KTMPO

KILLEEN-TEMPLE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

ATAC

Active Transportation Advisory Committee

August 12, 2026

Agenda

Disclaimer: Portions of this document were drafted using Microsoft Copilot, an AI-powered assistant based on OpenAI’s GPT-4 architecture. Accessed on August 3-11, 2026.

Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization
Active Transportation Advisory Committee
Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Central Texas Council of Governments Building
2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas 76513

Regular Meeting: 9:30 A.M.

Virtual Link: KTMPO ATAC Meeting

Call in Number: +1 (872) 240-3212
Access Code: 756-809-085

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Introductions.
3. Opportunity for Public Comment.
4. **Action Item**: Regarding approval of minutes from the May 13, 2026 meeting. (pgs. 5-9). [Presenter: Kara Escajeda, TPWD; Chair]
5. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding the Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY27. (pgs. 10-11) [Presenter: Kara Escajeda, TPWD; Chair]
6. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding recommending approval of Resolution 2026-07 proclaiming October 2026 as National Pedestrian Safety Month and the addition of supporting activities. (pgs. 12-15) [Presenter: Callie Tullos, KTMPO]
7. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding recommending approval of Resolution 2026-08 proclaiming October 21, 2026 as Unplug Texas Day and the addition of supporting activities. (pgs. 16-19) [Presenter: Teresa Chandler, City of Nolanville]
8. **Discussion Item**: Regarding a Legislative Update on Electric Bicycles. (pgs. 20-34) [Presenter: Robin Stallings, Executive Director of Bike Texas, KTMPO]
9. **Discussion Item:** Regarding a Presentation on the 2026 – 2036 Belton Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan. (pgs. 35-64) [Presenter: James Grant, City of Belton Parks and Recreation Director]

The Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the KTMPO office at 254-770-2200 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed. Citizens who desire to address the Board on any matter may sign up to do so prior to this meeting. Public comments will be received during this portion of the meeting. Comments are limited to 3 minutes maximum. No discussion or final action will be taken by the Board.

10. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Active Transportation Lessons Learned**,** Safety Spotlight: Serving to Help Cyclists (pgs. 65-77) [Presenter: Sean Beamesderfer, Cyclist Safety Advocate]
11. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Upcoming Community Activities for the period of August – November, 2026 (pgs. 78-80). [Presenter: James Wickham, Hill Country Transit District]
12. **Discussion Item:** Regarding recreation and local parks grants. (pgs. 81-82). [Presenter: Kara Escajeda, TPWD, Chair, KTMPO]
13. **Discussion Item:** Regarding public input received through July 2026. (pgs. 83-87). [Presenter: Anita Janke, KTMPO]
14. **Staff Update:** (pgs. 88-90). [Presenter: Kendra Coufal and David Lopez, KTMPO]
    a) National/State
    b) Conferences
    c) Air Quality.
15. Member Comments. [Presenter: Kara Escajeda, TPWD; Chair]
16. Adjourn.

Workshop - To Follow Regular Scheduled Meeting (If Needed)
AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Discussion on any KTMPO items (No action will be taken on items discussed).
3. Adjourn.

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ITEM #4

Meeting Minutes

Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (KTMPO)
Active Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
9:30 AM

Regular Meeting
2180 North Main Street
Belton, TX 76513

VOTING MEMBERS+ Y= Attended | Y/A= Alternate Attended | N=Did not attend | *denotes online attendance *Quorum 50%+1*			
Representing	**Member**	**Attended**	**Alternate Member Attended**
Sun Country Cycling	Geary McCabe	Y/*	
Cycling Representative	Keller Matthews	N	
Pedestrian Representative	Chair, Kara Escajeda	N	
Running Representative	KD Hill	*	
Economic Development	Holly Owens	N	
Pedestrian	Vacant		
Equestrian	Vacant		
Youth	Lauren Morrell	*	
City of Belton	Joe Dyer	Y	
City of Copperas Cove	Jeff Stoddard	*	
City of Harker Heights	Amy Atkins	*	
Municipality	Vacant		
Municipality	Vacant		
City of Nolanville	Teresa Chandler	Y	Chris Atkinson
TxDOT – Waco	Rachael Perry	A	Daniel Davilla
Fort Hood	Mario Perez	N	Waleska Gonzalez-Rodriguez
HCTD	James Wickham	A	Derek Czapnik
County	Vacant		
Other	Vacant		

DRAFT

NON-VOTING ATTENDEES			
Ona Trubee	Parrie Haynes Ranch Equestrian	Y	N/A
Parker Petersen	Pedestrian Rep.	Y	N/A
Leann Chappell	Cycling Rep	Y	N/A
Jeff Kirk	Texas A&M	Y	N/A
Caycee Hauck	Copperas Cove P&R	*	N/A
Tay Floyd	KTMPO	Y	N/A
Kendra Coufal	KTMPO	Y	N/A
David Rodriguez	CTCOG	Y	N/A
Anita Janke	KTMPO	Y	N/A

Meeting Minutes:

1. **Call to Order:** Joe Dyer called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M.

2. **Opportunity for Public Comment:** None.

3. **Action Item:** Regarding approval of minutes from the February 11, 2026, meeting.

   KD Hill made a motion to approve February 11, 2026, minutes, seconded by Geary McCabe; the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding new ATAC membership requests.

   Anita Janke, KTMPO Regional Planner, introduced Parker Petersen as a prospective candidate for ATAC membership, as a Pedestrian Representative. Mr. Petersen then provided a brief overview of his background.

   Geary McCabe made a motion to accept the nomination, seconded by Derek Czapnik; the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding recommending approval of the Regional Active Transportation Plan, pending any amendments resulting from public or stakeholder feedback received during the public engagement and review process.

   Anita Janke described the multi-year process used to develop the Regional Active Transportation Plan and expressed appreciation to the committee members, stakeholders, partner agencies, and members of the public who contributed their time, expertise, and feedback throughout plan development. Staff noted that the recommendation for approval of the Regional Active Transportation Plan is contingent

upon any amendments that may result from public or stakeholder comments received during the public engagement and review process.

Geary McCabe made a motion to recommend approval of the 2026 Regional Active Transportation Plan, pending any amendments resulting from public or stakeholder feedback received during the public engagement and review process, seconded by Derek Czapnik; the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Post-RATP Activities, Project Development, and Committee Focus Areas.

   Anita Janke noted that adoption of the Regional Active Transportation Plan marks the beginning of implementation efforts. Staff highlighted future focus areas, including a potential regional trail study, enhanced coordination with parks and state agencies, development of a connected active transportation network, and continued public and stakeholder engagement.

7. **Discussion Item:** Regarding National Bike Month Activities.

   Caycee Hauck with the City of Copperas Cove shared the success of its Adaptive Bike Rodeo held during National Bike Month. Committee members discussed the event's positive community impact, including opportunities it provided for individuals of varying abilities to experience cycling in a safe and supportive environment. The committee recognized the event as an example of inclusive active transportation programming that promotes mobility, recreation, and community engagement.

   Teresa Chandler with the City of Nolanville invited community participation in the event to honor individuals who have been injured or killed while walking or bicycling and to raise awareness of the importance of roadway safety for all users.

   Anita Janke encouraged community members to reflect on and share their personal stories by answering a simple but meaningful question: "Who do you ride for?"

8. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Recognition of Committee Member Service.

   Anita Janke Staff recognized Jason Deckman for nearly a decade of dedicated service and contributions to the committee and regional transportation planning efforts. Staff expressed appreciation for SS's commitment, leadership, and continued support in advancing active transportation initiatives throughout the region.

9. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Upcoming Community Activities for the period of May – August, 2026.

   Joe Dyer highlighted several upcoming community events, including the Fallen Heroes 5K and Rucks on Main.

10. Discussion Item: Regarding recreation and local parks grants.

Ashlynn Uschek, KTMPO Regional Planner, discussed recreation and local parks funding opportunities, including the potential to consult with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regarding the Local Park Grant Program and other funding resources that may support trail development, park connectivity, and active transportation improvements.

11. Discussion Item: Regarding public input received through April 2026.

Anita Janke highlighted the numerous outreach and engagement opportunities conducted throughout the past season. Ms. Janke specifically thanked attendees for their participation in the FCR meeting, noting that the strong turnout, thoughtful feedback, and collaborative spirit demonstrated the region's commitment to advancing transportation initiatives.

12. Staff Update:

David Lopez, KTMPO Regional Planner, provided an overview of upcoming meetings as well as the air quality rating for the month.

13. Member Comments

None

14. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM.

These meeting minutes were approved by the ATAC members at their meeting on _____.

ATTEST:

_____
Kara Escajeda, Chair

_____
Uryan Nelson, KTMPO Director
CTCOG Chief of Staff
Director, Planning and Regional Services

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ITEM #5

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY27

August 12, 2026

Active Transportation Advisory Committee **Agenda Item # 5**

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY27

Background

According to the ATAC bylaws, ATAC shall be comprised of governmental agency staff, non-governmental organizations and citizens in the KTMPO region who express an interest in active transportation. According to the ATAC Bylaws, the nomination process for Chairperson and Vice-Chair are as follows:

Chairperson

The Chairperson shall be chosen by a majority vote of the members present at the election with a quorum established. The Chairperson shall perform the duties usually assigned to the office, such as preside over all meetings of this committee; be an ex-officio member of any subcommittee formed within this body; and vote as a regular member of the committee.

Vice Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson shall be chosen by a majority vote of the members present at the election with a quorum established. In the absence of, or in the case of the inability of the Chairperson to act, it shall be the duty of the Vice Chairperson to perform all the duties of the Chairperson.

Both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall serve one (1) year terms and may not succeed in those offices more than once.

The term of office shall run from October 1st of the year of the election through September 30th of the following year.

Election

The officer election will take place annually at the September meeting or during the third quarter meeting.

- Kara Escajeda has served one term as Chairperson and is eligible to serve in this role one more year.
- Joe Dyer was elected in June 2024 and re-elected in August 2025; he has served two terms consecutively and is no longer eligible to serve as Vice-Chair.

Action Needed: Consider the nomination and election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY26.

ITEM #6

October 2026 as National Pedestrian Safety Month

August 12, 2026

Active Transportation Advisory Committee **Agenda Item # 6**

October 2026 as National Pedestrian Safety Month

Background

Prior to 2024, the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) proclaimed October as International Walk to School Month. However, through participation in the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) initiative and continued efforts to advance transportation safety, the MPO expanded its focus to include the broader safety needs of all pedestrians and vulnerable road users. As a result, the MPO aligned its October recognition with National Pedestrian Safety Month.

While we continue to recognize the value of International Walk to School Month in promoting active transportation and healthy lifestyles, our emphasis has evolved to place greater focus on pedestrian safety education and awareness. National Pedestrian Safety Month provides an opportunity to encourage safer behaviors among all roadway users, increase public awareness of pedestrian safety issues, and support the creation of safer, more walkable communities.

Through education, outreach, and collaboration, the MPO remains committed to protecting vulnerable road users and fostering a transportation system where people of all ages and abilities can travel safely and confidently.

Action Needed: Recommend approval of Resolution 2026-07, proclaiming October 2026 as National Pedestrian Safety Month, by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Planning Policy Board (TPPB).

