

Parks and Recreation Assets in the MPO Region



Parks and Recreation Assets

The Killeen-Temple MPO Parks and Recreation Assets (**Figure 2.4**) offer valuable insight into how communities envision their outdoor spaces, trail networks, and recreation amenities, as well as the development and stewardship of these public assets. These locally driven plans identify priority projects, desired park improvements, and strategic investments in recreation infrastructure and asset management. They also highlight opportunities to expand walking, rolling, and trail access within each jurisdiction. However, it is important to recognize that not all critical trail segments or connections are formally identified within adopted plans; some emerge through standalone development projects, partnerships, or opportunistic funding. These segments, while not always captured in long-range planning documents, can play a vital role in closing network gaps and advancing regional connectivity. By reflecting community values, planned capital and asset investments, and long-term recreation goals; alongside emerging development opportunities the Parks and Recreation Master Plans provide essential context for understanding how local priorities align with regional active transportation needs, system connectivity, and the continued evolution of recreational and mobility assets.

Figure 2.4

Parks and Recreation Assets in the MPO Region	
Responsible Agency / Entity	Year Approved
Bartlett	2024
Belton	2022
Belton Lake U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Pending
Copperas Cove	2022
Fort Hood	Pending
Harker Heights	2020
Holland	N/A
Kempner	N/A
Killeen	2022
Little River Academy	N/A
Morgan's Point Resort	2016
Nolanville	Pending
Nolancreek Regional Trail Segment	2016
Parrie Haynes Equestrian Ranch	Pending
Rogers	N/A
Stillhouse Hollow Lake U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Pending
Temple	2020
Texas A&M The Forge Trail System	2026
Village of Salado	2019
Troy	2014



This page intentionally left blank.



City of Bartlett Parks and Recreation Master Plan May 2024





Bartlett
PARKS & RECREATION
EXPLORE • PLAY • GATHER • GROW

Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department

Master Plan May 2024

Table of Contents	Page 1
Acknowledgements	Page 2
Introduction and Executive Summary	Pages 3-4
Community Profile and Demographics	Pages 4-8
Agency Overview	Pages 9-12
Summary of Existing Plans	Pages 13-19
Public Engagement Summary	Pages 20-23
Community Needs Assessment	Pages 24-38
Existing Facility Inventory and Analysis	Pages 39-107
Benchmarking	Pages 108-111
Program Assessment	Pages 112-119
Financial and Revenue Strategies	Pages 120-130
Implementation Plan	Pages 131-140
Conclusion	Pages 141-142
Appendix	Pages 143-161

SPECIAL THANKS:

We are sincerely grateful to the residents of Bartlett, our staff, elected officials and all of the residents and community stakeholders who participated in focus groups, public surveys, provided comments and feedback, attended meetings and otherwise contributed to the creation of this document. Your collective input has been an integral component aiding in the development of this master plan and it ensures that the collective voice of our community is utilized to positively influence the City of Bartlett's parks and recreation system over the next decade. We would also like to acknowledge Shan Criswell, retired Director of Parks & Recreation, for her persistence and dedication in starting this process in early 2023 and for all her contributions to this Department throughout her 36-year career with the City of Bartlett.

CITY OF BARTLETT

Board of Mayor and Aldermen

David Parsons, Mayor
Brad King, Alderman, Position 1
Robert Griffin, Alderman, Position 2
David Reaves, Alderman, Position 3
Monique Williams, Alderwoman, Position 4
Jack Young, Vice Mayor/Alderman, Position 5
Kevin Quinn, Alderman, Position 6

Chief Administrative Officer

Steve Sones

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Paul Wright, Director of Parks & Recreation
James Draffin, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Robert Griffin, Alderman Liaison
Paul Ireland, Chairman
Linda Booth, Vice Chairman
Gretchen Peterson, Secretary
Debi Bookas
Dennis Lyon
Matt Meador
Randy Jowers
Sharon Fryman

PLANNING CONSULTANT TEAM

Management Learning Laboratories

Ananda Mitra, Ph.D., President and Project Director
Srijoy Mitra, Business Development

Kimley-Horn

Michael Shelton, PLA, AICP, ASLA, Landscape Architect and Planner
Tim Bryant, Landscape Analyst



Introduction



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide the Parks Department with an actionable plan that will guide its decision-making to ensure that the citizens of the City of Bartlett continue to have equitable access to activities, amenities, events, facilities, recreational opportunities and programming that continue to meet their needs for the next decade. This plan has been assembled through the collaborated efforts of our Parks & Recreation Department and two consultant firms: Management Learning Laboratories, Inc. and Kimley-Horn. Management Learning Laboratories, Inc. (MLL) offers research services to collect citizen input using scientifically reliable methods to produce dependable and defensible decisions and is based in North Carolina. MLL was responsible for the community needs assessment survey design, implementation and analysis. Kimley-Horn is a nationally recognized firm comprised of engineering, planning and design consultants who provided services for public engagement and planning review as well as conducted a program assessment and financial analysis of the parks and recreation department.

By evaluating existing facilities and amenities, incorporating citizen feedback, and accounting for projected growth patterns, this plan will serve as a “GPS” for the Parks Department that prioritizes future investment in its existing infrastructure balanced with the addition of new amenities. Coordinated effort must be done to secure funding through both traditional resources (e.g., property and sales taxes, state and federal grants, and financing through bonds) and non-traditional resources (e.g., strategic partnerships, corporate sponsorships, fundraising) to ensure that all listed priorities have an identified funding source.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Currently, the Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) includes 29 individual park properties which include athletic fields, playgrounds, recreational facilities, an arboretum, outdoor shelters, paved and unpaved paths, mountain biking trails and a greenway system and has a total acreage of 1,239 acres (1,008 park acres and 231 greenbelt acres). All of the city’s outdoor festivals and special events are hosted within the parks system and the Parks Maintenance Division provides event support in the form of setup and breakdown. In January 2024, a strategic partnership was formed between the City of Bartlett and the YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South to operate the existing recreation and fitness center formerly known as the Bartlett Recreation Center. With this facility no longer operating within the structure of BPRD because of this new partnership, the Parks and Recreation Department was restructured to realign its remaining divisions more efficiently and effectively to continue to provide recreational opportunities and facilities to the citizens of Bartlett. While the City of Bartlett is the primary recreation provider in the community, there exist varieties of other private entities providing athletic, recreation, and fitness opportunities that include churches, schools, and health clubs and sports providers. Residents also travel to other communities throughout the region for recreation and leisure opportunities.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Bartlett is approximately 32.3 square miles and is centrally located in the heart of Shelby County, which is the largest county in Tennessee by both population (~936,000) and land area (763.2 square miles). It is the largest suburban municipality of the county and is currently the 11th largest city in the state by population at just under 60,000 residents as of the 2020 Census. A Mayor and Board of Aldermen (BMA) consisting of the Mayor and six Aldermen govern Bartlett. The Board of Mayor and (Six) Aldermen are elected to four-year terms by nonpartisan popular vote with three of the six aldermen on the Board

elected for staggered terms every two years. The Mayor is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the Board, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the government, and for appointing the heads of the various city departments with confirmation of the BMA.

Over the next decade, Bartlett is poised to be the fastest growing municipality in Shelby County due in large part to its award-winning Bartlett City School district, excellent city services and its commitment to enhancing its existing infrastructure to support future growth attributed to Ford's BlueOval™ City in nearby Stanton, TN. The city school system is part of the government of Bartlett and is designated a Level 5 school system, the highest rating based on the State of Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) and has also been named as a top workplace for the 6th consecutive year. Bartlett City Schools has the highest enrollment of all the municipal school systems in Shelby County serving 8,600 students in grades K-12.

Despite its current size and projected growth, Bartlett preserves the small town spirit with a well-balanced city touch. There exists a balanced blend of rural, residential and industrial development along with schools, churches and full city amenities tucked throughout Bartlett's topography of rolling hills and abundant natural vegetation of large stands of mature, native trees. Current City ordinances also require the use of well-landscaped native and ornamental trees and shrubs throughout its residential and commercial areas to maintain aesthetic appeal. With recently adopted amendments to its zoning regulations that will allow mixed-use commercial and residential development, one of the largest investments ever undertaken in Bartlett is now underway in the new \$162 million mixed-use development known as Union Depot. This project is projected to have 622 residential units as well as commercial units on 74 acres of property located at the northwest corner of Stage Road and Highway 70.

When working to identify the recreation needs and trends of this community accurately, it is important to consider the lifestyles of its residents and the factors that influence them and how this information provides a more comprehensive profile of Bartlett. Therefore, it is important to consider projected growth as well as the current and projected demographics such as age, gender, race and ethnicity, education, disability, digital access, and other related factors to provide us with the information needed to better anticipate the activities and recreation opportunities that align to our community's demographics.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Trends and Projections

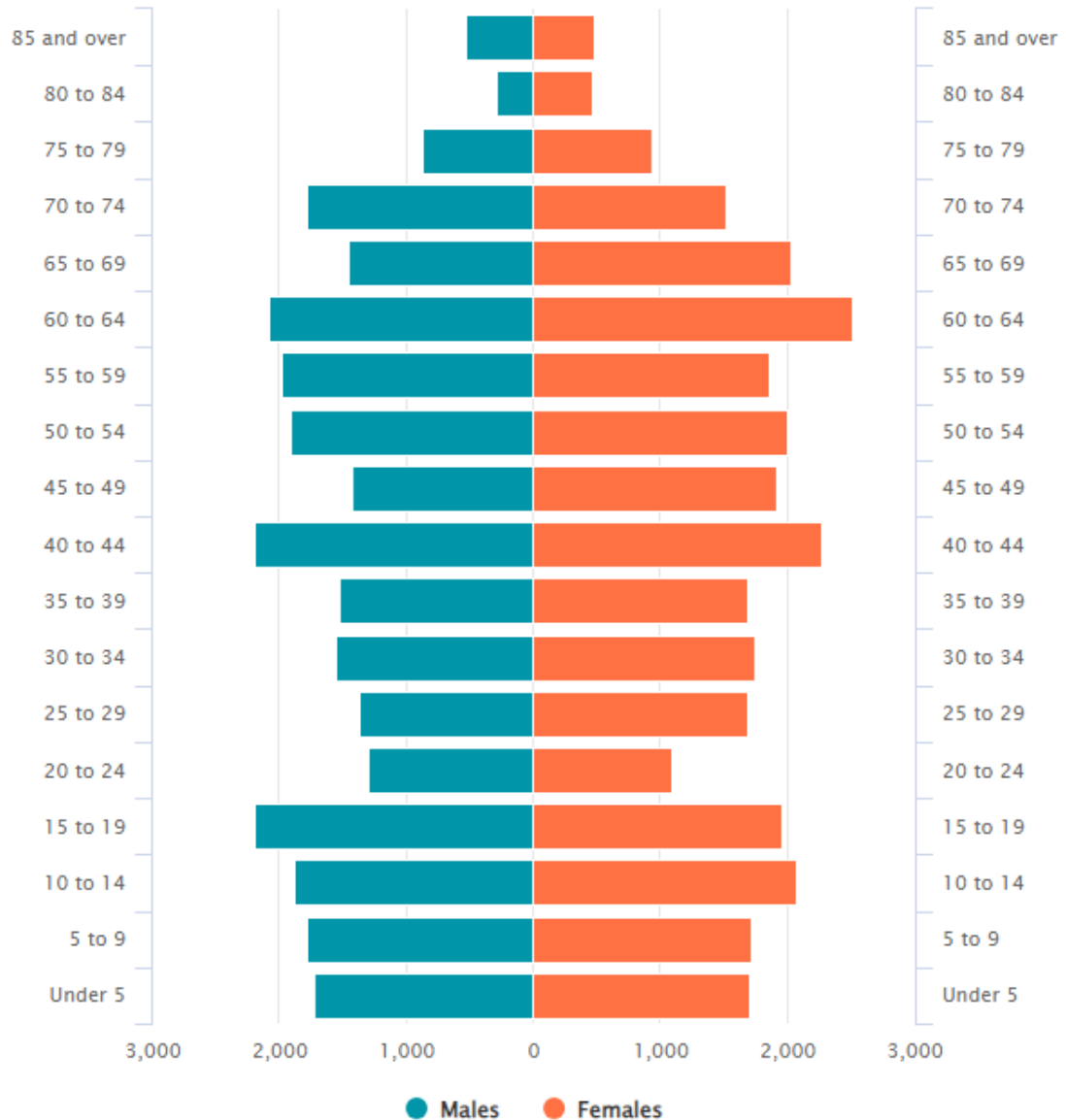
The 2020 Decennial Census accounted for 57,786 residents, which is a 5.8% increase over the population accounted for during the 2010 Decennial Census (54,613) and a 20.4% increase over the population at the time the 2007 Master Plan was written (48,000). With Bartlett's close proximity to Ford's BlueOval™ City project, Bartlett is expected to exceed 70,000 residents over the next decade.

Age and Gender

The age of our residents is quite possibly the most influential factor to consider when considering the types of programs and activities to offer. The median age for a resident of Bartlett is 41.8 years which is slightly above the statewide median age of 39.2 years and the largest age bracket includes those ages 60 to 64, making up 8% of the population. The percentage of those under the age of 18 is approximately 24%, while those ages 65 and older are right at 18%. At the present, the total population is comprised of 52% who are female just under 48% who are male and this ratio has remained static over the past two

decades. Based on these age and gender ratios, it is important to provide a balance mixture of activities and programs that appropriately align with these categories of our community.

Population by Age and Sex for Bartlett city, Tennessee in 2018-2022



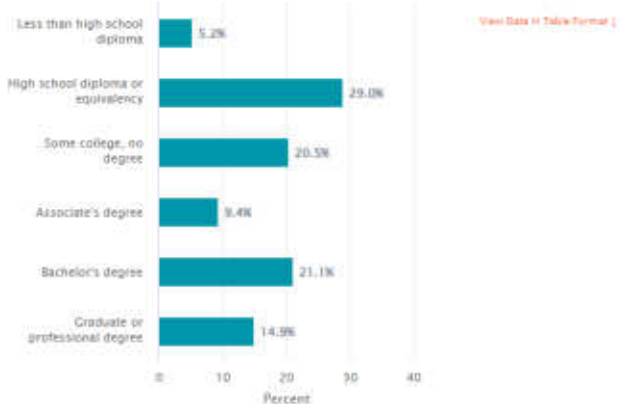
Race and Ethnicity

When evaluating Bartlett’s racial and ethnic distribution, it reveals that the community is predominantly Caucasian, with 71.5% of the population identifying as white, 21.4% identify as black or African American, 3.7% identify as Asian, and 2.6% identify as multiracial and 3.3% of the total population identifies their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino. Though race and ethnicity may not have a direct effect on recreation preferences, it is important to monitor participation in programming to ensure there are equitable approaches to community engagement and recreation programming policies and practices.

Education

When evaluating Bartlett's population ages 25 and over, 94.9% had at least graduated high school (including equivalencies) and 36% had a bachelor's degree or higher while only 5.2% did not receive a high school or G.E.D. equivalency. Compared to both countywide and statewide statistics, Bartlett's population ages 25 and over has more a higher prevalence of having at least a high school education and or a college degree.

Educational Attainment of People in Bartlett city, Tennessee in 2018-2022



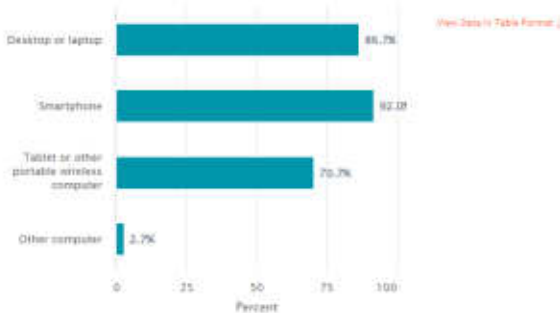
Disability

The 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2018-2022) show that among the civilian noninstitutionalized population, 13.7% of Bartlett's population reported a disability. This is below the statewide rate of 15.3%, but is above the Shelby County rate of 12.7%. The prevalence of reported disabilities varies across the age spectrum from 4.4% of people under 18 years old, to 10.6% of people 18-64 years old, up to 36.4% of those ages 65 and older. Important consideration is needed regarding the recreation opportunities being provided to residents with disabilities.

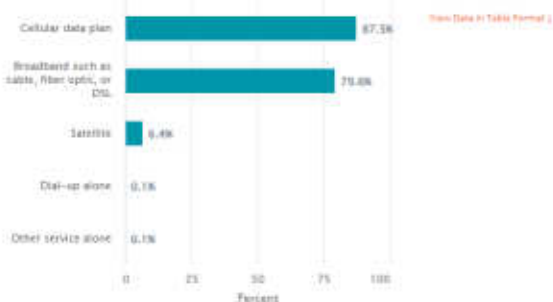
Digital Access

The availability and use of digital devices (desktop or laptop computers, smartphones and tablets) and internet for households in Bartlett show that nearly 97% had a digital device and 92% had access to broadband internet through a subscription service. The widespread availability and use of digital technology and internet supports the use of digital media in marketing available recreation opportunities to community.

Types of Computers in Bartlett city, Tennessee in 2018-2022



Types of Internet Subscriptions in Bartlett city, Tennessee in 2018-2022



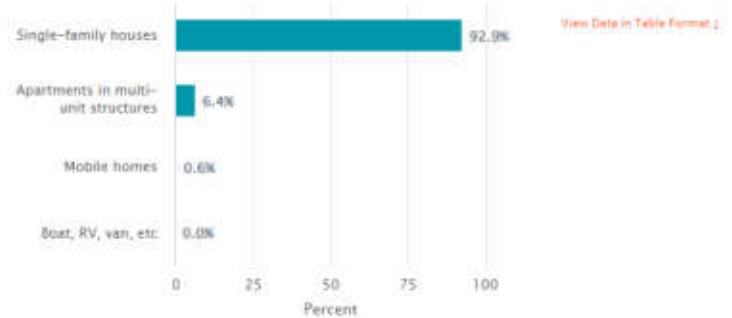
ECONOMIC TRENDS

It is important to understand the economic profile of the Bartlett community to evaluate the population's ability to afford the recreation program offerings. Homeownership rate, median household income, and poverty rate are arguably three of the best metrics to use when assessing a community's overall economic profile.

Homeownership Rate

During the 2018-2022 period, Bartlett had 20,673 housing units with the overwhelming majority (92.9%) being single-family houses either traditional, unattached homes or townhouses. Only 6.4% of the housing units were located in multi-unit structures, or apartments, and 0.6% were mobile homes. Of the housing inventory, 11.2% was comprised of houses built since 2010. Ninety-six percent of the housing units were occupied and owner-occupied units made up the large majority (84.7%) of those units with renters occupying 15.3%. The average household size of owner-occupied units was 2.93 while renter-occupied units averaged 2.38. Current housing is at a premium due to the very successful Bartlett City School system and full-service city including an excellent fire, police, and public safety program.

Types of Housing Units in Bartlett city, Tennessee in 2018-2022



Median Household Income and Poverty Rate

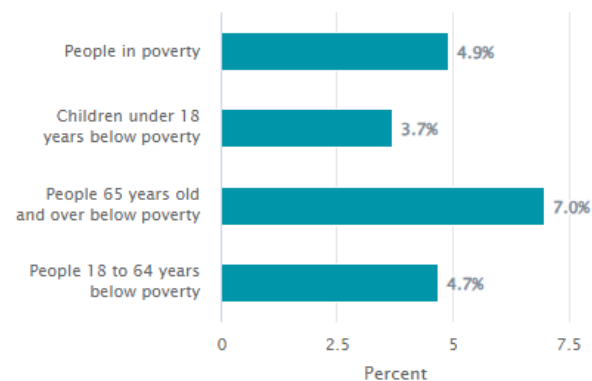
Household Income in Bartlett city, Tennessee in 2018-2022



The median household income for Bartlett is \$94,603. An estimated 2.3% of households had an income below \$10,000 with 46.5% of households earning \$100,000 or more annually. Seventy-nine percent of household received earnings, with 33% receiving Social Security and 31.4% receiving retirement income other than Social Security.

Poverty rates show that 4.9% of the population lives below the poverty line, which is lower than the national average of 12.6%. The largest demographics of those living in poverty are females ages 25-34, followed by females ages 45-54, and then females ages 55-64. The most common racial or ethnic group living below the poverty line is white, followed by Black or African American, and Asian.

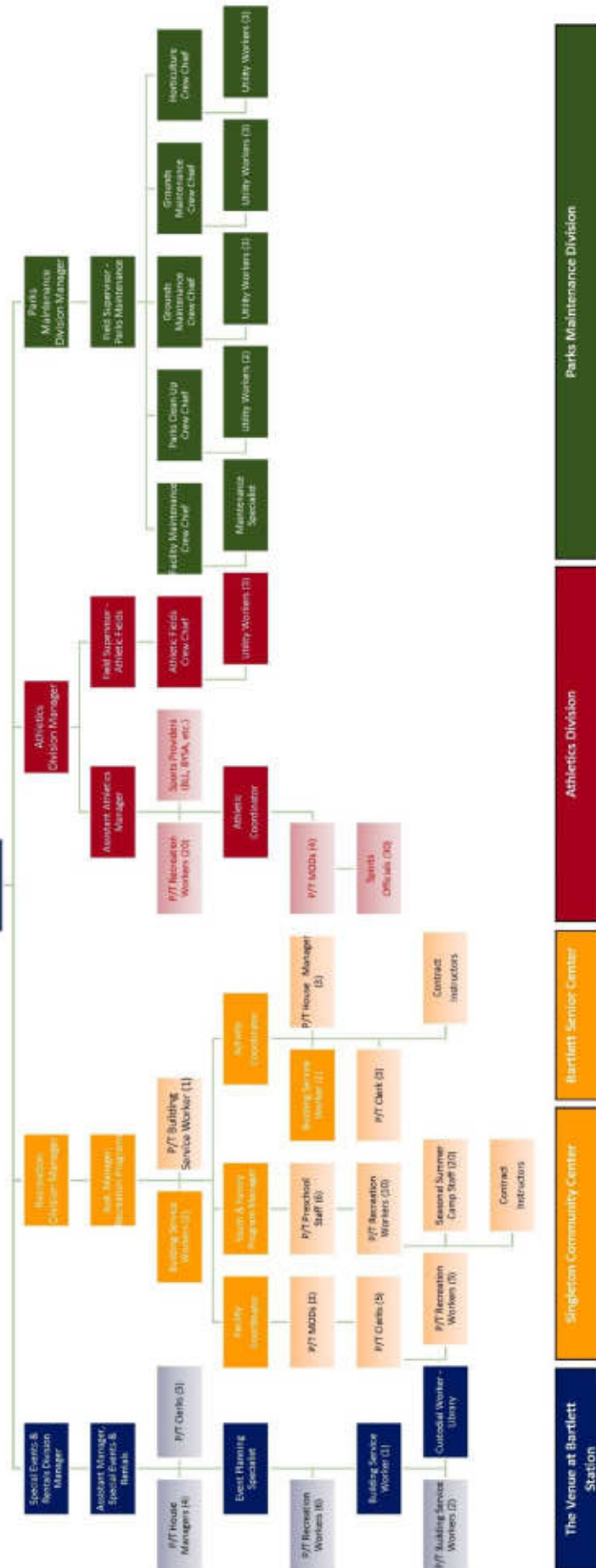
Poverty Rates in Bartlett city, Tennessee in 2018-2022



Agency Overview



Bartlett
PARKS & RECREATION
EXPLORE • PLAY • GATHER • GROW



AGENCY OVERVIEW

Our Mission: *“We will provide Bartlett residents with quality, fun recreational opportunities and facilities to enhance the quality of life in our hometown today, making tomorrow better and the future brighter.”*

The Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) is comprised of five divisions: Administration, Athletics, Parks Maintenance, Recreation and Special Events & Rentals. Together, these five divisions are collectively responsible for the maintenance, operations and upkeep of 1,008 acres of parkland and 231 acres of greenbelts. In addition to the parks and greenbelts, three facilities operate to provide programs for all ages including preschool, music and art classes, youth and adult sports, senior activities, special events and rental space: Bartlett Senior Center, Singleton Community Center and The Venue at Bartlett Station (formerly known as the Bartlett Station Municipal Center). Currently 45 full-time and 106 part-time staff are actively employed with an additional 30 seasonal employees who work during the summer months to assist with summer camp programming.

Administration Division

The Administration Division of the department, located at The Venue at Bartlett Station, is responsible for the overall operations of the department including administration, programming, maintenance, facilities, personnel, development and planning for the department, and is led by a Director and Assistant Director as appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Administrative staff also includes an administrative secretary, a skilled clerk and a marketing specialist who provide support across all divisions of the department.

Athletics Division

The Athletics Division, located at Singleton Community Center, offers team and individual sign-ups for several different sports leagues including youth baseball, basketball, softball and girls volleyball as well as adult slow pitch softball (men’s, women’s, and co-ed) and men’s basketball and is led by a manager and assistant manager. Under the new org chart, a crew has been formed to care for and maintain all of the athletics facilities consisting of a field supervisor, a crew leader, and three utility workers. Athletics staff also includes an athletics coordinator, and nearly fifty part-time staff as recreation workers, managers and sports officials. This division also collaborates with several sports providers in the area to provide Little League™ baseball (Bartlett Little League), cricket (Ark-Tenn Cricket League), youth football (Bartlett Youth Football), youth soccer (Bartlett Youth Soccer Association), senior league softball (ISSA), pickleball lessons and tennis leagues.

Parks Maintenance Division

The Parks Maintenance Division is comprised entirely of full-time employees, operates out of the parks maintenance shop, and is led by a manager and field supervisor along with five crew leaders, four maintenance specialists and eleven utility workers. This division has the responsibility for caring for all of the parks, greenbelts, playgrounds, picnic areas and lakes. Additionally they are responsible for the facility grounds at the Bartlett Senior Center, Singleton Community Center and The Venue at Bartlett Station. Parks maintenance is also responsible for setting up, providing support, and breaking down for the various special events sponsored by the city. The goal of this division is to develop and maintain the best equipment and facilities for the citizens. Crews perform a variety of routine tasks such as general maintenance, mowing grass, plumbing and construction maintenance and repairs, trash pickup and removal and restroom cleaning.

Recreation Division

The Recreation Division is comprised of two facilities, the Bartlett Senior Center and Singleton Community Center, and is led by a full-time manager and assistant manager. The senior center is a membership-based facility that is available to anyone ages 50 and over and provides a variety of free and fee-based programming, exercise classes, special events and activities for its membership. The staff includes two full-time staff (one activity coordinator and one building maintenance worker) and several part-time staff (house managers and clerks) and a variety of contracted instructors to lead the various classes. The community center has an auditorium, multiple classrooms and a gymnasium where a wide variety of activities, classes and special events are offered throughout the year for preschool ages up through senior adults. Its staff includes four full-time staff (youth and family program manager, facility coordinator and two building service workers) and numerous part-time staff (clerks, managers on duty, recreation workers, preschool teachers, and season summer staff) and a large number of part-time instructors to teach the wide variety of classes and programs offered.

Special Events and Rentals Division

The Special Events and Rentals Division operates from The Venue at Bartlett Station (formerly known as Bartlett Station Municipal Center), and is led by a full-time manager and assistant manager. This division is responsible for the planning and coordination of all of the department's special events and also coordinates rentals at The Venue and the pavilions and gazebos in the parks. Additional staff in this division include a full-time building service worker and full-time custodial worker as well as several part-time staff of house managers, building service workers and clerks. Future staff planned in this division include a full-time event-planning specialist.

COMMISSION FOR ACCREDITATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCIES (CAPRA)

In 1993, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) established the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) to implement and administer agency accreditation. This program has since recognized 206 parks and recreation departments throughout the United States for excellence in operations. As stated on their website, "This operational management system improves their infrastructures; increases efficiency in all activities; and demonstrates accountability within their communities. Implementation of this system strengthens teamwork among department staff, imbeds all aspects of CAPRA into their department's internal culture, and establishes a continuous improvement mindset for all department activities."

(<https://www.nrpa.org/certification/accreditation/CAPRA>)

CAPRA identifies 154 standards (which included 36 fundamental standards) to measure and evaluate an agency's overall quality of operation, management, and service to its community. A minimum of 142 standards (including all 36 fundamental standards) must be met for initial accreditation and then 148 standards upon reaccreditation. Currently in the State of Tennessee, only three agencies are currently accredited: City of Germantown (1997), Tennessee State Parks (2018) and the City of Clarksville (2022). Benefits of achieving accreditation are numerous and include enhancing operational efficiency, creates a process of continuous improvement within the department, increases the level of accountability to the public ensuring responsiveness to meet their needs, and perhaps most importantly, helps secure external financial support by increasing the ability to obtain grant funding. The Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department has established a goal to achieve CAPRA designation by December 31, 2026. This process will require a coordinated effort across all levels of the Department over the next 18-24 months.

Summary of Existing Plans



SUMMARY OF EXISTING PLANS

The following plans were reviewed to evaluate the prior strategic planning efforts that have preceded this Master Plan to better understand the foundational framework that was developed to lead us to the present state of our parks and recreation system.

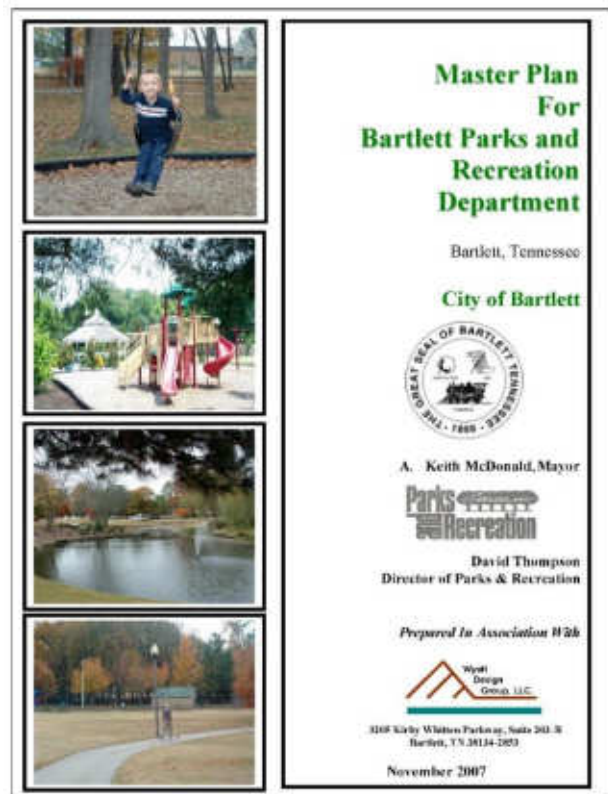
- 2007 Master Plan for Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department (Wyatt Design Group, LLC)
- 2015 Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department Five-Year Strategic Plan (Parks Advisory Board)
- Fletcher Creek Greenway Master Plan (Barge Design Solutions)
- 2015 W.J. Freeman Park Master Plan (DT Design Studio)
- 2019 City of Bartlett ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (Kimley Horn and Accessology)
- 2021 Deermont Park Renovations Concept Plan (Barge Design Solutions)

2007 MASTER PLAN FOR BARTLETT PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

This Master Plan finalized and adopted in late 2007, was the first long range strategic plan developed for the parks and recreation department. The City of Bartlett sought out the planning firm of Wyatt Design Group, LLC (WDG) to ensure that the parks and recreation system would be able to continue meeting the increased demands being placed on it by the growing community. The planning firm worked jointly with the Parks Advisory Board, administration and staff of the parks and recreation department, and community input in the form of interviews, user surveys, and community forums.

