

FINANCING ALTERNATIVES AND METHODS

Conclusion

Based on the information discussed in this chapter, the Department formed the following conclusions:

- The Park Sales Tax will become a primary funding source for park capital projects. Care should be given to ensure that a majority of this tax remains available for capital projects.
- The Department should continue to use dedicated user fees and the golf course improvement fee for the renovation and development of park facilities used by participants paying those fees.
- The Department should continue to work closely with the Office of Volunteer Services in developing and creating an annual funding list for donations and fund raising projects.
- Federal and state grant programs have been greatly reduced. Examples of grants that are not funded in FY-2002 include the Landmark Local Parks Program and the Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Enhancement Program.
- The Department should continue to seek other non-traditional grant opportunities. These include grants from foundations, corporations, and private individuals. Examples include the Tony Hawk Foundation, which provides funding for skate park related construction.
- The Department should expand the use of the Community Development Block Grant program to include all areas that meet eligibility requirements.
- Future ballot issues should be used for neighborhood parks, trails, greenbelts, and open space acquisition and development. There is strong citizen support for these projects, and they have done well in previous ballot issues.
- In 2006, when the capital sales tax for the recreation center expires and the Park Sales Tax reduces to 1/8 cent, the City will have an opportunity to renew one or the other of the taxes to possibly finance the acquisition and development of a large regional park.

Stephens Lake Park

