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An anonymous donor has pledged up to \$200,000.00 to create a splash pad park in Dixon. Park District Executive Director Duane Long was contacted by the donor late last week after reading the article in the Dixon Telegraph about the vision for a new splash pad park and hearing Long on the WIXN morning show. The donor was impressed with the way Long and City Manager Danny Langloss were working together to advance the Park District and the City. After hearing about the numerous projects that Long and Langloss were working on with several other community stakeholders, the donor offered the donation.

The donor expressed interested in creating a facility similar to Splash Cannon Spray Park in Oregon and has asked that the new splash pad be placed in the Meadows near Wooden Wonderland. Long and Langloss met with the donor earlier this morning and visited the site.

The donation comes less than one month after Long has taken the reins as the new park district executive director. Long and Langloss are currently working with Lee County, the Dixon School District, Dixon YMCA, and the Lee County Industrial Development Association on the BUILD Grant, Splash Pad Park, and community facility assessment.

Long said, "We are so grateful for the generosity of this family and their passion to advance Dixon. I have been overwhelmed by the support since stepping into this new role. This is so big for our community, and it is just the beginning of great things to come." Langloss said, "Our community has been asking for water recreation facilities. The splash pad park will fill a major void. We are excited to bring this project to life for the children of our community."

Long and Langloss hope to size the splash park for the population of the community. Splash Canyon Spray Park has 4 separate water activities. Langloss and Long hope to create 8 to 10 water activities in the new splash park. A combination of park district and city staff will be used to reduce costs related to the project. The scope of the project includes the splash pad park, sun shades with seating areas, restroom facilities, and the paving of the gravel parking lot near Wooden Wonderland.

Preliminary estimates for the facility are believed to be near \$300,000.00. Long and Langloss are challenging community members and businesses to make further donations and plan to work with local contractors to reduce the price of the project. Anyone interested in making a donation can contact Executive Director Duane Long.

Planning will begin immediately. Long and Langloss plan to hold a press conference on the project later this summer.