Utilizing the input gathered from the public engagement efforts as well as the evaluation of the current conditions of the parks and facilities within the system, WDG formulated recommendations that incorporated public feedback along with data based on national standards, park advisory board recommendations and comparison to similar community park systems.

WDG took a comprehensive approach to developing a framework for orderly and consistent planning, acquisition and development of future amenities. This approach included identifying an action plan for the department with a specific action plan and associated timelines, providing an estimate of the associated costs of the recommendations contained in the master plan, and included a priority-criterion ranking system that incorporated a priority order for the action plan based upon all levels of input. The priority list included establishing five new neighborhood parks, building a 50-meter outdoor competition swimming pool, adding additional soccer fields, constructing an aquatic spray park, adding a band shell at W.J. Freeman Park, and developing Nesbit Park to include a variety of trails, arboretum, camping facilities, and picnic/shelter areas.



2015 BARTLETT PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

In June 2015, the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) and administration staff reviewed the recommendations included in the 2007 Master Plan and the progress that the department made toward achieving the action plan that was identified. Save for the development of a 50-meter outdoor competition swimming

pool, nearly all of the priority items had been completed, though some of the recommendations required modifications from the original plan due to a variety of factors including timing, associated costs, or a change in community needs. The PAB then used a similar approach as was done in the 2007 Master Plan to develop updated priorities for the department to guide the next five years, incorporating business principles and performance measurement tools to enable the PAB and departmental staff the ability to evaluate program viability on a regular basis.

Priority areas identified in this updated strategic plan included recommendations to increase staffing. Additions to staffing for facilities and programs would need to demonstrate how the additional costs of staffing would be offset through increased revenue generation. Other recommendations were developed for each of the following areas: administration, maintenance, facilities including the Bartlett Senior Center, Singleton Community Center, Bartlett Recreation Center, W.J. Freeman Park and Nesbit

Park, athletics facilities, and parks infrastructure investments (restrooms, parking lots, walking paths, etc.). The development of these recommendations was done exclusively through PAB and existing parks and recreation staff and did not include any formal inclusion of public engagement, though the qualitative feedback that had been received through day-to-day interaction was considered in the process. Of the fifty-two identified recommendations, 29 have been accomplished, 17 items are in various stages of planning or implementation, and the remaining 6 items are being re-evaluated as part of the 2024 Master Plan update.

FLETCHER CREEK GREENWAY MASTER PLAN

The Fletcher Creek Greenway Trail represents an ambitious, 5-mile greenway trail system that preserves that natural landscape while providing connectivity to multiple neighborhoods to the Bobby K. Flaherty Municipal Center, an 82-acre property which includes the Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center (BPACC), the Bartlett Criminal Justice Center, Bartlett YMCA (formerly the Bartlett Recreation Center), Appling Lake, the First Responders Monument, Appling



Softball Complex, and the Appling Soccer Fields. Concept plans were first developed in 2010, and was ultimately divided into multiple phases. The first two phases were completed in 2017 and 2021, and provide a total of 1.5-miles of multiuse pathways for both pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Phase 1 section is 0.9-miles in length, runs along a section of Fletcher Creek from U.S. Highway 64 and Santa Valley, includes a pedestrian bridge to cross the creek, and makes connection via a pedestrian crosswalk to Yale and Brother Boulevard. A small parking lot is located on the corner of Santa Valley and U.S. Highway 64 to access the trailhead. Phase 2 is 0.6-miles in length, picks up at Yale and Brother Boulevard, and includes a pedestrian bridge to cross Fletcher Creek and connect to Madison Arthur Byrd Park. A small parking lot is located at the corner of Brother Boulevard and Yale Road to access the trailhead. Funding for these projects has been largely supported by grants through the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and required coordination with the City of Bartlett's Engineering and Parks and Recreation Departments, TDOT and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

Phases 3 and 4 are both currently in varying stages of planning and implementation. The Phase 3 section design has been finalized and will connect the existing terminus of Phase 2 on Brother Boulevard and will extend in front of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) located at the corner of Appling Road and Brother Boulevard to connect to the bike lanes that run north on Appling Road toward the Bobby K. Flaherty Municipal Center. The preliminary Phase 4 plan will add in a more pronounced pedestrian crossing at Southern Way and Appling Road to continue the greenway eastward along the section of Fletcher Creek situated between the Garden Meadows and Country Meadows subdivision and continue toward North Germantown Parkway with a planned crossing to the entrance of the Bartlett Pointe Subdivision at Windersville Drive.

FLETCHER CREEK PHASE 4 PRELIMINARY PLAN



Figure 1. Phase 4 proposed trailhead at Appling Softball Complex



Figure 2. Phase 4 terminus on Windersville Road within the Bartlett Pointe subdivision.



- **Phase 1:** construct new park entrance, new road and b

- **Phase 1:** construct new park entrance, new road and box culvert bridge to connect the two sides divided by the creek, and installation a small parking lot to service the new athletic fields
- **Phase 2:** construct a large parking lot adjacent to the Veterans Park parking lot and build a new cricket pitch and two multipurpose fields
- **Phase 3:** construct new large pavilion to host the Bartlett Station Farmers Market as well as City functions, a new concession and restroom building, and build a third multipurpose field
- **Phase 4:** build a new amphitheater and extend the walking trail to connect to the amphitheater site, add a pedestrian bridge to connect the new pavilion and athletic fields from phases 2 & 3
- **Phase 5:** develop the southwestern property to add an 18-hole disc golf course, an adventure playground, restroom building, parking lot and picnic area

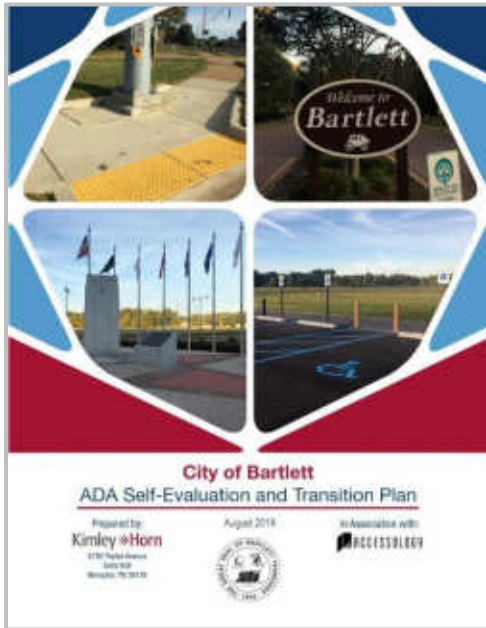
To date, the first three phases have been completed using a combination of funding sources including City funds, bonds, and Local Park and Recreation Fund (LPRF) grant money. The completion of Phases 4 and 5 are being considered for funding in the next five to ten years as current priorities are being shifted to address existing infrastructure needs within the parks system ahead of adding in new amenities to the system. Striking a balance between investments in updating existing amenities along with the addition of new ones is one of the primary purposes of the 2024 Bartlett Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan.

undeveloped parkland at the site. At the time, only about 1/3 of the nearly 90-acres of land currently developed and utilized for activity. Dalhoff Thomas Design Studio was selected as the design firm for the development of the master plan for the park and worked closely with the parks and recreation department to develop the project scope. As concept plans came together, a series of public meetings was held at various times and locations in an effort to engage citizens in the process and ensure that the new amenities in the undeveloped space would be designed to meet their recreational needs.

After assimilating the feedback from both the public and City leadership to identify the top priorities, the master plan concept was developed for the remaining 2/3 of the park which included five distinct phases:

2019 CITY OF BARTLETT ADA SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

Bartlett's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was completed in the latter part of 2019, and evaluated for ADA compliance the programs, services, and activities provided by the City. Kimley-Horn



was the consultant on this project and their firm worked in conjunction with Accessology to identify existing barriers to accessibility along with proposed solutions complete with a Transition Plan outlining the necessary steps for successful program and/or facility modification over the next 20 years. Examples of the existing barriers to accessibility that were identified included physical barriers (e.g., parking, doors and door handles, pathways, restrooms, etc.) as well as programmatic barriers (e.g., signage, visible or audible signals, participation opportunities for City-sponsored events, etc.). The Transition Plan provided detailed information regarding the reason(s) why an identified barrier was out of compliance along with recommendations on what modifications and an estimated cost to address each item.

The parks and recreation department has been making progress on addressing the barriers identified in an effort to remove both

physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility as expediently as resources allow. Each facility is reviewed annually to identify items that have been addressed and planning for the items that remain. Many of the lower cost physical barriers such as replacing non-compliant door handles with compliant ones or replacing non-compliant signage with compliant ones have been completed in the park facilities since the report was published in August 2019. Additional items that have either been completed or are in process, include:

- Municipal Park restroom and parking lot (completed 2020)
- Ellendale Park restroom and concession building and new ADA parking spaces (completed 2021)
- Common area restrooms on the first floor and in the auditorium at The Venue at Bartlett Station (completed 2023)
- Dixon Brewer Park restrooms and ADA spaces (construction scheduled to begin summer 2024)
- Shadowlawn Park restroom and concession building, parking lot and pathways (applying for 2024 LPRF grant funding)



City of Bartlett
ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

4.0 Facility Costs

4.1 Facilities Cost Projection Overview

To identify funding sources and develop a reasonable implementation schedule, cost projection summaries for only the facilities evaluated were developed for each facility type. To develop these summaries, recent bid tabulations from Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) construction projects, along with Consultant Team experience with similar types of projects, were the basis for the unit prices used to calculate the improvement costs. A contingency percentage (20%) was added to the subtotal to account for increases in unit prices in the future, in addition to an engineering design percentage (15%). All costs are in 2018 dollars. Table 10 provides a summary of the estimated costs to bring each facility into compliance.

Table 10. Summary of Facility Costs

Facility Type	Priority			
	High	Medium	Low	Total
Buildings	\$95,580	\$813,071	\$27,776	\$736,427
Building Sidewalk	\$71,290	\$70,208	\$6,702	\$148,200
Building Unsignalized Intersections	\$68,800	\$0	\$700	\$69,500
Parks	\$31,792	\$175,028	\$10,260	\$217,080
Park Sidewalk	\$780,475	\$260,081	\$15,944	\$1,056,500
Park Unsignalized Intersections	\$11,900	\$0	\$6,200	\$18,100
Signalized Intersections	\$600,200	\$679,700	\$68,000	\$1,347,900
Public Right-of-Way Unsignalized Intersections	\$2,411,600	\$2,560,900	\$49,800	\$5,022,300
City Totals	\$4,002,638	\$4,358,986	\$185,382	\$8,546,007

Figure 3. Summary of facility costs identified in the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

2021 DEERMONT PARK RENOVATIONS CONCEPT PLAN



The parks department contracted Barge Design Solutions to assist in preparing renovation plans for the existing facilities to improve the experience for players and spectators, attract tournament play, address site-specific issues as discovered, and look for opportunities to reduce/improve maintenance activities. The concept plans included renovating the parking lot, ensuring ADA-accessibility throughout the entire complex, and add in amenities like batting cages, covered spectator areas, upgrading all field lighting to LED lights, and new pathways to provide two new access points to the complex. Barge prepared a two-phase plan, but with total construction estimates returning in the \$4.5-5.25 million range for the entire project, a decision was made by parks administration to shelf the plan for future budget consideration.

Public Engagement Summary



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

FOCUS GROUPS: STAFF, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

The Master Plan project officially kicked off on May 4, 2023 as parks and recreation management staff met with Dr. Ananda Mitra that morning to answer questions from him designed to provide insight into the current parks and recreation system, its staff, operations, programming, assets and aspirations for the future. In the afternoon, met with the City's elected officials to provide an overview of the development of the Needs Assessment questionnaire and to gain an understanding of their expectations of how this data will be used for the benefit of the City.

The afternoon wrapped up with two separate meetings with citizen representatives of a wide variety of community stakeholder groups in attendance. Meeting content included providing an overview of the Needs Assessment and its purpose to provide specific feedback regarding the community's recreational needs and interests. The following groups were represented in these two focus group meetings:

- Bartlett Little League
- Bartlett Youth Football
- Bartlett Youth Soccer Association
- Bartlett Runners group
- "Sole Sisters" running group
- Bartlett High School athletics – coaches and administrators
- Parks Advisory Board members
- International Senior Softball Association coordinator for Bartlett
- Contract instructors for recreational dance, art, and music classes
- Bartlett City Schools teachers and administrators
- Bartlett Parks and Recreation volunteer coaches

Recommendations and feedback were also received virtually on May 11, 2023 for members from the above groups who were not available to attend in person.

KICKOFF MEETING

Members from the community were invited to attend a kickoff meeting on August 14, 2023 held in the Reception Hall at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center (which is now known as The Venue at Bartlett Station). Paul Wright, from Parks and Recreation administration, co-presented and facilitated the meeting with Michael Shelton from Kimley-Horn. Attendees were provided with a detailed overview of the master planning process and the purpose and benefits of the plan, with 45 total people in attendance. They were asked to provide specific feedback regarding their hopes for the future of the department as well as answer questions specific to their impression of the parks and recreation department as well as provide insight into their typical recreational habits. Use of the interactive site Mentimeter (<https://mentimeter.com>) allowed for "real time" feedback from the audience that was immediately available to enhance engagement and guide additional interaction throughout the



Figure 4. Screenshot of Facebook post on the Bartlett Parks and Recreation's page advertising the public meeting.

presentation. A sample of the questions and audience responses is included in the following screenshots:



FINAL DRAFT PUBLIC MEETING



Figure 5. Screenshot of Facebook post on the Bartlett Parks and Recreation's page advertising the public meeting.

The final draft of the Master Plan was presented to the public on April 30, 2024 for comment and feedback with the meeting held in the newly renovated Auditorium at The Venue at Bartlett Station. Director of Parks and Recreation, Paul Wright, served as the primary presenter with Michael Shelton from Kimley-Horn assisting in the presentation as well as documenting the feedback. Attendance for the meeting totaled 25 people, and those present were provided with an overview of the Master Plan and the process that was used to assemble it into its current form.

Highlights from the Plan that were discussed included the short-term priorities identified based on feedback received from the Needs Assessment survey. Prioritization will be give to updating current infrastructures (e.g., fencing, benches, picnic tables, playgrounds, parking lots) over adding additional amenities. Items that will be addressed in the upcoming fiscal year include:

- Replacing wood on all existing wooden benches, bench swings and picnic tables and adding more of each in all of the parks as needed
- Repainting and/or replacing all the trash cans in the parks and adding more in parks as needed
- Ensuring that all existing dog waste stations are in good condition and replacing any in poor condition
- Address identified safety issues in parks including: walking trails, foot bridges, parking lots and washout areas



Community Needs Assessment



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

READING/INTERPRETING THE REPORT

This report is the final outcome of the Needs Assessment Study (henceforth referred to as “study”) that was commissioned by the City of Bartlett (henceforth referred to as “City”) in 2023. In reading / interpreting this report, it is important to note that the results are presented in several ways. First, there is a narrative description of the findings, which then are supported by tables of data. This section of the report presents a broad description of the community vis a vis recreation and leisure. Recommendations are made in the final section of the report where recommendations are supported by data from the body of the report.

The tables and numbers in the report should be considered carefully. Occasionally, there are different questions that addressed similar issues, these items were distributed in different parts of the questionnaire. When combined, these pieces of information together make up the entire report and results. *In many cases, the importance attached to a particular piece of numeric data must be interpreted along with other similar questions in the instrument.* Moreover, before drawing specific conclusions, it is important to recognize that a universal yardstick cannot be used to interpret the results. For example, the results from one section of the questionnaire may suggest that a facility, considered by 40% of the respondents to be needed, is in fact a significant necessity because most of the other facilities listed in that section received far less endorsement. On the other hand, an activity that is considered necessary by 40% of the respondents may be very insignificant in a particular section, if there were other activities that received far more support. The ranking, as presented in the tables is most important. Consequently, it is impossible to try to find one percentage as the cut-off point for all the questions. Each question needs to be considered separately and as a part of the section to which it belongs.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

The study was designed to elicit interest, behavior, demographic, and attitude information from the citizens served by the City concerning recreation and leisure. It is important to note that the study was intended to obtain information from the entire community and not any specific user group. The objective of the study was to obtain the relevant information that will help the City do its job more effectively by enabling it to be more responsive to the recreation needs of the residents. Additionally, the information can also be used to better organize the internal workings of the City to stay in tune with the current and future needs of the community. Finally, the data is expected to serve as factors in the preparation of a master plan for the City. The master planning process can be well served by learning about the residents’ awareness of the recreation activities.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY

Development of the Questionnaire

Numerous people were invited to meet with the research staff resulting in several focus group meetings and some personal interviews that helped to identify issues relating to parks and recreation in the area. These issues were then used to design the questionnaire for data collection. The data collection was conducted onsite as well as online to accommodate the schedules of the participants. All of the background information gathered in these meetings was used to produce the first draft of the instrument, which contained questions and items specific to the community. These early drafts were then reviewed by the consulting team, as well as by the City officials. After a thorough review, a final draft of the questionnaire was approved by the client.

Questionnaire Contents

A section of the questionnaire was designed to elicit respondent interest in various recreation categories such as “aquatics,” “nature-based activities,” “special events,” etc. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of interest in each of the categories. Examples of activities within each category were listed so respondents would know what each category meant.

Another section dealt with use and respondents were asked to indicate the times during the days of the week when it was most convenient for them to attend recreation activities. Furthermore, different types of recreation facilities were listed, and the respondents were asked to indicate how frequently they had used/visited the facilities in the past twelve months. Next, there was a section designed to elicit reasons for not using or attending recreation facilities and programs. A list of possible barriers was provided, and respondents were asked to indicate if each applied to them and the members of their family. The choices included items such as “lack of parking,” “lack of renovation,” etc.

Respondents were also asked about the best ways of keeping informed about public recreation opportunities. They were provided with a list that included items such as digital communication, traditional methods and word of mouth, and respondents were asked to evaluate them as either effective or not.

One section, labeled, “Areas of Emphasis” listed items that were indicated as needs in the various meetings. These included both programmatic and facility additions. The respondents were asked to indicate the level of importance of each item. They were also asked to indicate how they would want to fund the items they felt were important.

A specific section of the questionnaire dealt with personal opinions of the respondents. There was a series of statements for which they could indicate their level of agreement on a four-point scale that ranged from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree,” with a fifth “don’t know” option. There were several general areas of personal opinion. The items dealt with issues such as:

- Respondents’ personal knowledge and feelings about the Parks and Recreation Department and its offerings,
- Specific improvements that the City could make in its services,
- Opinions about the effectiveness of marketing and publicity efforts of the City, and
- General questions about the quality of life in the community.

The last section of the questionnaire included general demographic questions concerning gender, age, marital status, household composition, and where generally the respondent lives in the community. In addition to the items that elicited responses from a choice of response categories such as “Yes,” “No,” “Agree,” etc., there were a set of questions where the respondents could write out their responses in their own words. This offers the respondents an opportunity to find a personal voice where they are not restricted to the pre-designed statements that were offered in the questions that composed the traditional “multiple-choice” questions. The “open-ended response” questions were included in every segment of the questionnaire and there was a final question where the respondents could offer additional questions.

Data Collection and Management

A random sample of residents (4,500) were invited to complete the questionnaire by visiting a Website. The invitation was sent by the City. They also received reminders by e-mail (where e-mails were publicly

available) to complete the questionnaire. The final data set consisted of 224 responses to the questions where the respondent selected a pre-existing option (such as “Yes” or “No”) along with numerous lines of responses in the voice of the respondent.

Data analysis consisted primarily of frequency distributions for each response category on each questionnaire item, in order to determine the percentage of respondents who selected each answer option. This was done for the sample as a whole. A text analytic tool based on narrative data analysis was used to analyze the responses that were written out by the respondents.

It is important to note that the information (and recommendations) presented in this report are based only on the responses obtained in the community-wide study. There are no presumptions about the actual performance of the Department; only the perceptions of the community are reported. It is quite possible that many of the perceptions do not match the actual activities of the Department. However, the purpose of this report is to present the perception, accurate or inaccurate, to demonstrate how the community feels about the City.

As a follow up to the initial phase of data collection, MLL has provided the City with a Website where citizens can continue to complete the questionnaire until August 2024. The City has been encouraged to promote the Website to maximize the amount of data collected through this mechanism. Even though this data is not “generalizable” in a true statistical sense, the information would offer an insight to the attitudes and needs of the sections of the community who chose to complete the questionnaire using the Internet.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY: DEMOGRAPHICS

Description of the Population

A set of questions was designed to elicit demographic information such as age, marital status, gender, etc. These questions can provide information about a community’s makeup and therefore its possible recreation needs. It is useful to note that the percentages reported and tabulated sometimes add up to 101% or 99% due to the effects of rounding off decimals.

Gender

The sample was comprised of 40% male and 60% female respondents, which is an acceptable gender distribution given that the Census reports a distribution of 48% males and 52% females. The data is slightly skewed towards female responses.

Age

The questionnaire provided different age categories and the percentages are reported below. This places the median age in the 45-54 age groups, which is comparable to the Census information with the data slightly skewed to a 65-year and older population.

Household composition

The results show that 69% of households have two adults in the home. Furthermore, nearly 15% have one or more children under five years of age, 21% have at least one child in the five-to-ten-year range, 29% of the respondents indicated that they have at least one child in the eleven-to-eighteen-year age range. Thus, in total, two-thirds of the respondents indicated that their household has at least one child under the age of eighteen. Nearly 18% of the population claimed to have a person with a disability in their home. The respondents claimed that nearly 91% had some college

Age Category	% respondents
18-24	1%
25-34	7%
35-44	22%
45-54	19%
55-64	19%
65-69	12%
70-74	15%
Over 75	4%

education with 76% claiming to have graduated from college and having more than a four-year college degree. Nearly 80% of the respondents claimed that their school-age children attend public schools, with 5% percent in private schools and the remaining 15% in a combination of home schooling, public and private schools.

Demographic Overview

The results reported in this document are obtained from respondents who represent a somewhat affluent family-oriented segment of the population. A good portion of the respondents have children and have a college education. Thus, the respondents to the survey can be considered to be generally representative of the community.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY: GENERAL FINDINGS

The following sections of this report describe the findings about the various recreational needs of residents. The questionnaire was used to explore recreation and leisure interests as well as what residents believe should be areas of emphasis for additional facilities and programs in the community. Moreover, information was gathered concerning opinions about various recreation-related issues, including factors that limit the use of facilities and how recreation programs should be funded. Personal opinions about recreation and health-related issues were also collected. Unless otherwise specified, numbers in parentheses refer to the percentage responding positively to a question. Furthermore, it should be noted that the percentages are estimates and can vary between plus or minus three to five percentage points. The word clouds represent the responses to the open-ended questions. Those responses are further elaborated in the RecStor section of the report.

Recreation Interests

Table 1: Recreation Interests

	Great Interest	Some Interest	No Interest
Health and Wellness	69%	28%	3%
Dining out	63%	28%	10%
Individual and/or Team Sports	43%	34%	23%
Special Events	42%	51%	7%
Self-Improvement	41%	49%	10%
Performing Arts	34%	50%	15%
Social	34%	52%	14%
Aquatics	30%	40%	30%
Arts & Crafts	25%	52%	23%
Conservation/Environmental programs	25%	47%	28%

The data shown in Table 1 and the analysis of the open-ended responses present a multi-faceted narrative of the recreation interests in the community. Health and Wellness ranked at the top of the list of people's interest. This was also demonstrated in the focus group meetings. There is a national interest in activities that promote a healthy lifestyle. These include a variety of activities from walking on trails to exercise in recreation centers. There are different ways to define and describe wellness, but most of them emphasize the notions of choice and the ability to pursue activities that lead to a state of holistic health.

Respondents took a great interest in special events, where people were introduced to new activities and interests. These activities can have a wide range from unknown sports to magic. There was also a great interest in dining out. This includes going to restaurants with exotic food not found easily in grocery stores. Self-improvement events can include trivia night or yoga night at a local park or recreation center. Social activities were also important to people. This can include a party or an outside gathering where people simply spend time with each other, possibly with food or drink.

On the lower end of the tier are interests such as performing arts. This includes dance and theater. The next activity includes arts and crafts. This includes pottery, painting, weaving, sculpting, minor masonry and carpentry. For some reason, sports came low in people's interests. Sports are basketball, football, baseball and soccer. Individual sports include skateboarding, snowboarding, rollerblading and biking. Conservative and environmental programs include gardening. Aquatics includes water parks and swimming pools. The number one activity people liked was walking. This means building trails in forests and parks would satisfy many people.

This is an active community with interests in special events that are focused on social events and being able to be with other people at special events. This is not unlike other similar communities where there is a balance of interest in the active recreation opportunities and the opportunities of passive, social recreation that could involve activities that may also deal with performing arts, arts and crafts, and some special interests such as gardening, fishing, self-improvement.

Overall, the story of the community focuses on active recreation and social events where dining out in the downtown area is of vital importance. This narrative is supported by the patterns of behavior reported by the respondents as described in the next section.



Word map of open-ended responses to recreation interests

Visits to Facilities

Table 2: Times Available

	6-8a	8-10a	10a-12p	12-2p	2-4p	4-6p	6-8p	8-10p
Monday	26%	21%	20%	15%	17%	42%	54%	16%
Tuesday	25%	20%	19%	16%	17%	45%	54%	17%
Wednesday	26%	20%	20%	17%	18%	42%	53%	17%
Thursday	25%	18%	19%	15%	18%	47%	53%	17%
Friday	26%	20%	20%	15%	19%	44%	53%	20%
Saturday	21%	46%	59%	50%	52%	49%	43%	20%
Sunday	18%	25%	29%	42%	62%	55%	42%	18%

Table 3: Visits to Facilities (Frequency in past year)

	Never	Once	2 to 6	7 to 12	13 to 24	25+
Other City of Bartlett Parks	19%	9%	34%	16%	7%	15%
Freeman Park	27%	13%	37%	13%	3%	7%
Bartlett Recreation Center	48%	13%	17%	4%	5%	15%
City of Bartlett athletic fields	50%	7%	23%	5%	4%	12%
Singleton Community Center	61%	11%	15%	3%	2%	10%
Nesbit Park	63%	12%	15%	4%	4%	3%
Pool and/or Splash Pad at Recreation Center	76%	7%	7%	4%	4%	3%
Bartlett Senior Center	88%	4%	4%	3%	2%	1%

As shown in the data in Table 3 the interest in active recreation continues with the frequent use of various city parks. Freeman Park is also very popular, and the park offers the opportunity for many of the activities in which the respondents reported great interest. This narrative of the community is also reflected in the relatively frequent use of the community center. However, the Regional Park is indeed the center of activities for the community.

Although it did not rank very high, the respondents also indicated that there is interest in athletics that is reflected in the use of the athletic fields. The use of the pools also reflects the community narrative that revolves around active recreation. It needs to be noted that the respondents are not necessarily regular users, i.e., these are not responses from a “user study,” as such, the frequency of use is an indicator of the relative importance of the different facilities.

This community is also available to participate in recreation on weekends. Although some of the time slots such as weekday evenings are popular, the community is predominantly available on the weekends from noon onwards. This finding is important because it complements the community image that is available for active recreation during the days and for activities such as special events and dining out in the evenings. However, since the study was designed to elicit responses from the entire community it is important to note some of the primary reasons why people are unable to participate in recreation activities as shown in the next section of the report.

Reasons for Non-attendance

Table 4: Reasons for Non-attendance

	Yes	No
Lack of information	54%	46%
I do not have the time	39%	61%
Inconvenient timing of events	28%	72%
Competing activities	25%	75%
Lack of special recreation programming	21%	79%
Feel unsafe	17%	83%
Too expensive	16%	84%
Not interested	16%	84%
Lack of parking	15%	85%
Feeling welcomed by the staff	15%	85%
Lack of renovation	14%	86%
Lack of appropriate staffing	8%	92%
Lack of maintenance	7%	93%
ADA accessibility	5%	95%

This table describes the reason people do not attend events. It should be noted that this study is a community-wide study and thus there are significant number of respondents who are non-users as demonstrated in the results presented in Table 3. It is, therefore, vital for the Department to learn about the key reasons for non-attendance.

As in most other communities, the first reason is lack of information. People claim that they do not know about events and facilities. Although this may not be a reflection of the efforts of the Department to promote activities and facilities, the data suggests that this is a key barrier to participation. As such, as shown in Table 6, the study gathered information about the best ways to keep people informed.

People also claim that they do not have time. As in the case of most communities that MLL has worked with, this one is also strapped for time. It is a busy community with many competing demands on its time and are unable to participate either because they do not have the time, or things are not available when they do have the time. This issue is coupled with the fact that busy people are not always able to stay updated with information about all the opportunities and simply may not know what is available. The combination of lack of time and the lack of information sets up string barriers to participation which also include people making choices between competing events and the perception that there is a lack of “special events,” which may be singular flagship events, such as festivals, which could attract more people. Based on the fact that fewer than a fifth of the respondents claim other reasons, such as expense and safety as barriers, the positive aspect of the narrative is that there are fewer concerns with the facilities – their safety, staffing, or cost.

While maintenance and parking may be a concern, overall, it can be concluded that the barriers are more participant centric as opposed to systemic issues with the administration and management of the facilities. It can be argued that the reported lack of information is a result of inadequate publicity, but if people do not have the time, they may not be able to participate even if they had the information. However, publicity and getting the word out is important as indicated in the next section of the report.

Information About Recreation Opportunities

Table 5: Information about Recreation Opportunities

	Yes	No
E-mail	73%	27%
An App dedicated to the Parks and Rec Dept.	72%	28%
City website	71%	29%
Social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.	71%	29%
Direct mailers to household	59%	41%
Text messages	54%	46%
Word of mouth	45%	55%
Electronic signs	43%	57%

The issue of publicity surfaced in the focus group meetings, and there was some concern that the residents may not be as informed as they could be about the recreation opportunities that are available to them. This is reflected again in the data from the questionnaire as shown in Table 4. As such, data was gathered about the best ways of keeping people informed.