KTMPO
KILLEEN-TEMPLE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE KILLEEN-TEMPLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION DECLARING OCTOBER 2026 AS NATIONAL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH

WHEREAS; the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has designated October 2026 as National Pedestrian Safety Month; and

WHEREAS; October 2026 is also recognized as International Walk to School Month, with October 7, 2026, designated as National Walk and Roll to School Day; and

WHEREAS; these designations emphasize the critical importance of protecting our most vulnerable road users by encouraging safe, healthy, and environmentally friendly forms of active transportation; and

WHEREAS; between 2021 and 2024, there were 43 fatalities and 88 serious injuries involving pedestrians reported in the KTMPO region. That means 131 people—our neighbors, family members, and friends—were killed or seriously injured simply while walking in our communities. This unacceptable toll demands immediate attention; and

WHEREAS; National Pedestrian Safety Month and International Walk to School Month highlight the urgent need for safer roads, lower vehicle speeds, safer vehicles, more effective post-crash care, and improved infrastructure to reduce injuries and fatalities among pedestrians; and

WHEREAS; the availability of safe, accessible, and well-maintained pedestrian infrastructure, including trails, sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and traffic calming measures, is essential for reducing crashes involving pedestrians and promoting more active transportation in our communities; and

WHEREAS; pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility that requires the commitment of all road users and policymakers to ensure our streets are safe for everyone; and

WHEREAS; the promotion of pedestrian safety education—especially in schools—is vital to fostering safe habits among children and youth, empowering the next generation to navigate streets safely and to become advocates for safer, more walkable communities; and

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WHEREAS; KTMPO is committed to supporting and promoting these educational initiatives in collaboration with local jurisdictions, school systems, and community partners; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby declares October 2026 as National Pedestrian Safety Month in the KTMPO region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization supports efforts to improve pedestrian infrastructure and encourages all road users to be vigilant, obey traffic laws, and actively work to create a safer environment for pedestrians.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 23rd day of September 2026 at a regular meeting of the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Planning Policy Board, which meeting was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, 511.001, *et seq.*, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

ATTEST:

Bobby Whitson, KTMPO TPPB Chair Bell County Commissioner	Uryan Nelson, KTMPO Director CTCOG Chief of Staff Director, Planning and Regional Services

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ITEM #7

October 21, 2026, as Unplug Texas Day

Unplug Texas Day: October 21, 2026

Background

Unplug Texas Day is an official statewide observance established by the Texas Legislature through Senate Bill 2232 and is promoted by the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) to encourage Texans to disconnect from electronic devices and engage in outdoor recreation, physical activity, and community activities. October 21 is designated annually as Unplug Texas Day and may be observed through programs and activities coordinated by state and local parks and recreation agencies.

The initiative supports healthy lifestyles by encouraging residents to spend time in parks, on trails, and in other recreational settings. Recent research indicates that Americans spend an average of **7 hours and 3 minutes per day** using screen-based devices, underscoring the importance of opportunities for outdoor recreation, physical activity, and face-to-face community engagement (Market.us, 2026).

The Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization (KTMPO) supports transportation and community initiatives that promote active living, healthy communities, and the use of regional walking and bicycling facilities. Parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation centers provide safe and accessible opportunities for people of all ages to unplug from technology, engage in physical activity, connect with nature and one another, and experience the mental, physical, and social benefits of spending time outdoors.

This resolution demonstrates the agency's support for active transportation, outdoor recreation, and community wellness throughout the region.

Reference

Market.us. (2026, March 2). *Average screen time statistics by technology and facts (2025)*. Retrieved August 6, 2026.

Action Needed: Recommend approval of Resolution 2026-08, proclaiming October 21,2026 Unplug Texas Day, by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Planning Policy Board (TPPB).

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE KILLEEN-TEMPLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION DECLARING OCTOBER 21, 2026 AS UNPLUG TEXAS DAY

WHEREAS, Unplug Texas Day was developed by the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) and designated as statewide observance by the Texas Legislature through Senate Bill 2232, authored by Senator Adam Hinojosa and sponsored by in the House by Representative Ben Bumgarner; and

WHEREAS, Unplug Texas Day encourages residents to disconnect from digital devices and engage in outdoor play, recreation, and community activities offered by local parks and recreation agencies; and

WHEREAS, Americans spend an average of more than seven hours per day using screen-based devices, highlighting the importance of opportunities for outdoor recreation, physical activity, and community engagement;

WHEREAS, increased screen time has been associated with physical inactivity, sleep disruption, and mental health challenges, while participation in outdoor recreation and active lifestyles can contribute to improved physical health, reduced stress, and enhanced overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation facilities, including trails, open spaces, pools, and recreation centers, provide safe and accessible opportunities for people of all ages to unplug from technology, engage in physical activity, connect with nature and one another, and experience the proven mental, physical, and social benefits of spending time outdoors; and

WHEREAS, that KTMPO affirms its commitment to supporting and promoting educational and outreach initiatives that advance active transportation throughout the region.

WHEREAS, KTMPO will continue to collaborate with local jurisdictions, school systems, and community partners to encourage public participation in Unplug Texas Day, which invites residents to engage in screen-free recreation, explore local parks, and enjoy active play with family, friends, and neighbors.

WHEREAS, KTMPO encourages residents to participate in Unplug Texas Day by visiting local parks, engaging in screen-free play, and enjoying recreational activities with family, friends, and neighbors;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby declares October 21, 2026, as Unplug Texas Day in the KTMPO region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization supports and encourages all residents to celebrate by unplugging from technology and plugging into Texas' abundant parks, trails, and recreation opportunities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 23rd day of September 2026 at a regular meeting of the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Planning Policy Board, which meeting was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

ATTEST:

Bobby Whitson, KTMPO TPPB Chair Bell County Commissioner	Uryan Nelson, KTMPO Director CTCOG Chief of Staff Director, Planning and Regional Services

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ITEM #8

Legislative Update on Electric Bicycles

Legislative Update on Electric Bicycles

Robin Stallings has led BikeTexas as Executive Director since 2003. He passed the nation's first state e-bike legislation in 2001, championed Safe Passing laws in 27 Texas cities, and helped bring bicycle safety education to roughly two million Texas schoolchildren. The League of American Bicyclists named him Bike Advocate of the Year in 2018.

Texas wrote the book on e-bike law in 2001 — and the next chapter is due. BikeTexas Executive Director Robin Stallings previews proposed 2027 legislation to regulate e-motos, protect consumers from deceptive sales, and open state parks to e-bikes.

Action Needed: No action needed, for discussion only.

BikeTexas

Advancing Access, Safety, and Education

Texas E-Bike Law: Past, Present, and Proposed

Kileen Temple MPO
Central Texas Council of Governments

Robin Stallings, Executive Director
robin@biketexas.org • 512-694-9158 • August 2026

BikeTexas: 35 Years of Advocacy

Founded 1991 - now headquartered in Austin at on the Big Loop Trail

SafeCyclist curriculum: reached 2 million+ Texas schoolchildren, via 8,000 trained PE teachers

Safe Passing ordinances - 27 Texas cities

Nation's first state e-bike law - 2001

Updated e-bike law - 2019

National Bike Advocates of the Year - 1998, 2002, 2018

National Bike Educator of the Year – 2016, 2026

2001: Texas Leads the Nation

Texas passed the nation's first e-bike law

Model adopted by states and the federal government

Definition: motor-assisted, ≤20 mph, ≤100 lbs

2001



2019: Three-Class System

HB 2188 adopted the industry three-class e-bike framework

E-bikes in all three classes = bicycles under Texas law

BikeTexas wrote this law — it is what trail managers use today

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Pedal assist Up to 20 mph	Throttle assist Up to 20 mph	Pedal assist Up to 28 mph

Current Law — Two Gaps

What works today

E-bikes = bicycles

No license, registration, or insurance

Legal everywhere bicycles are allowed (except state parks)

Two gaps remain

State parks — TPWD policy is ambiguous on e-bike trail access

Fake e-bikes — 2,000–3,000W vehicles sold as bicycles

http:/biketexas.org/ebikesinparks

Fake E-Bikes Are Everywhere

Sold online as "e-bikes" — exceed 750W, go 35–45 mph on throttle

No clear tool for rangers or police to distinguish them from legal e-bikes

Buyers discover too late: license, registration, and insurance required

If unchecked — pressure grows to ban ALL electric bikes



NOT a legal e-bike under Texas law

Three Bills, Three Goals — 2027

Derived from CSHB 4089 — nearly cleared House Transportation Committee in 2025



Bill 1

E-Moto regulation

Senate Transportation

House Transportation



Bill 2

Consumer protection

Senate Bus. & Commerce

House Trade & Workforce



Bill 3

E-bikes in state parks

Senate Water, Ag & Rural Affairs

House Culture, Rec & Tourism

BikeTexas — 2027 Texas Legislative Session

Each bill moves through a different committee — three independent paths to the floor

Bill 1: E-Moto Regulation

Maps new vehicles onto existing Texas moped and motorcycle law

Mid-Power 750W – 2,500W	High-Power Over 2,500W
= MOPED	= MOTORCYCLE
Registration + title	Registration + title
Insurance: 30/60/25	Insurance: $30k/$60k/$25k
Driver's license or Class M moped	Full Class M + safety training
Age 15 minimum	Age 15 (250cc limit until 16)

Bill 2: Consumer Protection (DTPA)

Calling a non-qualifying vehicle an "e-bike" = DTPA violation

AG can act; consumers have a private right of action

Capability-triggered: seller must disclose even if they avoid the word "e-bike"

Covers out-of-state and foreign online sellers

TEXAS LAW NOTICE

This vehicle is NOT an electric bicycle under Texas law. Registration, insurance, and a driver's license are required. Failure to comply may result in fines, citation, and civil liability.

Bill 3: E-Bikes in State Parks

Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes: access guaranteed wherever traditional bikes are allowed

Commission may restrict Class 2 and 3 on natural surface singletrack by rule

Hard line: NO e-moto may operate on a nonmotorized trail

E-bike and traditional bicycle trail behavior is comparable - research is clear

For TPWD: E-bike riders already buy day passes, camping, food, and gear. Access clarity supports park visitation and the sporting goods sales tax that funds TPWD.

What This Means for Your Agency

TxDOT

Statutory basis to write clear e-moto rules for TxDOT right-of-way paths and controlled access highways.

Municipalities

Statutory basis to write clear e-moto rules for recreational trails and right-of-way paths

TPWD

Resolves e-bike access ambiguity since 2019; explicit rulemaking authority over class 2 & 3 ebikes and e-motos

All Agencies

Fewer constituents arriving at trailheads on vehicles mislabeled as e-bikes

How You Can Help

Session begins January 13, 2027 — prefile opens November 2026

Letters of support from Kileen Temple MPO and CTCOG would carry weight with committees

Share incident examples from your streets, trails and parks with BikeTexas

As individuals, sign the petition: biketexas.org/ebikesinparks

BikeTexas

Advancing Access, Safety, and Education

Thank You

Robin Stallings | Executive Director, BikeTexas

robin@biketexas.org • BikeTexas.org • 512-694-9158

BikeTexas.org/eBikesInParks

ITEM #9

Presentation on the 2026 – 2036 Belton Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan

Presentation on the 2026 – 2036 Belton Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan

James Grant, Director of Parks and Recreation with the City of Belton will present on the 2026-2036 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan.

Background

The City of Belton's 2026-2036 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan was adopted in June 2026 and serves as the City's long-range guide for future parks, recreation, trails, and open space investments. Developed through extensive public engagement, including surveys, meetings, and stakeholder input, the plan reflects community priorities and establishes a vision for enhancing quality of life as Belton continues to grow.

The plan focuses on expanding access to parks and trails, improving recreational amenities, preserving natural resources, and creating opportunities that support health, wellness, and community connection for residents of all ages. It also provides an implementation framework to help guide future capital planning, grant opportunities, and project prioritization.

Action Needed: No action needed, for discussion only.



