



*Eddie Treviño, Jr.*  
*County Judge*

**For Immediate Release**

August 17, 2017

POC: Joe E. Vega, Parks Director

956-761-3700

**CAMERON COUNTY RECEIVES \$500,000 DOLLARS FROM THE VALLEY BAPTIST  
LEGACY FOUNDATION FOR AN ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND.**

Cameron County is pleased to announce that it recently received official notice from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation (VBLF) awarding a grant of \$500,000 for an all-inclusive playground at La Esperanza Community Park, in Cameron Park. The entirety of the grant will go towards funding the construction of the playground which is universally designed to create a myriad of play opportunities for special needs children. The playground will provide maximum ADA accessibility. This playground will be the first in both the County Park System and in Brownsville.

Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino stated, "We greatly appreciate the wonderful funding opportunity that the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation has provided to Cameron County. The All-Inclusive Playground will allow kids both with disabilities and non-disabilities to partake and explore the fun, educational and inclusive opportunities that this playground will offer".

Cameron County Commissioner Pct.2 Alex Dominguez stated, "All too often special needs children and their families are left out of simple joys in life. This playground will provide a fun family space where all kids can play. We worked hard for this project, and hopefully, it will play an important role in helping to create an initiative for the implementation of more projects like this in the future. Thank you Legacy Foundation."

Last year, BISD had an estimated 5,136 special needs students enrolled throughout the district; approximately 500 of these students attended one of the five schools located in the vicinity of Cameron Park. Several of these schools are within walking distance to the park.

"On behalf of the BISD community, thank you to the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation for their generous support toward building the all-inclusive park. Our special needs students will greatly benefit having access to the numerous activities at the all-inclusive park. Congratulations on a wonderful project for our community!" said Dr. Esperanza Zendejas, Superintendent Brownsville Independent School District.

"The All Inclusive Playground concept is certainly a much needed program to reach more children, or people in general, for a better quality of life. The Legacy Foundation is proud to be a partner in this project" said Randy Baker, Executive Director of the Legacy Foundation.

Cameron County Parks Director Joe E. Vega stated, "This is an exciting project and we look forward to breaking ground in the near future. This project will be a catalyst to a significantly unmet need in the area that will improve the quality of life for the children of Cameron County."

Cameron County anticipates breaking ground in the fall of 2017, and completing the project by August of 2018.

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