

## **TPWD awards cities \$9 million in local park grants**

The Dallas, Austin, El Paso and San Antonio areas were the big winners in funding as those areas reaped a combined total of \$3.8 million from the \$9 million in local park grants awarded by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The funding comes from the Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants program. San Antonio also was awarded a \$1 million grant from the department's Indoor Recreation Grants program. The indoor and outdoor classifications of grants are awarded to communities with populations of 500,000 or more and provide matching grants of up to \$1 million. The Urban Outdoor grants are for acquisition and development of parkland while the Urban Indoor grants are for building public recreation centers, community centers and nature centers.

Additionally, eight other communities in Texas were awarded a combined total of \$3.6 million in grants from the Outdoor Recreation Grants program for communities of less than 500,000 population. Eleven more were awarded a combined total of \$750,000 from the Small Community Grants program, which provides matching grants of up to \$500,000 for communities of 20,000 or fewer. The grants can be used for construction and repair of trails, ball fields, fishing, boating or hunting facilities, picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming pools, camp grounds, gardens and other recreational facilities. Eight other communities across the state were awarded a combined \$3.6 million in grants from TPWD's Outdoor Recreation Grants program, which funds acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites for communities with populations less than 500,000.

Among the awards were \$500,000 to the City of Brownwood to develop a sports complex including ball fields, a swimming pool, picnic tables and benches and more, \$500,000 to the City of Wimberley to help develop the 120-acre Blue Hole Regional Park and Preserve and \$500,000 to the City of Austin to further develop the 47.3-acre Gus Garcia park to include sports fields, picnic tables, a community garden and more.