



DRAFT: February 10, 2023
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St Davids Foundation Funds \$300,000 towards Elgin Veterans Memorial Park Expansion

ELGIN, Texas – The City of Elgin is proud to announce the award of a \$300,000 grant from the St. David’s Foundation for the Veterans Memorial Park Expansion Project. The funding supports the implementation of Block A in 2023 including a train themed Kompan play structure, swings, balance elements, carousel, zip line, water play feature, accessible bonded rubber mulch surfacing, stage, outdoor classroom, free WiFi, trees, lighting, and seating.

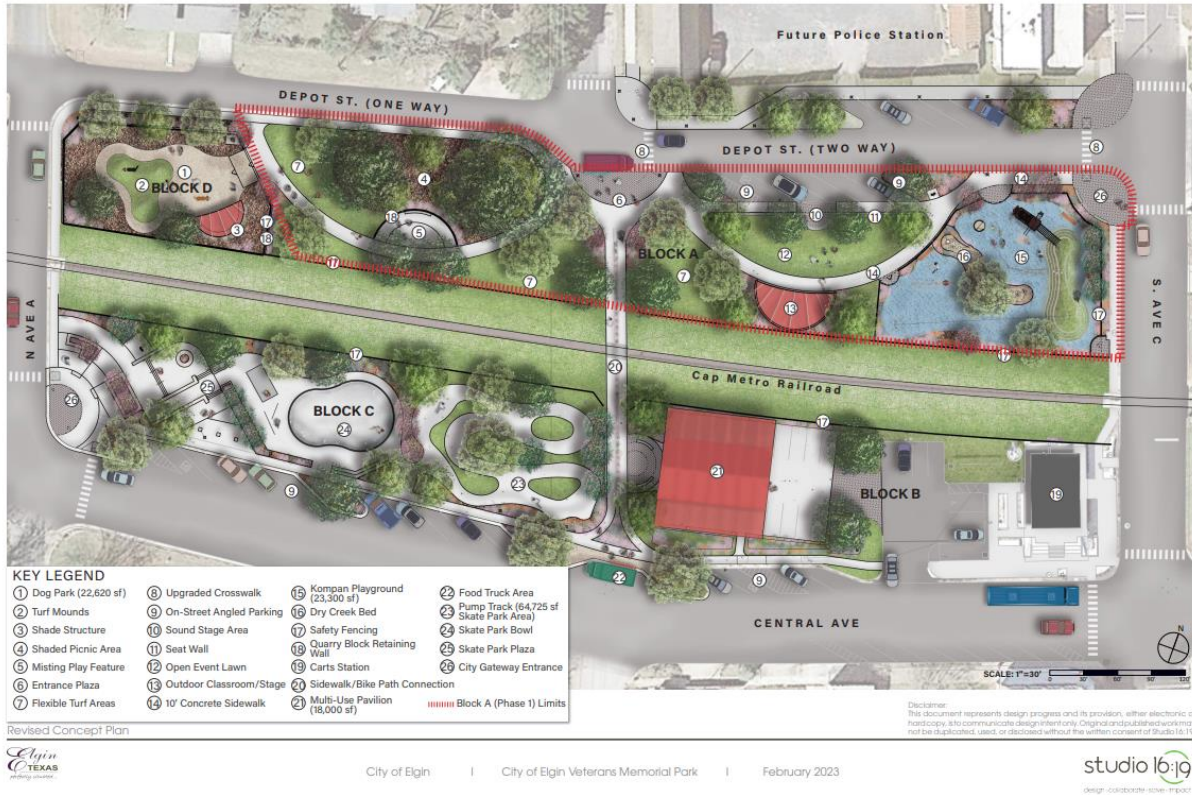
“St. David’s Foundation’s mission is to advance health equity through investment and action. Health equity is defined as when individuals and communities have fair and just access to resources and opportunities to reach optimal health. St. David’s Foundation is excited for this investment to increase park equity in Central Texas to promote social connection, exercise, and play. It is good to see municipalities take leadership in their residents’ health and wellness through supporting parks and other amenities that improve the quality of life for the community.” – Abena Asante

The Veterans Memorial Park Expansion Project consists of four blocks in the heart of Elgin’s Historic District, converting undeveloped city owned vacant lots into modern, accessible, vibrant parkland. The The Ladies New Century Club established Veterans Memorial Park in 1913. As a part of the 2013 - 2015 Sustainable Places Plan, the City of Elgin purchased additional lots along the Union Pacific Railroad line between Avenue C and Avenue A, making the existing Veterans Park a full 5 acres. Block A is a \$1.3 Million project with funding from City of Elgin, Certificates of Obligation 2021A, American Rescue Plan Act Funds, T-Mobile, Downtown Elgin Inc. and private donations.

“We greatly appreciate the support of the St David’s Foundation and their partnership in advancing health and wellness initiatives in our community. This funding is critically important to starting the park expansion and opening Block A in 2023, said Mayor McShan. The City of Elgin’s relationship with St. David’s Foundation began in 2019 with the receipt of St. David’s “Parks with a Purpose” grant for \$200,000 to replace the aging play equipment in Elgin Memorial Park and install new sidewalks. St. David’s Foundation is currently supporting the Elgin Public Library with a “Libraries for Mental Health” grant for \$96,000 over three years.

St. David’s Foundation is committed to health and wellness, reinvesting \$80 Million in Central Texas, \$7 Million in Bastrop County and over \$600,000 to promote fair and equitable access to health and wellness in the City of Elgin. “St. David’s Foundation is really excited about this

partnership with the City of Elgin to work collaboratively to promote health and wellbeing” said Abena Asante at the February 7th City Council meeting.



Map of Veterans Memorial Park Expansion Project – Studio 16:19, February 2023



From left to right: Chuck Swain – City Council, Joy Casnovsky – City Council, Arthur Gibson – City Council, Kristina Alvarez – Main Street Manager, Elizabeth Marzec – Recreation Manager, Abena Asante – St. David’s Foundation, Theresa McShan - Mayor, Tom Mattis – City Manager, Amy Miller – Community Services Director, Forest Dennis – City Council, Sue Brashar – City Council, Al Rodriguez, Mathew Callahan – City Council

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 and eastern Travis Counties. Elgin has been designated by the Texas Legislature as “The Sausage Capital of Texas”, is an important stop on the US Hwy 290 corridor between Austin and Houston, and is known as the Brick Capitol of the Southwest. The beautifully restored downtown business district is home to over 100 locally owned businesses and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information visit www.elgintexas.gov Facebook: @CityofElginTexas - Instagram: @visitelgintx

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