The data reported in Table 5 shows a community that relies on digital communication and announcements in different places. This community considers that e-mail about recreation opportunities would be great value just as they feel that both digital and traditional announcements would be valuable. This is a community that is interested in doing things and looks for information in many different ways. As in many other cases, this community is less reliant on the traditional modes of communication such as radio, TV, and newspapers. However, they want the information, and would look for it in the emergent methods of digital communication. It is, however, important to note that digital methods such as digital social networks like Facebook are not the only method that the community seeks out. They would also look for information in direct mailers to households.

These opinions about how they seek information are a part of the larger narrative of the community which is further elaborated in the responses to the questions about the opinions of the community as described in the next section of the report.

Opinions

Table 6: Opinions about Recreation

	Agree	Disagree
The facilities I visit are clean	88%	6%
The facilities I visit are well maintained	88%	7%
I go to parks to enjoy nature	86%	9%
I believe the facilities I visit are safe	85%	6%
In general, the facilities that I have visited satisfy my needs	83%	12%
The staff is courteous and helpful	82%	3%
I am willing to pay reasonable users fees for new recreation opportunities	73%	18%
I have access to parks within walking distance from my home	72%	25%
There should be more activities where the whole family can participate	64%	5%
I am aware of the public recreation programs and activities	58%	37%
I am satisfied with the recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars	53%	32%
I am satisfied with the playground equipment available in the parks	52%	23%
I am willing to volunteer for programs and activities	47%	30%
There should be greater collaboration with the schools	46%	9%

There is adequate recreation activities for youth (ages 2 to 18)	40%	15%
There is a need for multi-use practice fields for a range of games from cricket to football	36%	17%
There is a need for more activities for people with disabilities	33%	14%
I prefer to organize my own recreation as opposed to the using public recreation	32%	48%
There is a need for additional athletic fields	29%	30%
There is adequate recreation activities for adults (ages 18 to 54)	28%	31%
There is adequate recreation activities for seniors (ages 55 and better)	25%	26%

The reader is invited to examine Table 6 carefully to note the patterns of response to each of the questions asked in the questionnaire. In cases where the total percentage falls short of 100% the balance represents the percentage of people who claimed they did not know about the issue. The percentage of people without knowledge can be high in some cases because the data represents the community at large and there are many in the community, as demonstrated earlier in the report, who may not be aware of recreation opportunities or may rarely participate in a program or visit a facility.

People are aware of the public recreation programs and activities more so than they are unaware. People are satisfied with playground equipment available at parks. This means there is no need for playgrounds to be equipped with more than what they already have. People are satisfied with recreational opportunities they receive for paying taxes. This means people get what they deserve from paying taxes. This is what taxes are meant for. People are willing to pay reasonable users fees for new recreational opportunities. Additionally, 47% are willing to volunteer for programs and activities. This is not a large percentage, but it is at least something the public is willing to do.

Over 80% of the people feel safe in parks and enjoy nature. People also claim that they have access to a park within walking distance of their home. More people prefer to use a public recreational park than to form their own. Most people are satisfied by the parks they visit. Most people think that the facilities are well maintained. And people think facilities are clean. The respondents also found the staff to be helpful.

It is important to note that this is a community-wide study and thus there are many people who might have been unaware of some of the issues, or the issues were relatively unimportant to form an opinion. Thus, many people do not know if there is a need for large range sporting fields like cricket or football. People also do not know if there is a need for more activities for people with mental disabilities.

People do not know if there is adequate recreation for adults 18 - 60. People do not know if there are adequate activities for seniors fifty-five and older. Although a decent number of people agree that there is adequate activity for youth, there is still a large number of people who do not know.

A significant number of people, however, agree that there should be a greater collaboration with schools, many people also do not know if there should be more collaboration with schools. People agree that there should be more activities for whole families to enjoy together.

The data collected in this section of the questionnaire continues to strengthen the theme that the community places great value on the public parks and the availability of public recreation opportunities. This is independent of whether the respondents use the facilities or participate in the programs. Additionally, the community has an overall positive opinion about the recreation opportunities and

facilities. Again, independent of whether they use the facilities or not, they believe that the facilities are safe, well maintained, adequately staffed, and clean and in general satisfy their needs.



Summary of open-ended responses to opinions about recreation interests

*Areas of Emphasis***Table 7a: Areas of Emphasis (Facilities and Programs)**

FACILITIES	Yes	No
Walking trails	83%	17%
Places to sit	76%	24%
Natural Areas	73%	27%
Dining options	73%	27%
Picnic tables	66%	34%
Connected trails	65%	35%
Community gardens	60%	40%
Multi-use Community Center	58%	42%
Outdoor aquatic facility	54%	46%
Bike trails	50%	50%
New/updated playground equipment	50%	50%
Large gym for multi-purpose sports	47%	53%
Pickleball courts	46%	54%
Teen center	38%	62%
Inclusive playground	36%	64%
Arts and crafts rooms	36%	64%
Disc Golf	32%	68%
Outdoor basketball courts	27%	73%
Volleyball courts	27%	73%
Batting cages	26%	74%
Dance studio	25%	75%
Dedicated girls fast pitch softball fields	22%	78%
Turf fields	22%	78%
Skateboard areas	21%	79%

Table 7b: Areas of Emphasis (Facilities and Programs) - continued

PROGRAMS	Yes	No
Seasonal festivals in parks	88%	12%
Concerts in parks	85%	15%
Active recreation for adults	77%	23%
Adult events	75%	25%
Special events	70%	30%
Outdoor fitness	58%	42%
Educational and instructional programs	57%	43%
Senior Programming	54%	46%
Theater and drama	52%	48%
Adult education	51%	49%
Arts and crafts programs	49%	51%
Intergenerational programs	42%	58%
Programs for special recreation populations	35%	65%
Teenage sports (high school age)	33%	67%
Lap swimming	30%	70%
E-Sports	12%	88%

The data shown in Tables 7a and 7b is somewhat self-evident and continues to tell the narrative that was found in the data connected in the rest of the questionnaire. There is interest in activities that the family can do together, there is a need for facilities that encourage a healthy lifestyle within large parts of the community as represented in this data. Simultaneously, there is a need for some special programs and facilities for those who are interested in their specific activities. However, these 'special' items represent the needs of half or fewer of the respondents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the report offers a set of recommendations for the Department. Some of these can be achieved in the short term, while others need to be considered as long-term plan elements. All the recommendations are based on the data reported earlier in the report. The reader is encouraged to consider other recommendations and conclusions that can be drawn from the data presented earlier in the report.

Facilities: The results suggest that the community is satisfied with the state of the recreation facilities, and these are some key outcomes from the analysis of the data:

- *The facilities are currently considered to be safe, clean with a high quality of maintenance, efforts should be made to keep up these standards.*
- *Efforts need to be made to offer adequate facilities for walking especially on connected trails with adequate seating areas*
- *Efforts need to be made to offer more dining options to the community.*
- *Offering a multi-use community center would make it possible for the community to have a space for a large number of different activities, including family events.*

Programming: The results suggest that the community has multiple programming interests with a focus on family, dining out and active recreation:

- *Special events are desired by the community, and these should be offered on a regular basis.*
- *Active recreation for adults, including seniors, should be offered.*
- *There needs to be continued effort to offer programming that would attract the entire family.*
- *There is a need to develop active recreation opportunities for all age groups, these could include swimming and year-round sports.*
- *Programming should be offered when people are available to participate – primarily week ends and weekday evenings.*
- *There needs to be more programming for people with disabilities.*

Management issues: The findings show that the community is quite satisfied with the way public recreation is managed, and has made a few suggestions for improvement:

- *It is possible to take advantage of reasonable user fees to provide new programs that will be of interest to the residents.*
- *Publicity about recreation opportunities must take a high priority.*
- *Aggressively develop the use of digital tools to disseminate information regularly about recreation opportunities to all residents along with the use of traditional options such as direct mails to homes.*
- *The City should strive to maintain the positive public perceptions by continuing its dedication to customer service and offering facilities and programs of high quality*

Facility Inventory and Analysis



EXISTING FACILITY INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

A primary task of the master plan effort was the evaluation and analysis of the existing parks and recreation facilities and programs. In addition to providing the evaluation of the current conditions of the amenities at each location, the information provided will also include the size of the park or facility as well as recommendations for improvements to be made. The condition of the amenities is identified as either good, fair, or poor, and uses a color-coded scale for each condition. Amenities rated as “good” will be listed in **green**, “fair” condition amenities will be listed in **orange** and “poor” condition amenities will be listed in **red**.

The Community Needs Assessment revealed that one of the highest priorities to address in the parks is to increase the number of seating and picnic areas. In addition to adding in more seating, emphasis will be placed on ensuring an adequate number of trash cans are located in each park to help reduce the amount of litter that is deposited due to a lack of conveniently located trash cans. Those items are being prioritized in the upcoming fiscal year and will be handled internally via the Parks Maintenance Division, while other recommendations regarding any additions or replacements that are needed may need to be outsourced. Each park inventory will outline existing conditions and will list the priorities through short and long-term priorities.

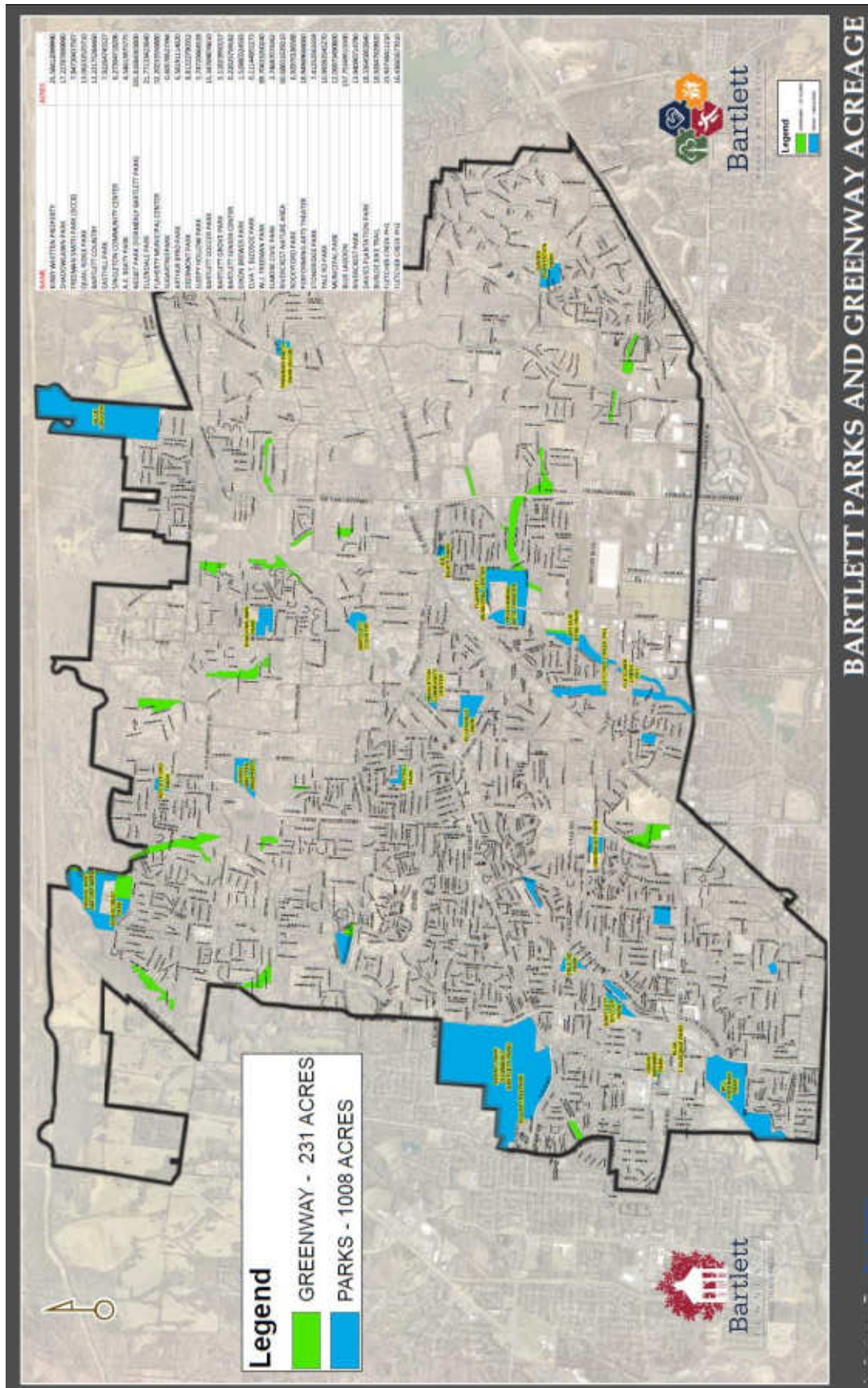
SUMMARY OF AMENITIES

The following are individual park and facility assessments and recommendations that were completed by Parks and Recreation staff during the months of October 2023 through March 2024. The parkland inventory includes:

- ❖ nearly 14-miles of asphalt paved paths
- ❖ 2.5-miles of unpaved hiking trails
- ❖ approximately 11-miles of mountain bike trails
- ❖ 21 playgrounds
- ❖ 16 baseball/softball diamonds
- ❖ 14 tennis courts
- ❖ 10 restroom buildings, 5 of which also have an attached concession stand, with 1 additional restroom that is currently unfinished (A.E. Beaty Park)
- ❖ 8 lakes
- ❖ 7 rentable outdoor shelters (4 pavilions and 3 gazebos of varying sizes)
- ❖ 6 outdoor pickleball courts
- ❖ 3 lighted multipurpose fields
- ❖ 4 facilities (Bartlett Senior Center, Parks Maintenance Shop, Singleton Community Center, The Venue at Bartlett Station)
- ❖ 2 outdoor basketball facilities
- ❖ 2 soccer complexes with a total of 35 fields of varying sizes
- ❖ one cricket pitch

An important upgrade that is in process at the time of writing this Master Plan is the City’s effort to upgrade all of its existing street lights to LED fixtures. This scope of this project also includes all of the lighting located at the walking trails in the parks. All of the streetlights have been converted as of December 2023 with the park lights scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2024. These new LED lights will enhance safety through greater visibility at night as well as reduce costs through less energy consumption.

EXISTING FACILITIES MAP



Parks Listing		(alphabetical)		Acreage	Walking Trail	Bench Swings	Need	Gills	Need	Park Benches	Need	Picnic Tables	Need	Trashcans	Need	Lake	Shelter (Capacity)	Rest Rooms	Picnic Area	Playground	Tennis Courts	Athletic Fields	Pickleball Courts	Connection Bldg	Basketball	Water Fountains	Dog Waste Stations	Parking Spaces	Beachers
A - E	A. E. Beatty Park 7659 Memphis-Arlington Road	4.5	3/10 mi.	2	1	0	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	*					*2013						*	x	
	Bartlett Country Hill Plains & Doyle Ridge Cooke	13.2	1/2 mi.	1	1	0	1	3	0	2	1	1	2	1	2					*2001						*	x		
	Bartlett Grove 7129 Santa Cruz	5.1	3/10 mi.	1	2	3	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3					*1999									
	Bartlett Boulevard Soccer Park 3170 Bartlett Blvd	15.3	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4		ADA	*						*2016		*	211 (5 H)	4	
	Blue Lagoon / Natural Area Blue Lagoon Drive Level 1 Abertium	157.8	8/10 mi.	1	2	0	0	0	4	2	2	2	4	2	2	*				*2008						*	x		
	Booby K. Flanery Municipal Center Garza & Jackson Ave. East Johnson's Avenue, Black's Central 3016 Center-Riding Way, East YNCA 3010 Riding Road	71.0	1.5 mi.	0	2	0	0	3	4	7	3	24	12	*			*							*2020		*	298 (12H)	8	
	Burloe Bike Trail 3400 Summerdale Estate	19.0	0/10 mi.			0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2												*	x		
	Davies Plantation Park Carpenter Harrison Rd. & St. Phillip Rd	18.3	0/10 mi.	1	1	0	2	7	0	3	2	2	3	*						*2010						*	19 (2 H)		
	Deerheart Park 6675 Carmont	8.8	x																ADA						*2017		172 (6 H)	8	
	Dixon-Brewer Park 5740 Woodlawn	1.7	1/3 mi.	0	2	0	1	3	0	1	3	3	3	2			(45)	*			*2000	*2007					22 (1 H)		
	Easthill Park 6950 Dawnhill	7.9	1/2 mi.	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	1	4							*2005		*				*	x		
	Ellendale Park 3310 Greenleaf (accessed from Cedar Road)	21.8	3/4 mi.	0	0	3	3	1	4	8	0	12	0			(50)	ADA	*		*2008	*2007	*		*2021		*	170 (4 H)	4	
	Elmore Civic Park 2505 Elmore Park Road	2.7	1/4 mi.	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	2	2							*2008						*	4		
	Elva T. Bledsoe Park 2503 Bartlett Road	0.5	x	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1			*										2		
	Fletcher Creek Greenway Phase 1: Corner of Santa Valley and Hwy 64 Phase 2: Corner of Yale & Byrdier Blvd	23.9 16.4	9/10 mi. 6/10 mi.	0	4	0	0	1	4	0	0	3	5				(50)	*			*1998						*	10 (2 H)	
	Freeman Smith Park 4920 N. Brumfield Rd	7.8	1/4 mi.	0	1	7	0	2	0	18	0	8	2								*1998		*				*	22 (2 H)	
	Madison Arthur Byrd Park 3400 Summerdale Estate	6.6	3/10 mi.	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	5	0								*2005	*2017				*	9 (2 H)		
	Mark S. Brown Municipal Park 2915 Albina (behind City Hall) Yale Road & Sycamore View	12.1	1/2 mi.	1	1	0	2	1	2	4	0	4	1	*			*	ADA	*		*2006	*2019				*	20 (2 H)		
	Nesbit Park (formerly Bartlett Park) Yale Road & Sycamore View	335.8	2.5 mi.	0	0	0	0	1	10	3	0	3	1														71 (3 H)		
	Quail Ridge Park Corner of Egypt Central and Fair Road	13.1	0/10 mi.	1	1	0	4	4	0	1	4	2	5								*2003					*	13 (2 H)		
	Rivercrest Park / Natural Area Bivactress Lane	74.6	1/2 mi.	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	2	2	2								*2009					*	x		
	Rockyford Park 6985 Blaine Creek Drive	6.9	4/10 mi.	0	2	0	2	3	0	2	2	2	3	*							*2016					*	x		
	Shadowlawn Park 4734 Shadowlawn Rd	17.2	x	0	2	0	0	1	2	3	2	19	0					*			*1999		*	*2021	*	*	113 (5 H)	6	
	Singleton Community Center 7296 Third Road	6.3	x																		*2004					*	x		
	Sleepy Hollow Park Northampton and Sleepy Hollow	5.7	3/10 mi.	2	0	0	1	5	0	0	2	2	2													*	x		
	Stoneridge Park 3525 Altuna Road	7.4	8/10 mi.	1	1	0	3	5		0	4	3	2	*							*1998					*	9 (1 H)		
	Sugar Tree Park 6416 Ellis Oak Lane	0.6	x	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							*	*2014					*	x		
W. J. Freeman Park/A. Keith McDonald Pavilion (Garza & 2 Facilities, 3 multi-purpose fields, Colfax field, Veterans Memorial) 2039 Bartlett Blvd / 2701 Ewert Blvd	89.7	9/10 mi.	2	0	0	4	2	3	18	5	31	5				G (200) P (700) AKM (300)	*			*2005	*2006	*			*	591 (12 H)	9		
Yale Road Park 8341 Yale Road	11.0	1/2 mi.	3	0	4	0	5	1	3	1	3	2	*					*		*2005					*	18 (2 H)			
Kirby Whitten Property - Future Park	25.6	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

A. E. Beaty Park

7859 Memphis-Arlington Road / 4.5 acres

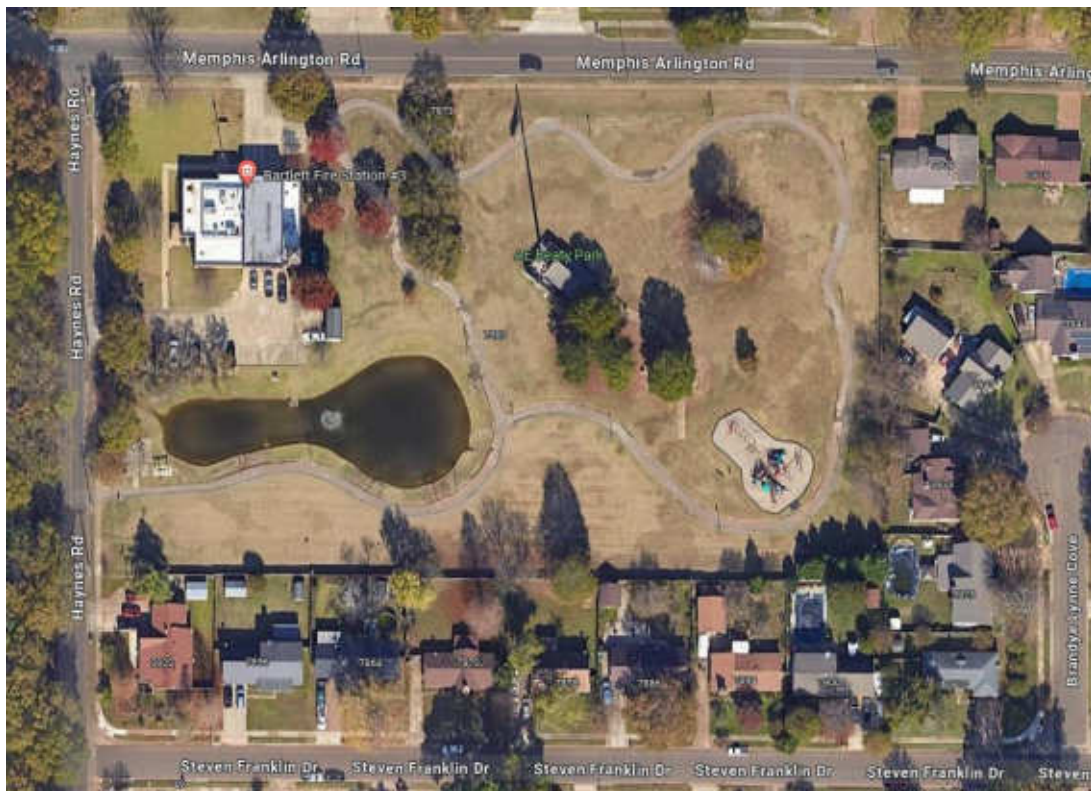
A.E. Beaty Park is a small, neighborhood park which is located immediately next to Bartlett Fire Station Number Three. The park offers green space, a walking trail, playground with engineered wood fiber surfacing, and a small lake to meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. This park provides good access to the neighborhood, though no parking is provided on-site, in close proximity or off-street, which limits handicap accessibility. The closest parking is off-street, approximately ½-block away.

Amenities:

- 3/10-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- (1) dog waste station
- Small lake with fountain
- Unfinished restroom building
- (3) park benches
- (2) bench swings
- Playground (installed 2013); EWF surface

Observations:

There are several items that parks maintenance will be addressing which include: replacing wood on two bench swings, three park benches and one picnic table, installing a new park rules sign, filling in washout areas around the walking track, and repainting the three trash cans currently located in the park. One additional bench swing is needed along with 2 more park benches and 2 more trash cans.



RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Replace wood on park benches, picnic tables and bench swings
- ❖ Repaint or replace the trash cans
- ❖ Add one additional bench swing, two additional park benches and 2 more trash cans with lids
- ❖ Consider adding a minimum of one ADA parking pull-in space off street at Memphis-Arlington or Haynes.
- ❖ Fix the washout areas around the walking trail
- ❖ Resurface the walking trail in the next 2-3 years.



LONG TERM

- ❖ The unfinished restroom building needs to be connected to the sewer line along with installing sinks, toilets and partitions in order to open it for use
- ❖ Playground was installed in 2013 and should be considered for replacement in the next 8-10 years
- ❖ Consider upgrading playground surface to rubber tile or poured-in-place as budget permits



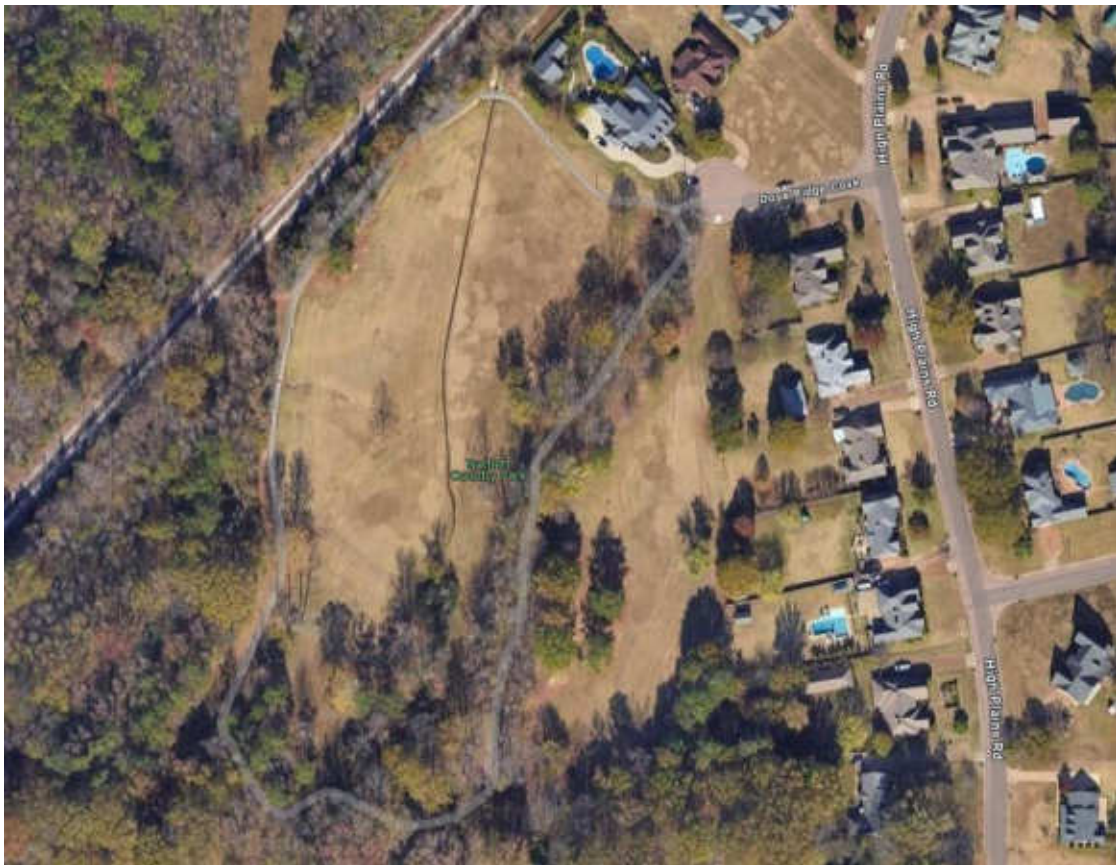
Bartlett Country Park

High Plains & Dove Ridge Cove / 13.2 acres

Serving the functions of both recreational use and storm water management, Bartlett Country Park's open space serves Bartlett Country subdivision residents as a neighborhood park. Parking is available only through on-street parking with access to residents primarily through walking, however, no sidewalks are provided in the neighborhood.

Amenities:

- ½-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- Walk over bridge
- (1) dog waste station
- Playground (installed 2001); EWF surface
- (3) park benches
- (2) picnic tables
- (1) bench swing
- (1) trash can



Observations:

There are several items that parks maintenance will be addressing which include: replacing wood on two picnic tables, installing a new park rules sign, replace dog waste station, repaint the trash can and the parks entrance sign. One additional bench swing is needed along with one picnic table, and 2 more trash cans.

RECOMMENDATIONS



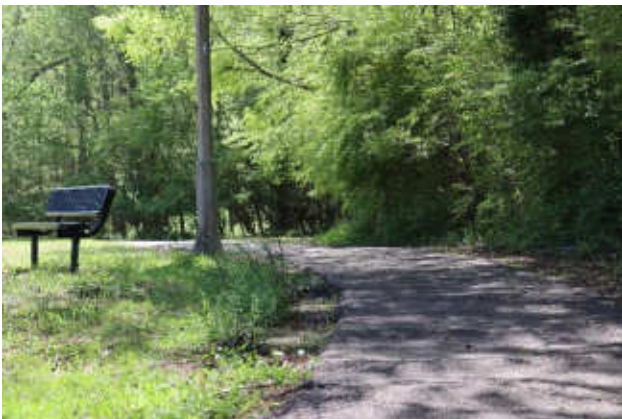
SHORT TERM

- ❖ Consider installing paved surfaces under picnic tables and benches
- ❖ Replace the wood on the two existing picnic tables
- ❖ Repaint or replace the existing trash can (if it is damaged)
- ❖ Replace the dog waste station with a new one
- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign
- ❖ Add an additional bench swing, picnic table and two trash cans with lids
- ❖ Resurface the walking path and extend the width of the western portion to a minimum six-foot width



LONG TERM

- ❖ Consider adding a water fountain
- ❖ Replace existing playground
- ❖ Consider the addition of a gazebo or pavilion for the neighborhood residents to use for gatherings



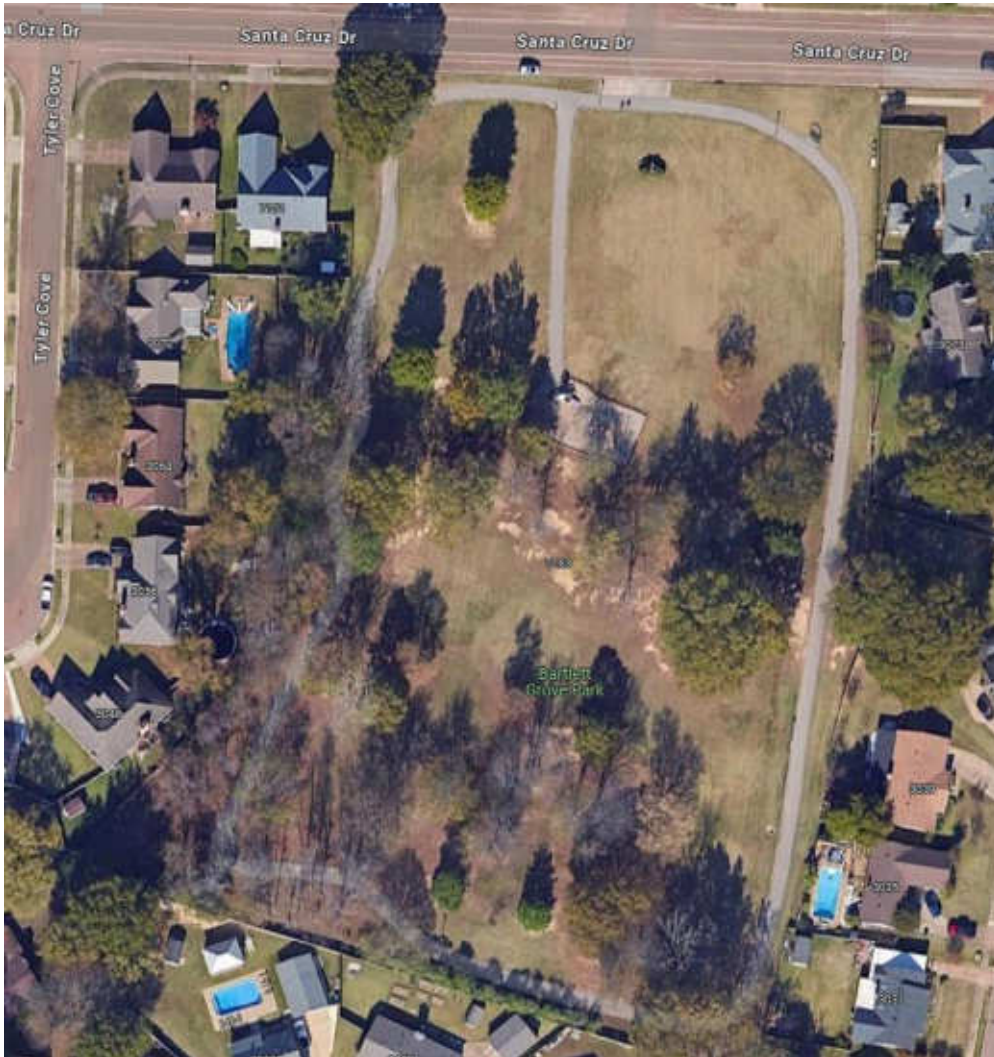
Bartlett Grove Park

7155 Santa Cruz / 5.1 acres

Located in the Bartlett Grove Subdivision, this park serves as a neighborhood park and includes a lighted, 3/10-mile asphalt paved walking trail, playground, swings and benches along the trail, and available on-street parking. Local sidewalks connect the residential neighborhood to the park.

