

OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS PROGRAM

This guide is designed to assist you through the application process. All Outdoor Recreation FUN Park Grants are administered by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism.

If you have questions, please feel free to call or write us at:

Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism Outdoor Recreation Grants Program 1 Capitol Mall, Suite 4B.215 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone Number: (501) 682-1301 Web Site: www.outdoorgrants.com

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# Introduction

This application guide provides an overview of the FUN Park Grant, eligibility requirements, and documents necessary to complete your grant application. Also included are explanations of required forms, procedures, and processes related to your application, and the selection process for awarding grant funds to successful applicants. Please call our office and we'll try to answer any questions that you may have. Good luck!

## What Is the FUN Park Grant?

The FUN Park Grant (Facilities for Underdeveloped Neighborhoods) is a no-match grant that is administered through the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism (ADPHT). This grant is intended to help small communities in Arkansas develop public outdoor recreation facilities within their local parks. Funding for this grant is provided through a portion of the state Real Estate Transfer Tax.

### How Much Funding Is Available?

Applicants may request up to \$100,000 in grant funding based on cost estimates and/or quotes for facilities included in the application.

### Who Is Eligible to Receive a FUN Park Grant?

Municipalities with populations of 7,500 or less, or unincorporated communities sponsored by their county, are eligible for FUN Park Grant funding. Eligibility is based on the population that is listed on the Arkansas Municipal League website (https://local.arkansas.gov/index.php) when application is received.

### How Do I Get a Grant?

Applicants must submit all Required Materials before the application deadline and have a sufficient score on the FUN Park Scoring System, to be considered for a grant award. The highest scoring applications will be presented to the Governor Appointed Outdoor Recreation Grants Advisory Committee (Committee) for funding consideration. The Committee's funding recommendations will be submitted to the ADPHT Cabinet Secretary for review. A detailed explanation of the application process is outlined in the following section.

## How Often Can I Apply for Funding?

Applicants are eligible to apply for a FUN Park Grant only if they have not received a FUN Park grant within the past five years. If an applicant is unsure when they were last awarded a grant, please contact the Outdoor Recreation Grants Program (see page 21).

## How Does the FUN Park Grant Work?

The Outdoor Recreation Grants Program (Program) staff may assist you in selecting a park site and make recommendations for barrier-free access, facility layout and location, and other matters relating to park development. FUN Park Grant funds may not be used as a match for any other grant program administered by ADPHT or any other state agencies.

FUN Park Grant applicants who receive a grant award are referred to as grantees in this guide. Grantees are responsible for adhering to procurement laws for their jurisdiction including local ordinances. Grant funding cannot be increased after it has been awarded. Grantees may use grant monies only for facilities and improvements identified in their application. Grantees may use their own funds to cover costs that exceed the grant award, but grant funding is final and cannot be increased once awarded.

Before any grant funds are released and before any grant-funded construction may begin, the mayor or county judge will be required to sign a Contract Agreement with our agency. Prior to receiving a fully-executed Contract Agreement, the applicant may, at their own expense, complete any site preparations for which grant funds will not be involved. The Contract Agreement will be based on funding recommendations from the Committee and approval by Program staff.

Projects should be completed within one year of contract date. Failure to complete a project within this time frame may affect Grantee's eligibility to be awarded future grants from the Program. Upon completion, the grantee will send their Project Officer proof of all expenditures and the Project Officer will verify that the project was completed as outlined in the Contract Agreement.

# **Application Process**

## Step 1: Access the Website

The FUN Park Grant application can be found online at www.outdoorgrants.com. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact our office at (501) 682-1301 and we will mail you hard copies of the application materials.

### Step 2: Set Up Account on Foundant Portal

When applying for the FUN Park Grant online, you will be directed to the Foundant portal to create a new account or log in using your existing account.