2026 - 2036 Belton Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan

CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS
FOUNDED 1850

MHS
Planning & Design

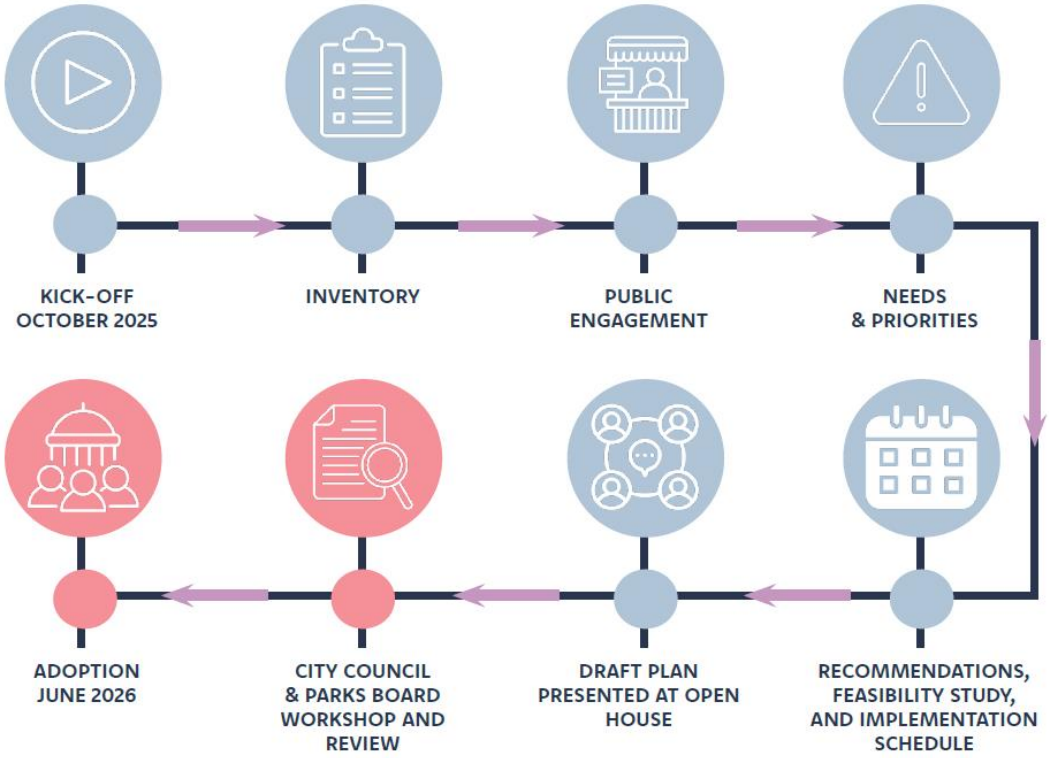
PURPOSE OF OUR PARKS MASTER PLAN

Create a city-wide plan that proposes improvements over the next ten years that best fulfill the recreational needs of our community

- Identified our existing park system and created comparisons to similar communities
- Gives us a good understanding of our current and future recreational needs
- Help us educate our City Council, Parks Board, City Staff and the Belton community
- Provides a list of realistic recommendations, implementation schedule



Project Schedule





MHS Planning & Design



Public Engagement

Park System Strengths *(in no particular order)*

- Belton parks and park facilities are heavily utilized
- The City has done a great job reinvesting in the park system
- Parks and quality-of-life are major reasons why people move/live in Belton
- Large number and diverse opportunities for youth athletics
- Events are well attended and foster a strong sense of community
- Community partnerships are vital to the park system

Community Desires *(in no particular order)*

- Shade
- Supporting facilities *(restrooms, parking, lighting, etc.)*
- Improvements to athletic facilities
- Indoor recreational space
- Sport courts, fields, and multi-purpose practice areas
- Native landscaping within the parks
- Skate park facilities
- Interpretive, wayfinding, and mileage signage
- Public art and murals
- Recreational programs
- Aquatic recreation
- Dog park improvements

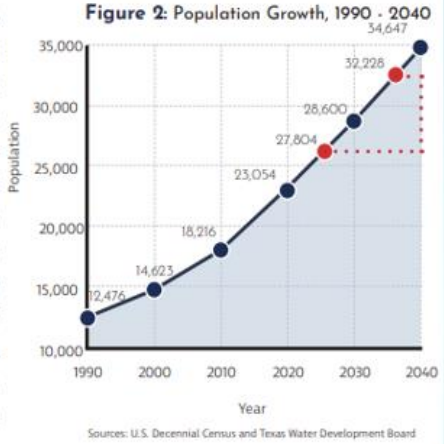
MHS Planning & Design

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

POPULATION

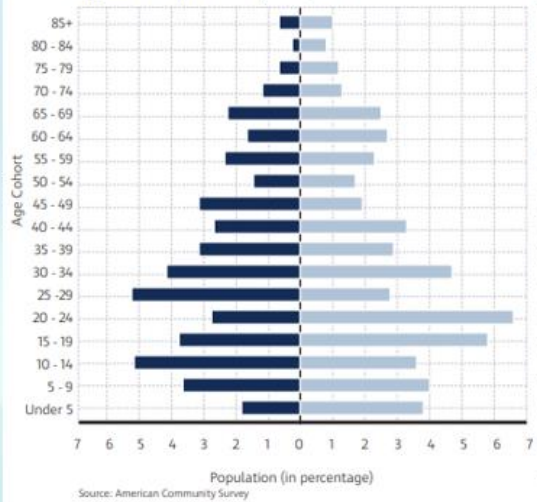
Belton has experienced steady population growth over the past several decades and is projected to continue growing. The population is estimated at 27,804 as of 2026 and is expected to reach approximately 32,228 by 2036, representing an increase in population of more than 20%. This growth will increase the demand on parks, trails, and recreational facilities. It is important to note that Belton parks are heavily utilized by residents from adjacent cities. It is estimated that approximately 70% of the park users are residents outside of Belton, with significant park users residing in Temple. Central Texas is one of the fastest growing areas, in Texas and this continued growth will likely result in more visitors to Belton parks.

Figure 2: Population Growth, 1990 - 2040



Sources: U.S. Decennial Census and Texas Water Development Board

Figure 3: Population Pyramid, 2023

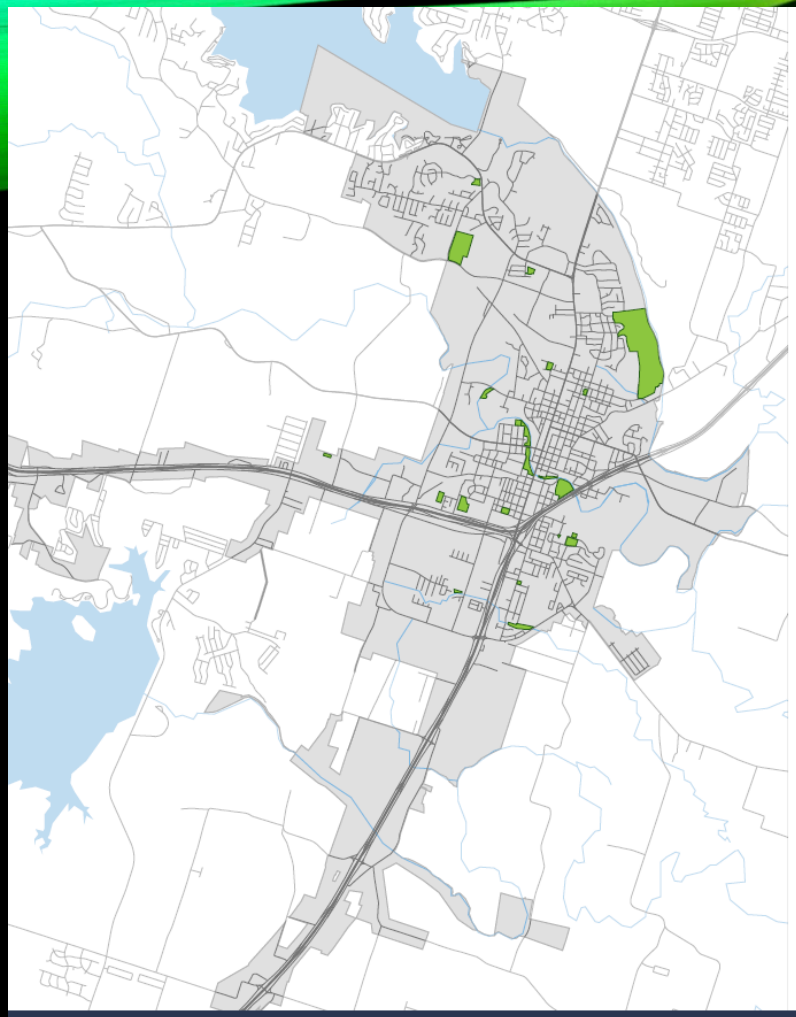


Source: American Community Survey

AGE

Belton's population is notably younger than both Bell County and Texas. The 2020 Decennial Census identified a median age of 26.6 years, compared to 31.1 years in Bell County and 34.8 years in Texas. The largest cohorts include females between the ages of 20-24 and males between the ages of 25-29. This large demographic can likely be associated with the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. This younger demographic suggests a strong demand for active recreation, sports programming, and family-oriented amenities, while also highlighting the need to maintain spaces that serve residents across all age groups.





Park System Inventory

Highlights

Belton's park system includes:

- 23 parks and recreational spaces, totaling 258 acres of developed parkland.
- Athletic opportunities, including 6 baseball fields, 8 basketball courts, 6 pickleball courts, 9 practice fields, 7 soccer fields, 3 softball fields, and a disc golf course.
- ± 8 miles of trails

Outdoor Amenity	Percent of Agencies with at least one	Median Number of Residents per amenity in Communities 20,0000 to 49,999	Belton's Inventory	Residents per Amenity	Meets Trends for 20,000 to 49,999
Playgrounds	94%	3,320	22	1,263	Exceeds Trends: 13
Basketball Courts	85%	8,000	8	3,475	Exceeds Trends: 4
Diamond Fields	80%	3,408	16	1,738	Exceeds Trends: 8
Rectangular Fields	77%	4,002	7	3,972	Meets Trends
Tennis Courts	74%	6,284	0	-	Does Not Meet Trends: 4
Swimming Pools	49%	26,900	0	-	Does Not Meet Trends: 1
Skate Parks	47%	35,000	0	-	Meets Trends
Pickleball Courts	45%	7,333	6	4,634	Exceeds Trends: 2
Disc Golf Courses	35%	32,519	1	27,804	Exceeds Trends: 1

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Public Engagement Results

Survey Duration

The survey was available for five weeks, spanning from September 25 to October 31.

Survey Respondents

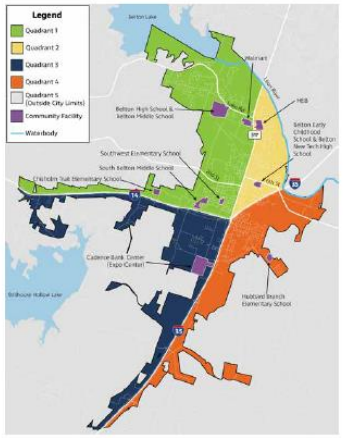
893 responses received, 78% of which were residents.

Q1. Where do you reside?



Legend

- Quadrant I - Northwest (43%)
- Quadrant V - Outside City Limits (22%)
- Quadrant II - Northeast (14%)
- Quadrant III - Southwest (12%)
- Quadrant IV - Southeast (9%)



Park Frequency

Respondents expressed parks are primarily utilized on a weekly to monthly basis.

Q2. How often do you visit parks and recreation facilities?



Legend

- Weekly (40%)
- Monthly (24%)
- A few times a year (20%)
- Daily (13%)
- Never (3%)

Park Usage

Community parks are generally utilized the most while neighborhood parks are utilized the least.

Q3. Which parks do you primarily visit?



Legend

- Heritage Park (25%)
- Chisholm Trail Park (15%)
- Yettie Polk Park (12%)
- Nolan Creek Hike and Bike Trail (11%)
- Miller Springs Nature Center (10%)
- Harris Community Park (10%)
- Other (17%)*

*Other included Carla Kay Park, Jeff Hamilton Park, Quail Meadows Park, South Wall Tiger Park, and The Landing at Creekside Park.



Q9. What barriers prevent or discourage you from using Belton parks?



General Feedback: Respondents were pleased with the City's investment in parks and expressed a desire for continued improvements to the park system.

- **92%** believe parks are well worth the cost to taxpayers.
- **91%** think existing parks should be improved.
- **91%** feel parks and recreation are more important today than ten years ago.
- **84%** would support a bond for park acquisition and improvements.
- **80%** support acquiring and developing new parkland.
- **75%** value parks within walking distance of homes.
- **62%** feel Belton provides an adequate number of parks and facilities.
- **41%** believe parks are keeping pace with the growth in population.

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OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider developing an Indoor Recreation Center
- Continue to improve existing parks
- Incorporate shade into parks when feasible
- Expand accessible programming opportunities
- Incorporate public art throughout the park system

2016 - 2026

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITY PRIORITIES:

High Priority Items
1. Walking /Hiking Trails
2. Athletic Fields
3. Dog Park
4. Natural Areas and Open Space
5. Water Recreation (Fishing/Kayak/Canoe Areas)
6. Outdoor Swimming Pool

Medium Priority Items
7. Playscapes / Playgrounds
8. Flower / Community Gardens
9. Disc Golf
10. Water Playscape / Splash Pads
11. Picnic Shelters / Pavilions

Moderate Priority Items (Long-Range Items)
12. Tennis Court
13. Skateboard Park
14. Volleyball Court
15. Basketball Court
16. Pickleball

INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITY PRIORITIES:

High Priority Items
1. Multi-Purpose Indoor Recreation Center

Medium Priority Items
2. Indoor Pool



2026 - 2036

RECREATIONAL AMENITY PRIORITIES

1. Playgrounds
2. Trails
3. Shade
4. Indoor Recreational Space
5. Restrooms/Concessions
6. Splash Pads
7. Site Furniture (e.g. benches, picnic tables, grilling stations, etc.)
8. Sport Fields (e.g. baseball, softball, soccer, etc.)
9. Multi-Purpose Sport Courts (e.g. basketball, tennis, volleyball, etc.)
10. Signage (e.g. mile markers, wayfinding, interpretive, etc.)
11. Skate Park
12. Community Gardens
13. Native Landscaping
14. Dog Parks
15. Aquatic Recreation (e.g. splashpads, community pools, river access, etc.)

