

### **Hays County Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission Makes Recommendations to Court**

The Hays County Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) made its recommendations to the Hays County Commissioners Court on July 28 for a potential bond package in the range of \$75 to \$80 Million to fund new parks, trails, open spaces, natural areas, habitat, water quality and flood mitigation lands in Hays County.

Over the past five months, POSAC received 18 projects proposals from across the County that were reviewed and evaluated through the lens of the 2012 Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan.

The total of the requests for funds was greater than \$176 Million and included projects brought to POSAC by Hays County staff, as well as municipalities, nonprofit groups, and land trusts working with landowners. Each entity submitted their projects through the same online process by completing the Project Information Form.

Sixteen projects were put into Tier One and Tier Two categories with recommendations by POSAC for some level of partnership and funding from the County. The last Hays County bond for parks and open space was passed in 2007 for \$30 Million with voter approval at 68 percent. Those funds were leveraged for more than \$76 Million in projects across the County.

In the past 60 days, a private group of conservation leaders funded a professional poll to test the level of support among Hays County voters for a bond package that would set aside parklands and open space for public use and benefit. The result showed 71 to 77 percent approval for a \$75 Million bond that would not affect the County tax rate and included the Sentinel Peak Park and Preserve.

The Commissioners Court will consider the POSAC recommendations at their next meeting on August 11 in order to meet the August 17 deadline to call for a bond initiative on the November 3 ballot.

POSAC is hosting two public, one-hour meetings via Zoom Webinar technology and invites all Hays County citizens to attend and learn more about POSAC's process and recommendations. Below are dates and registration information for the free, public Webinars. Advance registration is required.

Tuesday, Aug 4, 5:30 to 6:30pm

To Register: [http://tiny.cc/POSAC\\_Aug-4](http://tiny.cc/POSAC_Aug-4)

Thursday, Aug 6, 6 to 7 pm

To register: [http://tiny.cc/POSAC\\_Aug-6](http://tiny.cc/POSAC_Aug-6)

Additionally, information on POSAC and the public meetings can be found on the County webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/HaysCountyPOSAC>

###

Media Contact: Karen Ford, 512-922-8234 mobile; [kford@WaterPR.com](mailto:kford@WaterPR.com))