playground. Completion is planned for April, 2016. The JCDC Board of Directors will supervise the project, with Joe Holt, President directly overseeing the scope of the work and make reports of the project's progress.

When completed, the project will greatly improve the accessibility to safe recreational facilities for play, sporting and leisure activities for residents and children of the City of Josephine and Collin County residents to enjoy. The new equipment and park improvements will meet all ADA Standards and requirements.

The Josephine City Park Capital Improvements Project addresses recreational needs of Collin County and our community, to ensure as our city develops, open spaces and recreational areas will be preserved, sustained, improved and expanded in accordance with the Collin County Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Plan.

North Texas growth

Much of the growth in North Texas continues to be in northern suburbs, where rates outpace those of the region's urban cores. Here's a look at growth in Dallas and Fort Worth between 2010 and 2014 compared with some of their suburbs.