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Fiscal Year	Park Name	Project Description	Estimated Cost
2026	Miller Heights Public Safety Center Park	• Update and relocate playground • Consider opportunities for Nolan Creek Hike and Bike Trail connectivity	$50,000
2026	Heritage Park	Develop TPWD grant application for the expansion of Heritage Park	Market Price
2027-2028	Heritage Park	• Expand looped trail • Improve disc golf facilities • Install pavilion • Improve baseball backstops • Improve dog park facilities • Install native landscaping • Upgrade site furniture • Install trail lighting • Install public art • Consider replacing baseball concession • Consider developing an all-inclusive sports field • Consider constructing an amphitheater • Install new pump system	$2M
2027	Miller Heights Public Safety Center Park	Develop TPWD grant application for the redevelopment of Miller Heights Public Safety Center Park	Market Price
2028	Griggs Field	• Develop looped trail and connect to Miller Heights Public Safety Center • Install soccer goals • Install entryway signage	$75,000
2028	Nolan Creek Nature Trail	• Install benches • Install informational signage	$15,000
2028-2029	Miller Heights Public Safety Center Park	• Replace playground • Install playground shade • Construct pavilion • Install restroom • Improve and expand trails • Install park/trail lighting • Install site furniture	$1.5M
2028	Miller Heights Community Park	• Replace playground • Install playground shade • Update fitness equipment • Update site furniture	$500,000

Year	Park Name	Project Description	Estimated Cost
2029	South Wall Tiger Park	• Install Pavilion • Resurface basketball court • Replace & relocate playground • Construct multi-purpose sports courts • Consider repurposing underutilized splashpad	$650,000
2029	Multiple Parks	Develop a conceptual master plan for the continuity of Harris Community Park, Liberty Park, Nolan Creek Hike and Bike Trail, Yettie Polk Park, and The Landing at Creekside Park	Market Price
2029	Standpipe Park	• Install shade structure over playground	$150,000
2029	Beall Park	Develop TPWD grant application for the redevelopment of Beall Park	Market Price
2030	Jeff Hamilton Park	• Expand looped trail	$50,000
2030-2031	Beall Park	• Develop looped trail • Construct restroom facility • Construct pavilion • Install native landscaping • Install entryway signage	$600,000
2030	Nolan Creek Hike and Bike Trail	• Install shade near seating areas & fitness equipment • Explore opportunities to expand trail south towards Miller Heights Public Safety Center	$100,000
2030	TBD	Develop TPWD grant application for the indoor recreational center*	Market Price
2031	Continental Field	• Construct pavilion • Install restroom • Construct looped trail • Install entryway signage • Restripe parking	$400,000
2031	Jaycee Field	• Construct new entryway signage • Restripe parking lot	$100,000
2031	Sendero Estates	Develop TPWD grant application for Sendero Estates	Market Price
2032	Sendero Estates	• Construct multi-purpose sports courts • Construct pavilion • Construct looped trail • Expand parking area • Install native landscaping • Install entryway signage	$1.5M

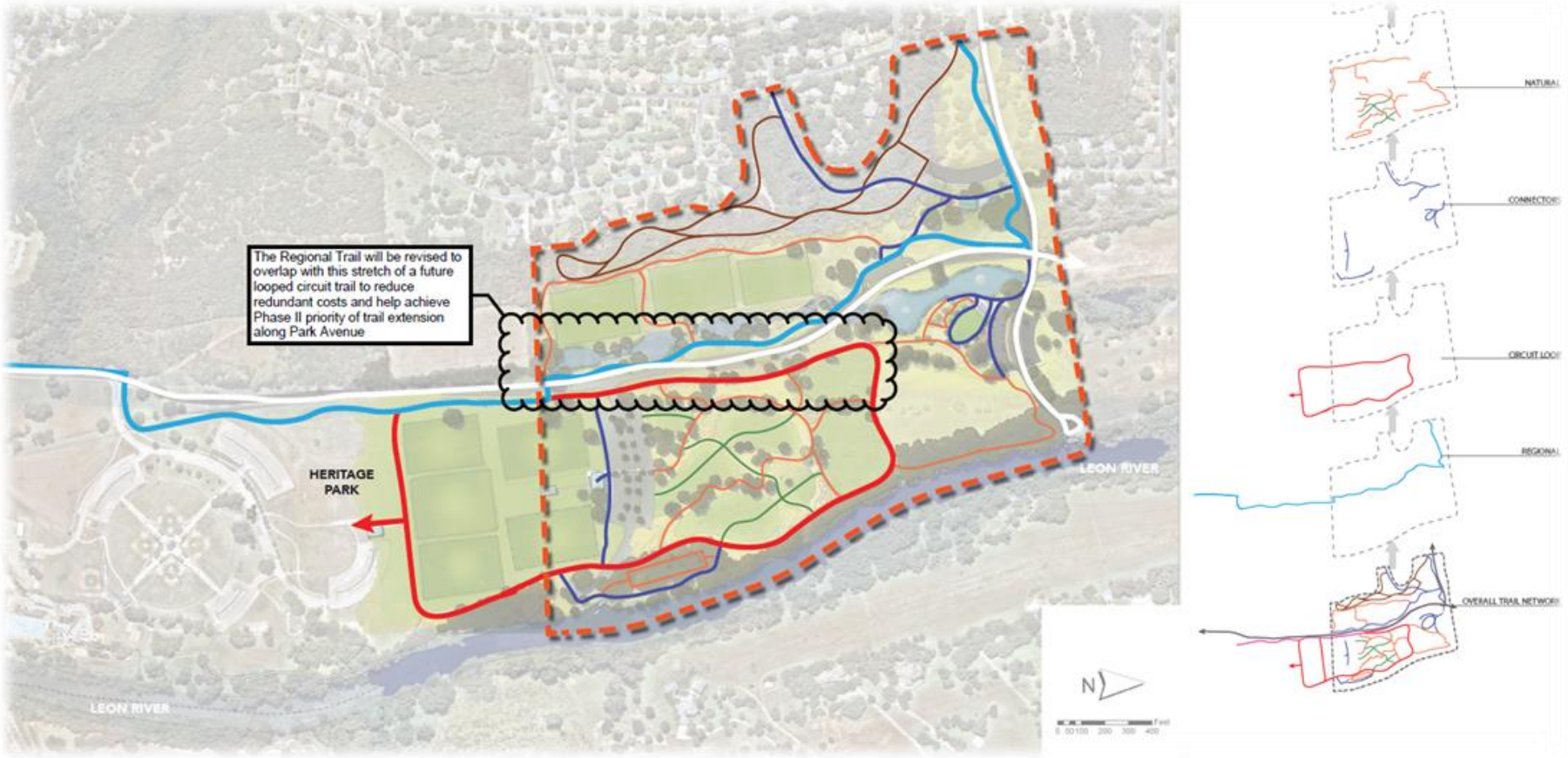
Year	Park Name	Project Description	Estimated Cost
2032	Freedom Neighborhood Park	• Construct looped trail • Install playground shade • Install native landscaping • Install entryway signage	$250,000
2032	Chisholm Trail Park	Develop TPWD grant application for Chisholm Trail Park	Market Price
2033-2034	Chisholm Trail Park	• Install batting cages • Resurface basketball court • Install shade over pickleball courts • Install lighting over pickleball courts • Resod multi-use open space area • Expand and improve segments of the trail • Install public art • Consider constructing fourth softball field • Consider constructing skate park	$2.3M
2033	Harris Community Park	• Install shade canopy over splashpad • Resurface basketball court • Install native landscaping • Install yard games (cornhole, checkers, washers, etc.) • Consider renovating splashpad	$700,000
2034	Yettie Polk Park	• Install interactive art/play structure • Construct pavilion/covered seating area near playground • Update site furniture • Install native landscaping	$350,000
2034	Liberty Park	• Construct pavilion • Construct public art • Install native landscaping	$200,000
2034	The Landing at Creekside	• Consider opportunities for park expansion • Consider developing trails to connect to Liberty Park	Market Price
2035	Quail Meadows	• Resurface playground • Construct parking lot with trail access • Install restroom • Install soccer goals	$300,000
2035	Carla Kay Park	• Replace playground • Install native landscaping • Explore opportunities to expand connectivity to Miller Heights Public Safety Center	$200,000
Estimated Total			**$11,940,000**

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

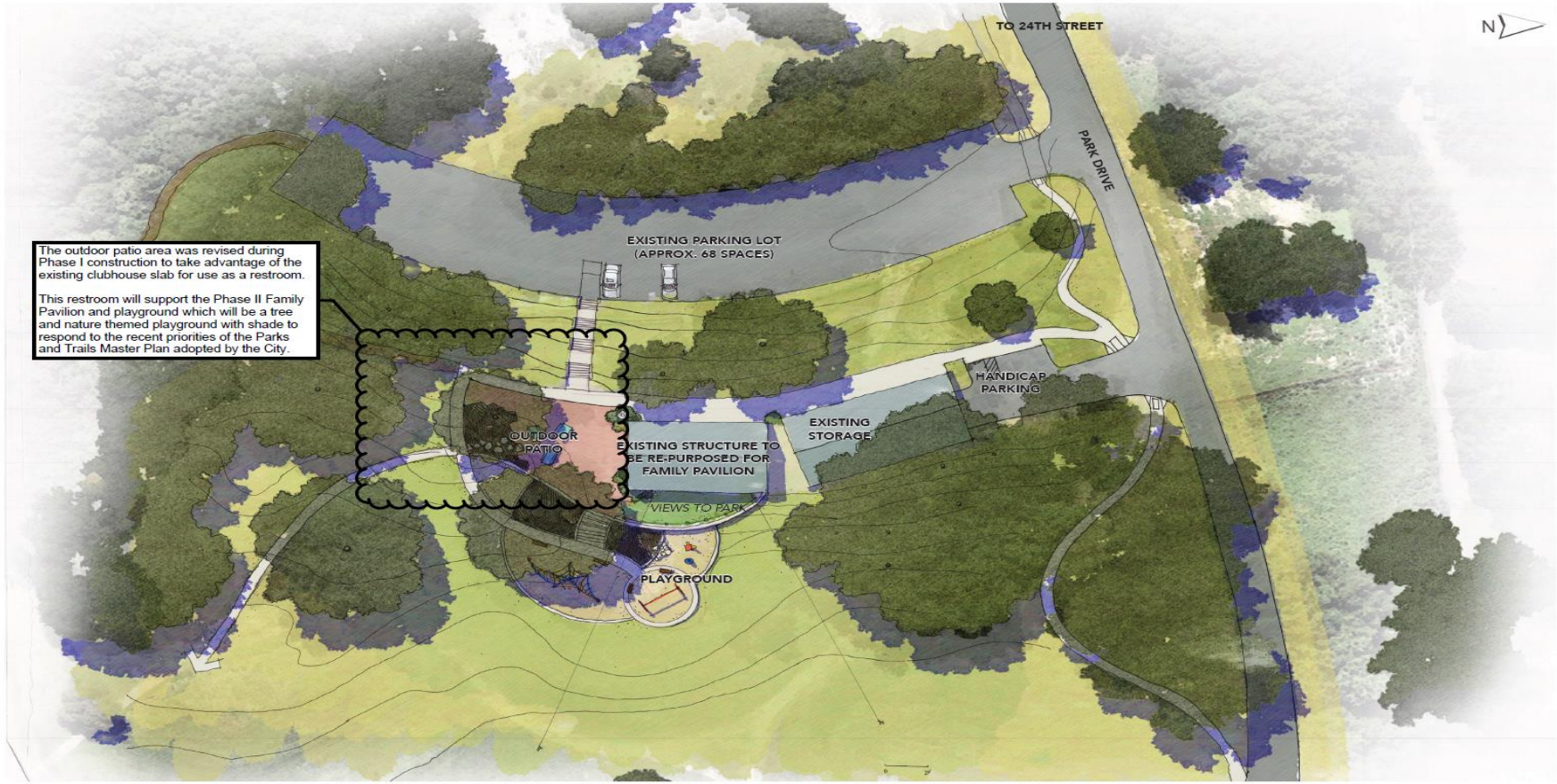
Fiscal Year	Park Name	Project Description	Estimated Cost
2026	Miller Heights Public Safety Center Park	• Update and relocate playground • Consider opportunities for Nolan Creek Hike and Bike Trail connectivity	$50,000
2026	Heritage Park	Develop TPWD grant application for the expansion of Heritage Park	Market Price
2027-2028	Heritage Park	• Expand looped trail • Improve disc golf facilities • Install pavilion • Improve baseball backstops • Improve dog park facilities • Install native landscaping • Upgrade site furniture • Install trail lighting • Install public art • Consider replacing baseball concession • Consider developing an all-inclusive sports field • Consider constructing an amphitheater • Install new pump system	$2M

