

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 30, 2014

**Media Contact:**

Scott Packard, Public Information Officer

(830) 386-2590 (o)

(830)560-6270 (c)

spackard@seguintexas.gov



## **Area Lions Clubs Donate Funds for Park West Playground Equipment *Other Equipment Purchased for Park West and Max Starcke Park***

**SEGUIN, Texas** – A generous donation from Seguin area Lions Clubs will be used to help purchase a fun and unique piece of playground equipment for Park West.

The Seguin Sunrise, Seguin Noon, Seguin Sunset and Geronimo Lions Clubs collectively donated \$11,000 for the purchase of a Rock’N Ship Glider. The glider has 70 square feet of deck space that has a gentle swaying motion to mimic a ship on water. The Rock’N Ship Glider is inclusive, meaning it’s designed for use by all children, regardless of special needs.

“We are very thankful to the four area Lions Clubs for the generous donation,” Seguin Parks and Recreation Director Jack Jones said. “We are excited about this piece of equipment and it will be a great addition to the inclusive playscape at Park West.”

The Seguin City Council has approved the purchase of additional equipment for Park West. An inclusive playscape is being purchased from Park Place Recreational Designs at a cost of \$306,605. The purchase of an inclusive splash pad from Vortex Aquatic Structures was also approved at a cost of \$355,651.

“Having inclusive play equipment in Seguin parks is very important to us,” Jones continued. “We want all children to be able to enjoy the playscape and splash pad at Park West regardless of special needs.”

Park West, a new 48-acre community park, will be constructed on the southeast corner of San Antonio Avenue and North Vaughan Avenue. The overall project will include athletic fields, skate park, a playscape, splash pad, group pavilion, picnic shelters, nature trails, off-road bicycle trail, parking, restrooms and concessions. A tentative project schedule has the park going to bid in November, a contractor being selected in December/January, construction beginning in January/February and the overall park being completed in June/July.

The purchase of a new accessible playscape for Max Starke Park east has also been approved by City Council. The cost of the playscape, from GameTime c/o Total Recreation, is \$339,968. This playscape has rubberized safety surfacing, which makes the playground accessible for wheelchairs. An inclusive Rock N Raft play feature is also being installed at the playground. The equipment will replace the small 2-5 year old wooden play structure and pea gravel located on the west side of the sidewalk that separates the two play areas. The large wooden play structure and swing set on the east and north side of the sidewalk will remain and are scheduled for renovation in the spring.

Funding for the equipment and improvements comes from the voter-approved November 2013 bond package. The parks portion of the package, \$5-million, is designated for the construction of a new park and various improvements to existing parks.

The Michael Thomas Raetzsch Skate Park (MTR) will be constructed within Park West. Two public design input meetings have been held for local skaters to weigh in on the amenities to be included at the new skate park. The MTR Skate Park will be between 10-12,000 square feet with a budget of \$385,000. Construction is anticipated to begin in February with completion tentatively scheduled for April/May.

**About the City of Seguin**

Seguin, Texas is located off Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational and employment opportunities. Seguin's robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2009, Seguin was proud to be selected by Caterpillar as the site of a major new engine manufacturing facility.

###