Amenities:

- 3/10-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- (3) grills
- (1) bench swing
- (1) park bench
- (2) picnic tables
- (1) dog waste station
- Playground (installed 1999); EWF surface



Observations:

The items that parks maintenance will be addressing include: replacing wood on two picnic tables, installing a new park rules sign, replace dog waste station, repaint the trash can and the parks entrance sign. Two additional bench swings are needed along with 2 more benches, three trash cans and two more picnic tables.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With plenty of open space at this park, consideration should be given to expanding the amenities offered at this park, especially as the Union Depot development is built out over the next 2-3 years.



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Replace the wood on the two existing picnic tables
- ❖ Replace the dog waste station with a new one
- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign
- ❖ Install new park rules sign
- ❖ Add two additional bench swings, two picnic tables, two more benches, and three more trash cans with lids

LONG TERM

- ❖ Consider adding a water fountain
- ❖ Evaluate adding shade over existing and new bench swings
- ❖ Replace existing playground and consider using rubber tiles or poured-in-place surfacing as budget allow
- ❖ Consider the addition of a gazebo or pavilion for the neighborhood residents to use for gatherings



Bartlett Senior Center

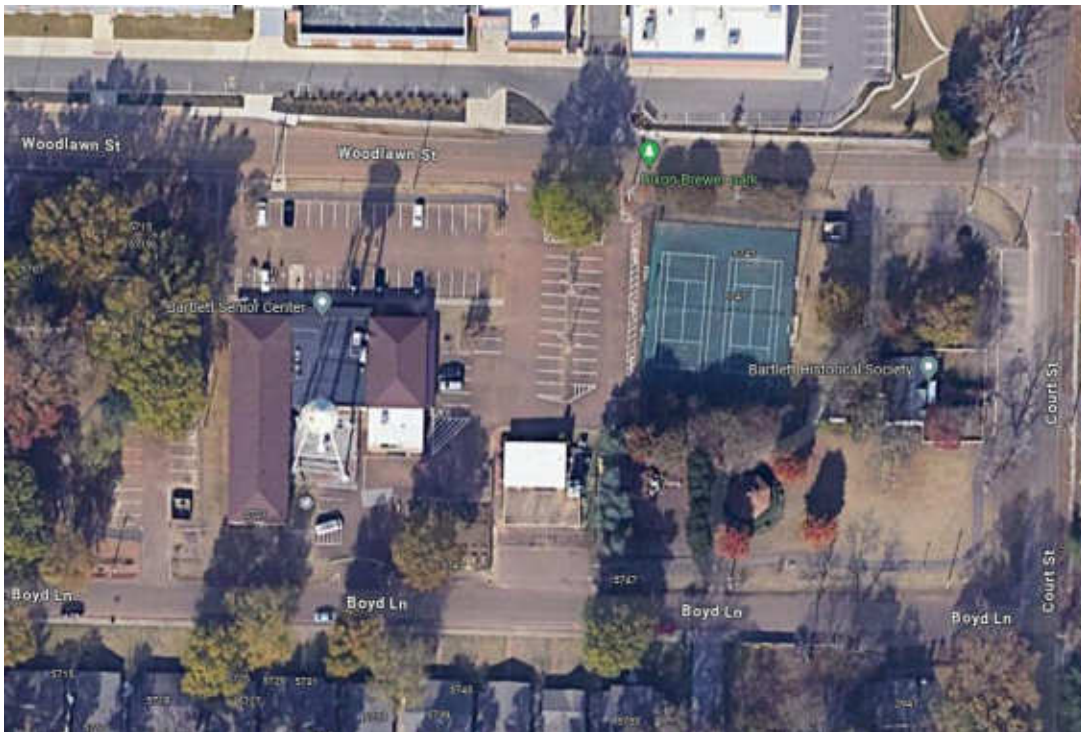
5727 Woodlawn Street / 12,915 square feet / 1.8 acres

The Senior Center is a membership-based facility that offers a quality, enriched social and recreational program for the Bartlett area for seniors ages 50 and up and is located next to Dixon-Brewer Park and across the street from Bartlett High School. Memberships are available in two levels: Basic and Premium. A basic membership includes access to the facility and its amenities with an additional charge of \$4/class to participate in the group exercise classes. A premium membership includes all group classes into the monthly cost.

Known for the quality and variety of programs, excellence of management and instructors and the affordable fees, the Senior Center has a strong reputation throughout the region for its programs and activities. It is kept very clean and is well maintained due to the emphasis placed on cleaning and routine maintenance. Due to the health vulnerability of the senior population, the facility membership declined significantly when COVID-19 was affecting operations. While membership rates have not fully recovered, they have significantly improved over the previous two years and continue their trend in a positive direction.

Amenities:

- (1) computer lab with (6) computers that also provide internet access
- (1) billiards room with two tables
- (1) library with book exchange option
- (1) large auditorium-style space that can accommodate functions of up to 125 guests
- (6) ADA-accessible classrooms of varying size
- (1) community garden
- (1) exercise room with: (3) treadmills, (2) recumbent bikes, one elliptical, one rowing machine, and a selection of hand weights and exercise bands



Observations:

The facility has had several enhancements since the 2007 Master Plan was published. A series of capital improvements has been completed including: refinishing the hardwood floors, replacing the vinyl floors, replacing the entire roof, the cedar shake roof over the porches was replaced with a metal roof, upgrading the main bathrooms to the latest ADA standards, upgrading the coffee station, and replacing nine of the 10 HVAC units. Most of the current equipment and furnishings remain in good condition and should be able to continue serving the members' needs for the foreseeable future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

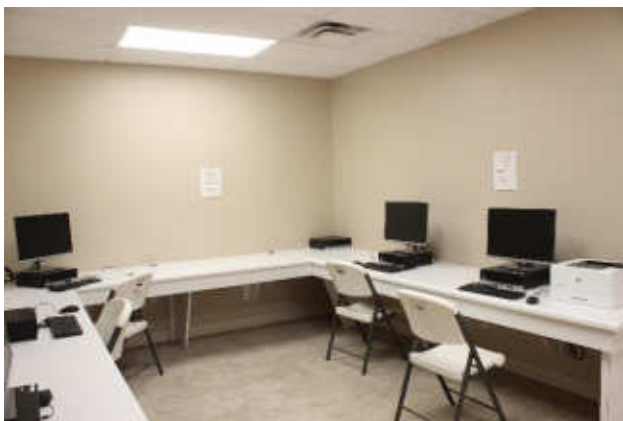


SHORT TERM

- ❖ Replace front portico, garden fencing and HVAC unit
- ❖ Evaluate expanding facility hours or adding programs into the evening hours to serve seniors who still work during the current hours
- ❖ Update interior paint in classrooms and common areas

LONG TERM

- ❖ Resurface the parking lot and replace curbing as needed
- ❖ Replace exercise equipment
- ❖ Renovate storage room and break room to make better use of existing space; renovate kitchen



Bartlett Boulevard Soccer Park

3170 Bartlett Boulevard / 15.3 acres

Bartlett Boulevard Soccer Park was built in 1988 as the first dedicated soccer facility in Bartlett. The Bartlett Youth Soccer Association (BYSA) has operated all soccer programming in Bartlett since 1992, and the popularity of soccer in the community remains extremely high. Over 1,500 youth, ages 4-18, participate annually in the recreational and competitive programs over the course of the spring and fall seasons. BYSA collaborates with the parks department for the maintenance and upkeep of the athletic fields including but not limited to striping the fields, caring for the turf, purchasing new soccer goals, and addressing irrigation issues

Amenities:

- ADA-compliant concession building with restrooms
- (1) water fountain
- Soccer fields with MUSCO metal halide fixtures
- Parking lot with 211 spaces (5 ADA-designated spaces)
- Wooden split-rail fence dividing parking lot from playing fields
- (5) trash cans
- (4) sets of bleachers



Observations:

The bare areas are a direct result of compacted soil and significant foot traffic on the fields. Although the Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department is top dressing the fields annually and the fields have an irrigation system, the turf still has inadequate rest to recover between the volume of practices and games. Another issue with this facility, as identified in the previous plan, is the lack of adequate parking for peak demand periods. Vehicles fill the adjacent parking lot, park in the adjacent residential neighborhoods and park in lawn areas around the park. Traffic ingress and egress via Bartlett Boulevard is extremely difficult during peak use as it is the only access for the park and parking lot.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Continuation of an athletic turf program to manage and maintain athletic fields
- ❖ Restripe parking spaces, repaint or replace existing trash cans, repaint park entrance sign
- ❖ Add four additional trash cans and four sets of bleachers
- ❖ Pressure wash exterior of concession/restroom building
- ❖ Install two new park rules signs
- ❖ The lights for the flagpoles are no longer functioning and need to be rewired (currently a solar light is used to illuminate the American flag during the evening hours)
- ❖ Parking lot is also showing signs of significant wear and needs to be repaved in the next 2-3 years

LONG TERM

- ❖ Evaluate possibility of creating overflow parking within the existing parcel of land using a porous paving to allow for effective storm water runoff in addition to providing more parking spaces
- ❖ Renovate existing fields to enhance weather resiliency and the health of the natural turf
- ❖ Pursue a cost-benefit analysis of converting some of the higher use fields to a synthetic turf surface
- ❖ Upgrade field lighting to LED fixtures

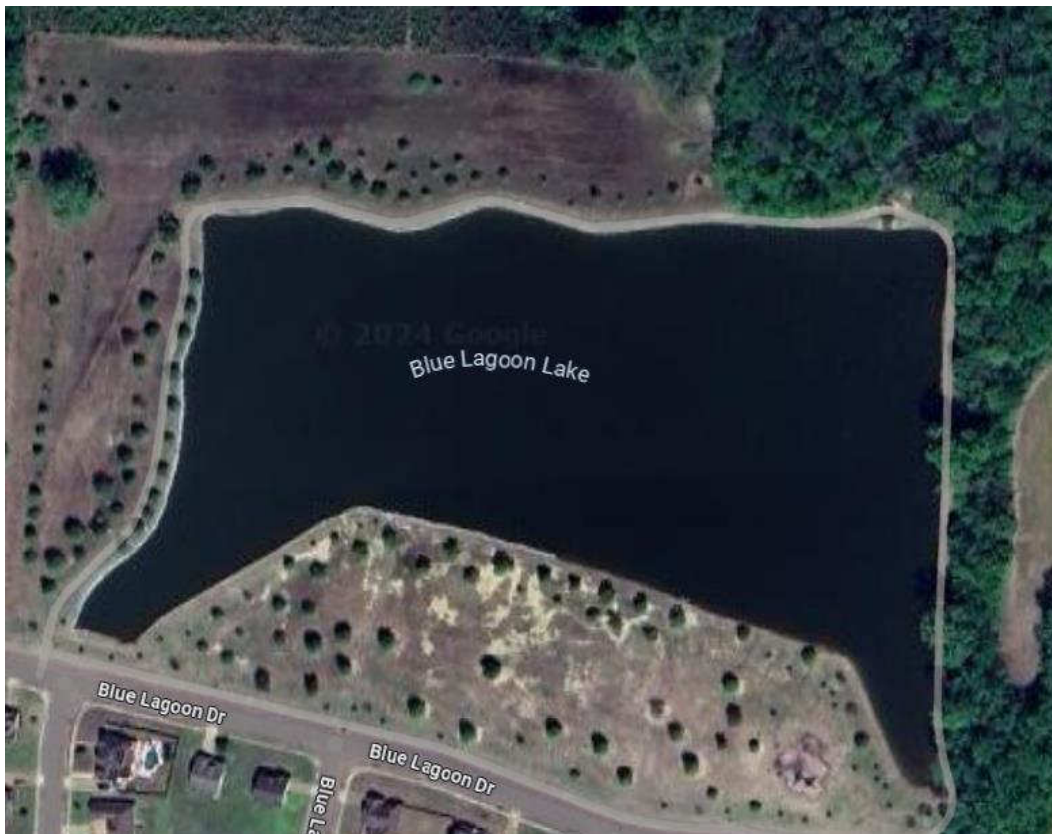
Blue Lagoon Park and Natural Area

Blue Lagoon Drive / 157.8 acres

One of the newest parks in the Bartlett system, Blue Lagoon blends the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape with typical amenities found in a neighborhood park. A partnership with the local 4-H Club has provided this park with the City's first Tennessee Urban Forestry Council Level 1 Certified Arboretum (2021-2024) complete with 53-different species of trees identified and labeled. Only approximately 27 of the nearly 158 acres has been developed for recreational use with the remaining acreage lying in flood plain of the Loosahatchie River, which borders the park to its north. There are some signs of erosion along the banks of the lake that require repair, though much of the bank has been stabilized with riprap in recent years. Canadian geese are also prevalent in this park and have created several nesting areas surrounding the pond.

Amenities:

- 8/10-mile asphalt paved walking trail (unlit)
- Large lake
- Playground (installed 2008); EWF surface
- (1) bench swing
- (1) dog waste station
- (2) picnic tables
- (4) trash cans
- Level 1-certified Arboretum



Observations:

A spillway area exists on the northeastern section of the walking path and a wooden bridge that allowed pedestrian traffic to avoid walking through the spillway was removed from this area in early 2024 due to rot. Residents in the neighborhood have been requesting a new structure installed in its place and a plan has been developed to install a large pipe and then pave over the top of it to connect the walking trail. This solution will allow storm water to continue to flow freely and pedestrian traffic not have to worry about wet feet. It will be important to ensure that the grade of this area remains compliant with ADA standards.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Playground: consider installing a shade structure over the playground which receives direct sunlight; evaluate the need to replace panels on the playground equipment due to sun exposure
- ❖ Finish stabilizing the remaining shoreline of the pond with riprap
- ❖ Install four more park benches, 2 additional picnic tables, 2 additional trash cans, and 2 more bench swings
- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign, replace wood on two picnic tables, repaint or replace existing trash cans
- ❖ Install pipe at the spillway in the northeast corner of the walking path; ensure grading meets ADA standards
- ❖ Resurface the entire walking path in next 2-3 years

LONG TERM

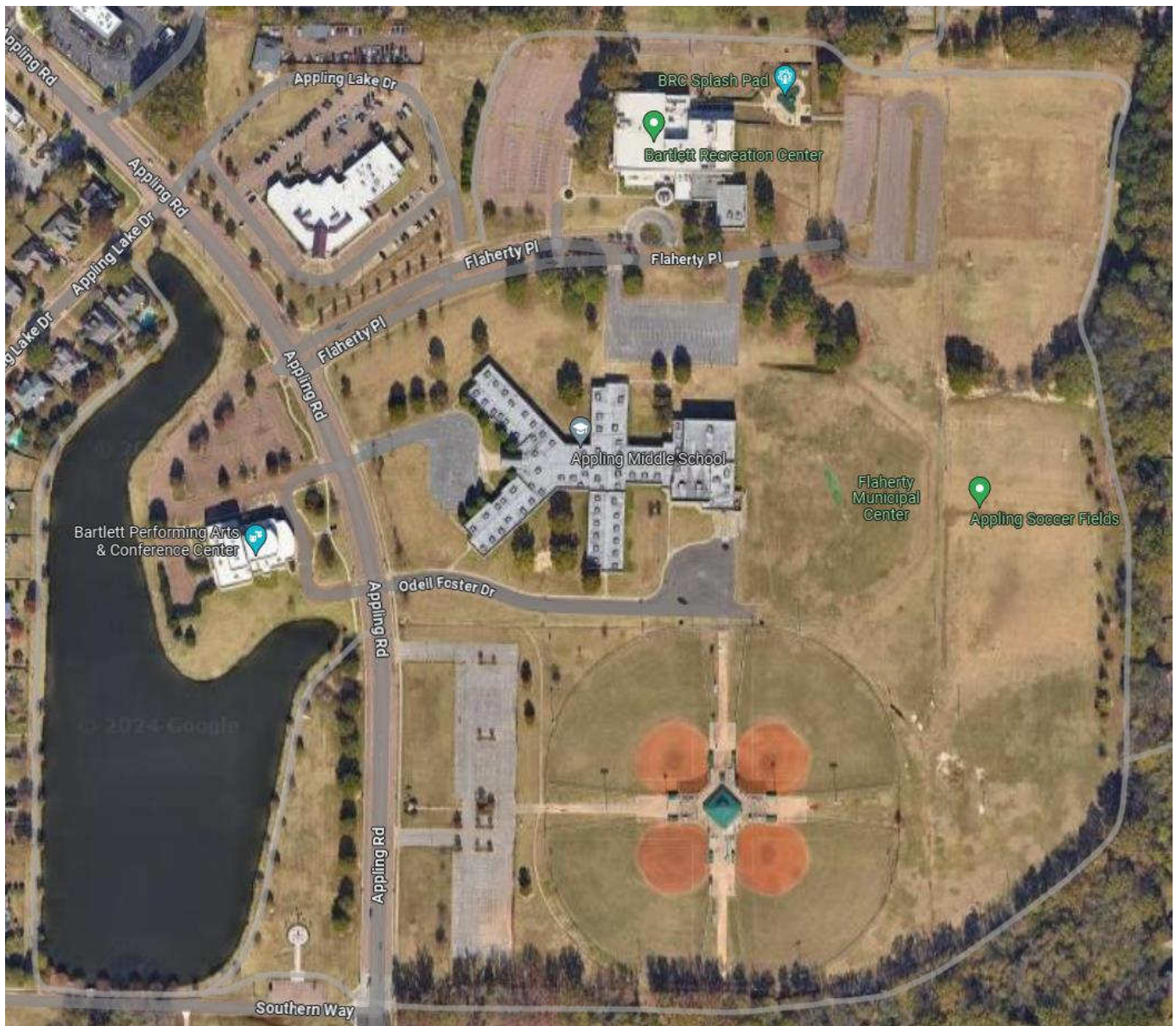
- ❖ Consider adding shade structures over all bench swings
- ❖ Solicit neighborhood feedback on: installing lights around the walking path, adding a gazebo or pavilion near the playground for shade

Bobby K. Flaherty Municipal Center

3610 Appling Road / 71 acres

The Bobby K. Flaherty Municipal Center is named in honor of former Alderman and Mayor Bobby Flaherty who served the City of Bartlett for 24 years. This large, 71-acre area includes several different facilities and amenities including Appling Lake and First Responders Monument, the Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center (BPACC), the Bartlett Criminal Justice Center, Appling Middle School, Appling Soccer Fields, the Bartlett YMCA (formerly the Bartlett Recreation Center) and the Appling Softball Complex.

This area is the site of several special events including: Music by the Lake, Children's Fishing Rodeo, Bartlett Police Charitable Foundation 5k and Obstacle Course, and the Bartlett Fireworks Extravaganza.



Appling Lake & First Responders Monument / 19.5 acres

This open space is located adjacent to the BPACC and is used for outdoor concerts and special events and becomes an integral part of the annual Fourth of July Celebration. The annual Children's Fishing Rodeo and annual Bartlett Police Charitable Foundation's 5K and Obstacle Course also use this area to stage their events.

Amenities:

- Large lake
- 1.5-mile lighted, asphalt walking trail
- Small parking lot with 12 total spaces (2 ADA-designated) at corner of Southern Way and Appling Road
- (3) park benches
- (5) trash cans

Observations:

The asphalt walking path is beginning to show signs of degradation, especially in the areas near trees, and will need to be resurfaced in the next 2-3 years. Phase 4 of the Fletcher Creek Greenway will connect to the southeastern portion of the existing path and will have a trailhead near the parking lot of the softball complex. The banks of the retention pond are showing signs of erosion and will need to be addressed in the next 3-5 years, and, there are signs of sediment accumulating in the northern section of the pond that will need to be dredged.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Add two more park benches, 2 more bench swings, and 3 more trash cans
- ❖ Repaint or replace the five existing trash cans, replace the park rules sign and restripe the parking lot
- ❖ Resurface asphalt walking path

LONG TERM

- ❖ Address the erosion on the banks of the retention pond
- ❖ Dredge the northern section of the pond
- ❖ Repaint or replace the five existing trash cans, replace the park rules sign and restripe the parking lot



Appling Softball Complex / 18 acres

The Appling Softball Complex is home to four ballfields complete with 8 sets of bleachers all of which have accompanying shade structures, a concession and restroom building, and on-site parking. This facility is located just south of Appling Middle School, which allows the opportunity for shared use during the school year. During the Fourth of July Celebration, the ball fields are used as a staging area for the fireworks.

Amenities:

- (4) lighted, 300-foot fenced ballfields with MUSCO metal halide fixtures
- Restroom and concession building
- Parking lot with 214 spaces (6 ADA-designated spaces)
- (8) sets of bleachers and shade structures
- (12) trash cans
- (7) picnic tables
- (2) water fountains

Observations:

Overall, the facility is in good condition. The infield skin does need regrading to enhance weather resilience and improve the playability. The concession and restroom building needs a fresh coat of paint on the exterior doors, the beams and columns, metal roof and the interior walls of the restrooms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Repaint concession and restroom building, doors, and foul poles
- ❖ Restripe parking lot
- ❖ Replace park rule sign
- ❖ Install a park entrance sign near the main entrance drive
- ❖ Outfield areas need to be top-dressed and infield skins need regrading; field gates all need to be repaired
- ❖ Add 3 more picnic tables and 6 more trash cans
- ❖ Replace partitions and mirrors in restrooms

LONG TERM

- ❖ Evaluate cost replacing the chain link backstops with netting and removing the overhead netting
- ❖ Perform a cost-benefit analysis of replacing infield skins with synthetic turf
- ❖ Upgrade field lighting to LED fixtures



Appling Soccer Fields / 19.5 acres

Located to the east of the Bartlett YMCA (formerly the Bartlett Recreation Center), the Appling Soccer Fields provide an additional complex for the Bartlett Youth Soccer Association (BYSA) to use for team practices and games. A parking lot with 72 spaces is adjacent to the fields.

Amenities:

- (12) soccer fields - unlit
- Parking lot with 72 spaces (4 ADA-designated spaces)
- (7) trash cans

Observations:

The natural turf is, overall, in good shape despite the volume of use by BYSA as well as community members using the fields during non-scheduled times. The northern section of this area is being evaluated to be included as part of the future “Summer Outdoor Experience” that will be built in partnership with the YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South. Accommodations will need to be made prior to the start of construction, which is tentatively planned for the late-Spring of 2025.

An additional future project that will affect this area is installation of storage tanks as part of the Fletcher Creek Sewer Basin plan. This project is in the infancy of its planning stages with no definitive timeline established. The current concept calls for sewage storage tanks to be installed beneath the athletic fields, with new fields built over the tanks after installation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Restripe parking lot
- ❖ Replace park rules sign
- ❖ Top-dress all fields
- ❖ Paint or replace existing trash can
- ❖ Add two park benches

LONG TERM

- ❖ Consider working with Bartlett City Schools to develop the open space associated with Appling Middle School; this could provide additional field capacity during the two projects previously mentioned
- ❖ Work in collaboration with BYSA to effectively prepare for adjustments to field availability when the “Summer Outdoor Experience” is being built.



Burloe Bike Trail

3400 Summerdale Estate / 19 acres

The Burloe Bike Trail was completed in 2009 and is located in a greenbelt area bordering the western edge of the Summerdale Estates Subdivision. This amenity was made possible in large part through Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) funding and provides connectivity to both the Fletcher Creek Greenway and Madison Arthur Byrd Park. The shared-use asphalt paved pathway also includes a bridge providing a crossing of the northwest arm of Fletcher Creek.

Amenities:

- 8/10-mile asphalt paved shared-use trail
- Pedestrian bridge

Observations:

This greenbelt area lies between two neighborhoods and is well-used by walkers as well as bikers. There is currently no seating located along the trail, which should be added to provide opportunities for users to rest and enjoy the natural scenery. Additionally, no trash cans are in this area and would help reduce the amount of litter that is left behind.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Add 2-3 park benches and 2-3 trash cans along the trail
- ❖ Asphalt path running parallel to Broadway Road is showing signs of wear and should be resurfaced in the next 1-2 years

LONG TERM

- ❖ Consider adding in trail counters to measure level of use

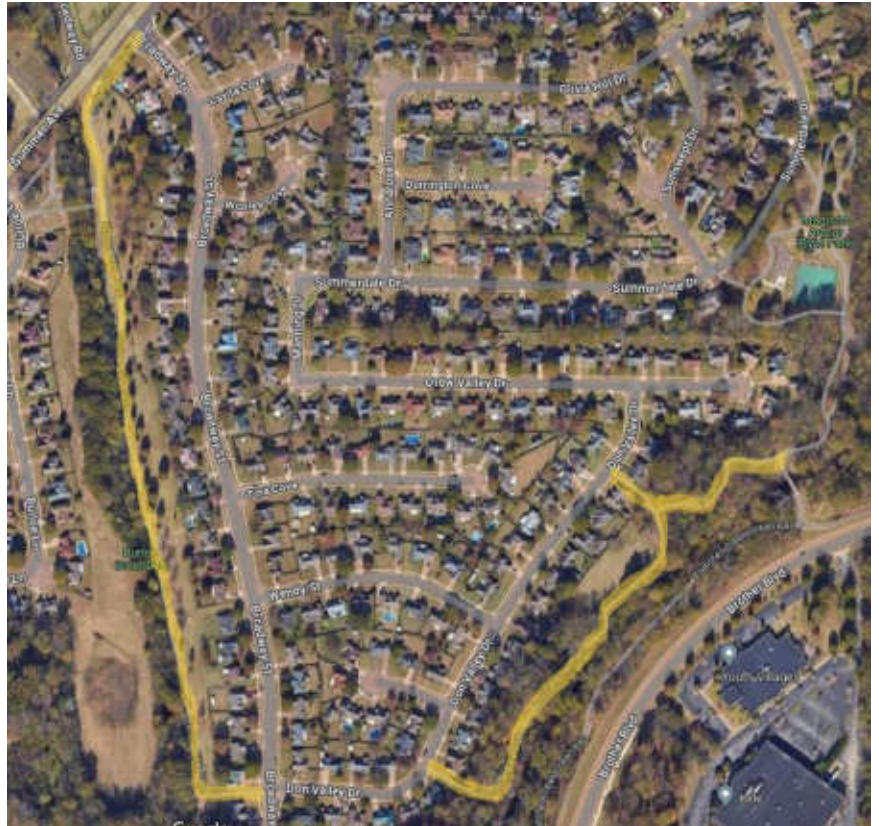


Figure 6. Burloe Bike Trail is highlighted in yellow.

(this page intentionally left blank)

Davies Plantation Park

Davies Plantation Road & St. Philip Drive / 18.3 acres

This park was built in 2010 and serves as a neighborhood park for the Davies Plantation Subdivision, and provide a variety of recreational opportunities with its large playground, wide open green spaces, walking path and the lake. A small parking lot is located off of Davies Plantation Road across from St. Philip Drive.

Amenities:

- 6/10-mile asphalt paved walking trail (unlit)
- Medium size lake
- Parking lot with 19 total spaces (2 ADA-designated spaces)
- Playground with separate swing set (installed 2010); EWF surface
- (7) park benches
- (3) picnic tables
- (2) trash cans
- (1) bench swing
- (1) water fountain
- (1) dog waste station



Observations:

There is evidence of erosion in the storm water ditch that separates the parking lot from the park that needs to be repaired and erosion around the banks of the pond is also appearing. The parking lot needs to be restriped and the water fountain and trash cans need to be repainted. Additionally, the walking path is showing signs of aging and needs to be resurfaced within the next 5 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Repair erosion in the ditch between the parking lot and the playground
- ❖ Replace the park rules sign
- ❖ Restripe the parking lot and repaint park entrance sign
- ❖ Add one more bench swing and 2 more picnic tables
- ❖ Repaint or replace the two trash cans and add 3 more

LONG TERM

- ❖ Consider adding a gazebo or pavilion near the playground to provide shade and an additional area for community gatherings
- ❖ Erosion on the shoreline of the pond will require repair and stabilization in the next 5 years
- ❖ Walking path will need to be resurface within 5 years
- ❖ Solicit neighborhood feedback about installing lights around the walking path



Deermont Park

6675 Deermont Drive / 8.8 acres

Deermont Park was built in 1986, is located adjacent to the Altruria Elementary School, and contains four lighted baseball/softball fields with a concession stand and restrooms and a large parking lot. Altruria Elementary also uses the parking lot during the school year for their car rider drop-off and pick-up area. Deermont is the primary site for all youth baseball and softball games played in the parks and recreation league. An average of 600 children participate in league play over the course of the spring and fall seasons each year. Three of the fields have 200-foot fences and the other has 275-foot fences. All four infields have natural turf with a traditional, clay infield skin and natural turf outfield grass.