Heritage Park Phase II





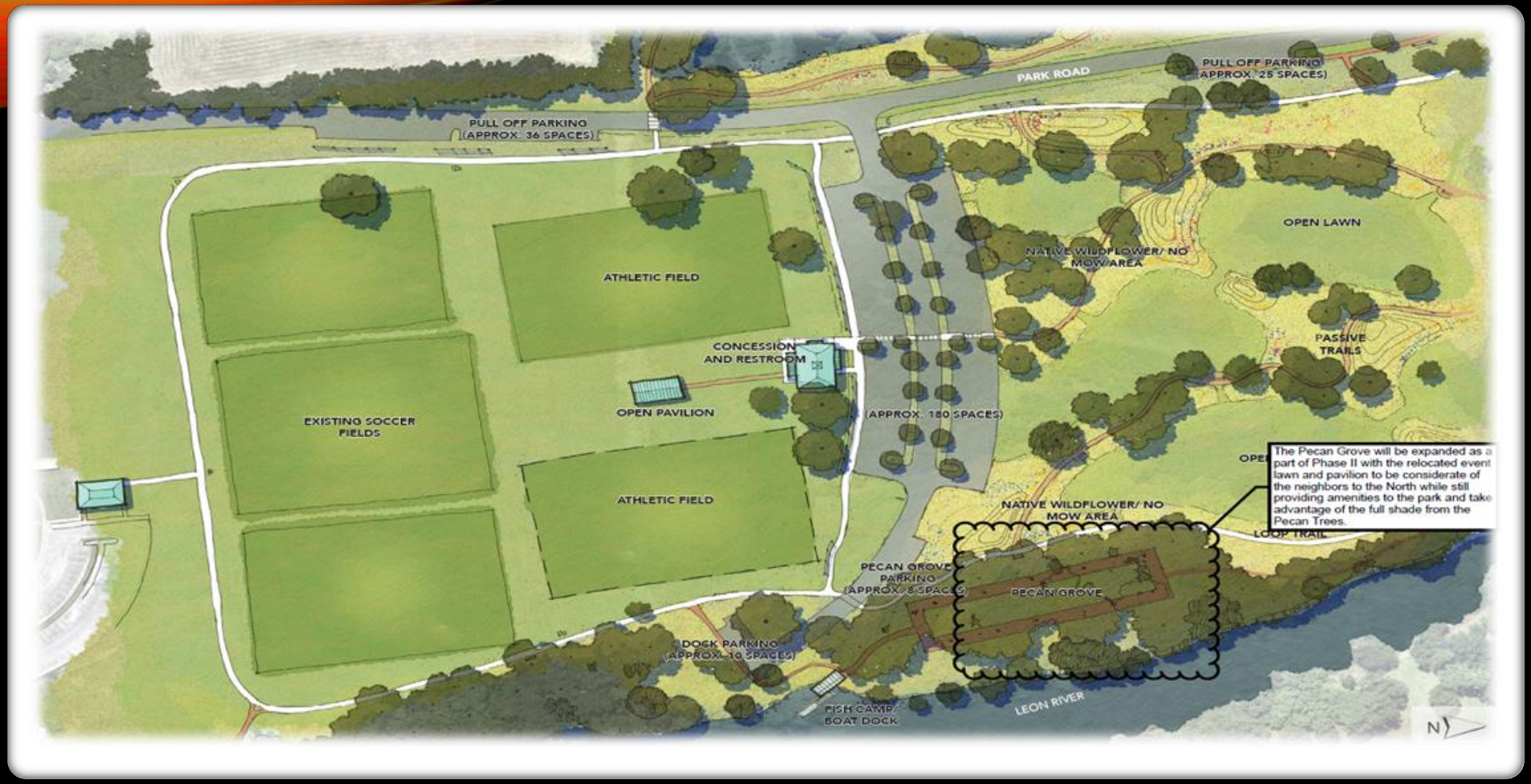
A lighted Connecting Trail



Family Pavilion and Playground Area



Family Pavilion and Playground Area



Pecan Grove Outdoor Event Venue and Pavilion



Pecan Grove Outdoor Event Venue and Pavilion

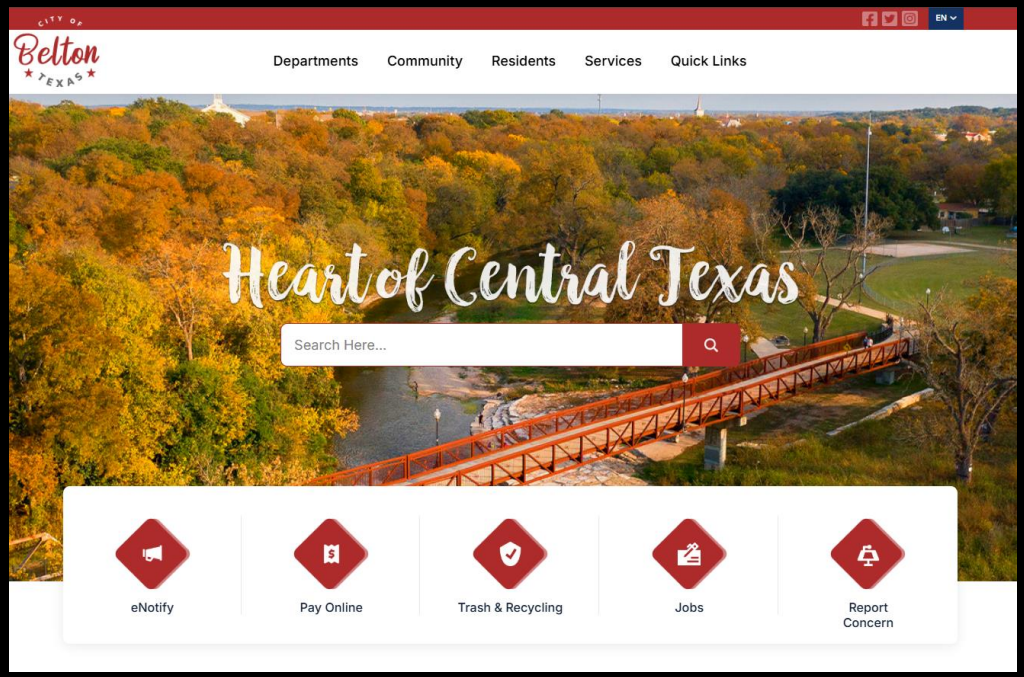
ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AS FUNDING ALLOWS

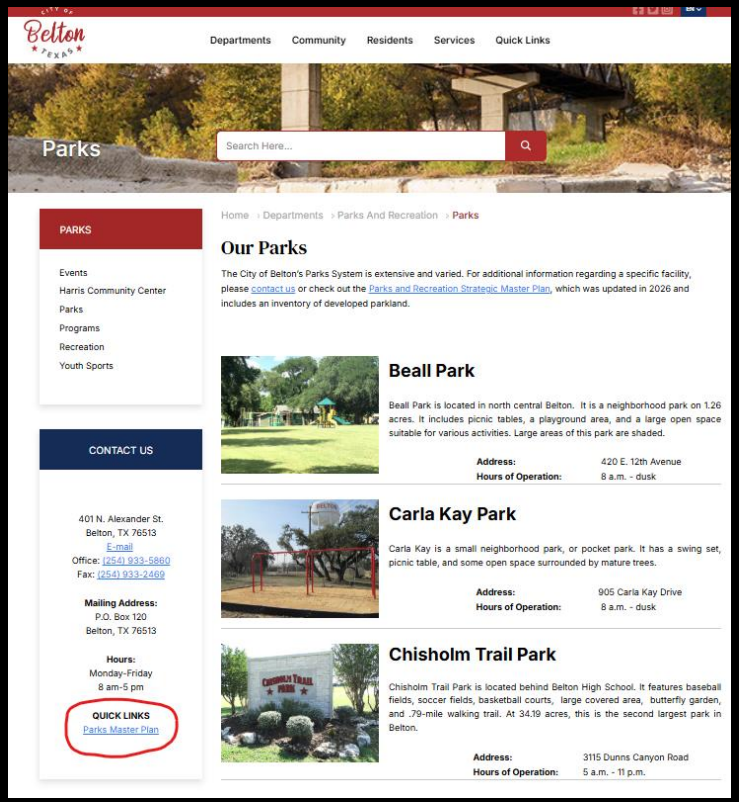
- Disc Golf Course Improvements
- Dog Park Improvements
- Practice fields
- Fishing ponds
- Sports Field Lighting

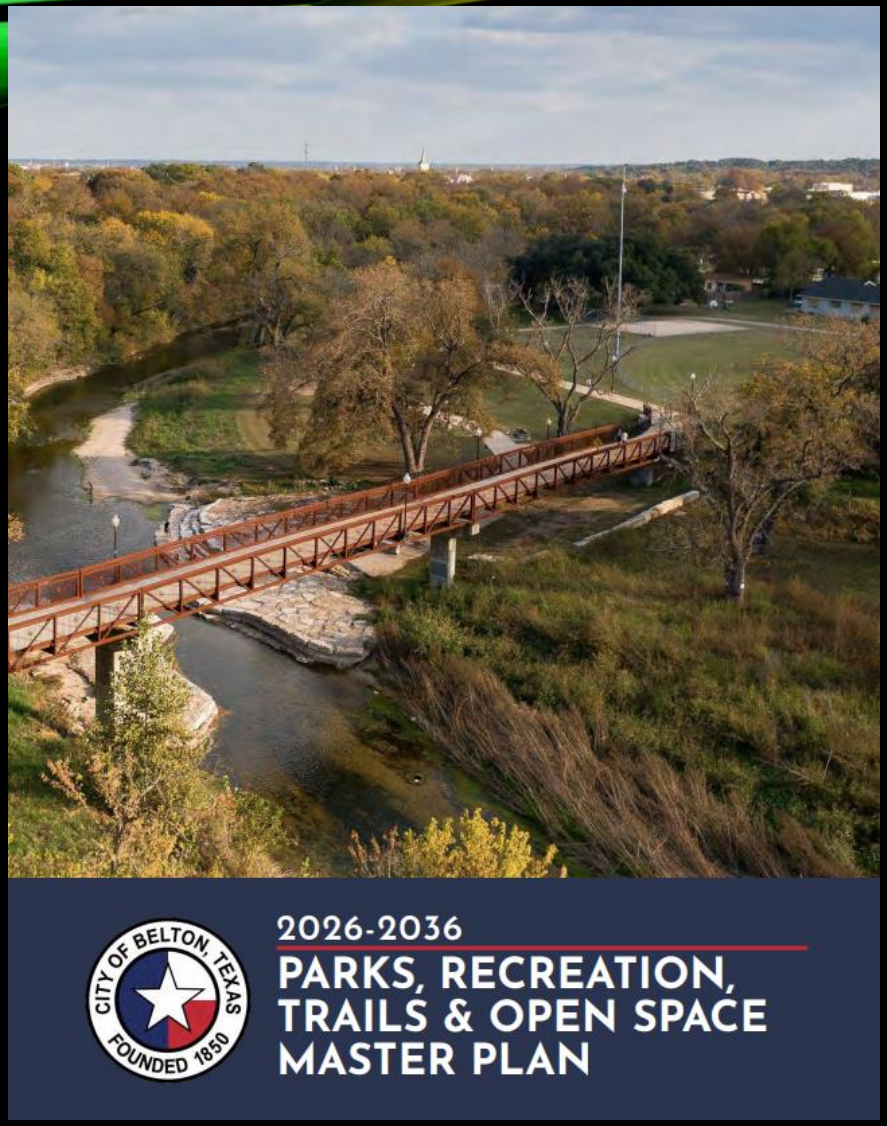


CAN WE REVIEW THE PARKS MASTER PLAN

https://www.beltontexas.gov






CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS
FOUNDED 1850
2026-2036
PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



POLKA ON THE SQUARE



CHRISTMAS ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL



FAMILY CAMPOUT

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COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

The City developed two community surveys to better understand the recreational needs and desires of the community. These surveys were available from September 25, 2025 through October 31, 2025. The first survey was an in-depth and comprehensive survey and received 354 responses, while the second received 539 responses. Together, 893 survey responses were received, providing the City with a wide-range of recreational needs and opportunities to explore. The City advertised the surveys extensively on the City's website and social media, along with the local news. The results from the surveys are provided below:

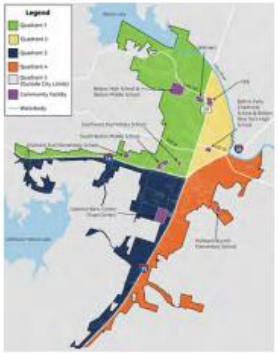
SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

The majority of survey participants (78%) reside within Belton City Limits. Of the Belton residents, Quadrant I - Northwest received the most participation.

