

Contingent upon receiving the grant, the phases of our proposed project would be as follows:

- Phase 1: January – February
  - Engineering and planning with the City of Elgin
- Phase 2: February – April
  - Remove current aging playscape and pea gravel
  - Add new pour in place rubberized flooring
  - Sidewalks and accessibility features provided by the City of Elgin
  - Short series of fitness classes on new rubberized program space
- Phase 3: May - July
  - New bathrooms and water fountains provided by the City of Elgin
  - Parking lot improvements provided by the City of Elgin
  - End of July ribbon cutting for new bathrooms and water fountains
- Phase 4: July - September
  - 1/4 Mile jogging track connecting the Elgin Recreation Center to the picnic areas, playscape, sport courts, bathrooms and grilling areas
  - New signs along path and at fitness equipment in English and Spanish
  - Body weight fitness rig installed
  - Shade sail installed over equipment
  - End of September “Play Day” in the park to encourage awareness of new equipment
- Phase 5: October – November
  - Fitness programs offered at new rubberized pad and fitness equipment to teach the community how to utilize the new features
- Phase 6: November
  - Fruit and shade trees planted at Texas Arbor Day Festival

Park improvements such as these are sure to attract visitors from a diverse population; senior citizens to families with young children, commuters to fitness buffs and more. One of the most vocal groups pushing for additional fitness equipment and walking trail are our Senior “Wildcat” Walkers. They are an established group of 36 seniors who meet at the Elgin Recreational Center to walk laps in the gymnasium Monday – Friday for an hour every morning. Many have expressed a desire to walk outside where they could interact with other people and surround themselves with more visual interest, however due to the uneven ground, they do not feel safe or comfortable doing so. Traditionally “park use is very low for older residents” with “two-thirds of those age 65 and over in Bastrop... seldom or never us[ing] the parks”<sup>6</sup>, but with a new track creating a level surface, the barrier hindering our active seniors will be removed, allowing them to exercise in our parks.

Our senior population is not the only one looking for a better way to walk through Elgin Memorial. Since Elgin does not have a dog park, many dog walkers choose Elgin Memorial as it is our largest park and has established trees throughout that provide shade. Increasing the biodiversity of our park will not only make the park more beautiful and pleasant to walk through, but will encourage wildlife to return to our parks making it a more invigorating experience for

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<sup>6</sup> “The Findings and Recommendations of the Healthy Parks Plan for Travis, Bastrop and Caldwell Counties.” Page 20. *The Findings and Recommendations of the Healthy Parks Plan for Travis, Bastrop and Caldwell Counties*, 2019, [web.tplgis.org/tbchealthyparksecure/pdfs/Healthy\\_Parks\\_Plan\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://web.tplgis.org/tbchealthyparksecure/pdfs/Healthy_Parks_Plan_Final_Report.pdf).