Amenities:

- (4) lighted baseball/softball fields with MUSCO metal halide fixtures
- (13) trash cans
- (8) picnic tables
- (1) water fountain
- ADA-compliant concession building with restrooms
- Parking lot with 172 total spaces (6 ADA-designated spaces)



Observations:

The fields are all in need of regrading to remove infield lips and to enhance weather resilience and improve playability. The fences and gates need to be replaced soon due to wear and tear and aging over the years. The parking lot was repaved in August 2023 and should be in good shape for years to come. There is evidence of some drainage issues that need to be addressed between fields 2 and 4 as well as between fields 1 and 2. The overhead safety netting is also showing signs of wear and will need to be replaced within the next year or two.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign
- ❖ Install a new park rules sign
- ❖ Pressure wash both the concession/restroom building and the curbing surrounding the building
- ❖ Repaint or replace existing trash cans and add 4 more
- ❖ Replace all foul poles
- ❖ Add two additional picnic tables
- ❖ Field renovations to include top-dressing the outfield areas, removing the lips and laser grading the infields
- ❖ Correct drainage issues between field 2 and 4 and fields 1 and 2

LONG TERM

- ❖ Replace chain link backstop fencing with netting for backstops
- ❖ Revisit the 2021 Deermont Park Renovations Concept Plan to determine feasibility of incorporating enhancements that were identified in it (LED field lighting, new fencing, dugouts, and bleachers, shade structures for spectator area, etc.)

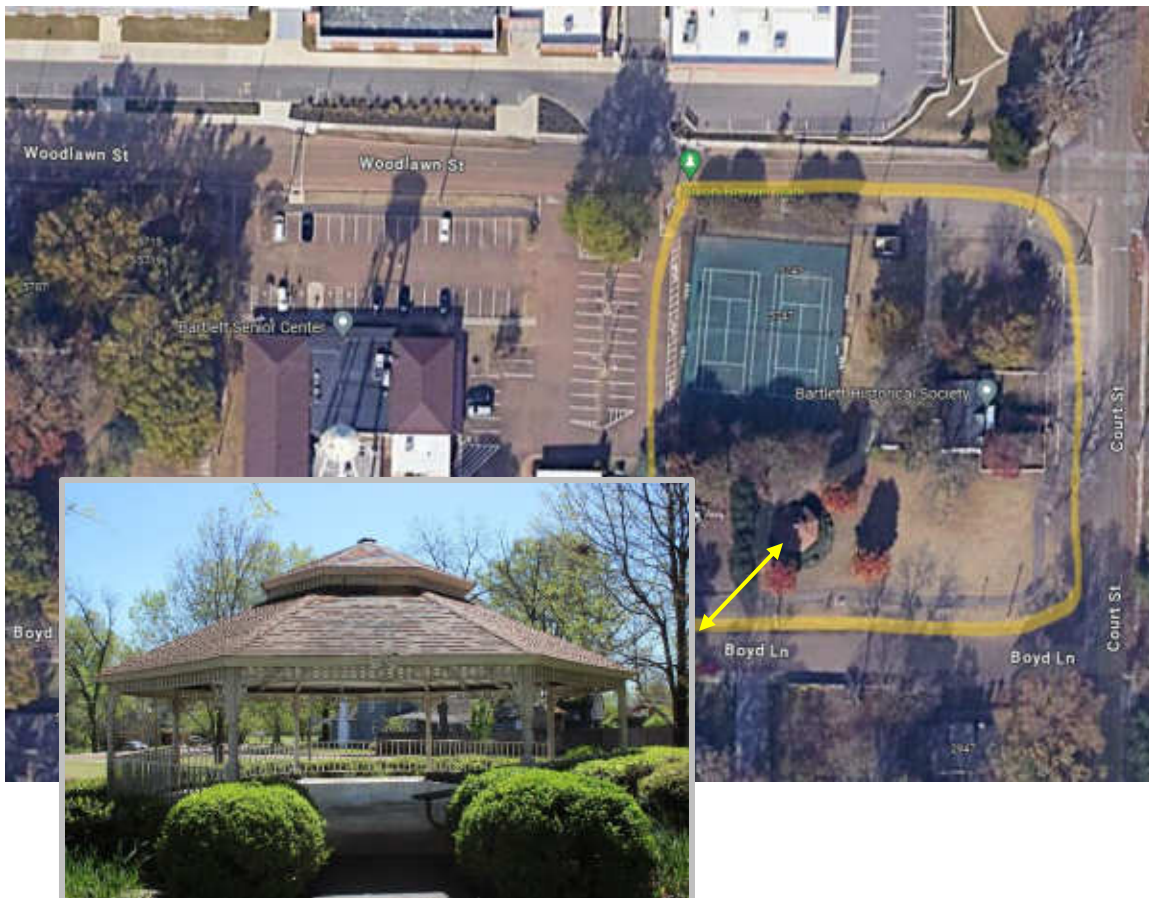
Dixon-Brewer Park

5745 Woodlawn / 1.7 acres

Dixon-Brewer Park is conveniently located adjacent to the Bartlett Senior Center, Bartlett High School and the Gotten House Museum. The close proximity of this park to the Bartlett Senior Center and Gotten House Museum allows many social activities to expand into the park. The park includes several amenities such as lighted tennis courts, a gazebo for picnics and gatherings, and restroom facilities. This park is well-maintained and well-lit and the landscaping provides a beautiful setting for the surrounding neighborhood and users of the park.

Amenities:

- 1/3-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- Gazebo (capacity: 45)
- Restrooms
- Playground with separate swing set (installed in 2000); EWF surface
- (2) tennis courts
- Parking lot with 22 spaces (1 ADA-designated space)
- (3) park benches
- (3) trash cans
- (1) picnic table



Observations:

This park has been selected as the recipient of a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to replace the existing restroom building with a new structure, renovate the parking lot on Woodlawn, install ADA-pathways from the parking lot to the tennis court and new restroom building. If funding permits, the playground will also be replaced, the pathway between the Bartlett Senior Center parking lot and the gazebo will be replaced, and the gazebo will be renovated.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Replace the wood on the existing park benches and repaint the frames
- ❖ Replace the park rules sign with a new one
- ❖ Restripe parking lot in front of the Gotten House
- ❖ Repaint or replace the 3 trash cans and add 2 more
- ❖ Add three additional picnic tables

LONG TERM

- ❖ Replace the fencing surrounding the tennis courts
- ❖ Resurface and repaint the tennis courts
- ❖ Retrofit existing tennis court lights with LED fixtures



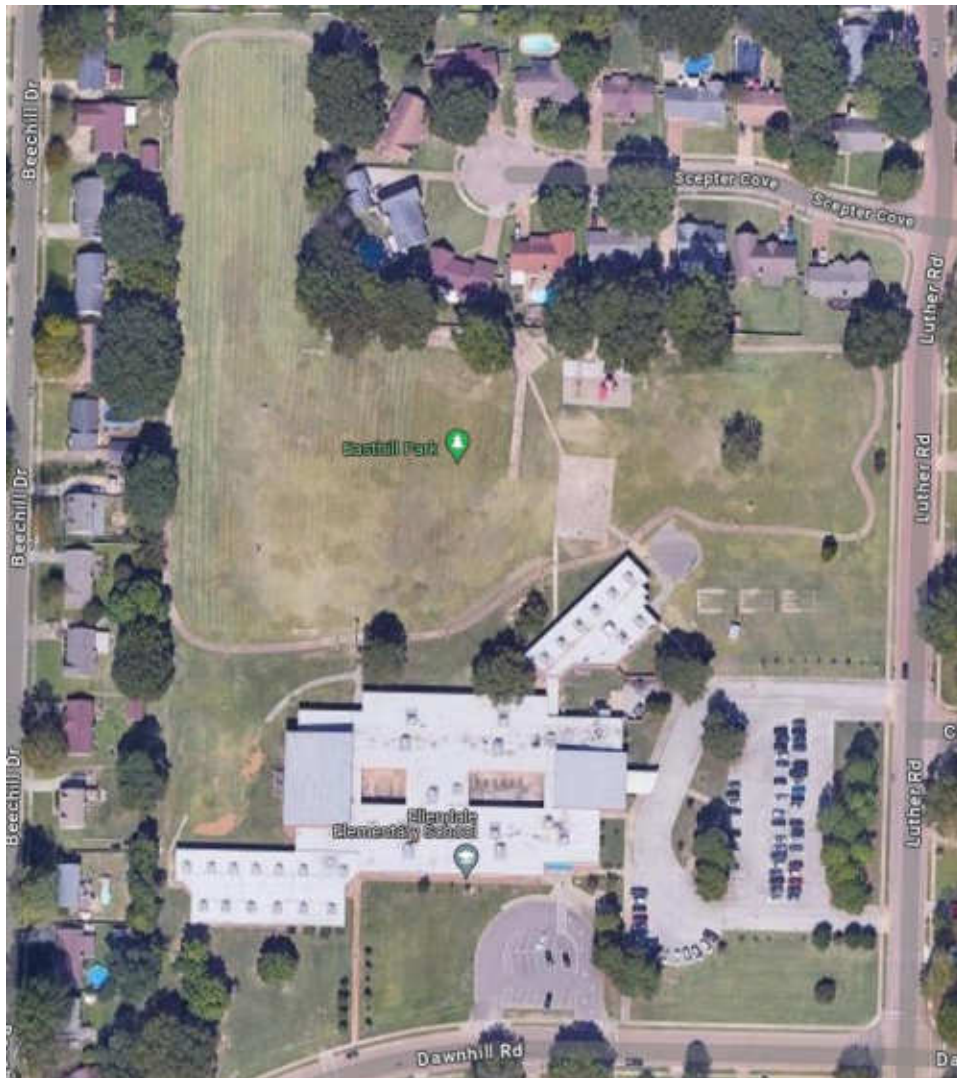
Easthill Park

6950 Dawnhill / 7.9 acres

Easthill Park is located within the Easthill Subdivision, immediately north of Ellendale Elementary School, and provides a recreational amenity to both the neighborhood and school. Local residents have access to the park through neighborhood sidewalks, however only on-street parking exists for this park.

Amenities:

- ½-mile lighted, asphalt paving walking trail
- Playground with separate swing set (installed 2005); pour-in-place rubber surface and EWF surface
- Large concrete pad (old basketball court) with painted game areas
- (3) park benches
- (1) trash can
- Athletic fields with (2) soccer goals
- Chain link fence (old back stop and dugouts)



Observations:

Easthill Park provides plenty of open, greenspace that is used by the elementary school for recess and also provides an additional space for teams to use for practices. The chain link backstop was severely damaged in a storm during the summer of 2023 requiring removal of the upper 2/3 of the structure, and the remainder still needs to be removed. The playground has a significant volume of consistent use during the school year and is showing signs of wear on the poured-in-place area as well as with the structure itself. The walking trail is also worn and needs to be resurfaced in the next 1-2 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Remove remainder of chain link fencing
- ❖ Repaint the park entrance sign
- ❖ Replace park rules sign
- ❖ Replace 2 park benches and add 2 additional ones
- ❖ Add 2 picnic tables and 4 trash cans
- ❖ Resurface walking trail and fill in washout areas around edges of the trail

LONG TERM

- ❖ Seek grant-funding to replace playground in the next 3-4 years
- ❖ Consider adding shade structures or a small pavilion near the playground to provide an outdoor classroom area for the elementary school and a place for park users to use



Ellendale Park

3800 Greenleaf (accessed from Cedar Road) / 21.8 acres

Despite a severe storm that devastated many of the mature trees within this park in the summer of 2023, this large, neighborhood park is still a treasure for the community. From tennis courts, ball fields, trails, concession and restroom, picnic areas and pavilion to a playground, this park offers a full range of leisure and recreational opportunities. An on-site parking provides park patrons good access; however, due to a lack of sidewalks in the surrounding area, most park visitors must drive this park. The athletic fields are used for youth baseball and softball practice during the spring and then become the home of Bartlett Youth Football (ages 6-12) practices during the summer and fall.

Amenities:

- **¾-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail**
- **Pavilion (capacity: 50)**
- **ADA-compliant restroom building with concession stand (built 2021)**
- **Parking lot with 170 total spaces (4 ADA-designated spaces)**
- **Picnic area with (8) picnic tables and (3) grills**
- **Playground with separate swing set (installed 2009); EWF surface**
- **(12) trash cans**
- **(2) tennis courts with metal halide fixtures**
- **(2) athletic fields with (4) sets of bleachers and MUSCO metal halide fixtures**



Observations:

Significant signs of erosion and cracking are evident throughout the walking trail and the parking lot and both will require resurfacing as soon as possible. The two athletic fields need to be regraded to improve drainage and playability. All of the picnic tables need to have the wood replaced and more seating needs to be installed near the playground area (currently only 1 park bench is available) and provided along the walking trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign and replace park rules sign
- ❖ Replace the wood on the 8 current picnic tables
- ❖ Repaint or replace the 12 trash cans
- ❖ Add four more park benches
- ❖ Fencing repairs need to be made around the two athletic fields
- ❖ Pressure wash tennis courts
- ❖ Repave walking trail and parking lot



LONG TERM

- ❖ Replace chain link fence surrounding tennis courts and athletic fields
- ❖ Regrade athletic fields to enhance weather resilience and improve playability
- ❖ Add shade structures to playground area
- ❖ Upgrade field and court lights to LED fixtures



Elmore Park Civic Park

2505 Elmore Park Road / 2.7 acres

Located in between the Surrey Woods and Elmore Park Subdivisions, this small, neighborhood park offers residents a lighted ¼-mile paved walking path, picnic tables and swing set with four swings. The playground is currently non-ADA accessible as well as limited in the equipment options.

Amenities:

- ¼-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- Small parking area with 4 spaces
- (2) picnic tables
- (2) trash cans
- Swing set with (4) belt swings and (2) bucket swings
- (1) water fountain
- (1) park bench
- (1) dog waste station



Observations:

The playground needs ADA accessibility and consideration should be given to expand the diversity of play equipment available. Concrete pads or pavers should be installed under each picnic table in order to provide an all-weather surface and help in maintenance. The walking trail is also exhibiting signs of degradation and should be resurfaced in the next 1-2 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Provide ADA accessibility to playground
- ❖ Install hardscape surface under each picnic table for accessibility and maintenance
- ❖ Replace water fountain with a new fixture that includes a pet fountain
- ❖ Restripe parking spaces
- ❖ Repaint or replace 2 trash cans and add more
- ❖ Replace wood on two picnic tables
- ❖ Replace park rules sign with new one
- ❖ Provide one more picnic table, one more park bench, and add a bench swing
- ❖ Resurface the walking trail

LONG TERM

- ❖ Add play equipment options for age groups 2-5 and 5-12



Elva T. Bledsoe Park

2863 Bartlett Road / 0.5 acres

Located in the heart of Historic Bartlett at the corner of Bartlett Road and Stage Road, the Elva T. Bledsoe Park is a centerpiece in the Bartlett Station Area. Though this is the smallest park in Bartlett's parks and recreation system, it holds a special place for many people as it has hosted many small wedding ceremonies in its gazebo over the years. It has several large flowerbeds located throughout the park.

Amenities:

- **Parking area with 2 spaces**
- **Gazebo (capacity: 4)**
- **Flag poles**
- **(2) markers: one designating the geographic center of Shelby County and the other a historical marker providing a brief history on Bartlett's origins**



Observations:

The park is well maintained and provides seasonal flowers planted throughout the spring and fall to create a photo opportunity. During the holiday season, the gazebo and white split rail fencing are adorned with garland, lights and red bows by the Bartlett City Beautiful Commission.



RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Restripe parking spaces
- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign
- ❖ Replace wood around gazebo flower bed
- ❖ Install new park rules sign
- ❖ Repaint split rail fence
- ❖ Spot lights for the flag poles need to be repaired

LONG TERM

- ❖ Continue partnership with Bartlett City Beautiful Commission
- ❖ Provide ADA-accessible ramp for the gazebo



Fletcher Creek Greenway

Phase 1: NE Corner of Santa Valley and Highway 64 / 23.9 acres (9/10-mi.)

Phase 2: NW Corner of Yale and Brother Boulevard / 16.4 acres (6/10-mi.)

The Fletcher Creek Greenway system started design work in 2014 with the purpose of providing connectivity totaling nearly 5-miles from Highway 64 to Brunswick Road. The master plan for this project was designed by Barge Design Solutions and the project has received TDOT grant funds to help make its construction possible. Phase 1 was completed in April 2017 and sits on nearly 24 acres of land along Fletcher Creek and provides a 9/10-mile, 10-foot width multi-use asphalt paved trail. Phase 2 was completed in February 2021 and provides an additional 6/10-mile of 10-foot width multi-use asphalt paved trail on 16 acres of land. Design and engineering has been completed for Phase 3 with construction scheduled to begin in the coming months, while Phase 4 is in the preliminary design stage.

Amenities:

- 1.5-miles of asphalt paved, multi-use trails
- (2) bridges
- (2) parking areas totaling 19 spaces (4 ADA-designated spaces)
- (2) information kiosks
- (1) park bench
- (3) trash cans
- (2) dog waste stations



Observations:

The natural areas along the Fletcher Creek provide a beautiful variety of scenery through the combination of open space found in the Phase 1 section into the more wooded areas as Phase 1 approaches and connects to Phase 2. Users of the greenway often encounter wildlife along the trail including deer, numerous species of birds, and more. The information kiosks and trailhead signs have faded due to the sun and need to be refinished. With only one park bench located along the trail, additional seating options should be installed to provide user with opportunities for rest and enjoyment of the natural surroundings. Area residents take pride in this amenity and are known to regularly decorate the bridge located on Phase 2 to recognize various holidays throughout the year like Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, and Christmas.



RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Restripe both parking lots
- ❖ Repaint both trailhead signs and both information kiosks
- ❖ Install 4 bench swings and 4 park benches along the trail
- ❖ Add an additional 5 trash cans along the trail to reduce litter

LONG TERM

- ❖ Consider adding shade structures for any park benches or bench swings installed in the open area of Phase 1



Freeman Smith Park

4620 N. Brunswick Road / 7.8 acres

On the eastern side of Bartlett, Freeman Smith Park was originally part of the Shelby County Parks system, and was deeded to the City of Bartlett in 2005 as part of the annexation of the surrounding area. On-site parking provides access to this park for visitors. A marker notes that the park was dedicated in 1984 to Freeman Smith, a local resident, and reads, "A man who has built a bridge to span the tide and helped his community continue it's pride". The baseball field is used for practices and community members will also use it as open recreational space.

Amenities:

- **Pavilion (capacity 50)**
- **Restrooms**
- **Parking lot with 22 total spaces (2 ADA-designated)**
- **¼-mile lighted asphalt paved walking trail**
- **(18) picnic tables**
- **(8) trash cans**
- **(7) grills**
- **(2) park benches**
- **Playground (installed 1998); EWF surface**
- **Baseball field (unlit)**
- **Basketball courts: (1) full court and (2) half courts**



Observations:

The restroom building and basketball courts are both in poor condition and, along with the playground, are scheduled to be replaced in the FY27 budget year (July 2026). Many of the site amenities need to be updated such as replacing the wood on the picnic tables, repainting the grills and repainting or replacing the trash cans. The walking path and parking lot were both resurfaced in 2021. A drainage pipe that runs underneath the entrance drive is clogged and needs to be cleared out.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign and grills
- ❖ All trash cans need to be repainted or replaced
- ❖ Replace the wood on all picnic tables
- ❖ Fill in cracks on the basketball court and replace the broken rim on one of the courts
- ❖ Baseball field needs to be regraded and have the lips removed from around the infield area and additional material added to the infield
- ❖ Add a bench swing along the walking trail and 2 more trash cans
- ❖ Grind existing tree stumps



LONG TERM

Seek grant-funding opportunities for park enhancements to include:

- ❖ new restroom building
- ❖ new playground
- ❖ replace concrete of basketball courts and upgrade the basketball goals
- ❖ upgrade baseball field (install LED lights)



Madison Arthur Byrd Park

3400 Summerdale Estates / 6.6 acres

Madison Arthur Byrd Park is located in the Summerdale Subdivision and provides an array of leisure and recreational amenities for local residents, including two tennis courts, a walking trail, swings and playground equipment for all ages of children. This park is a popular location for several running groups due to its connection to both Phase 2 of the Fletcher Creek Greenway (6/10-mile) and the Burloe Bike Trail (8/10-mile paved trail).

Amenities:

- 3/10-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- (1) dog waste station
- (3) picnic tables
- (6) park benches
- (5) trash cans
- (1) bench swing
- (2) lighted tennis courts with LED fixtures
- (1) grill
- Playground (installed 2006); EWF surface
- Parking lot with 9 total spaces (2 ADA-designated)
- Water fountain

Observations:

There are several items that parks maintenance will be addressing which include: replacing areas of the wooden split rail fence, repainting the water fountain, trash cans and grill, restriping the parking lot, replacing wood on the park benches and bench swings, installing a new park rules sign. One additional bench swing needs to be added along the trail.





RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Grind existing tree stumps in the park
- ❖ Consider adding shade structures over bench swings and as part of a new playground
- ❖ Repaint or replace all trash can; add 5 additional trash cans
- ❖ Pressure wash tennis courts
- ❖ Replace wood on all benches; add 6 additional benches
- ❖ Replace wood on bench swing; add one additional bench swing

LONG TERM

Seek grant-funding opportunities for the following park enhancements:

- ❖ Consider adding shade structures over the benches surrounding the playground
- ❖ Fencing surrounding the tennis court needs to be replaced in the next 3-5 years
- ❖ Playground was installed in 2006 and should be replaced in the next 3-5 years

Mark S. Brown Municipal Park

2975 Altruria / 12.1 acres

One of the most photographed landscapes in Bartlett is the Japanese Garden adjacent to Municipal Park. With the colorful spring blossoms of flowering Yoshino Cherry Trees and azaleas and the background of an oriental bridge over a picturesque lake and water fall, bridal parties and graduates often use the park setting for photographs. In addition, the park setting provides the opportunity for social events and special gatherings with its close proximity to City Hall. The park was renamed in 2022 in honor of Mark Brown, retired CAO of the City of Bartlett.

Amenities:

- ½-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- ADA-compliant restrooms
- (1) water fountain
- (4) picnic tables
- (1) bench swing
- (1) park bench
- (1) dog waste station
- (4) trash cans
- Playground (installed 2006); EWF surface
- (4) lighted tennis courts with metal halide fixtures
- Parking lot with 20 total spaces (2 ADA-designated)



Observations:

This park provides a wide array of recreational and leisure activities and amenities – including a playground, lighted walking trail, tennis courts, picnic tables and benches, and a restroom facility. The playground is in a low-lying area and is prone to having the EWF surface washout after heavy rains. When replacing the playground structure, the existing grade needs to be elevated to avoid continual washout in the future. Additionally, there are several washout areas located along the walking trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Install a new park rules sign
- ❖ Doors on the restroom building need to be repainted
- ❖ Replace wood on existing picnic tables
- ❖ Add two more park benches, 1 more bench swing, and 1 more trash can
- ❖ Chain link fencing surrounding the tennis courts is rusty and needs to be replaced
- ❖ Replace the Yoshino Cherry Trees which line the entrance drive to access City Hall and the Japanese Garden
- ❖ Grind all tree stumps

LONG TERM

Seek grant-funding opportunities for the following park enhancements:

- ❖ Replace playground in next 3-5 years; raise the grade to reduce the likelihood of washouts from heavy rain
- ❖ Add in a pavilion or gazebo to provide an area for residents to gather
- ❖ Consider adding in outdoor fitness equipment in the open space in the northwest portion of the property



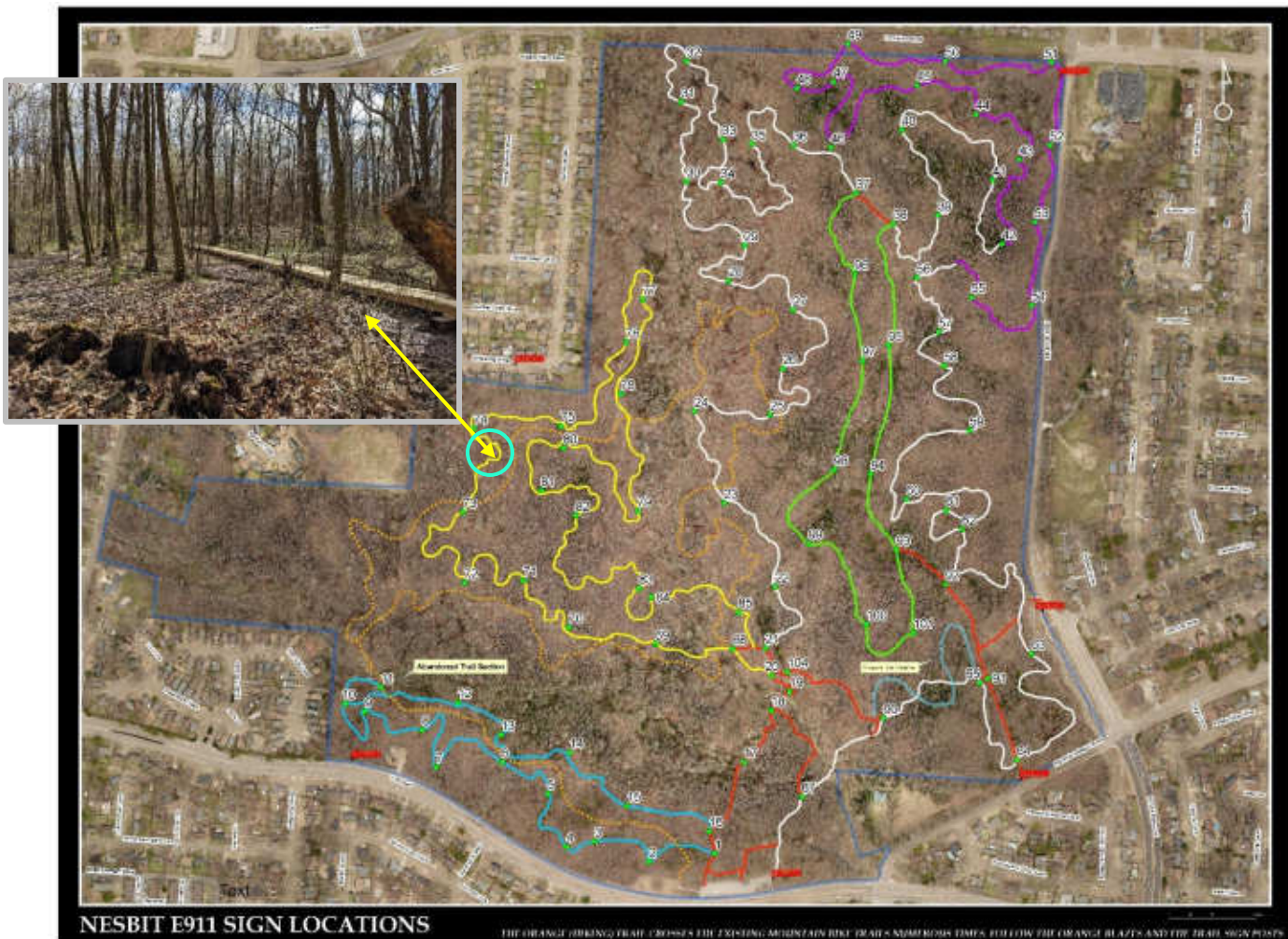
Nesbit Park

Yale Road and Sycamore View / 335.8 acres

The acquisition of this park property from Shelby County in 2005 gave the City of Bartlett an undeveloped parcel of over 330 acres of prime park property. Known regionally as having some of the best mountain biking trails in the area, the park draws visitors from throughout the region. With the bulk of the land undeveloped with the exception of the unimproved trails, this parcel offers undisturbed natural areas with abundant native flora and fauna. Several Eagle Scouts have completed projects over the last several years to enhance the park including: updating trail markings, building and installing picnic tables, installing E911 locate signage, and building and installing a boardwalk (see picture below) in a low-lying area of the Yellow Trail.

Amenities:

- **Parking lot with 71 total spaces (3 ADA-designated)**
- **(3) picnic tables**
- **(3) trash cans**
- **2.5-mile hiking trail with (1) park bench**
- **~11-miles of mountain bike trails (Yellow, White, Blue)**



Observations:

The mountain bike trails are regularly used and assistance in maintaining them is regularly provided by the Stanky Creek Cycling Club. The hiking trails is extremely underutilized due to a lack of easy access to cross the creek. Consideration needs to be given on how to install a pedestrian bridge with limited access to the area. Thought should be given to identifying community partners to assist in the trail maintenance of the hiking trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Restripe parking lot
- ❖ Replace wood on kiosks and refinish
- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign
- ❖ Border of flowerbed surrounding park entrance sign needs to be cleaned up
- ❖ Repaint or replace all trash cans
- ❖ Install additional benches along the hiking trail

LONG TERM

- ❖ Develop better wayfinding signage for trails – currently use spray paint on tree trunks to designate each trail
- Seek grant-funding opportunities for the following park enhancements:
- ❖ Install pedestrian bridge(s) on hiking trail to cross the creek as well as connect Sugar Tree Park to Nesbit



Quail Ridge Park

Corner of Egypt Central and Fiske Road / 13.1 acres

Quail Ridge Neighborhood Park provides local residents with leisure and recreational amenities, such as a lighted walking trail, open space, and a playground. In addition, the open space provides storm water management detention within the drainage corridor.

Amenities:

- 8/10-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- Playground with separate swing set (installed 2003); EWF surface
- (4) park benches
- Parking lot with 13 spaces (3 ADA-designated)
- (2) trash cans
- (1) bench swing
- (1) picnic table



Observations:

The southwest corner of the park at the corner of Fiske Road and Egypt Central needs to have a split rail fence installed between the sidewalk / walking trail and the creek. There has also been several requests from residents over the years to install a pedestrian bridge to connect the walking trail between the playground and the trail that heads north from the sidewalk along Egypt Central Road. The parking lot is showing signs of wear with faded striping. Plans should be made to have the lot resurfaced in the upcoming 3-5 year period.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Install split rail fence along corner of Egypt Central Road and Fiske Road
- ❖ Install new park rules sign
- ❖ Back fill washout areas along the walking trail
- ❖ Repaint or replace all trash cans; add 5 more to the park
- ❖ Replace the wood on all picnic tables; add 4 more tables
- ❖ Restripe parking lot



LONG TERM

Seek grant-funding opportunities for the following park enhancements:

- ❖ Install a pedestrian bridge to connect between the walking trail near the playground and the sidewalk along Egypt Central Road
- ❖ Resurface parking lot
- ❖ Upgrade the playground to provide more diverse play structures



Rivercrest Park and Natural Area

Rivercrest Lane / 74.6 acres

Rivercrest Park was developed in 2008 and includes an asphalt paved walking trail that weaves through a wooded area and a large playground and separate swing set. Much of the area remains undisturbed in its natural state, providing a very inviting atmosphere which provides plenty of shade throughout the year with its mature tree canopy largely intact.