Figure 17: Where do you reside?



Legend
- Quadrant I - Northwest (43%)
- Quadrant V - Outside City Limits (22%)
- Quadrant II - Northeast (14%)
- Quadrant III - Southwest (12%)
- Quadrant IV - Southeast (9%)



The participants who reportedly live outside the City of Belton primarily noted they live in Temple, Harker Heights, Killeen, Morgan's Point Resort, Bell County, Nolanville, and Salado.



FAMILY CAMPOUT

PARK USAGE

A majority of survey respondents (64%) reported they use parks and recreational facilities in Belton on a weekly or monthly basis. Many participants expressed the desire to utilize parks more frequently however, a lack of shade and restrooms can hinder increased usage. While a small percentage of participants (3%) expressed they never use Belton parks and recreational facilities, it is crucial for the City to understand why community members are not utilizing the system. Survey respondents stated they utilize a variety of parks and recreational facilities in Belton; however the most utilized facilities included Heritage Park (25%), Chisholm Trail Park (15%), and Yettie Polk Park (12%).

Figure 18: How often do you or someone in your household visit Belton parks and recreation facilities?



Legend
- Weekly (40%)
- Monthly (24%)
- A few times a year (20%)
- Daily (13%)
- Never (3%)

Figure 19: Which parks do you or someone in your household primarily visit?



Legend
- Heritage Park (25%)
- Chisholm Trail Park (15%)
- Yettie Polk Park (12%)
- Nolan Creek Hike and Bike Trail (11%)
- Miller Springs Nature Center (10%)
- Harris Community Park (10%)
- Other (17%)*

**Other includes: Liberty Park (3%), Standpipe Park (3%), Freedom Neighborhood Park (2%), Miller Heights Community Park (2%), Beall Park (1%), N/A (1%), The Landing at Creekside Park (1%), South Wall Tiger Park (1%), Quail Meadows Park (1%), Jeff Hamilton Park (1%), and Carla Kay Park (1%).*

Figure 20: What do you or someone in your household primarily utilize Belton parks for?



Legend
- Trails (26%)
- Playgrounds (16%)
- Splashpads (11%)
- Events (9%)
- Baseball Fields (7%)
- Dog Parks (7%)
- Pickleball Courts (6%)
- Soccer Fields (6%)
- Disc Golf (4%)
- Basketball Courts (4%)
- Other* (4%)

**Other includes: Fitness Classes (2%), Softball Fields (1%), and None (1%).*

FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

FOCUS GROUP OVERVIEW

The City conducted several focus group meetings with specific community organizations to have a comprehensive understanding of recreational needs and gaps within the community. A total of three meetings were held in October 2025, with 19 unique organizations and over 40 participants. The Belton Parks and Recreation Department understood the importance of meeting with these organizations to help identify needs and priorities to address over the next ten years. A summary of the highlights and needs from these meetings are provided on the following page, while the specific organizations involved in these meetings can be found below:

- Bell County Business Group
- Belton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Belton City Council
- Belton Communications Department
- Belton Economic Development Corporation
- Belton Independent School District
- Belton Information Technology
- Belton Lions Club
- Belton Parks Board
- Belton Parks and Recreation Department Staff
- Belton Retail and Tourism Development
- Belton Rotary Club
- Belton Senior Activity Center
- Belton Youth Baseball Association
- Belton Youth Softball Association
- FC Belton Soccer
- Hero's Volleyball
- i9 Sports
- Lena Armstrong Public Library
- PDGA (Professional Disc Golf Association)
- Tennis Representatives
- Providence Preparatory School
- University of Mary-Hardin Baylor



FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE AT HARRIS COMMUNITY CENTER

PARK SYSTEM STRENGTHS

- The City has done a great job reinvesting in the park system
- Parks and the overall quality-of-life are significant reasons why people live and move to Belton
- The City has a large amount and wide-variety of opportunities for youth athletics
- Belton parks and park facilities are heavily utilized by residents and visitors
- The Heritage Park disc golf course is a unique amenity and is a high-ranked course in the U.S.
- Programming and events are important, well-attended, and foster a sense of community
- The Chisholm Trail theme provides a unique identity for Belton
- Partnerships within the community are vital and support the park system



CHRISTMAS ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL

PARK SYSTEM NEEDS

- Supporting facilities (e.g. shade, restrooms, lighting, parking, etc.)
- An indoor recreational center
- Skate park facilities
- Additional sport courts and fields and multi-purpose practice fields
- Improvements to athletic facilities (e.g. concessions, fields, equipment, etc.)
- Native landscaping within the parks
- Signage (e.g. mileage markers, wayfinding, interpretive, entryway, etc.)
- Partnerships within the community are vital and support the park system
- Public art and murals to create a unique identity for each park
- Unique recreational program opportunities (e.g. kayak and paddleboard rentals)
- Aquatic recreation (e.g. splashpads, community pool, river access, etc.)
- Dog park improvements

Thank You

QUESTIONS

James Grant, CPRP, CPTM

City of Belton
Director of Parks & Recreation

jgrant@beltontexas.gov



Indoor Recreation Feasibility Study

Purpose of the Study:

Community input expressed a desire for indoor recreational space. The City developed a feasibility study to understand the community's vision for indoor recreational space and preferred location.

National Trends

Communities of similar size to Belton generally have 1 indoor recreation center for every 27,517 residents.

What We Heard The Belton Community Desires

Residents want access to indoor facilities, and at a minimum desire:

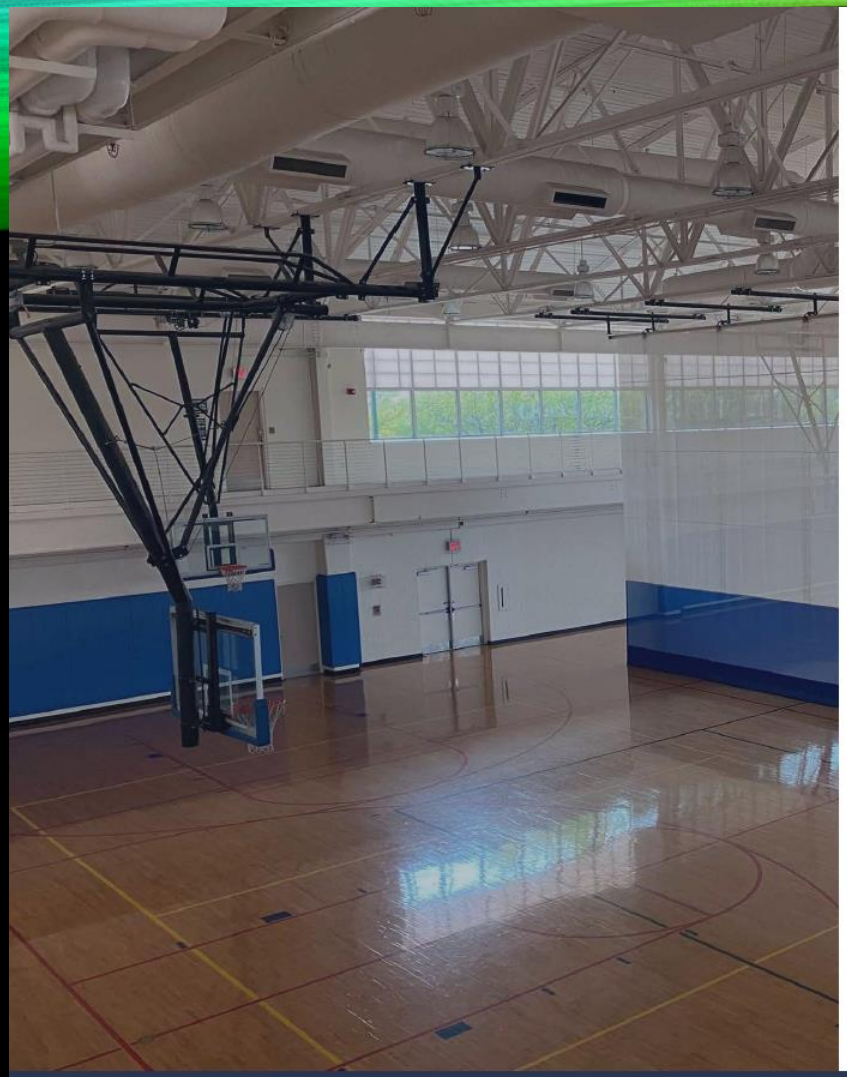
- Four multi-purpose sports courts
- Classroom space for meetings and activities
- An indoor walking track

Where Should This Facility Go

The City explored locations throughout the community that would best suit an indoor recreation center. The following were identified as the most feasible locations:

- Liberty Park
- Heritage Park
- Chisholm Trail Park

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Indoor Recreation Feasibility Study

Purpose

Primarily to be utilized for local recreation

- Youth Athletics
- Seniors
- Programming and Events
- Small Tournaments

Capital Cost

Construction Cost: **$17 million** *(± 40,000 Square Feet)*

- 4 Multi-purpose sports courts
- Multi-purpose meeting spaces
- Lobby and supporting facilities

Design and Engineering: ± **$5 Million**

Total: ± **$22 – $26 million**

Operations and Maintenance

Operations and Maintenance: ± **$1.5 – $2.5 Million** *(staffing, maintenance, programming, insurance, etc.)*

Staffing: ± **5 – 8 FTE**

- Recreation Center Manager
- Recreation Programmer
- Front Desk Personnel
- Custodial

Recommendations

- Continue to explore opportunities to provide indoor recreational space
- Revaluate the need for indoor recreational space in 2030
- Consider applying for TPWD grant *(Up to $1.5 Million)*

MHS Planning & Design

HERITAGE PARK PHASE I

Completed Improvements

- ☑ Extension of Park Avenue to East 24th Avenue
- ☑ Permanent Dog Park
- ☑ Multi-Use Recreation Field
- ☑ Additional Parking
- ☑ Concession Building, Pavilion, and Restrooms
- ☑ Fish Camp and Dock/Pier
- ☑ Mowed Meadows and Native Grass Areas



ITEM #10

Active Transportation Lessons Learned, Safety Spotlight:

Serving to Help Cyclists

Active Transportation Lessons Learned, Safety Spotlight: Serving to Help Cyclists

Sean is a dedicated youth cycling safety trainee and emerging instructor with Serving to Help Cyclists. At 15, he brings strong discipline, calm decision-making, and a natural ability to connect with younger riders. In addition to supporting community cycling events and assisting with route safety, Sean contributes directly to the organization's growth by tailoring the nonprofit's website and developing its social media platform to expand youth engagement and community outreach.

Sean is preparing to ride in the Military Medical Appreciation Day Ride from Fort Hood to Fort Sam Houston in April, honoring military medical personnel and demonstrating his commitment to service, endurance, and leadership. He continues to develop advanced skills in rider instruction, traffic awareness, and youth mentorship as he steps into greater leadership roles within the organization.