	<b>RKANSAS</b> Ieritage		ARKANSAS GUTDOOR RECREATION	Arianas Antural & Cultural Resources Council
Logon Email Address* Password* Create New Account Forgot your Password?		Tourism's Office of O Program's grant appl New Users: Please cl registration process *If you are a consult please use your orga behalf of one town, p Please view the vide screenshots) tutorial Existing Users: Pleas	lication page! lick on "Create New A and create your logon ant creating applicatio inization's information please use that town of o (6 minutes long) and I using this link. see enter your credentiti se use the "Forgot you sword. ontact our office at	utdoor Recreation Grants ccount" to complete the credentials. In for multiple towns, If you are applying on or county's information.*

#### New Users

Please click on the **"Create New Account"** button to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

#### <u>Consultants</u>

**One Town:** If you are applying on behalf of one town, please use that town or county's information.

**Multiple Towns:** If you are creating applications for multiple towns, please use your organization's information.

Also, there is a video tutorial about the Foundant application process by clicking on the link available on the login page of the portal.

## **Step 3: Submit Your Application**

For this first year of online applications, you can either submit your application online or a hard copy of the application materials may be mailed to the Outdoor Recreation Grants office, 1 Capitol Mall, Suite 4B.215 Little Rock, AR 72201 and must be postmarked by August 30th. Please retain a copy of your application for your reference. Future grant cycles will be online only.

## Step 4: Application Review and Scoring

Application review and scoring begins immediately after the application deadline. Project Officers will review applications for deficiencies and score applications with the FUN Park Scoring System which can be found on page 19 of this guide. Once scoring is complete, applications will be ranked from highest to lowest scores.

## Step 5: Grant Hearings

Once applications are scored, applicants will be notified via the Foundant portal indicating their score and whether their application has been selected for review by the Committee in October.

Selected applications will be presented to the Committee by the applicant's Project Officer. Applicants whose grant applications are not selected are encouraged to reapply in the following grant cycle.

Applications will be selected for review using the FUN Park Scoring System found in Appendix G.

NOTE: The amount of funding available is based upon the State's yearly tax receipts. Final funding amount will be determined in September.

### The Application Process



### Step 6: Committee Review & Recommendations

The Committee will review applications based on the information submitted and will make funding recommendations to the Cabinet Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism for their approval. The Committee makes decisions based on many factors, with priority given to applicants who appear to have the greatest need for assistance, can demonstrate their ability to complete the project in a timely fashion, and have sufficient resources for the long-term operation and maintenance of the facility. Project Officers may not, and do not, advocate for individual projects. Staff do not have the authority to release the Committee's recommendations to the public prior to review by the Cabinet Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism.

### Step 7: Grant Award Announcements

Applicants will receive the results of the hearing through the Foundant portal as soon as recommendations are approved and certified.

## Important Dates to Remember

May 1, 2024	Grant applications available on the website.
August 30, 2024	APPLICATION DEADLINE
October 23-25, 2024	Grant Hearings

# **Application Checklist**

## **Required for Application**

#### Estimated Project Cost

Applications must include a cost estimate which should be based on quotes from an equipment vendor(s) and/or contractor(s). Facilities and project elements listed on the Estimated Project Cost form will be the basis of the Contract Agreement.

Applicants may use the following means to determine facility costs:

- A landscape architect, engineer, or architect may develop a cost estimate for the project
- Quotes or estimates for materials from local building supply vendors
- Quotes or estimates from local contractors
- Quotes or estimates from park equipment vendors

When the project is complete, the grantee may use residual grant funds to construct barrier-free access to existing facilities at the project site. Other expenditures of residual grant funds must have prior approval of department staff.

### City Council Resolution or Quorum Court Order

All applications must be accompanied by a City Council Resolution or Quorum Court Order from the current application year authorizing the project application. Please include the wording shown in the example on page 15.

Proof of Land Control

A copy of the deed, lease, or a letter of intent to lease or sell property for the project site must be included with the application. An example of a letter of intent may be found on page 17.

## **Required for Additional Points**

FUN Park Scoring System

Please review the FUN Park Scoring System on page 20 to see how applications will be scored.