Amenities:

- 8/10-mile asphalt walking trail (unlit)
- Playground with separate swing set (installed 2008); EWF surface
- (1) park bench
- (2) trash cans



Walking trail is eroding and needs to be repaired

Observations:

As one of the newest parks in Bartlett's system, the majority of the infrastructure is in good condition, though there are several areas along the walking trail that are beginning to erode due to storm water runoff. An area on the north section will need to have a larger pipe installed under the track to allow for a greater volume of water to flow through it. There are also areas of the trail where tree roots are beginning to cause cracks and cause bumps that present safety hazards.

RECOMMENDATIONS



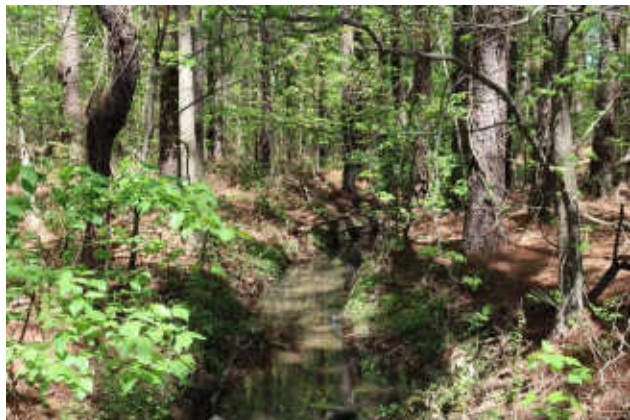
SHORT TERM

- ❖ Pressure wash the playground to remove the pine tree sap that has accumulated
- ❖ Repaint or replace all trash cans; add two more trash cans to the park to place along the walking trail
- ❖ Install new park rules sign
- ❖ Add two bench swings, 3 park benches and 2 picnic tables
- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign



LONG TERM

- ❖ Excavate washout area of the walking trail and install new pipe and dig out tree roots along the path to prep for resurfacing



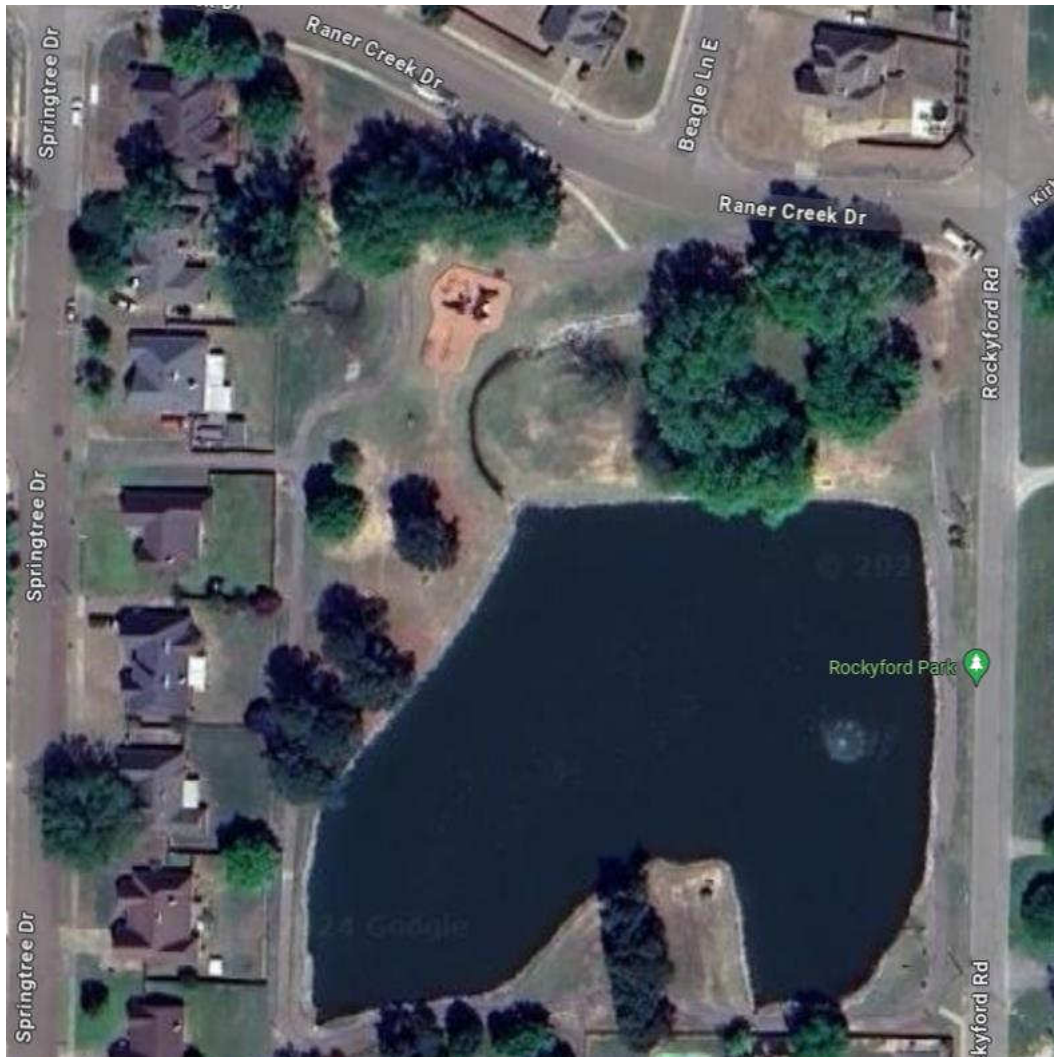
Rockyford Park

6885 Raner Creek Drive / 6.9 acres

This neighborhood park in the growing north section of Bartlett contains many amenities, such as a small lake, picnic tables, lighted walking trail, and playground. Access to the park is provided by on-street parking and walking from the surrounding neighborhood.

Amenities:

- 4/10-mile, lighted asphalt walking trail
- Small lake with fountain
- (3) park benches
- (2) picnic tables
- (2) trash cans
- (1) dog waste station
- Playground and separate swing set (installed 2015); EWF surface



Observations:

The lake has signs of erosion along parts of its banks and the concrete spillway needs to be fixed to maintain the water level at the appropriate depth. The playground is showing some signs of wear, but overall, is in good condition. Additionally, there are signs of ATV use throughout the park despite the posted “No Motor Vehicles” signage. Strategies to discourage continued ATV use will need to be investigated so prevent further damage to the natural turf. The walking path is in good condition, having been resurfaced in 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Install new park rules sign
- ❖ Identify strategies to deter further ATV usage at the park
- ❖ Fix the spillway and the washouts around the lake
- ❖ Replace the wood on the picnic tables; add 2 more tables
- ❖ Install two bench swings overlooking the lake
- ❖ Repaint or replace the 2 trash cans; add 3 more trash cans

LONG TERM

- ❖ Evaluate the need for a pavilion or gazebo to provide an area for shade as well as a place for residents to gather
- ❖ Based on the current condition of the playground, it should not need to be replaced for another 7-10 years



Shadowlawn Park

4734 Shadowlawn Road / 17.2 acres

Located next to the Bartlett Ninth Grade Academy, this neighborhood park provides four-lighted ballfields, a batting cage area, a restroom and concession building with a covered area, a full-size basketball court, playground, parking lot and six-lighted pickleball courts. The addition of the pickleball courts in 2021 has caused a tremendous increase in the volume of users throughout the day.

Amenities:

- **Concession building and restrooms**
- **Playground (installed 1999); EWF surface**
- **Bartlett Pickleball Courts – (6) outdoor pickleball courts (opened 2021) with LED fixtures**
- **(4) Little League™ ballfields with metal halide fixtures:**
 - (1) 100' distance, (2) 200' distance, (1) 250' distance
- **(4) batting cages**
- **Parking lot with 113 total spaces (5 ADA-designated)**
- **Outdoor full court basketball**
- **(1) park bench**
- **(3) picnic tables**
- **(19) trash cans**



Observations:

An old railroad tie retaining wall has been removed and the surrounding area is being regraded to eliminate the need for a retaining wall. Due to the increased volume and demands being placed on this park, an LPRF Grant is being pursued to be able to address some of its most pressing needs including: replacing the 40+ year-old restroom and concession building, renovating the parking lot and adding additional parking spaces, installing ADA-compliant pathways to connect all of the amenities in the park, and replacing the 25-year-old playground with a fully-accessible one.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Repaint park entrance sign and install new park rules sign
- ❖ Replace wood on all picnic tables; add 3 more tables
- ❖ Ballfields need to be regraded to improve weather resilience and playability
- ❖ Repair pedestrian bridge between parking lot and walkway adjacent to the largest ballfield
- ❖ Submit LPRF Grant application to replace the restroom and concession building, install ADA pathways, replace parking lot and add more parking spaces, add water fountain with pet fountain, and update the playground



LONG TERM

- ❖ Fencing around all the ballfields needs to be replaced
- ❖ Upgrade field lighting to LED fixtures



Existing concession and restroom building in the background

Singleton Community Center

7266 Third Road / 42,158 square feet / 6.3 acres

Established in 1983, Singleton Community Center has a long and storied history in the community. The facility originally served as an elementary school (1918-1976) before it was purchased from the Shelby County Schools by the City of Bartlett. Singleton provides a wide array of leisure and recreational programs and activities for the entire family. The strengths of this facility include its programs, pre-school, summer camp, dance, gym, arts and crafts, music and so much more. Singleton is highly regarded for the quality of the instructors and reasonable user fees charged for its programs. It also rents out portions of the facility for private events such as meetings, receptions, family reunions, and more.

Amenities:

- **Playground (installed 2004); EWF surface**
- **Gymnasium with (2) full-size basketball courts including additional permanent lines for: (2) volleyball courts (6) pickleball courts, (6) badminton courts**
- **(3) dance rooms; two of the rooms are also available for rentals for up to 25 people**
- **(3) preschool classrooms which are also used for summer camp (late May – early August)**
- **(1) auditorium with stage that can accommodate functions of up to 200 people**
- **(1) “stage room” with small, elevated stage that can accommodate functions of up to 50 people**
- **Parking lot with 158 total spaces (7 ADA-designated spaces)**



Observations:

As a renovated former school building that has infrastructure ranging in age from forty to over 100 years of age, this facility requires additional maintenance and attention. Continual development of multigenerational programs is strongly encouraged. As this facility continues to age, consideration will have to be given whether it is more beneficial to invest in renovating the existing facility or to build a new facility. Much of the existing buildings rest on a crawl space foundation with made of cast iron. This has already caused issues battling moisture build up and frozen pipes with the frequent temperature swings during seasonal changes.

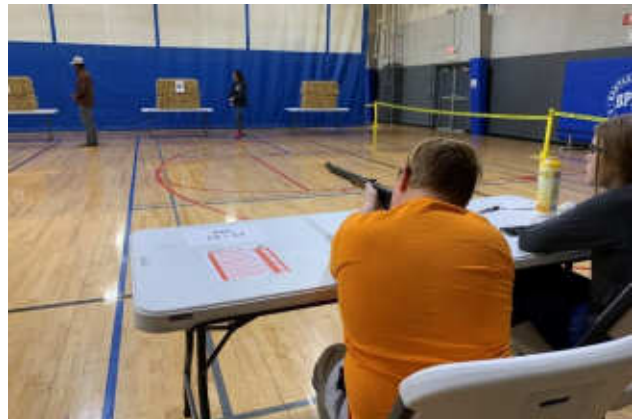
RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Address minor repairs in the facility: replace worn fixtures in the bathrooms, patch/repair sheetrock damage, touch up painting throughout main buildings and gymnasium
- ❖ Complete ADA assessment of gymnasium (Renaissance Group) to update bathrooms to meet ADA guidelines
- ❖ (4) HVAC units are over 20 years of age will need to be replaced in the next 1-2 years

LONG TERM

- ❖ ADA accessibility needs to be prioritized by addressing the existing barriers outside of the building followed by the indoor barriers; initial estimates to correct the parking lot barriers are \$350,000-400,000
- ❖ Replace the current playground in the next 3-5 years with a fully-accessible playground



Sleepy Hollow Park

North Hampton and Sleepy Hollow / 5.7 acres

The Sleepy Hollow Park is a neighborhood park local adjacent to the Ole Bartlett Village and East Hampton Subdivisions. This area is part of an adjoining railroad corridor and drainage creek and is in close proximity across the railroad tracks and creek from the Bartlett Boulevard Soccer Park and Yale Road Park. The park offers a pleasant recreational and leisure space as well as provides a natural buffer between the railroad tracks and the adjacent creek.

Amenities:

- 3/10-mile, lighted asphalt paved walking trail
- Small, wooden walking bridge
- (5) park benches
- (1) water fountain
- (2) bench swings
- (2) trash cans



Observations:

This area should continue to be maintained primarily as a passive neighborhood park providing recreational opportunities for the local residents as well as assisting in the control of storm water management by serving as a natural barrier between the creek and the developed areas of the local neighborhood. The small, wooden walking bridge is showing signs of rot and plans are being made to remove the structure and replace it with a drainage pipe and then paving over the pipe to provide a more permanent solution to allowing flow of water as well as a crossing for pedestrian foot traffic. The trail is also showing signs of wear and should be resurfaced in the next 2-3 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Areas of overgrowth of the trees and shrubs need to be pruned back while maintaining the vegetative barrier between the park, creek and railroad tracks
- ❖ Replace the wood on all park benches
- ❖ Paint or replace all trash cans; add 2 additional ones
- ❖ Install a new park rules sign and 2 picnic tables
- ❖ Remove wooden walking bridge and replace with a pipe

LONG TERM

- ❖ Resurface asphalt walking trail
- ❖ Consider adding shade structures over the bench swings



Stone Ridge Park

3525 Altruria Road / 7.4 acres

Stone Ridge Park offers residents in the area a beautiful neighborhood park with amenities such as a playground, 8/10-mile asphalt trail, and a lake with recreational and open spaces while also providing storm water management for the surrounding area.

The shoreline of the lake is in dire need of repair and stabilization and the amount of sediment deposited in the eastern portion of the lake extends above the surface of the water in several places. This project has been designed and bid out but a contract has not been signed due to bids exceeding budgets funds by more than \$200,000. An alternative design that will use a “bioengineered living shoreline” is being investigated as a more economical option due to less material needing to be removed from the site – much of the dredged material can be used in the construction of the shoreline, thus reducing costs significantly.

Amenities:

- 8/10-mile, lighted asphalt paved walking trail
- Lake – significant erosion of the shoreline and heavy sediment accumulation in the lake
- Playground with separate swing set (installed 1999); EWF surface
- (5) park benches
- Small parking lot with 9 total spaces (1 ADA-designated space)
- (3) trash cans
- (1) bench swing
- (1) dog waste station



Observations:

There are several cosmetic issues that can be addressed which will enhance the aesthetics of the park: restripe the parking lot, repaint the park entrance sign, repaint the frame of the bench swing and other similar items. The playground is still in good shape, overall, despite being 25 years of age.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Repaint or replace the existing trash cans; add 2 more
- ❖ Repair broken section of trail near the parking lot
- ❖ Restripe parking lot spaces
- ❖ Install new park rules sign
- ❖ Add four picnic tables near the playground; add one more bench swing overlooking the lake
- ❖ Repair chain link fence that runs along perimeter between the park and the railroad tracks
- ❖ Finalize plans to repair and stabilize the banks of the lake and dredge the sediment



LONG TERM

- ❖ Update the playground in the next 3-5 years



Sugar Tree Park

0 Pine Oak Lane / 0.6 acres

This small, neighborhood park provides the Sugar Tree Subdivision with a playground, picnic table, and a bench. Two lights provide security of the playground with no on-site parking. This park is connected to the Nesbit Park parcel.

Amenities:

- (1) picnic table
- (1) park bench
- (1) trash can
- Small playground (installed 2014); EWF surface
- Split rail fence



Observations:

There is no traditional park entrance signage to identify the park, only a park rules signage. There is enough space to add more features to the simple playground, and the residents of the neighborhood should be included to help guide the decision on what features would be more important to them. This park should be considered in context with Nesbit Park, with a linkage between the two parks providing a benefit the local neighborhood and expand both parks' features.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Install a new park rules sign; consider installation of a park entrance sign
- ❖ Replace split rail fence

LONG TERM

- ❖ Consider linkage of Sugar Tree Park with Nesbit Park in future planning

(this page intentionally left blank)

The Venue at Bartlett Station

5868 Stage Road / 43,358 square feet / 4.6 acres



The Venue at Bartlett Station (formerly known as the Bartlett Station Municipal Center) was originally built for the congregation of Bartlett Baptist Church. The original frame structure of the historic chapel was built in 1870 with the current brick exterior added in 1932. Additions to the structure occurred over the years with Sunday School rooms in 1946 and a new sanctuary erected in 1964. The property became available when the congregation relocated to their new building located on Yale Road in Bartlett, and the City purchased the property in 2005.

This facility was added to the parks and recreation department in December 2022. It was previously a stand-alone facility. It also has been, and is currently, home to the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, the Special Events & Rentals Division, the Bartlett Police Department has offices here, the IT Department Director, and the Bartlett Library is attached on the east side. A renovation of the sanctuary built in 1964, which is now referred to as the Auditorium, provided an upgrade to the space in order to allow it to function as a versatile, multi-purpose space. This renovation was completed in December 2023 and is quickly becoming a sought-after rental destination having already hosted a variety of events and activities over the past few months.

Amenities:

- Auditorium (capacity of 350)
- Rainey Banquet Hall (capacity of 350)
- Historic Chapel (capacity of 200)
- Reception Hall (capacity of 70)
- Community Rooms (capacity of 40)

Rainey Banquet Hall (capacity = 350)



Historic Chapel (capacity = 200)



Figure 2 Courtyard

Observations:

Overall, the buildings are in good condition considering their age, with the Historic Chapel having the majority of the structural issues that need to be addressed. Of the 24 total HVAC units, several will require replacement in the years ahead due to their age and decreased dependability. The most expensive and highest priority unit are the units located in the basement of what is now the Auditorium. The roof also has several areas that will be in need of repair or replacement in the next 1-2 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

- ❖ Continue updating paint throughout the facility to continue enhancing the aesthetics of the rental spaces
- ❖ LED fixtures will be installed to replace all of the existing fixtures in the upcoming fiscal year
- ❖ Research grant opportunities to address needs associated with the Historic Chapel
- ❖ Continue developing events and programming to meeting community wants and needs
- ❖ Continue with marketing plans to increase exposure for The Venue at bridal shows in the Memphis area

LONG TERM

- ❖ Identify timelines for large capital improvement projects for HVAC systems, roof replacement
- ❖ Continue working through items identified in the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan



Community Room A (capacity = 40)



Community Room B (capacity = 40)



Reception Hall (capacity = 70)



Auditorium (capacity = 350)

W.J. Freeman Park

2629 Bartlett Boulevard / 89.7 acres

W.J. Freeman Park is one of the largest and most popular parks in Bartlett. The park is the host site for many activities and events throughout the year from the Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the spring to the Bartlett Station Farmers Market over the summer months and on to the Bartlett Festival in fall and Christmas Tree lighting in winter, there are always numerous social gatherings happening throughout the year. A Master Plan was developed for this park in 2015, and has identified a five-phase plan to develop the full acreage of the park in order to enhance the available amenities. In the northeast corner of W.J. Freeman Park is the Veterans Park, which was completed in the spring of 2006 and recognizes two Congressional of Medal honorees, veterans of wars and conflicts throughout our country, and members from all branches of our armed services. The four lighted tennis courts have been named for Leon Vanderford, and the Bartlett High School baseball field in memory of Scott Elrod.

Amenities:

- 9/10-mile, lighted asphalt paved walking trail
- (2) restroom buildings
- (31) trash cans
- (18) picnic tables
- (1) gazebo (capacity = 20); (1) pavilion (capacity = 70)
- Playground with separate swing set (installed 2006); EWF surface
- (5) parking areas offering a total of 591 spaces (13 ADA-designated spaces)
- (4) lighted tennis courts with metal halide fixtures
- (2) park benches
- (2) bench swings
- Bartlett High School baseball and softball fields and indoor facility
- A. Keith McDonald Pavilion
- (3) multipurpose fields
- (1) cricket pitch
- (1) restroom and concession building
- Veterans Park



Observations:

With the volume of use at this park, there are numerous areas that require additional emphasis to bring them to the level of service that the community expects. Many of these items are able to be handled by the Parks Maintenance Division, such as replacing wood on picnic tables, benches and bench swings, adding a fresh coat of paint to walls and doors, and correcting various drainage issues throughout the park. The walking trail is showing signs of deterioration along the southern section of the path and will need to be corrected. The multipurpose fields are showing significant signs of wear from the high volume of use. Other items will need to be contracted out like repaving parking lots and the walking trails, repainting the tennis courts, and installing a pedestrian bridge to connect the northern and southern sections.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Develop plan to address all of the aesthetic items over the next 1-2 years (e.g., replacing wood on picnic tables, repainting interior walls and doors of restrooms, removing piles of dirt from southwest section of the park left from MLGW sewer work)
- ❖ Prep the southern section of the walking trail for resurfacing
- ❖ Add 3 more park benches, 5 more picnic tables and 5 more trash cans
- ❖ Top-dress multipurpose fields and re-sod bare areas
- ❖ Fix washout area at the box culvert
- ❖ Correct improper drainage near the playground
- ❖ Resurface parking lots adjacent to the tennis courts and Bartlett High School ballfields and the one adjacent to Veterans Park

LONG TERM

- ❖ Resurface and repaint tennis courts and upgrade lights to LED fixtures

Seek grant-funding opportunities for the following park enhancements found in the W.J. Freeman Park Master Plan:

- ❖ Fully-accessible playground to replace the existing playground
- ❖ Pedestrian bridge to connect the northern and southern sections of the park
- ❖ Disc golf course

Yale Road Neighborhood Park

6241 Yale Road / 11 acres

The park is very popular with the local neighborhood and adjoining subdivisions for the variety of amenities found at the park such as the playground, lake and walking trail. Due to the popularity of this park with visitors outside the local neighborhood, the parking lot is routinely completely full and additional parking flows into the adjacent neighborhood along the southern part of Venson Drive.

Amenities:

- ½-mile lighted, asphalt paved walking trail
- Playground with separate swing set (installed 2006); EWF surface
- Lake with fountain – significant erosion along the shoreline
- Parking lot with 18 total spaces (2-ADA designated spaces)
- (3) bench swings
- (3) picnic tables
- (5) park benches
- (4) grills
- (3) trash cans
- (1) water fountain



Observations:

The erosion of the shoreline of the lake and the storm water culvert are very severe and need to be addressed as soon as resources allow. There are several items that can be addressed using existing resources in the Parks Maintenance Division like replacing wood on bench swings, park benches, and replacing sections of the split rail fence. The playground does not drain properly and it also needs to be addressed as soon as possible to provide a better experience for park users following rain events. Currently the water pools in the EWF surfacing for a couple days after rain and makes the area uninviting.

RECOMMENDATIONS



SHORT TERM

- ❖ Replace the wood and repaint the frames on all of the park benches; add one more bench to the park
- ❖ Remove 2 rusted grills and repaint the other 2
- ❖ Replace the water fountain with one that includes a pet fountain
- ❖ Correct drainage on the playground to prevent water from pooling
- ❖ Restripe parking lot
- ❖ Install new park rules sign
- ❖ Back fill areas along the walking trail that have eroded
- ❖ Seek potential grant-funding to address the erosion of the shoreline and concrete culvert



LONG TERM

- ❖ Consider adding shade structures near the playground or installing a pavilion or gazebo to provide shade and a gathering place for the community
- ❖ Seek solutions to curb the Canadian geese population; their annual nesting has contributed to the erosion surrounding the shoreline and the concrete culvert



Kirby Whitten Property - Future Park

0 Kirby Whitten Parkway / 25.6 acres

This property was acquired by the City of Bartlett in 1997 with the intention of developing it as a future park. It remains an undisturbed tract of land with a well-established tree canopy and rolling hills. The City should consider creating a master plan for the development of this property in order to ensure its alignment with community needs and interests so that it is designed for its best use.

Amenities:

- Excellent opportunity to include a new trail system and provide passive recreation opportunities for the community
- With its close proximity to Rockyford Park, Quail Ridge Park and Shadowlawn Park, it is important to ensure that any design elements or features are complimentary to the other parks and fill an existing need

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Create a Master Plan for the park



Benchmarking



BENCHMARKING

Benchmarking is an important process to evaluate the Bartlett Parks and Recreation system compared to other systems in peer communities. This process provides a high-level perspective compared to other communities who are similar in size. The NRPA’s 2023 Agency Performance Review metrics for cities with populations between 50,000 and 99,000 was analyzed to look at national averages to evaluate where Bartlett ranks nationally, which is especially important as the department seeks to achieve CAPRA accreditation. Additionally, two peer cities from Tennessee with well-respected agencies were chosen; one from middle Tennessee (Hendersonville) and one from east Tennessee (Johnson City). The areas evaluated for this part of the benchmarking process included:

- Population characteristics
- Staffing levels
- Parks and Open Space acreage

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The total population information was gathered using the Cenus.gov website to access information from the 2020 Decennial Census.

TOTAL POPULATION (2020 Census)			
	Bartlett, TN	Hendersonville, TN	Johnson City, TN
Population	57,786	61,573	71,046

STAFFING LEVELS

Evaluating staffing levels was done by converting the hours worked by all staff to calculate the number of full-time equivalents, or FTEs, are employed by each agency. This measure is calculated by adding all of the hours worked by both full-time and part-time employees and then dividing that total by the standard number of hours worked by one full-time employee in a calendar year, which is 2,080. Bartlett’s FTEs are well above Hendersonville and compare favorably to Johnson City, both of which have larger populations.

STAFFING (FTEs)			
Bartlett, TN	Hendersonville, TN	Johnson City, TN	National Average
84.5	32	91	N/A

The NRPA takes FTEs a step further and evaluates based on the number of FTEs per 10,000 residents. This approach can be useful in determining how well an agency is equipped to meet the needs of its community compared to its population size. Bartlett’s FTEs/10,000 residents is 14.6 compared to a national average of 8.9 FTEs/10,000 while Hendersonville has 5.2 FTEs/10,000 and Johnson City has 12.8 FTEs/10,000.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ACREAGE

The last comparison that was evaluated was the amount of parks and open space acreage available to each community. This can be evaluated by looking at the total acreage of parkland per 1,000 residents. Comparing Bartlett to both Hendersonville and Johnson City as well as the national average as indicated in the NRPA 2023 Agency Performance Review. Based on this data, Bartlett is well positioned compared to the selected peer cities as well as the national average.

Acres of Parkland per 1,000 residents:			
Bartlett, TN	Hendersonville, TN	Johnson City, TN	National Average
17.5	12.3	15.3	10.8

SUMMARY

Additional benchmarking metrics are included in the Program Assessment and Financial Analysis that was conducted by Kimley-Horn, and immediately follows this section of the Master Plan. It should be encouraging to see how well Bartlett compares to both the selected peer cities and the national averages.

In addition to looking at these metrics, NRPA Park Metrics was used to evaluate how Bartlett compares to national averages in the types of facilities offered per capita. Areas where Bartlett offers less than national averages are highlighted in yellow and areas where Bartlett offer more than national averages are highlighted in light green.

INFOGRAPHIC

2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review Key Findings



© 2023 National Recreation and Park Association

Facilities	Bartlett	National
1. Median jurisdiction population per facility or activity areas within facilities		
a. Recreation centers	57,786	45,045
b. Community centers	57,786	48,732
c. Senior centers	57,786	59,430
d. Teen centers	n/a	59,459
e. Stadiums	n/a	57,000
f. Ice rink	n/a	53,986
g. Arena	n/a	*
h. Performance amphitheater	n/a	55,794
i. Nature centers	n/a	62,054
2. Median jurisdiction population per outdoor facility		
a. Playgrounds	3,582	4,048
b. Totlots	9,553	13,073
c. Community gardens	57,786	57,318
d. Basketball courts	19,106	8,995
e. Multiuse courts -basketball, volleyball	n/a	26,250
f. Diamond fields: baseball - youth	7,165	9,447
g. Diamond fields: baseball - adult	57,786	41,139
h. Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	9,553	16,320
i. Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	9,553	14,277
j. Skate park	n/a	60,244
k. Dog park	57,786	58,270
l. Ice rink (outdoor only)	n/a	53,445
m. Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	19,106	12,234
n. Rectangular fields: cricket field	57,786	69,110
o. Rectangular fields: field hockey field	n/a	*
p. Rectangular fields: football field	n/a	28,931
q. Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	n/a	42,148
r. Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	14,330	15,626
s. Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	2,866	7,300
t. Overlay field	n/a	*
u. Multipurpose synthetic field	n/a	24,309
5. Median jurisdiction population per racquet sports facility		
a. Tennis courts (outdoor)	4,094	6,157
b. Tennis courts (indoor)	n/a	*
c. Pickleball (outdoor)	9,553	12,206
d. Pickleball (indoor)	6,369	10,625
e. Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (outdoor)	n/a	10,744
f. Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (indoor)	n/a	*
g. Racquetball/handball/squash courts (outdoor)		33,420
h. Racquetball/handball/squash courts (indoor)	28,659	*

***Key:** "Yellow" highlight indicates less than national average;
"Light green" highlight indicates greater than national average

Program Assessment



PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW

Programs are generally defined as organized activities facilitated by a parks and recreation department. This definition can include seasonal athletic leagues, classes that last for several weeks in succession and special events that are hosted by the Parks Department one time a year. Programs play an important role in the community, serving as athletic and recreation opportunities, as well as educational, historical, and cultural arts activities. The City of Bartlett offers a variety of public programs and activities for most ages and interests. These programs provide both passive and active recreation, as well as a mix of free and fee-based activities.

To understand how well Bartlett's programs are fulfilling the community's needs, the consulting team analyzed the community's current programming which included various activities related to athletics, recreation, cultural arts, and other opportunities.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMMING

Bartlett provides various athletic opportunities for its residents that cater to a wide range of age groups and ability levels. The table below shows each program's active season, league name, target age and life cycle. Further detail on the life cycle analysis can found later in this section.

<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Target Age</u>	<u>Life Cycle</u>
---------------------	---------------	-------------------	-------------------

YOUTH SPORTS

Baseball tee ball-12u	Spring	Elementary	Mature
Baseball 14-17	Spring	Teen	Mature
Girls Softball 9-14	Spring	Elementary	Declining
Baseball tee ball-12u	Fall	Elementary	Growing
Baseball 14-17	Fall	Teen	Mature
Girls Softball 9-14	Fall	Elementary	Declining
Basketball 6-12	Fall	Elementary	Growing
Basketball 14-17	Fall	Teen	Mature
Girls Volleyball 11-16	Spring	Preteen/Teen	Mature
Girls Volleyball 11-16	Fall	Preteen/Teen	Growing
Bartlett Soccer d1	Spring	Teen	Growing
Bartlett Soccer d1	Fall	Teen	Growing
Bartlett Soccer	Spring	Elementary	Growing
Bartlett Soccer	Fall	Elementary	Growing
Bartlett Youth Football (BYF)	Fall	Elementary	Mature
Bartlett Little League (BLL)	Spring	Elementary	Growing
Bartlett Little League (BLL)	Fall	Elementary	Mature
			Growing (118.8%)

ADULT SPORTS

Adult Softball	Spring	Adult	Declining
Adult Softball	Fall	Adult	Declining
Independent Sports Association (ISA) Senior League Softball	Spring	Adult	Growing
Independent Sports Association (ISA) Senior League Softball	Fall	Adult	Growing
			Declining (92.2%)

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

In addition to athletic programs and leagues offered, Bartlett also provides many special events and creative program options. The programs include classes and workshops that are offered at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center, Singleton Community Center, the Senior Center, and the Bartlett Recreation Center. The Bartlett Recreation Center is in the process of being turned over to a private party for management, however the events and programs associated with it are still included in this report. The tables below provide a list of the special events and programs offered at each facility.