Action Needed: No action needed, for discussion only.



Serving To Help Cyclists

Sean Beamesderfer



Heart of
Texas NICA
Racing







Elevation Racing

TIMBRA
State Champion

Walker Carroll



February 6, 2026

Involved in a hit-and-run accident while cycling to train for an upcoming race. He suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury and multiple fractures including the spine.



Colton Young



February 6, 2026

Diagnosed with Leukemia. Currently receiving Chemotherapy and other treatments as needed.



Ride for Life





Partnered with Belton Lions Club

Five Young Men raised $6780

Nolanville: Ride of Silence 2026





Mount Zion United Methodist Church Backpack Giveaway

Provided Bike Safety Awareness for the Community







Future Events

- Host Monthly Bike Rides for Children with Belton Parks & Rec (Beginning September 2026)
- Military Medical Appreciation Day Ride (March 29th-30th, 2027) A father/son ride from Fort Hood to Camp Mabry to Fort Sam Houston
- Veterans and Gold Star Appreciation Ride (April 3, 2027)
- Safety and Awareness Classes
- Working with One Stop to provide bikes and safety equipment to homeless veterans
- Cross Country Ride for Fundraising in 2034

Mission

Serving to Help Cyclists is dedicated to safer roads, stronger communities, and healthier lives. We promote bike awareness, support cyclists facing crisis, illness, or hardship, and honor veterans and Gold Star families through meaningful engagement and wellness-focused cycling programs.

A Father and Son
Serving to Help Cyclists




S2HC
Serving To Help Cyclists
Brett and Sean Beamesderfer
254-213-3249
email:Info@servingtohelpcyclists.com

ITEM #11

Upcoming Community Activities for the period of August – November, 2026

August 12, 2026

Active Transportation Advisory Committee **Agenda Item # 11**

Upcoming Community Activities for the period of August – November, 2026

Community activities throughout the Killeen-Temple MPO region, including walking and running events, cycling events, outdoor expos, and other recreational programs, help promote healthy lifestyles, strengthen community connections, and showcase the region's parks, trails, and outdoor amenities. These events encourage active transportation, support local organizations and charitable causes, attract visitors, and contribute to trail tourism and local economic activity by generating spending at restaurants, hotels, retail businesses, and other community destinations.

Supporting these activities advances shared regional goals related to health, wellness, recreation, economic development, and community engagement while increasing awareness and use of transportation and recreational assets across the MPO planning area.

Action Needed: No action needed, for discussion only.

2026 CEN-TEX Race Series

DATE	RACE	LOCATION
JAN 17	**Y5K RUN TO THE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE**	Copperas Cove
FEB 7	**AJ HOWARD MEMORIAL 5K**	Belton
FEB 28	**SALADO LIONS ROAR 5K**	Salado
MAR 7	**CASA 5K SHENANIGANS FUN RUN**	Temple
APR 4	**STAN WEIK 5K CANCER STOMP**	San Saba
APR 11	**MPR ROSES FOR HOSES 5K**	Morgan's Point Resort
MAY 9	**JACKRABBIT RUN 5K & 10K**	Copperas Cove
MAY 16	**FALLEN HEROES 5K**	Killeen
JUN 6	**F3 5K**	Copperas Cove
JUN 20	**JUNETEENTH 5K**	Killeen
JUL 11	**TOUGHEST 10K IN TEXAS 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN**	Lampasas
JUL 25	**CALIENTE 5K**	Killeen
AUG 1	**COMMUNITY CONNECTION 5K**	Killeen
AUG 29	**STEPS 2 STABILITY**	Copperas Cove
SEP 12	**FLAMINGO 5K**	Copperas Cove
SEP 26	**NOLANVILLE FOX TROT 5K**	Nolanville
OCT 10	**MK5K**	Killeen
OCT 17	**ROTARY MONSTER DASH 5K**	Harker Heights
NOV 7	**TURKEY TROT 5K**	Killeen
NOV 14	**SALADO BAND MUSTACHE DASH 5K**	Salado
DEC 5	**JINGLE BELL DASH 5K**	Killeen
DEC 19	**HALF MARA-FUN**	Killeen

CONTACT

centexrace@killeentexas.gov
(254) 501-6390

PARKS & RECREATION

Scan QR code for registration, point system, and race contact info.

www.killeentexas.gov/centex

The Carlson Law Firm
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
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ITEM #12

Recreation and Local Parks Grants

Recreation and Local Parks Grants

Background

The Readiness and Recreation Initiative (RARI) and the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) programs provide significant federal funding opportunities to support parks, trails, open space, and outdoor recreation projects within the Killeen-Temple MPO region. These programs can help communities expand recreational access, enhance trail connectivity, preserve open spaces, and create destination-quality outdoor amenities that improve quality of life and support economic development.

RARI is particularly relevant to the region due to its connection to military readiness and compatible land use surrounding Fort Hood. The program supports projects that expand public recreation opportunities while preserving land and enhancing resilience in areas associated with military installations. Eligible projects may include trail corridors, open space acquisition, conservation areas, and other recreation investments that benefit both local communities and military families.

ORLP provides funding for larger-scale recreation projects, including park development, trail construction, park renovations, and recreational amenities in qualifying communities. These investments can promote outdoor recreation, support trail tourism, attract visitors, and generate economic benefits for local businesses while increasing access to parks and outdoor spaces.

Both grant opportunities align with regional goals to expand active transportation networks, improve recreational amenities, strengthen connections between communities, and leverage external funding to advance priority projects across the KTMPO planning area. Applications for both programs are due October 1, 2026.

Action Needed: No action needed, for discussion only.

ITEM #13

Public Input Received through Previous Month

Public Input Received to Date

KTMPO collects public input through a variety of channels, including online submissions, email, public meetings, workshops, community events, social media, and interactive web maps. Staff review and research comments received, collaborate with partner agencies, and coordinate with relevant stakeholders to address concerns and gather information. When contact information is available, staff also follow up directly with commenters to provide updates or additional information.

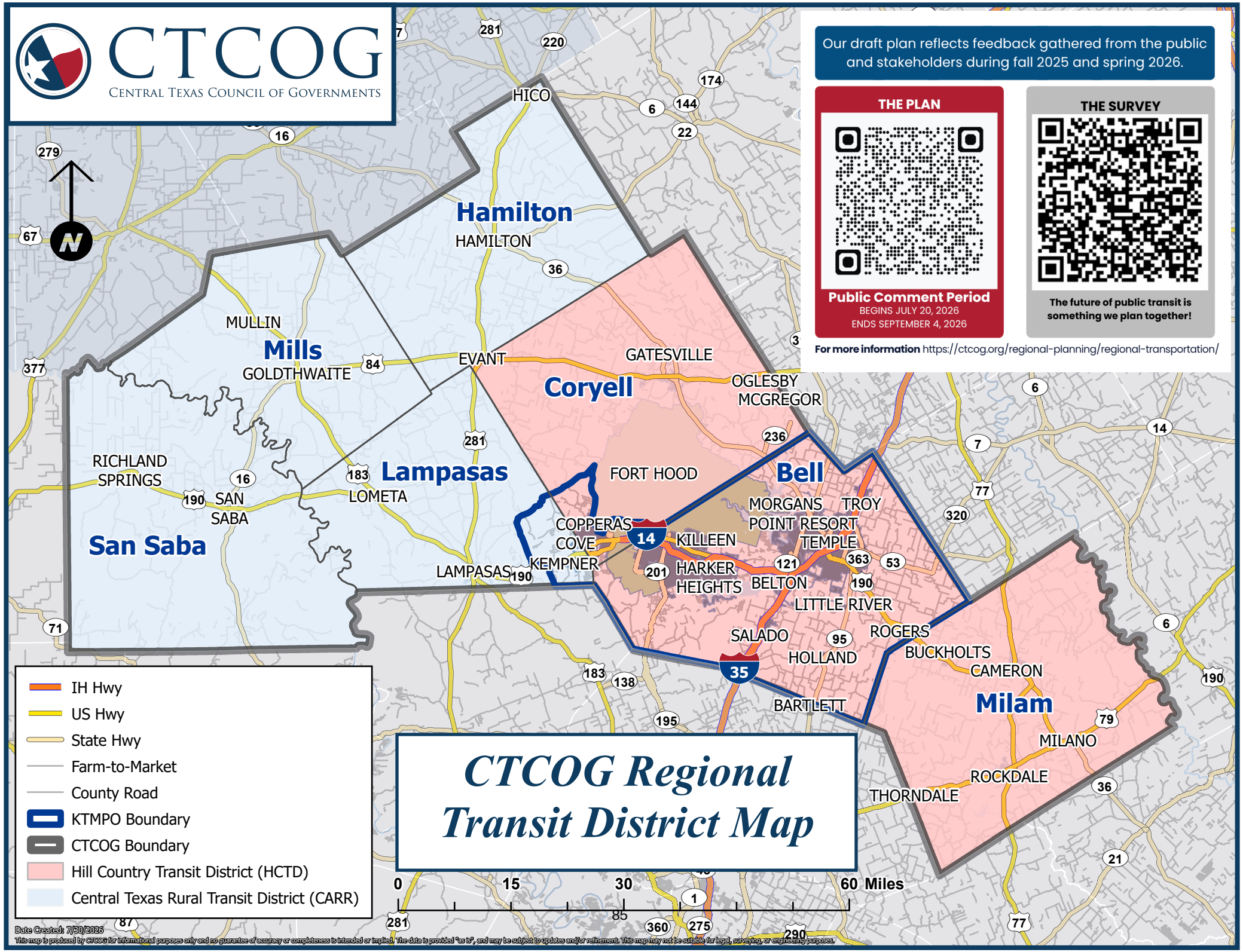
Public input is regularly shared with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Transportation Policy Board (TPPB), Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC), and Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) to ensure awareness of community concerns, promote transparency, and provide opportunities for discussion and consideration.

Public comments received during the previous month are included in the meeting packet and documented in the Public Engagement Log.

Current Public Comment Period:

Date & Time	Regarding	Location
July 20 – September 4, 2026	Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) FY27-31	CTCOG Region

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.


CTCOG
Central Texas Council of Governments
Our draft plan reflects feedback gathered from the public and stakeholders during fall 2025 and spring 2026.
THE PLAN
Public Comment Period
BEGINS JULY 20, 2026
ENDS SEPTEMBER 4, 2026
THE SURVEY
The future of public transit is something we plan together!
For more information https://ctcog.org/regional-planning/regional-transportation/
Hamilton
HAMILTON
HICO
Mills
MULLIN
GOLDTHWAITE
EVANT
Coryell
GATESVILLE
OGLESBY
MCGREGOR
Lampasas
LOMETA
RICHLAND SPRINGS
SAN SABA
San Saba
FORT HOOD
Bell
MORGANS POINT RESORT
TROY
TEMPLE
KILLEEN
COPPERAS COVE
KEMPNER
LAMPASAS
HARKER HEIGHTS
BELTON
LITTLE RIVER
SALADO
HOLLAND
ROGERS
BUCKHOLTS
CAMERON
BARTLETT
Milam
MILANO
ROCKDALE
THORNDALE
IH Hwy
US Hwy
State Hwy
Farm-to-Market
County Road
KTMPO Boundary
CTCOG Boundary
Hill Country Transit District (HCTD)
Central Texas Rural Transit District (CARR)
CTCOG Regional Transit District Map
0 15 30 60 Miles
Date Created: 7/30/2026
This map is produced by CTCOG for informational purposes only and no guarantee of accuracy or completeness is intended or implied. The data is provided "as is", and may be subject to updates and/or refinement. This map may not be suitable for legal, surveying, or engineering purposes.