## Appendix A: Public Meeting Standards

## What is a Public Meeting?

"Public Meeting" refers to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the project sponsor's governing body (City Council or Quorum Court). For the purposes of this application, the meeting must be held during the same calendar year (i.e., after January 1st) that the application is due.

## Discussing the Project in the Public Meeting

In order to receive points for holding a public meeting the proposed project (or proposal to submit a grant application) must be listed as a separate agenda item for that month's meeting. Additionally, the meeting must be advertised as open to the public. Applicants may use the advertising method normally used to publicize the monthly meeting.

## **Documenting the Public Meeting**

Applications must include the following:

- 1. Copy of the meeting agenda
- 2. Proof of meeting advertisement that includes
  - i. Method of advertisement
  - ii. Date of publication

Method of advertisement may be documented by providing a copy of the advertisement itself, e.g., printing a screenshot of the advertisement from the sponsor's official web page or social media account. If date of publication (such as a time stamp) is not clearly visible, **indicate the date** in some other way, such as writing it by hand on the document.

In the case of advertisement not readily reproduced (e.g., posted notices), the sponsor's Chief Executive (Mayor / City Manager / County Judge) may produce a **signed** document (see page 19) articulating and affirming 2(i) and 2(ii) above. Applications utilizing signed Chief Executive statements as proof of advertising **must still include a copy of the meeting agenda**.

# Appendix B: Volunteer Activity Standards

## What is a Volunteer Activity?

Volunteer activities can take on many forms, and just about any organized volunteer workday in the park will be accepted, such as trash pick-up, painting, equipment repair, tree-planting, etc.

## Does it have to be in the park for which the application is submitted?

Yes.

## What if we are applying for our first park?

No problem! If you don't have a park, you could have the activity on the site you are proposing. Even empty sites could use a spruce-up now and again. If holding an activity in the proposed site isn't feasible, another volunteer activity that takes place outdoors within the community will be accepted.

## Is there a minimum number of participants?

The more the merrier, of course, but as long as there is more than one person, the activity will be acceptable. No distinction will be made on the scoresheet between larger and smaller groups.

## Documenting the Volunteer Activity

To receive points for the volunteer activity, applications must include the following:

Proof of meeting advertisement that includes

- 1. Location of the activity
- 2. Date of the activity
- 3. **Type of activity**
- 4. Number of participants (approximately)
- 5. Signature of sponsor or Chief Executive
- 6. Sign-in Sheet

All requirements for activity documentation may be met by using the template found on page 18.

### Land Control Scores?

Different degrees of land control demonstrated by the grant sponsor receive different point totals in the Priority Rating System. While they are scored differently (including some that receive zero points), all of these forms of land control are eligible for grant consideration.

## Tier 1 (4 points): Ownership OR Lease from Federal or State Agency

- "Ownership" means the sponsor demonstrates control of the project site amounting to sole ownership. A Warranty Deed is ideal, but other documentation, such as tax and parcel records, may be submitted as proof of ownership. (Proof of ownership other than warranty deed is subject to review.)
- A lease from a State or Federal agency for Agency-owned property is scored the same as outright ownership. Leases set to expire before the 25 year FUN Park grant obligation must have an option for renewal.

## Tier 2 (2 points): Lease from non-profit entity organized as sponsored community

Applies to unincorporated communities sponsored by the County, wherein the community is organized as a non-profit *operating as the unincorporated community*. A common example is found in towns that are no longer incorporated, but where buildings such as school houses or gyms remain from the time when the community was a functioning municipality, and the community has organized as a non-profit group in order to own and operate the site(s) or building(s) in question, with the non-profit bearing or incorporating the name of the community.

## Tier 3 (0 points): Lease from private individual or organization, or any semipublic organization (profit or non-profit) that is not organized as the sponsored community.

Project sites leased from individuals or groups--even non-profits, service organizations, and other admirable enterprises, e.g., a local youth organization--not explicitly organized as the sponsored community **will be eligible** for grant consideration but **will not receive points**.