BARTLETT STATION MUNICIPAL CENTER		
<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Target Age</u>
Bartlett Community Corn Hole	Year Round	Family Event
Royal Tea Party	Winter	Pre-K and Elementary
Daddy Daughter Dance	Winter	3y-12y
Small Fry Tri	Summer	3y-12y

SINGLETON COMMUNITY CENTER			
<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Target Age</u>	<u>Life Cycle</u>
Baton	All	Elementary-Adult	Mature
Pottery	All	Adult	Growing
Kidokinetics	All	Teen-Adult	Growing
Tennis	All	All	N/A
Clogging	All	All	Growing
Kendo	All	Teen-Adult	Growing
Dance	Fall-Spring	All	Growing
Music	All	All	Growing
Pickleball Lessons	All	Adult	Growing
Preschool	Fall-Spring	Pre-K	Growing
Belly Dance	Fall-Spring	Teen-Adult	Growing
Summer Camp	Summer	Elementary-Teen	Growing
Iaido	All	Adult	Growing
			Growing (166%)

<u>Special Events</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Target Age</u>	<u>Life Cycle</u>
Halloween Carnival	Fall	All	Growing
St. Valentines 5k/10k	Winter	16 +	Declining
Easter Egg Hunt	Spring	12 & Under	Growing
Turkey Shoot	Fall	All	Mature
			Growing (129%)

BARTLETT RECREATION CENTER			
<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Target Age</u>	<u>Life Cycle</u>
Appling MS Swim Team	Fall/Winter	11-14	Mature
Elmore Park MS Swim Team	Fall/Winter	11-14	Mature
Bartlett HS Swim Team	Winter	14-18	Mature
Bartlett Xtreme Swim Team	Year Round	5-18	Mature
group swim lessons	Year Round	9m-12y	Mature
Master's Swim	Year Round	Adult	Declining
Swim Meets	Year Round	Elementary Teen	Mature
Water Aerobics	Year Round	Adult	Mature
Private Lessons	Year Round	3 to Adult	Mature
Kids Night Out	Bi-Monthly	3y-12y	Mature
Sizzlin' Summer Camp	Summer	6y-12y	Mature
Childcare	Year Round	3m-6y	Growing
			Mature (104%)
Events			
Potluck	Bi-Monthly	All	Mature
Breakfast Bunch	Monthly	All	Declining
Small Group	Quarterly	18+	Growing
Adult Run Group	3x/Year	16+	Mature
Kids Run Group	3x/Year	6-15	Declining
Aerobathon	Annual	16+	Growing
			Mature (107%)
New Programs			
Beginner Series Yoga	Fall	18+	Mature
Mommy and Me	Fall	1y-6y	Mature
American Heart Assoc. Fundraiser	Annual	16+	Mature
			Mature (100%)
Group Exercise Classes			
Barre Burn	Weekly	13+	Declining
Body Fit	Weekly	13+	Declining
Boot Camp	Weekly	13+	Mature

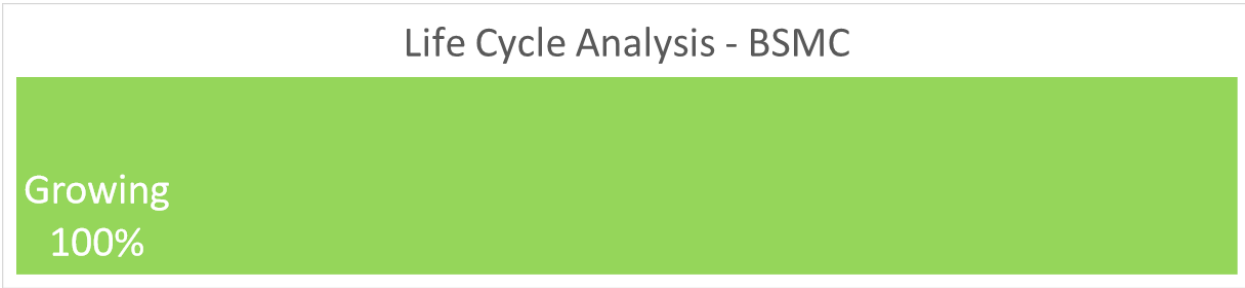
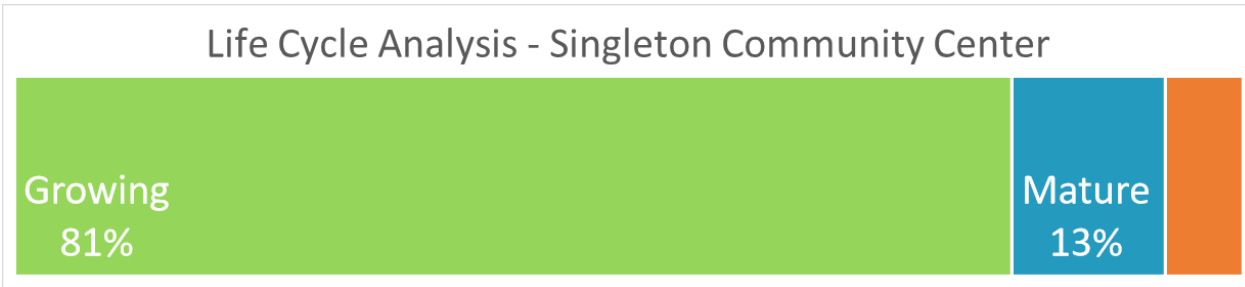
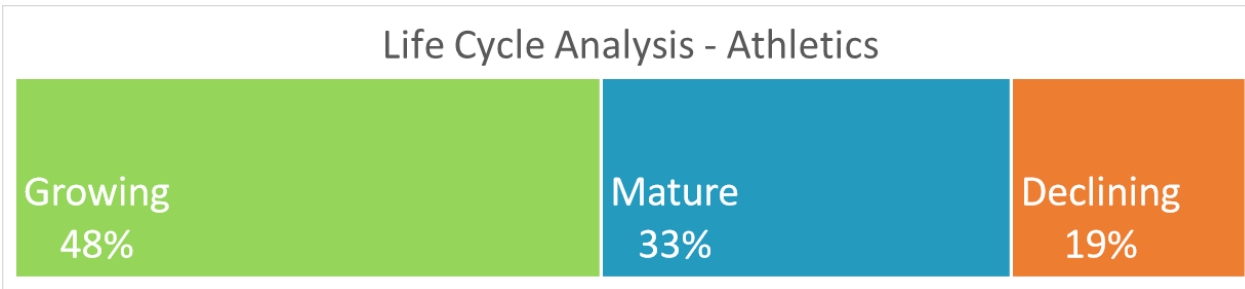
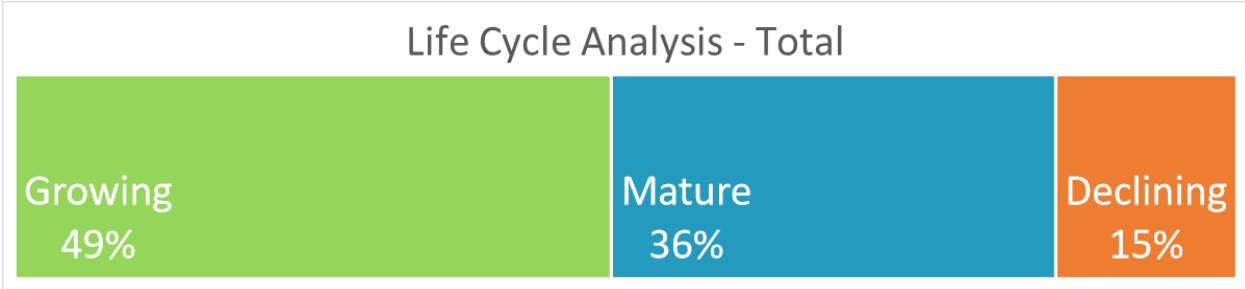
Cardio Kick	Weekly	13+	Declining
Core Conditioning	Weekly	13+	Growing
HIIT Fusion	Weekly	13+	Mature
Pilates	Weekly	13+	Declining
Senior Fitness	Weekly	13+	Growing
Spin/Cycle	Weekly	13+	Mature
Step	Weekly	13+	Mature
TBC	Weekly	13+	Growing
The Sweat Box	Weekly	13+	Mature
TR-Xpress	Weekly	13+	Growing
Water Aerobics	Weekly	13+	Growing
Yoga	Weekly	13+	Growing
Zumba	Weekly	13+	Mature
			Mature (100%)

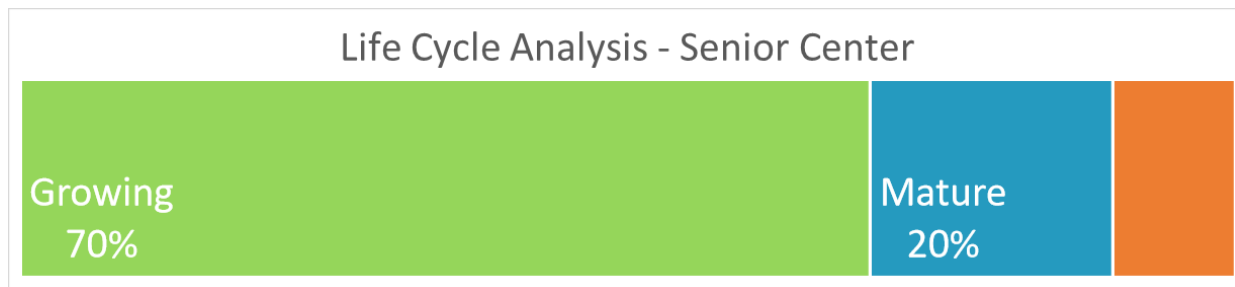
BARTLETT SENIOR CENTER			
<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Target Age</u>	<u>Life Cycle</u>
Zumba	Year Round	50 +	Declining
Morning Stretch	Year Round	50 +	Growing
Yoga	Year Round	50 +	Growing
Tai Chi	Year Round	50 +	Growing
Line Dance	Year Round	50 +	Growing
Ballroom Dance	Year Round	50 +	Growing
Ukelele Group	Year Round	50 +	N/A
Jewelry Making	Year Round	50 +	N/A
Concerts	Year Round	50 +	N/A
Art Workshops	Year Round	50 +	N/A
Concerts/Creative Aging	Monthly	50 +	Growing
Membership Breakfast	Annual	50 +	Growing
Art Workshop/Creative Aging	Quarterly	50 +	Growing
Catfish Dinner	Fall	50 +	Mature
Senior Golf League	Spring/Summer/Fall	50+	Growing
Puzzle Tournament	Quarterly	50+	Growing
Membership Cookout	Summer	50 +	Mature
			Growing (138%)

LIFECYCLE ANALYSIS

The lifecycle of a program is determined by dividing the current participation rate by the historic participation rate. The lifecycle analysis of all programs provided in Bartlett is generally balanced, with the majority of programs either growing or mature. Mature programs provide a stable foundation of reliable and loyal participants. Growing programs complement the mature programs by providing residents with new and fresh options. Declining

programs make up the smallest percentage of programs in Bartlett, and are typically programs that the public is losing interest in. The graphs below depict the overall lifecycle analysis of all programs in Bartlett, as well as an individual lifecycle analysis for Athletics, the Singleton Community Center, the Bartlett Station Municipal Center, the Bartlett Recreation Center, and the Bartlett Senior Center.

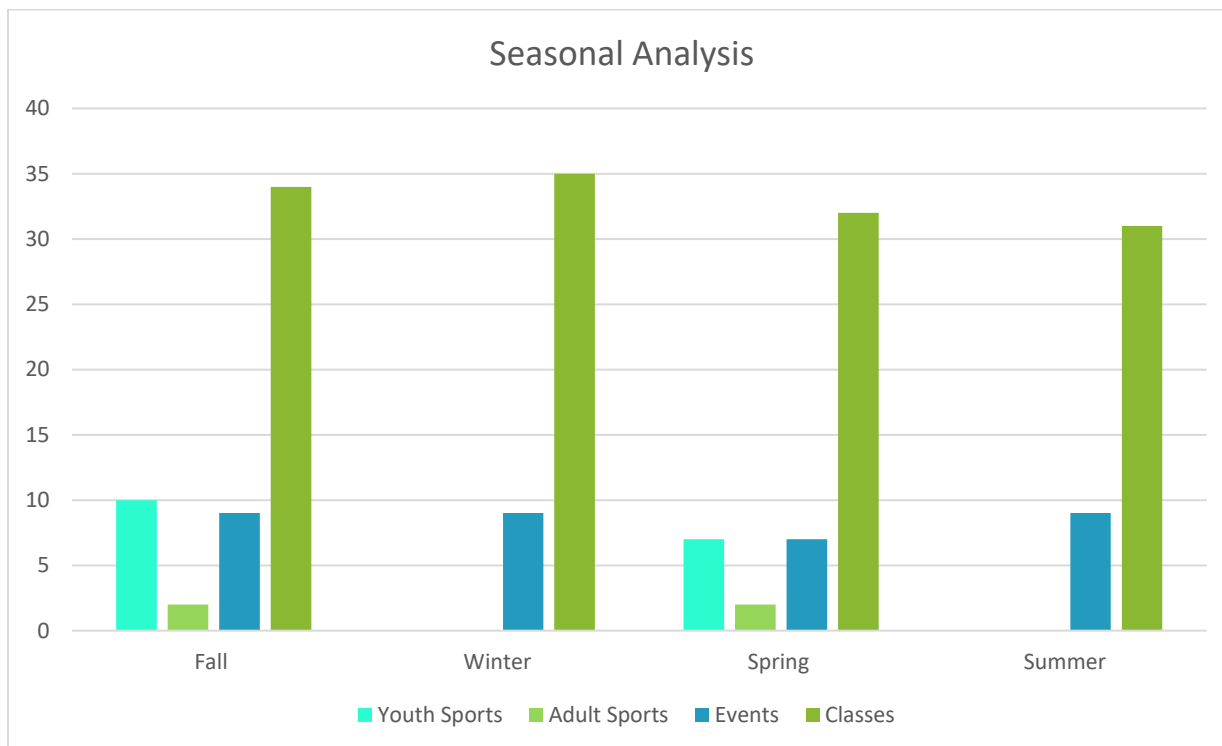




SEASONAL ANALYSIS

A seasonal analysis was conducted based on the scheduling of programs offered. Creating a well-rounded program schedule throughout the year is key to providing dynamic and successful activities for residents. The graphic below depicts the core program areas offered and shows when programs occur during the year. Overall, the department provides opportunities for all age groups throughout the year.

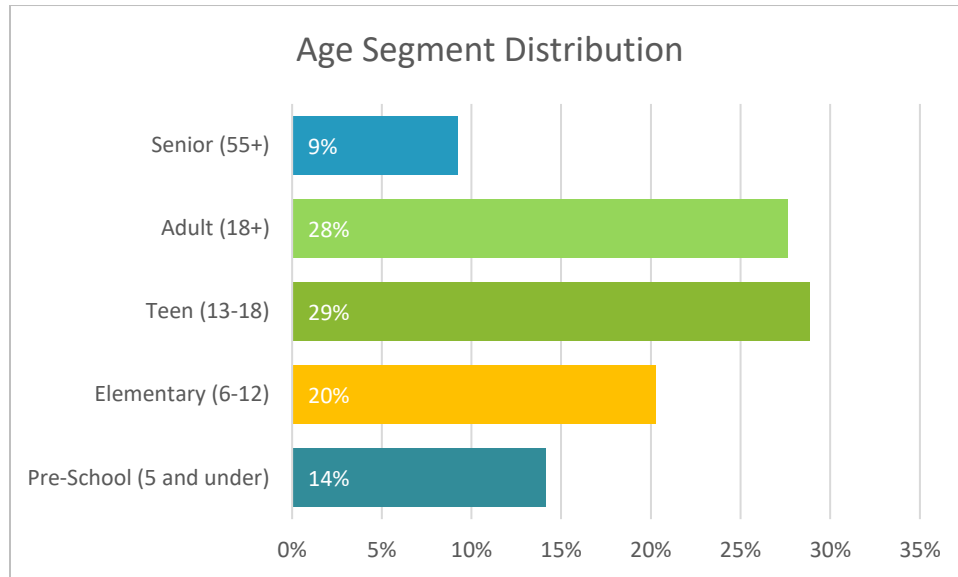
Classes and Events have the most even distribution throughout the year, while athletic programs for both youth and adults are only held in the Fall and Spring. The City should consider offering more athletic programs in both Winter and Summer to even out the distribution throughout the year.



AGE SEGMENT DISTRIBUTION

An age segment distribution analysis was conducted based on the target age group for each existing program. This analysis helps to better understand how the current programs serve each age group.

Overall, the offerings are well distributed between Elementary, Teen and Adults. Seniors and Pre-school make up smaller percentages of the distribution, however this is typically expected. The majority of programs in this analysis are Classes and Events, with Athletics making up a smaller percentage.



Financial Analysis



FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

Financial analysis is an important component of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It aides in determining financial health and year over year trends. By conducting a thorough analysis, the department can identify potential revenue sources, areas for improvement, and determine the financial sustainability of the department. It also enables effective budget planning and allocation of resources to ensure the long-term success of the Parks and Recreation Department. Overall, financial analysis provides a foundation for making informed decisions and maximizing the benefits of the Master Plan for the community. This section includes an analysis of Facility Fee Rates, Operating Expenses, Cost Recovery, Revenue Sources and Revenue Strategies.

As of Spring 2024, the City of Bartlett is in the process of turning over the Bartlett Recreation Center to a private party for management (YMCA). However, information on this facility is included in the Financial Analysis as it is relevant to previous fiscal years in this report. The City of Bartlett will form an Advisory Board to provide oversight of the facility and make recommendations for fee increases.

FACILITY FEE RATES

Facility fees in Bartlett are reviewed and approved by the Board of Mayor and Alderman each fiscal year as a part of the annual budgeting process. The facility fee rates for residents and non-residents vary. Residents receive discounted rates as they contribute to the local tax base that supports the facilities. Non-residents have higher fee rates to help offset the costs of maintaining and operating the parks and facilities. Below is a chart of categorized fee rate averages based on amenity type. Also included is a rate comparison of facility rentals in neighboring and/or similar sized communities within west and middle Tennessee. It is important to note that not all facilities are equal, and that a variety of factors including condition, size, and demand play a role in fee rates. The specific fee rates for all facilities can be found in the appendix of this report.

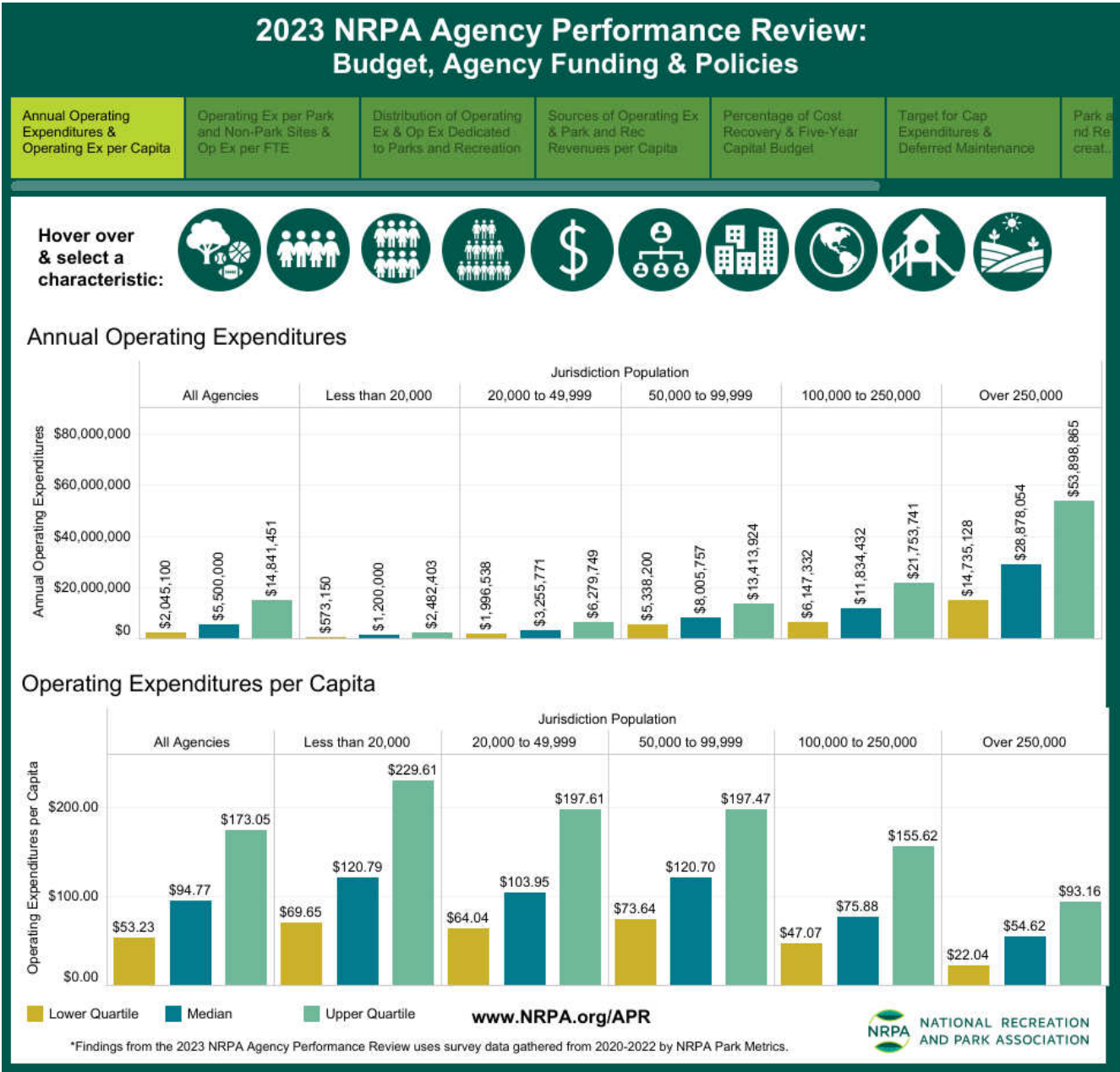
Facility Fee Rates		
Amenity	Fee Rate	Rate Comparison
Pavilion (market style)	\$310 resident ½ day \$600 resident full day \$460 non-resident ½ day \$900 non-resident full day	Comparable
Pavilion (typical)	\$60 resident ½ day \$95 resident full day \$80 non-resident ½ day \$145 non-resident full day	Comparable
Baseball Diamond (per field)	\$130 per day	Low
Multipurpose Field (11v11)	\$160 per field/per day	Low
Multipurpose Field (7v7 or 9v9)	\$85 per field/per day	Low
Basketball Court (1/2 court)	\$55 1 hour member \$75 2 hour member \$90 1 hour non-member \$110 2 hour non-member	Comparable
Basketball Court (full court)	\$110 1 hour member \$165 2 hour member \$155 1 hour non-member	Comparable

	\$210 2 hour non-member	
Gymnasium (half)	\$65 per hour resident \$75 per hour non-resident	Comparable
Gymnasium (full)	\$130 per hour resident \$150 per hour non-resident	Comparable
Banquet Hall	\$165 per hour resident \$185 per hour non-resident	Comparable
Classroom	\$30 per hour resident \$40 per hour non-resident	Low

OPERATING EXPENSES

Operating expenses for a Parks and Recreation department typically include costs associated with the day-to-day operations and maintenance of facilities and programs, as well as capital investments in infrastructure. This includes expenses such as salaries and benefits for staff members, utility bills, maintenance and repair costs, new improvements, supplies and equipment, insurance, and marketing expenses. These operating expenses are necessary to ensure the smooth functioning and upkeep of parks, recreational facilities, and programs.

The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review is an evaluation conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) with the aim of measuring achievements, strengths, and weaknesses of parks and recreation agencies across the country. One section of this report is focused on *Budget, Agency Funding, and Policies*. This information can be used as a benchmark to determine where Bartlett fits in with national averages. The Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department's total operating expenses for fiscal year 2023 is \$6,990,126.00. With a total population of 57,318 (2021), the department spends about \$122 per capita. Based on the 2023 Agency Performance Review, a typical Parks and Recreation department with a population between 50,000 and 99,999 has an average annual operating expenditure of \$8,005,757. When looking at operating expenditures per capita, the national average is \$120.70 in this category. Bartlett's Parks and Recreation Department is slightly below the national average for annual operating expenditures, but above average on expenditures per capita.



REVENUE SOURCES

The Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department had a total of \$2,544,784.00 in generated revenues for fiscal year 2023. Generated revenues refer to earned income from a variety of sources including athletic programming and facility usage and rental fees. However, it does not include other budget sources such as the jurisdictional general fund. Per the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review, the average parks and recreation agency generates \$21.71 in revenue annually per resident. With a population of 57,318, Bartlett generates \$44.40 in revenue per resident – more than double the national average. This indicates that Bartlett is in a healthy financial position and offers residents quality recreational opportunities that they are willing to partake in. This, in turn, allows the department to continue investment in parks, programs, and staff to continue to enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery is an important concept for a parks and recreation department as it relates to the balance between expenses and revenues. It refers to the ability of the department to generate enough revenue from its programs, services, and facilities to cover a percentage of operating and capital expenses. It is a general rule that Parks Departments operate at negative cost recovery because parks and programs exist as a service to the community, not to generate profit. However, it is important to balance cost recovery across various programs and offerings to offset taxpayer funding. By analyzing cost recovery, the department can assess the financial sustainability of its operations and determine if fees and charges are sufficient to offset costs. This analysis helps to ensure the department can continue to provide high-quality services to the community while minimizing reliance on taxpayer funding.