Public Comments							
2026							
Date Received	**Source**	**Topic**	**Jurisdiction**	**Comment**	**Is the Project in the 2050 MTP?**	**KTMPO Response**	**Name**
8/10/2026	Public Comment Form	Public Transit	HCTD	I am a care coordinator assisting [a client], a Bell County resident in Belton. He needs transportation to medical appointments. Could you please provide current transportation information or referrals for Belton residents, including demand-response, rural, ADA/paratransit, or medical-appointment services; eligibility requirements; service area; scheduling deadlines; fares; and how an advocate may coordinate rides on his behalf? Please also advise whether recurring appointment transportation is available and whether The HOP is the appropriate regional provider. Thank you.	Unknown	Thank you for reaching out on behalf of your client. KTMPO/CTCOG is a regional planning organization, while The HOP is a public transportation provider. Whether The HOP is the appropriate transportation option will depend on several factors, including your client's home address, whether the trip origin and destination are within The HOP's service area, and the individual's mobility and accessibility needs. For example, eligibility for ADA complementary paratransit service is based on specific criteria, and some transportation benefits may also be available through a client's health insurance provider or managed care organization. Additionally, available services, scheduling requirements, fares, and recurring trip options can vary depending on the transportation program for which an individual qualifies. To ensure you receive the most accurate and up-to-date information, I am copying James with The HOP, who can provide guidance regarding available transportation services, eligibility requirements, service areas, reservation procedures, fares, and whether recurring transportation to medical appointments may be available for your client. Another consideration is whether he is a Veteran, as additional transportation resources and funding options may be available through Veteran-serving organizations and programs. Please feel free to email me back, and I would be happy to help connect you with those resources. While I cannot guarantee assistance, we make every effort to identify and connect residents with all available transportation options that may help meet their needs. As we plan for future public transportation needs in the region, I would also encourage you to complete our FY 2027-2031 Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan survey. While the plan cannot guarantee the creation of new transit services, it does help document transportation needs, identify service gaps, and inform future planning and funding decisions. Input from care coordinators, transit users, and advocates is particularly valuable in helping us better understand unmet transportation needs throughout the region. Survey: The Future of Transit is Something We Plan Together Draft Transit Plan – RPTCP FY27-31 Thank you for your advocacy and for helping connect residents to essential services.	ME
7/21/2026	Social Media - DM	Bike/Ped/Sidewalk/Trails	City of Copperas Cove	What are the chances that Copperas Cove citizens can get y'all to consider this? [Comment references the addition of shade trees, benches, and hydration stations along the Business 190 corridor in Copperas Cove and requests consideration of these amenities as part of future transportation improvements.]	KTMPO ID: C50-04a, C50-04b, C50-04e	Thank you for reaching out and for sharing your ideas regarding shade trees, benches, and hydration stations along the Business 190 corridor. We appreciate residents who take the time to provide feedback and identify opportunities to improve the pedestrian experience in our communities. Amenities such as shade, seating, and access to water can make walking more comfortable, accessible, and enjoyable, particularly during periods of extreme heat. These features are important considerations that can contribute to a safer and more welcoming environment for people traveling on foot. You are always welcome to join our conversations at the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meetings - which we are holding one on Wednesday, August 12th at 9:30. Check out our FB page to join online. KTMPO's role is to facilitate regional transportation planning discussions, administer the metropolitan transportation planning process, and allocate transportation funding through decisions made by the MPO's Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee. While KTMPO can help amplify community voices and ensure local concerns and ideas are communicated to decision-makers, decisions regarding the installation and maintenance of amenities such as shade trees, benches, and hydration stations are made by the local municipality and are subject to available funding and other project considerations. Your comment will be made part of the public record and shared with KTMPO's Policy Board, Technical Advisory Committee, and advisory committees, as well as the City of Copperas Cove, for their awareness and consideration. Thank you again for your interest in helping improve transportation and quality of life within the community.	RP
7/21/2026	Social Media	Bike/Ped/Sidewalk/Trails	City of Copperas Cove	I was told you guys are in charge of 190 in copperas cove, I think it would be highly beneficial for our city to have a little shade and color, with native or plants that not need so much maintance. I'm willing to help to organize a public meeting or anything to help accomplish this, o a least a little bit of it. I walk about a mile yesterday and just wich a least a tree with a bench to hide from the heat and sun.	KTMPO ID: C50-04a, C50-04b, C50-04e	KTMPO's response consisted of directly contacting the respondent by phone to provide education on KTMPO's role in facilitating regional transportation discussions and allocating transportation funds; explaining that shade trees, seating, and hydration stations are valuable pedestrian amenities but are often affected by project funding constraints and are the responsibility of local municipalities; and sharing a follow-up social media post to further clarify KTMPO's role in the transportation planning process. Post Content: Thank you to a Copperas Cove resident who recently reached out with questions about shade trees and hydration stations along sidewalk routes. We appreciate the conversation and the opportunity to learn more about what residents' value in their communities. ☑ Public comments like these are an important part of the conversation. Questions, ideas, and feedback received through our outreach efforts are shared with the appropriate local officials and become part of the public record, helping to inform ongoing transportation planning discussions throughout the region. 💲 KTMPO fosters two-way communication by connecting our community's points of view and interests to the transportation decision-making process. By bringing together residents, local governments, and transportation agencies, we help communicate local priorities, concerns, and ideas, ensuring community voices are part of regional transportation planning discussions. ©️ We appreciate our partnership with the City of Copperas Cove - Municipal Government and other communities throughout the region as we work together to support transportation systems that connect people to the places they live, work, learn, and play.	GO

6/9/2026	Email	Road/Highway Project	Multi	We are working on a project near Norther Dancer in Copperas Cove and understand that a crossing of 190/I14 has been proposed for this location (31.10182094501774, -97.89003611272332). Has this project been assigned a KTMPO ID? If so, is there any information that can be shared?	Unknown	6.17.2026; Staff is researching.	Mitchell & Associates (Ace Reneau, P.E.)
6/2/2026	Social Media	Road/Highway Project	Multi	Status of Warriors Path Phase 2 at the intersection of FM2410 and just outh of the Pontotoc Trace Intersection	KTMPO ID: H45-01a, H45-01b, N40-07,	Referred citizen to the City of Harker Heights - as the project has been let and is the responsibility of TxDOT and project sponsor (CoHH). Plans to f/u with citizen	GR
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ITEM #14

Staff Update

Staff Update

Listed below are the upcoming KTMPO meetings:

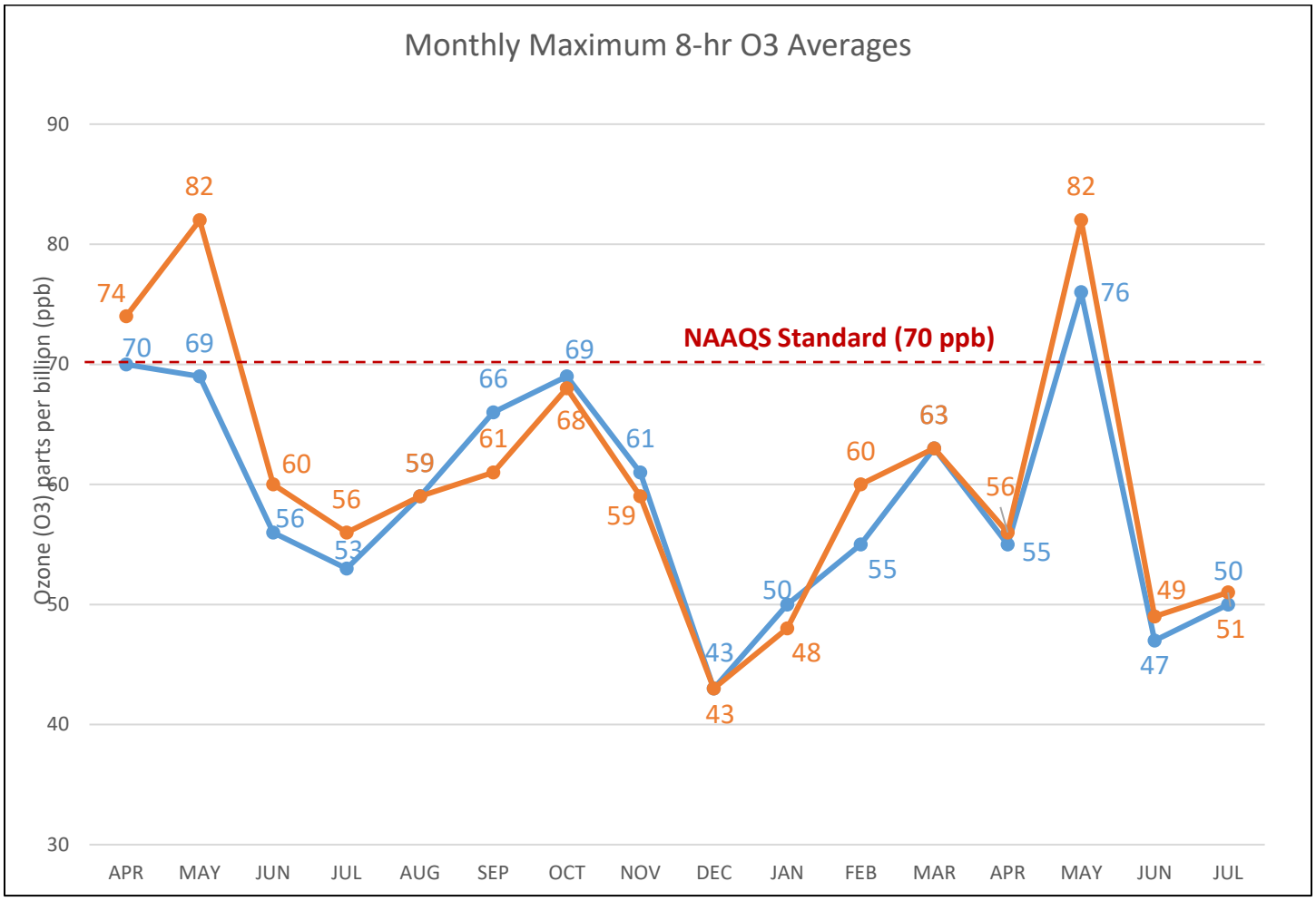
Date	Meeting
September 2, 2026	Technical Advisory Committee
September 23, 2026	Transportation Planning Policy Board
October 7, 2026	Technical Advisory Committee
October 21, 2026	Transportation Planning Policy Board
November 4, 2026	Active Transportation Advisory Committee

All meetings are scheduled for 9:30am at the Central Texas Council of Governments offices in Belton, Texas, unless otherwise noted (i.e. – electronic meeting).

Conference
Texas Trails and Active Transportation Conference (TTAT) 2026
Date: November 11 – 13, 2026
Location: Centered around the conference hub at 900 Springdale Road, Austin TX

The conference is being designed as an immersive active transportation experience, allowing attendees to experience multimodal travel options firsthand, including walking, bicycling, bike share, micromobility, pedicabs, and other emerging transportation technologies.

Air Quality



2026

Compliance with EPA Ozone Standard: 4th Highest Annual Value — 3-year average (Calculated on August 6, 2026)

	2024	2025	2026*	
Temple	61	68	58	62
Killeen	71	71	60	67

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

ITEM #15

Member Comments

Member Comments

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

KTMPO Meeting Attendance

ATAC Meeting Membership Attendance for FY24-FY26

Entity | Interest	Name	Date Appointed	2/12/2025	5/14/2025	8/13/2025	11/12/2025	2/11/2026	5/13/2026
Pedestrian Interest	Kara Escajeda, Chair (11/2025)	Sep-25	-	M	M	M	M	-
City of Belton	Joe Dyer, Vice Chair (6/24)	Nov-23	M	-	M	M	-	M
Cycling Interest	Geary McCabe	Dec-23	M	M	M	M	P	M
Cycling Interest	Keller Matthews	Dec-23	M	M	M	M	-	-
City of Temple		Mar-21	M	M	-	M	M	N/A
City of Copperas Cove	Jeff Stoddard	Dec-23	M	M	-	-	-	O
City of Nolanville	Tersa Chandler	Jun-24	O	O	-	O	P	M
Fort Hood	Mario Perez	Dec-23	M	O	O	-	-	-
Hill Country Transit District	James Wickham	Dec-24	O	O	O	O	O	P
TxDOT Waco District	Daniel Davilla	Feb-25	O	O	O	M	M	O
City of Harker Heights	Amy Atkins	Feb-25	-	O	O	O	P	-
Other: Running Events	KD Hill w/Barrow Brewing	Feb-25	M	O	O	-	O	O
Other: Economic Development	Holly Owens	Feb-25	M	-	O	-	O	-
Youth Interest	Lauren Morrell	May-25	N/A	N/A	M	-	M	O
Pedestrian Interest	Parker Petersen	May-26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	M
Equestrian Interest	Vacant		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Municipality	Vacant		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
County	Vacant		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	Vacant		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cycling Interest	Vacant		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Attendance Legend	
Member	M
Proxy	P
Online	O
Provided Advanced Notice	-
Not Present	-

End of Packet