## Appendix D: Grant Rules and Guidelines

#### Proof of Land Control

The Applicant must own, lease, or have a written option to buy or lease property for proposed park development. The project site must be of sufficient size, suitable for park development, and convenient for local residents.

If the applicant does not presently own or lease the proposed site for development, they must submit a letter from the owner of the site expressing their willingness to sell or lease the property for a term of at least 25 years from the date of the application (See example letter on page 16). Applicants who presently own or lease the proposed site must include a copy of the deed or lease with their application. Applicants who submit a lease that is set to expire before the end of the 25-year grant period should include a letter of intent-to-lease (page 16) reflecting the 25-year life of the grant.

Funds will not be released to grantee until a fully executed deed or lease is submitted. If the property is ever sold, the lease is terminated, or the site is abandoned or grossly neglected prior to the 25-year term, the grantee may be required to reimburse the State of Arkansas for the total amount of the grant.

#### Licensed Design Professional

Up to 12% of the FUN Park grant may be used for professional design services. Applicants who receive a grant award will be required to retain the services of a landscape architect, engineer, architect, or other relevant professional licensed to practice in the State of Arkansas. Applicants will receive 2 points on their FUN Park Scoring if they include a letter from the design professional that they intend to use, on their letterhead, stating that they will assist with the project upon award.

After applicants are notified of a grant award, the grantee shall retain a design professional to develop a site layout plan clearly showing proposed facility locations. Construction drawings and specifications will be required for site-built facilities. The design professional will oversee construction of the project and assuring that the development is being constructed in accordance with plans and specifications.

#### Administrative Services

Up to 10% of the FUN Park grant may be used for administrative services. This is an optional expense.

#### Barrier-Free Access

Plans must clearly show provisions for barrier-free access, consistent with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act - Accessibility Guidelines(ADA), for all grant-funded facilities. A person confined to a wheelchair should have the ability to travel unassisted from a designated accessible parking space in the parking lot to each of the grant-funded facilities. Accessible walkways and ramps shall be paved and follow the general contours of the site with consideration given to slopes, cross slopes, surfaces, widths, and distances.

#### Post-Completion Responsibilities

Upon completion of the project, the Grantee must submit copies of invoices and canceled checks documenting that all grant funds were spent and that those expenditures were for project facilities and design expenses itemized on the Contract Agreement. A permanent FUN Park Grant program acknowledgment sign will be provided to the Grantee for placement in a prominent location in the park.

#### Park Use

FUN Park grant-funded facilities must be open to the general public at all reasonable times and consistent with guidelines outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act - Accessibility Guidelines (ADA) as amended. Park facilities may occasionally be reserved for special events or closed for limited periods for security purposes. Grantee may make reasonable rules governing park use.

Facilities developed with assistance from the FUN Park grant program must be kept in good condition for public use and kept open for public use at reasonable hours of the day and times of the year. If the facilities are ever to be locked, the Grantee must post a sign in a prominent location indicating the times the facilities are available for public use.

#### Eligible Expenses

The Outdoor Recreation Grants Program staff will review all design drawings and specifications submitted by each FUN Park grantee and determine if the proposed development is acceptable. Priority will be given to facilities that provide a balance of passive and active recreation activities for children and adults at the park.

Most commercial recreation equipment vendors can provide Applicants with a variety of options for modular playground structures, pavilions, basketball goals, ball field backstops, picnic tables, grills, etc. suitable for public use. Used construction materials or facilities are not allowable unless approved by Program staff prior to use. Applicants are encouraged to compare costs and features from a number of park equipment vendors.

Grant funds may be used for:

- Construction and/or installation of open-air outdoor recreation facilities
- Renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities such as re-roofing existing pavilions, improving parking areas, and replenishing fall zone material of an existing playground.

