



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Parks and Recreation Department Wins Statewide Programming Award**

The City of Elgin announced today that its Parks & Recreation Department was named the recipient of the *2019 Lone Star Recreation Programming Achievement Award* by the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) for its “S’mores in the Park” event.

TRAPS is a statewide professional development organization that supports and encourages all aspects of park and recreation programming and development. The 2019 TRAPS awards committee determined that while there were many deserving nominations from across the state, Elgin’s “S’mores in the Park” event “stood out above the rest to exemplify commitment and dedication in the field of recreation;” and that this award was recognition of the department’s “commitment to excellence in all that you do in your daily pursuits.”

“While I am very proud and excited for our parks staff about this statewide recognition, I am not really surprised,” said City Manager Tom Mattis. “This award provides further evidence of the standard of excellence already established within our community by the parks & recreation department.”

Last week, three members of the Elgin Parks and Recreation Department made the trek to the TRAPS statewide convention in El Paso. During this event professionals from around Texas came together to participate in inspiring hands on exercises, thoughtful discussions and continuing education courses in topics ranging from aquatics and land maintenance to programming and management.

A unique facet of the Parks and Recreation field is the willingness and openness of those in this career path to share their ideas and experiences. As a team, the Elgin Parks and Recreation

representatives were offered the opportunity to engage others in the field to gain perspective and learn from them to continue our efforts to provide the best park services possible to our community.

“We are obviously focused on serving the unique recreational needs and programming that serves the citizens of Elgin,” said Parks & Recreation Director Michael Gonzalez. “At the same time, it is very rewarding for our staff to receive this statewide recognition by our professional colleagues.”

The conference is not only for education but to acknowledge the hard work and perseverance of Parks and Recreation departments from around the state. During the banquet on the final day, departments around the state were recognized and were presented awards for excellence in maintenance, volunteerism, programming, park design and more. Parks Director Michael Gonzalez, Program Manager Elizabeth Marzec, and Admin Assistant Kayla Trantham accepted the award on behalf of the Elgin Parks & Recreation Department.

The Elgin Parks Department is committed to providing program excellence and offers many opportunities to connect the Elgin community with recreational activities and each other. For those who missed our “S’mores in the Park” event last year, you can find our other stellar programming available online and, in our program, guide available at the Elgin Recreation Center and select sites downtown.

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### **About Elgin**

The City of Elgin is a historic, full-service city that is currently home to approximately 10,000 residents located in northern Bastrop County. Elgin has been designated by the Texas Legislature as “The Sausage Capital of Texas” and is an important stop on the US Hwy290 corridor between Austin and Houston. For more information about Elgin, please visit [www.ci.elgin.tx.us](http://www.ci.elgin.tx.us).