



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grant paves the way for upgrades at Highland Lake

Renovations are underway at the Lorin Mead Park at Highland Lake. This highly anticipated improvement project, made possible through a grant and impact fees, includes the addition of a parking lot, sidewalks, fencing, bathrooms, and fishing pier. Renovations of the park are expected to last through the end of the year and the area will be closed to the public until completion.

Park improvements represent Phase 1 of the Lorin Mead Park at Highland Lake Master Plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in 2019. The Master Plan was divided into three phases, with Phase I representing high priority improvements, such as the fishing pier and paved parking areas. The Fishing is Fun grant, totaling \$89,625, was an opportunity the Town of Mead couldn't pass up. Mayor Colleen Whitlow explained, "This is a remarkable and much needed boost for Lorin Mead Park at Highland Lake. Our parks are in high demand and are being used more than ever. This additional funding allows us to not only improve existing park infrastructure but will also create more enjoyable experiences for people of all ages."

The renovations will also utilize impact fees to cover the remaining costs of the project. "Impact fees are collected from new development and placed in segregated accounts. They can only be used for capital projects like this one. The Parks and Open Space impact fees have been accumulating over the years, so when we received the Fishing is Fun grant, it gave us an opportunity to stretch our dollars and implement Phase I of the Lorin Mead Park at Highland Lake Master Plan," said Town Engineer and Public Works Director, Erika Rasmussen.

In 2016, the Town of Mead purchased the one-acre park site and recreational rights to the lake, which includes non-motorized boating, fishing, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. The lake itself is owned by the Highland Lake Reservoir Company, and they are responsible for operation, maintenance, and repair of the reservoir and dam. The Lorin Mead Park at Highland Lake was officially named by the Board of Trustees in 2018, to honor the memory of Lorin Mead. Lorin Mead founded the Highland Lake Community in the late nineteenth century and his descendants still reside in the area.

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