#### Ineligible Expenses

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Construction of swimming pools or splash pads
- Enclosed structures including restrooms or concession stands
- Purchase or lease of park property
- Regular maintenance of existing parks
- Removable equipment or facilities
- Purchase of tools and construction equipment
- Supplies such as gloves, bats, balls, etc.
- Work done by public officials and/or city workers
- In-kind equipment use or in-kind labor

# Appendix E: Typical FUN Park Facilities

The following is a partial listing of typical outdoor recreation facilities and associated requirements that FUN Park Grant funds may be used to construct or install:

#### **Basketball Courts**

Basketball courts should be constructed of concrete with a light broom finish and crowned for positive surface drainage. High school regulation size is 84' x 50'. Minimum dimensions for a half-court is 40'x40'. Goals should be permanently mounted and designed for public use; goals with a lifetime guarantee are recommended.

#### Benches

Benches purchased with FUN Park funds must be permanently mounted with the seat 18"-20" above grade.

#### **Cooking Grills**

Grills must be permanently mounted 30"-34" above a paved cooking surface for wheelchair accessibility.

#### Exercise Trails

Ideally, trails should be a minimum of 8' wide to accommodate multiple users at the same time. Recommended layout of the trail is a serpentine loop of at least 1/8 of a mile in length with one or more benches installed along the trail to provide resting station(s) for trail users.

Asphalt paving over a crushed stone base is preferred but concrete is also an acceptable trail surface. Grades should not exceed 5% linear-slope and 2% cross-slope.

#### Parking

Parking should be graded for positive drainage and surfaced with compacted crushed stone, asphalt, or concrete. Parking lot must include at least one clearly marked wheelchair-accessible paved parking space that shall be a minimum of 9' wide with an adjacent 5' wide access aisle that is striped. The access aisle shall connect to a paved walkway for barrier free access to all funded park facilities.

#### Pavilions

The Grantee may construct a site-built pavilion or install a commercial pavilion. Pavilions shall be constructed of durable materials that will resist weathering and heavy use.

The floor of the pavilion should be concrete with a light broom finish, reinforced as appropriate for local soil and site conditions, crowned in the center for positive drainage, and extend at least 1' beyond the roof line to disperse water runoff to avoid adjacent soil erosion. The adjacent grade shall be flush with the concrete surface to avoid creating a tripping hazard.

#### **Playgrounds**

Playground equipment shall be new and in compliance with guidelines established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Playground equipment shall be commercial grade and suitable for public use.

#### Playground Fall Zones

Areas under play equipment shall have impact-absorbing material approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) below play equipment. One of the most cost-effective impact materials is engineered wood fiber which should be contained by a durable edging such as modular edging designed for this purpose. Both impact material and containment edging shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

A variety of other types of impact surfaces may be used including rubberized poured-in-place material. Impact surfacing must be installed under and around play equipment as specified by the manufacturer.

At least one ramp into the playground area from the walkway system in the park must be installed to assure wheelchair accessibility. This type of ramp may be purchased from the playground equipment vendor. Installed ramps shall be at least 3' wide with a maximum slope of 8%.

#### Picnic Tables

At least one picnic table purchased with FUN Park grant funds must be wheelchair accessible.

#### **Sidewalks**

Sidewalks should be a minimum of 5' wide, constructed of concrete with a medium broom finish and cross-sloped for positive surface drainage.

#### Trash and Recycling Receptacles

Trash and recycling receptacles are commercially available from park equipment vendors but, because grant funds are limited, grantees may consider using steel drums with holes drilled in the bottom for drainage.

; and

RESOLUTION No.

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas recognizes the need to provide public recreation facilities for its local citizens and visitors, and

WHEREAS, the City or County wishes to apply for FUN Park grant funds through the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism to develop a public park at the following location:

WHEREAS, the Mayor or County Judge and the City Council or Quorum Court understands that if granted funds for park development, they must provide land, by lease or ownership, on which to develop park facilities; and

