



Saltillo Funding Support

Grant Opportunities Summary

Date: Friday, July 26, 2024

Subject: Saltillo Funding Options and Phasing

Background

- A Master Plan for Saltillo is being requested through the West TN Planning contract. If approved, this will include a community engagement process to determine Community Goals, a growth plan, a high-level assessment of the utility system structure, and detailed implementation recommendations.
- As part of the scoping process, the West TN Planning team has identified some quick wins and funding opportunities to address some of the town's more immediate needs.
- In addition, the town was already pursuing other funding sources, which are laid out below to show how all of these efforts complement each other.
- Additional details, approvals and discussion may be needed, so this memo is meant to serve as a point in time summary of next steps.

1. Website Improvements and Rebranding - Awarded

TN Tech is working with the town on this activity. West TN Planning will support as needed through the process to provide feedback and documentation for the website. TN Tech will also help set up an official town Facebook page for announcements, events, etc.

Next steps: TN Tech is leading the effort and will keep West TN Planning informed on progress.

2. Riverfront Events Economic Impact Study - Awarded

TN Tech is working with the town on this activity. West TN Planning will support as needed, and the results may impact the Master Plan efforts.

Next steps: TN Tech is leading the effort and will keep West TN Planning informed on progress.

3. TDEC Brownfield Redevelopment Area Grants (BRAG) \$18,847 - Awarded

This grant award is to assist the Town of Saltillo with creating an inventory of potential brownfield sites, also known as the identification phase. This is a required Phase One Grant that could lead to phase two and three in the future. (Investigation & Remediation). The intent of this grant is to assist Saltillo in potential economic or civic redevelopment of properties that may be owned by the city or currently under private ownership to provide direction for the future. It promotes conservation, recreation and redevelopment of blighted properties and identifies real or perceived contamination to these properties, which is critical for a potential buyer or developer. Therefore, it may result in redevelopment without any significant cost associated with removal of contamination. The grant does not require matching funds.

4. Park Improvements – two applications submitted

Salttillo recently completed a Parks and Rec Plan.

On May 22, 2024 the town applied for a TDEC LPRF Grant for City Park improvements (50/50 grant. \$43,500 requested for: Furnish & Install Play Builder modular structure for ages 2-12; Furnish and Install Timber 6' & 2' border panels; Furnish & Install Timber ADA Ramp; Furnish & Install Engineered wood fiber and one layer of filter cloth).

On June 13, 2024 West TN Planning filled out an application for a Healthy Kids Initiative grant for playground equipment: [Healthy Kids Initiative | Play & Park Structures \(playandpark.com\)](https://playandpark.com). If TDEC LPRF AND this play equipment are both awarded, there are two options that should be discussed with TDEC staff:

- a) Have donated playground equipment be used as an in-kind match and/or request the original funds for equipment be reallocated to expand to other improvements in the application specific to City Park.
- b) Have donated playground equipment be used for Lincoln Park in order to not disturb the original plan for the TDEC funding.

Next steps: Waiting on response from both applications, then we will work to determine next steps.

5. Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan – application in progress

Several park upgrades and a full-service community center have been identified as community needs. Overall, the town has a lot of different needs that need to be prioritized and placed into a solid financial plan prior to allocating resources to any large projects.

The existing community center is in an old school in City Park with a senior center, emergency fallout shelter, a small library and gym that is rarely used. Major upgrades are needed, and the condition of the current facility needs to be assessed to determine the best path forward. There is no funding to develop this project or to assess the building's condition; however, there is a grant available for a comprehensive capital improvement plan, which would address this need.

Next Steps: Apply for a DRA Strategic Planning Grant for a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan that includes the following elements, coordinated with the Master Plan and recently completed Parks Plan:

1. Community Center building assessment.
2. Community Center project development (either a rehab, or demo and rebuild)
3. Other future improvements outlined in the Parks Plan.
4. Development of the "wish list" and standard park furnishings to encourage sponsorship.
5. Priority infrastructure and maintenance projects.
6. Priority Police and Fire department needs.

7. Other needs outlined during the Master Plan process for road or infrastructure improvements.
8. A 5-year strategic plan for grant funding and cash match financial contributions.

After this plan is complete, there are grant funds available for construction of the community center, either through CDBG (maybe partnering with LPRF) or CCF.

Saltillo Grant Applications and Related Activities

07/30/2024