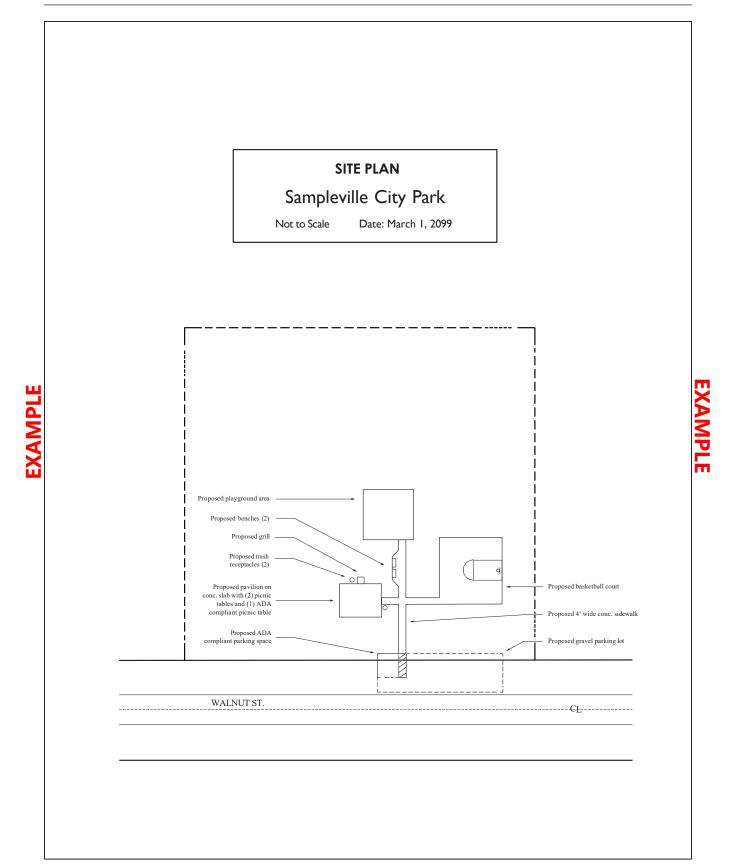
WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas will sign a contract agreeing to provide the necessary resources to maintain this park and facilities for a period of 25 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council or Quorum Court of \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas hereby authorizes the Mayor or County Judge to submit an application for grant funding to the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism to develop a public park.

Passed this \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024

APPROVED: Mayor or County Judge

Clerk



June 30, 2099

The Honorable Mayor or County Judge's name P.O. Box 1234 Sampleville, Arkansas 72960

Dear Mayor or County Judge's name

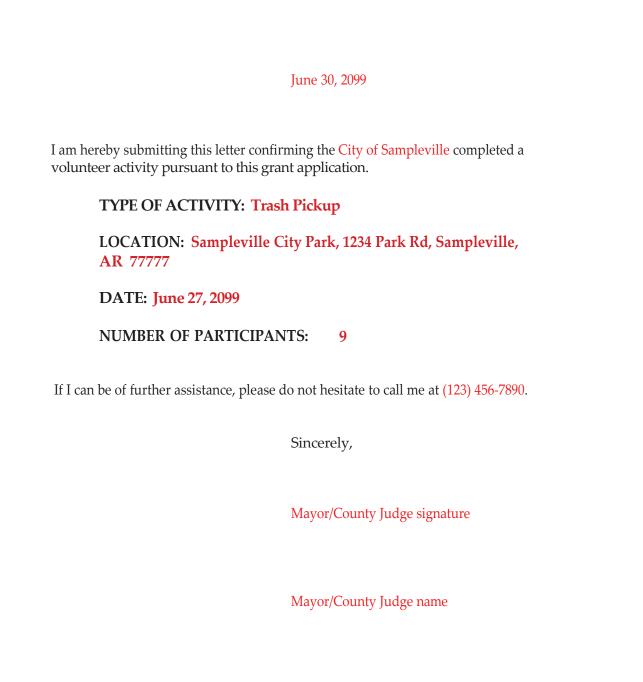
I am hereby submitting this letter confirming my intent to sell or lease for a term of 25 (minimum) years to the City of Sampleville, a \_-acre parcel of land located at street address. The execution of this sale or lease is contingent on the City of Sampleville receiving a FY 2025 FUN Park Grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism to develop a public park.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (123) 456-7890.

Sincerely,

Owner signature

Owner name



June 30, 2099 I am hereby submitting this letter confirming this grant proposal was a dedicated agenda item at the June 7, 2099 monthly meeting of the City of Sampleville City Council / Sample County Quorum Court. I also certify that the meeting was open to the public, was advertised in advance of the meeting, and that the grant proposal was explicitly noted in the advertisement, the method of which was as follows: **METHOD OF ADVERTISEMENT: Posted Notices** LOCATION: Sampleville Hardware Store, Sampleville Post Office, Sampleville Grocery Store. DATE: Posted on May 30, 2099 A copy of the official meeting agenda is included with this application. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (123) 456-7890. Sincerely, Mayor/County Judge signature Mayor/County Judge name

City / County Name:

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# Appendix G: FUN Park Scoring System

#### Documents submitted after the application deadline will not be scored

1. Applicant has received a FUN Park grant from ORGP within the past:

Never	8
21+ years	6
16-20 years	4
11-15 years	2
6-10 years	0
1-5 years	ineligible

2. Applicant provided a site plan that identifies all application line items and ADA parking and associated pathway(s) providing barrierfree access to proposed facilities (Identify ADA parking and pathway(s) that will provide access to proposed facilities even if ADA parking and/or pathway(s) already exist):

Yes	2
Site plan shows some elements	0

3. Applicant provided documentation that the proposed project was presented as a dedicated agenda item at a City Council /Quorum Court monthly meeting, per instructions on page 8.

Fully documented	2
Not fully documented	0

4. Applicant provided documentation of volunteer activity as described on page 9:

Fully documented	2
Not fully documented	0

- **5.** Applicant provided price quotes **from vendors and/or contractors** for facilities or elements of the proposed project: *Applicant does not need a quote from A/E to* 
  - meet this requirement
  - \* Price quotes created & submitted by A/E do not need vendor sheets

All facilities and elements	4
Some facilities and elements	2
Did not provide price quotes	0

6. Land control - Applicant provided documentation affirming land control in the following manner (please see page 10 of this guide for explanation of each form of land control):

Site is sponsor-owned, or is leased from a State or Federal agency.	4
Site is owned by a non-profit organized as the community being sponsored.	2
Site is leased from a private individual, private or semi-private group, or non- profit not organized as the unincorpo- rated community being sponsored.	0

8. Applicant provided a signed letter from a licensed design professional stating they will assist with the project upon award:

Did	2
Did not	0

# Appendix H: Application Assistance

#### Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism

Outdoor Recreation Grants Program 1 Capitol Mall, Suite 4B.215 Little Rock, AR 72201 (501) 682-1301

## **Planning and Development Districts**

Central Arkansas Planning and Development District 902 N. Center Street Lonoke, AR 72086 (501) 676-2721 https://www.capdd.org

#### **East Arkansas Planning**

and Development District 2905 King Street Jonesboro, AR 72403 (870) 932-3957 https://www.eapdd.com

## Northwest Arkansas Economic

Development District 818 Hwy 62-65-412 North Harrison, AR 72601 (870) 741-5404 https://www.nwaedd.org

#### Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

1311 Clayton Street Springdale, AR 72762 (479) 751-7125 https://www.nwarpc.org

Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District P.O. Box 6806 Pine Bluff, AR 71611 (870) 536-1971 https://www.southeastarkansas.org

#### Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District P.O. Box 767 Magnolia, AR 71753 (870) 234-4030 https://www.southwestar.org

West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District P.O. Box 6409 Hot Springs, AR 71902 (501) 525-7577 https://www.wcapdd.org

Western Arkansas Planning and Development District 1109 South 16th Street Fort Smith, AR 72901 (479) 785-2651 https://www.wapdd.org

## White River Planning

and Development District P.O. Box 2396 Batesville, AR 72503-2396 (870) 793-5233 https://www.wrpdd.org