For fiscal year 2023, the Bartlett Parks and Recreation department operating expenses were \$6,990,126.00, while total non-tax revenues were \$2,544,784.00 for an overall cost recovery of 36.4%. According to the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review, jurisdictions with a population between 50,000 and 99,999 have a median average cost recovery of 29%. This puts Bartlett above the median average, but under the upper quartile of 52%. In the six years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Bartlett had an average of 45.3% cost recovery. During the pandemic, earned revenues declined at a higher rate than operating expenses, resulting in a negative cost recovery percentage. Since the pandemic, cost recovery rates for the department have begun to increase. This trend is also reflected in the cost recovery analysis of various programs and facilities. That data shows that cost recovery over a six-year period declined during the pandemic but is now approaching or exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Budget, Agency Funding & Policies

Operating Ex per Park and Non-Park Sit...	Distribution of Operating Ex & Op Ex Dedicated to Parks and Recreation	Sources of Operating Ex & Park and Rec Revenues per Capita	Percentage of Cost Recovery & Five-Year Capital Budget	Target for Cap Expenditures & Deferred Maintenance	Park and Recreation Agency Policies	Agency Commitment to DEI & Hiring Pra...
---	--	--	--	--	-------------------------------------	--

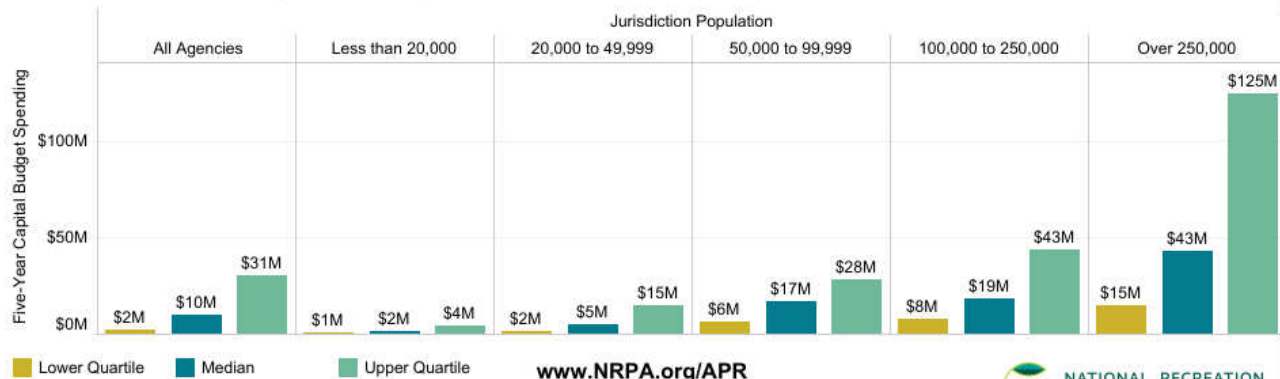
Hover over
& select a
characteristic:



Revenues as a Percentage of Operating Expenditures (Cost Recovery)

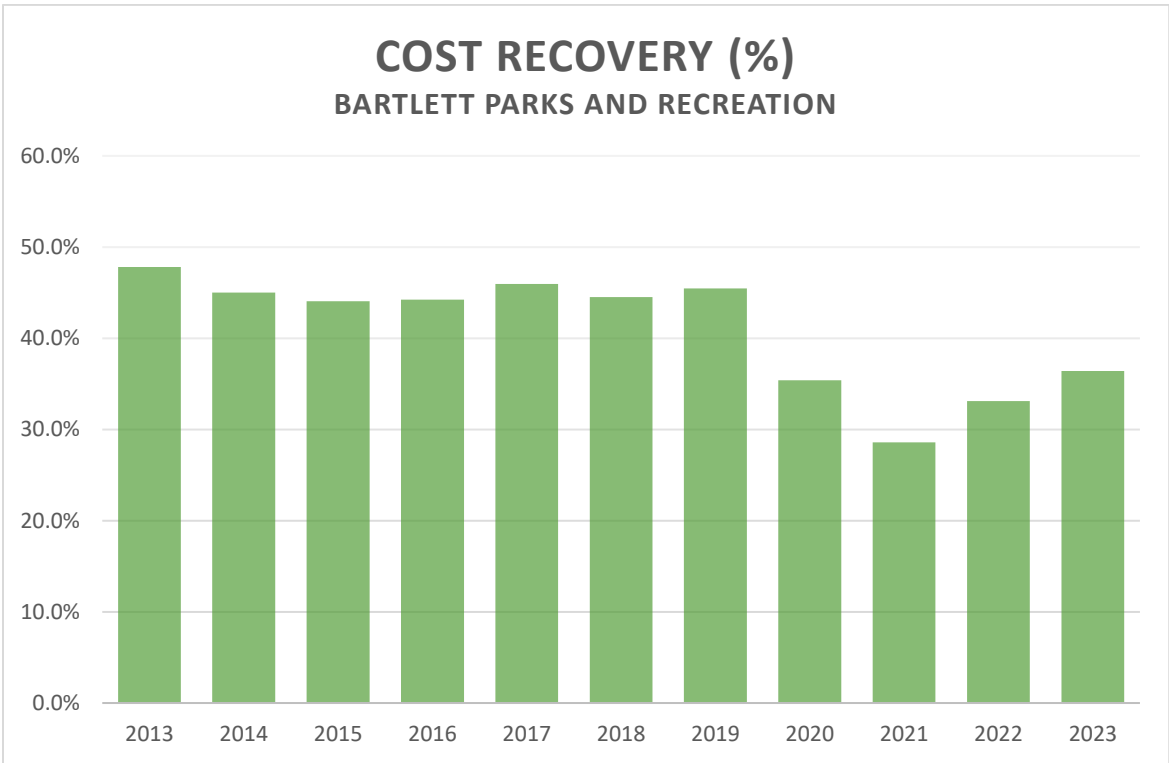
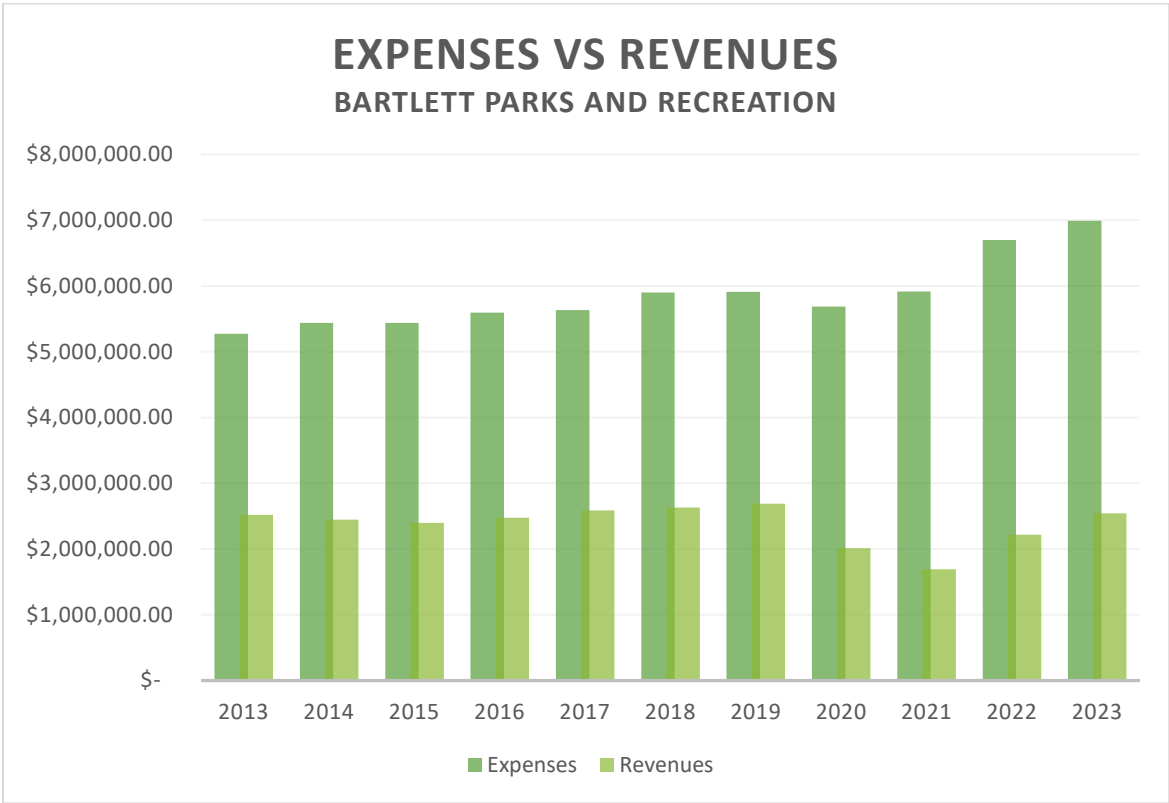


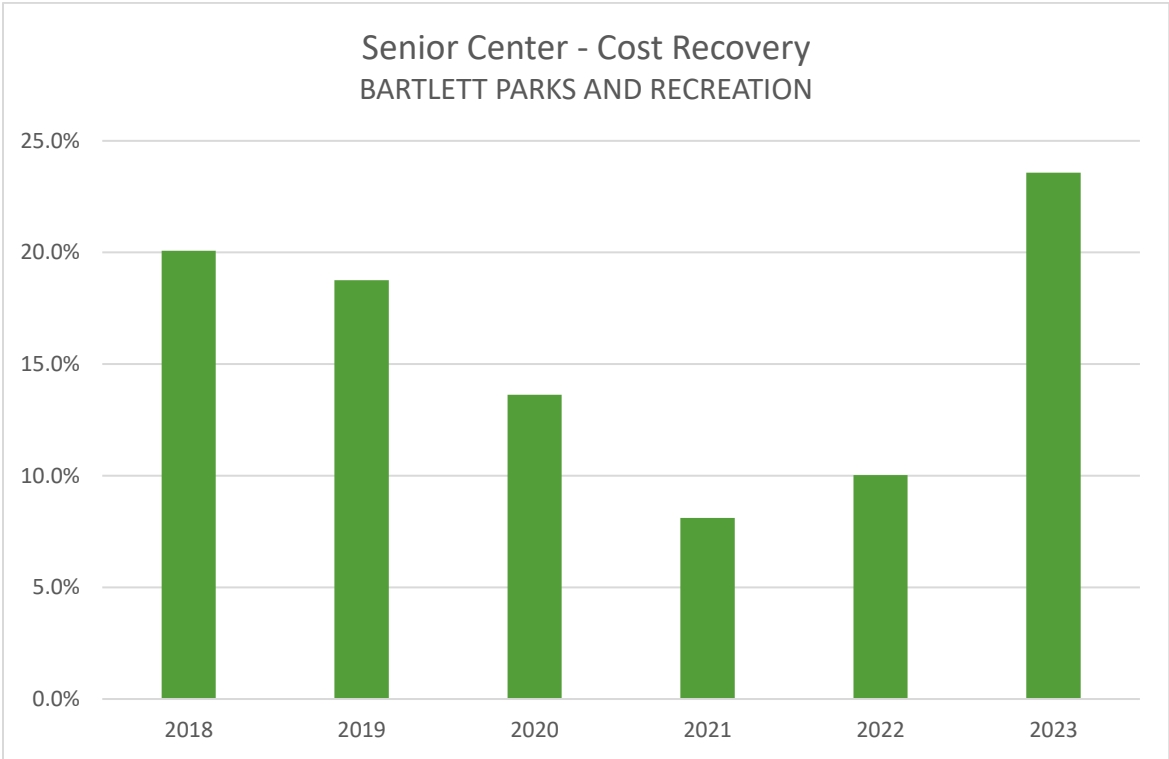
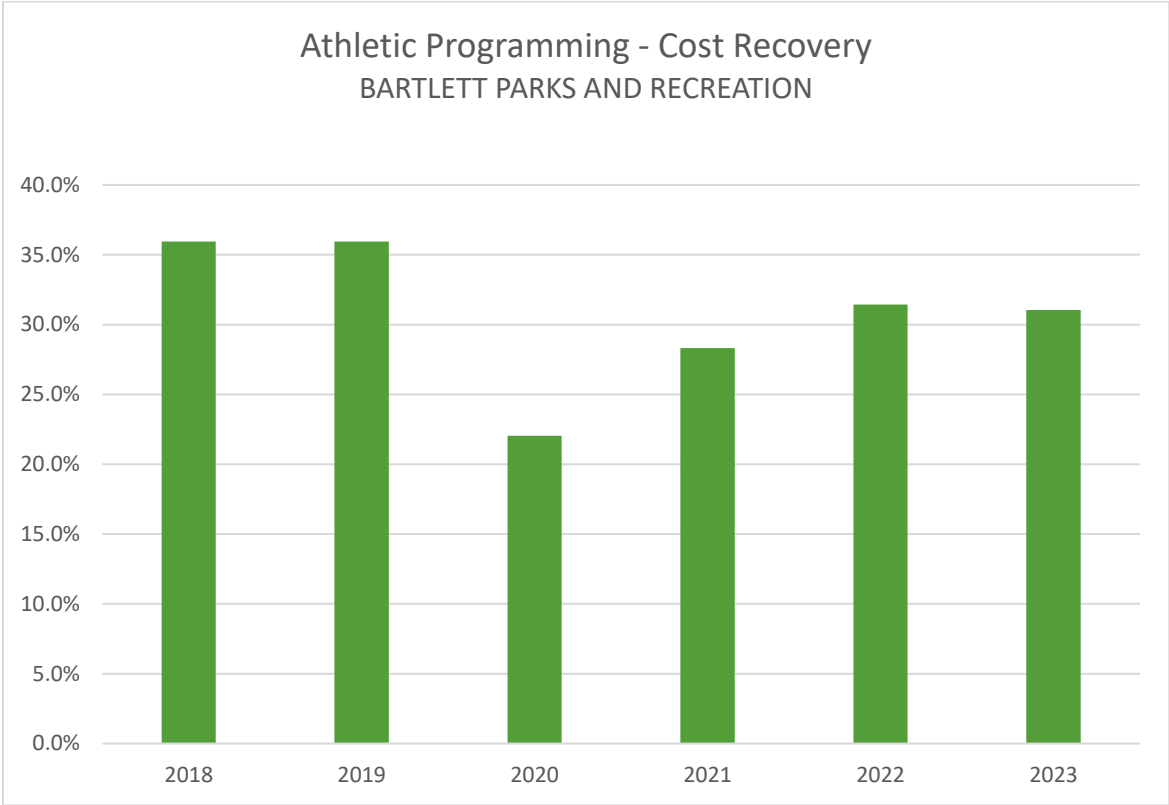
Five-Year Capital Budget Spending

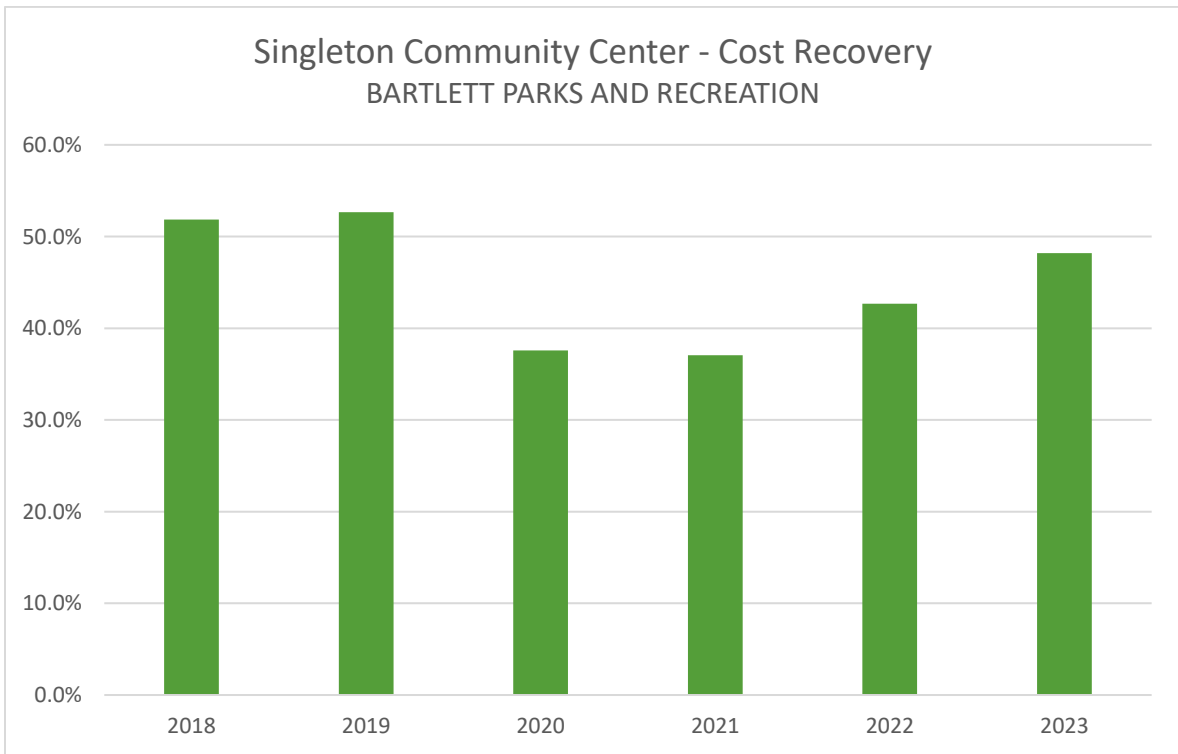
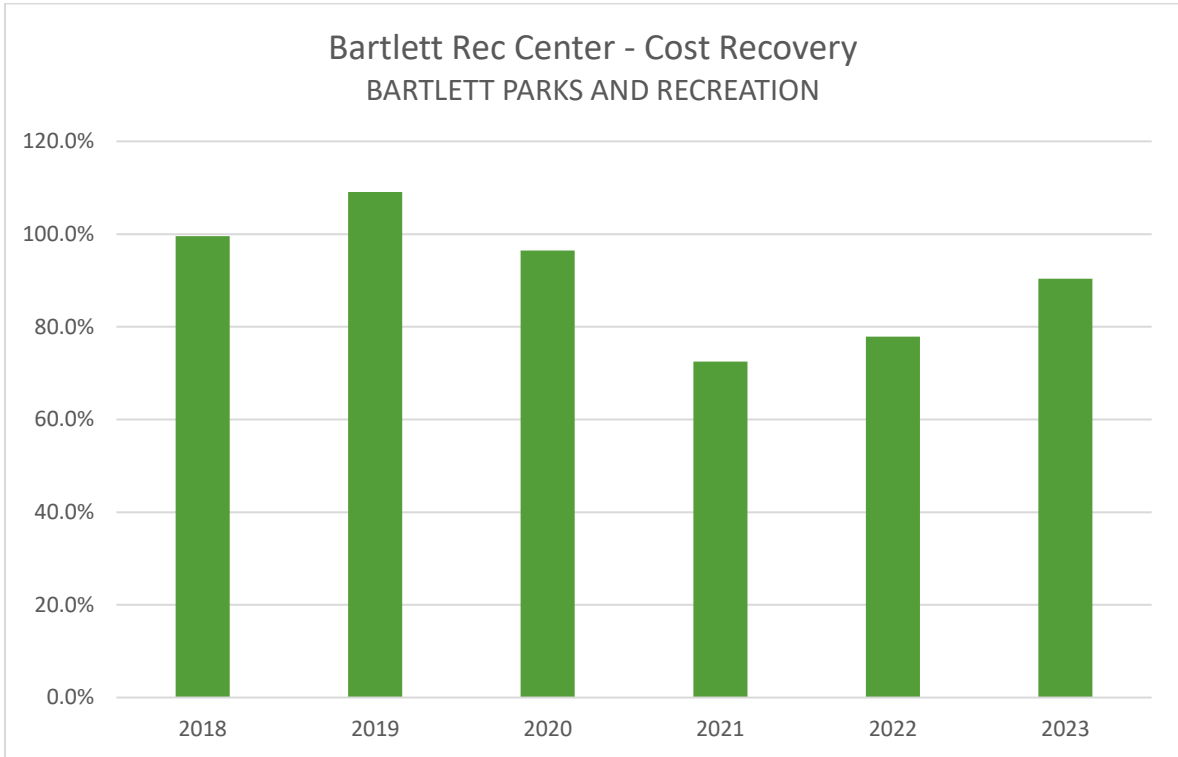


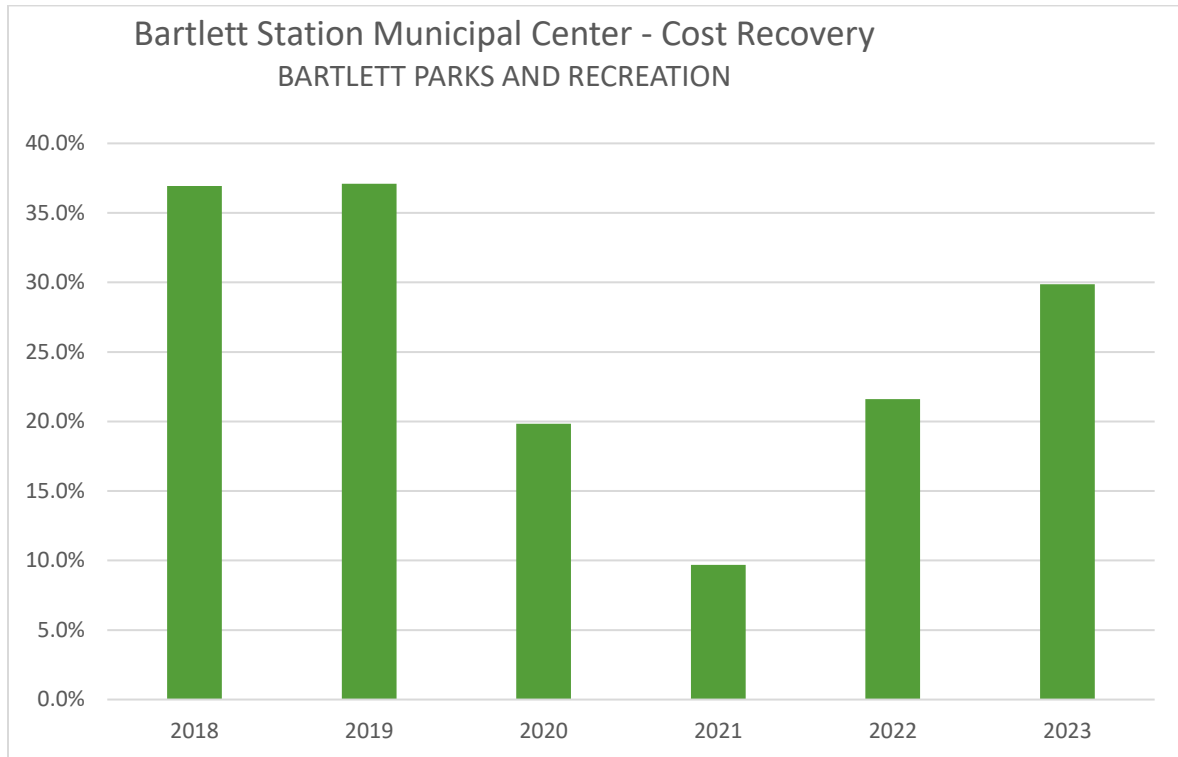
*Findings from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review uses survey data gathered from 2020-2022 by NRPA Park Metrics.











REVENUE STRATEGIES

League and Usage Fee Increases

Increases in league and usage fees are a potential way to generate more revenue for the parks and recreation department. The department should conduct annual reviews of peer municipalities fee rates for both facility rentals and league fees and use this information to determine if increases to current fees are warranted. A majority of athletic leagues in Bartlett are either growing or mature, as described in the Program Analysis component of this document. With demand high, the department should look to optimize league fees in a manner that is fair to participants and while increasing cost recovery.

Bond Funding

Communities often use bond funding to finance investments in parks and recreation infrastructure. This approach uses a dedicated funding source, such as a hotel or property tax, to repay the costs associated with these improvements. Additionally, communities may opt to establish special taxing authorities, known as TIFs, to secure the necessary funding. By assessing a tax on the increased value of adjacent properties following the completion of the improvements, these TIFs effectively leverage the value created for the benefit of the community.

Corporate Sponsorships

Community parks facilities and programs can receive valuable support from local businesses. These businesses frequently demonstrate a genuine interest in contributing to the community through financial assistance or in-kind donations, such as labor, materials, or land. These partnerships can generate positive attention for the businesses involved. Additionally, businesses may also be willing to invest in naming rights, which can provide further opportunities for funding.

Developer Contributions

One potential strategy for enhancing the value of new developments is to encourage developers to donate land or easements for parks or greenways. This approach can benefit both the city and its residents by providing new recreational infrastructure. In addition, some communities have found success in setting up a payment in lieu of fund to generate more capital for public improvements such as trails, parks, and schools.

Grant Funding

There are a variety of state and federal grant programs that can be used to fund recreational infrastructure. These grants include the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF), Recreational Trails Program and Built Environment Grants to name a few. These grants typically occur on cycles. For instance, the LPRF grant cycle typically occurs every two years.

Fundraising / Community Activism

A successful fundraising strategy in many communities is the implementation of Adopt-a-Park or Adopt-a-Trail programs, where community groups or corporate entities can commit to donations of time or money to maintain specific parks and infrastructure. Another fundraising option is community events and sponsorships.

Tax Strategies

Additional tax strategies can help boost cash flow. Many communities utilize specific taxes to generate supplementary revenue for parks and recreation. In addition, the City may consider allocating a portion of other existing taxes, such as property or sales tax, to enhance the revenue stream for parks and recreation. It is important to note that these decisions can be contentious and usually require a public vote. However, they empower the public to have a greater say in funding decisions, fostering a sense of ownership.

Implementation Plan



IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

This section of the Master Plan report is designed to provide a summary of all of the previous recommendations that have been outlined in the report. The Implementation Plan for the Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department provides a quick access summary outline for existing parks, new facilities, staffing and programming. The following tables will organize the recommendations based on priority, scope, budget impact, and will also identify suggested funding sources. The overall emphasis for future investment into the parks system is to prioritize addressing existing infrastructure needs balance with the addition of new amenities. This will section will serve as the “GPS” to guide the Department over the course of the next ten years to ensure that it continues to fulfill its mission,

“To provide Bartlett residents with quality, fun recreational opportunities and facilities to enhance the quality of life in our hometown today, making tomorrow better and the future brighter.”

HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS – EXISTING PARKS & FACILITIES

PARK / FACILITY	HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION
A.E. Beaty Park	• Replace wood on park benches, picnic tables and bench swings • Add (1) bench swing, (2) park benches, and (2) trash cans • Fix washout areas around the walking trail
Bartlett Country Park	• Replace wood on picnic tables and repaint the park entrance sign • Add (1) bench swing, (1) picnic table, and (2) trash cans • Replace dog waste station
Bartlett Grove Park	• Replace wood on picnic tables and repaint the park entrance sign • Add (2) bench swings, (2) picnic tables, (2) park benches, and (3) trash cans • Install a new park rules sign
Bartlett Senior Center	• Replace wood on the front and side porticos • Restripe parking spaces • Replace treadmills, recumbent bikes, and elliptical trainer
Bartlett Boulevard Soccer Park	• Restripe parking lot, repaint park entrance sign • Install two new park rules signs • Add (4) trash cans and (4) sets of bleachers • Top-dress athletic fields and replace worn areas with new sod
Blue Lagoon Park	• Finish stabilizing shoreline of the lake with riprap • Install pipe at the spillway and pave over it to provide accessibility to the entire walking trail event during the wet season • Add (4) park benches, (2) picnic tables, (2) trash cans, and (2) bench swings

Bobby K. Flaherty Municipal Center	• Restripe all parking lots • Repaint concession and restroom building at Appling Softball Complex and install a park entrance sign at main entrance of • Add (3) picnic tables, (4) park benches, (2) bench swings, and (9) trash cans • Top-dress Appling Soccer Fields and Appling Softball Complex
Burloe Bike Trail	• Add (2) park benches and (3) trash cans
Davies Plantation Park	• Restripe parking lot and repaint park entrance sign • Repair erosion in the drainage ditch between the parking lot and playground • Add (1) bench swing, (2) picnic tables, and (3) trash cans
Deermont Park	• Repaint park entrance sign and install new park rules signs • Add (2) picnic tables • Correct drainage issues between fields 2 & 4 and fields 1 & 2 • Finish field renovations to include top-dressing the outfield areas, removing lips and laser grading the infields
Dixon-Brewer Park	• CDBG project will begin Summer 2024: new restrooms, ADA parking and pathways, playground upgrade (ADA-compliant) • Replace on existing park benches and repaint the frames • Add (3) picnic tables and (2) trash cans
Easthill Park	• Repaint park entrance sign and install new park rules sign • Add (2) park benches, (2) picnic tables, and (4) trash cans • Plan grant-funding strategy to replace existing playground
Ellendale Park	• Repaint park entrance sign and install new park rules sign • Replace wood on all picnic tables; add (4) park benches • Pressure wash tennis courts
Elmore Civic Park	• Restripe parking spaces • Replace wood on all picnic tables; add (1) picnic table, (1) park bench, and (1) bench swing
Elva T. Bledsoe Park	• Restripe parking spaces and repaint park entrance sign

	Repaint split rail fence; replace wood around gazebo flower bed
Fletcher Creek Greenway	- Restripe parking spaces and repaint both trailhead signs - Add (4) bench swings, (4) park benches, and (5) trash cans
Freeman Smith Park	- Repaint park entrance sign and grills - Grind existing tree stumps - Replace wood on all picnic tables; add (1) bench swing and (2) trash cans - Fill cracks in basketball courts and replace broken rim
Madison Arthur Byrd Park	- Replace wood on all benches and bench swing; add (6) benches, (5) trash cans, and (1) bench swing - Pressure wash tennis courts - Grind existing tree stumps
Mark S. Brown Municipal Park	- Repaint doors on restrooms - Replace wood on picnic tables; add (2) park benches, (1) bench swing, and (1) trash can - Replace chain link fence on tennis courts - Grind all existing tree stumps
Nesbit Park	- Restripe parking spaces and repaint park entrance sign - Replace wood on kiosks and refinish - Install park benches along hiking trail
Quail Ridge Park	- Replace wood on picnic tables; add (4) picnic tables and (5) trash cans - Back fill washout areas along the walking trail - Install split rail fence along corner of Egypt Central Road and Fiske Road
Rivercrest Park	- Repaint park entrance sign and install new park rules sign - Pressure wash the playground equipment to remove the pine tree sap - Add (2) bench swings, (3) park benches, and (2) picnic tables - Begin planning installation of pipe to correct washout area on northern section of trail
Rockyford Park	- Replace wood on picnic tables; add (2) picnic tables, (2) bench swings, and (3) trash cans - Fix spillway and washouts around lake - Identify strategies to deter ATV usage at park
Shadowlawn Park	LPRF Grant application: new restroom and concession building, replace parking lot and

	- add parking spaces, ADA pathways, playground upgrade • Replace wood on picnic tables; add (3) more
Singleton Community Center	• Address minor repairs in facility: replace worn fixtures, patch/repair sheetrock damage, touch up paint throughout buildings • Complete ADA assessment of gymnasium (Renaissance Group) • Replace (2) HVAC units
Sleepy Hollow Park	• Prune areas of overgrowth on perimeter of park • Replace wood on benches; add (2) picnic tables and (2) trash cans • Remove wooden walking bridge and replace with pipe
Stone Ridge Park	• Restripe parking spaces and repair broken section of trail near parking lot • Add (4) picnic tables and (1) bench swing • Finalize plans to repair and stabilize the banks of the lake and dredge the sediment
Sugar Tree Park	• Install park entrance sign and new park rules sign • Replace split rail fence
The Venue at Bartlett Station	• Retrofit all light fixtures with LEDs • Continue updating paint throughout facility to enhance aesthetics of rental spaces • Research grant opportunities to address needs in the Historic Chapel
W.J. Freeman Park	• Replace wood on picnic tables; add (3) park benches, (5) picnic tables, and (5) trash cans • Prep southern section of walking trail for resurfacing in FY25 • Fix washout areas at the box culvert • Top-dress multipurpose fields and re-sod bare areas during break between spring & fall season
Yale Road Park	• Replace wood and repaint frames of park benches; add (1) park bench • Restripe parking spaces • Backfill eroded areas along the walking trail • Investigate grant-funding sources to address erosion of the shoreline and concrete culvert
Kirby Whitten Property	• Set a timeline to develop a Master Plan for the future parkland

LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK / FACILITY	LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS
A.E. Beaty Park	Connect unfinished restroom building to sewer line and install sinks, toilets and partitions
Bartlett Country Park	Add a gazebo or pavilion
Bartlett Grove Park	Add a gazebo or pavilion
Bartlett Senior Center	Resurface parking lot and replace curbing
Bartlett Boulevard Soccer Park	- Creating overflow parking areas using porous paving - Update field lighting to LED fixtures
Blue Lagoon Park	Install lights around walking trail
Bobby K. Flaherty Municipal Center	Update field lighting to LED fixtures
Burloe Bike Trail	Add trail counters to measure usage levels
Davies Plantation Park	Add a gazebo or pavilion
Deermont Park	Revisit 2021 Deermont Park Renovations Concept Plan
Dixon-Brewer Park	Renovate tennis courts (resurface, LED light fixtures, new fencing)
Easthill Park	Add gazebo or pavilion
Ellendale Park	Update field lighting to LED fixtures
Elmore Civic Park	Add playground equipment for ages 2-5/5-12
Elva T. Bledsoe Park	N/A
Fletcher Creek Greenway	Add shade structures along Phase 1
Freeman Smith Park	Upgrade baseball field (install LED lights)
Madison Arthur Byrd Park	Replace tennis court fencing
Mark S. Brown Municipal Park	Add a gazebo or pavilion
Nesbit Park	Install pedestrian bridge on hiking trail
Quail Ridge Park	Install pedestrian bridge to connect playground trail section to the stub heading north from Egypt Central Road
Rivercrest Park	N/A
Rockyford Park	Add gazebo or pavilion
Shadowlawn Park	Update field lighting to LED fixtures
Singleton Community Center	Replace playground
Sleepy Hollow Park	Add shade structures over bench swings
Stone Ridge Park	Update playground
Sugar Tree Park	Connect to Nesbit Park by installing a bridge
The Venue at Bartlett Station	N/A
W.J. Freeman Park	Upgrade tennis lights to LED fixtures
Yale Road Park	Add gazebo or pavilion
Kirby Whitten Property	Implement site Master Plan

NEW FACILITIES

Future parks and recreation facilities are included here based on NRPA averages along with the projected growth of the area over the next decade. It is important to continue to provide a high level of service to attract new residents to Bartlett. Based on the NRPA Performance Review Report, these are the recommendations for future facilities:

AMENITY	NRPA Average	BARTLETT CURRENT	ADDITIONAL NEEDED
Baseball field - adult	2.6	1	2
Baseball field - youth	7.6	10	0
Basketball court (outdoor)	6.5	3	3
Community garden	1.1	1	0
Cricket field	0.9	1	0
Dog park	1	1	0
Football field	3.4	0	3
Lacrosse field	1.7	0	2
Multi-purpose field	5.1	3	2
Multi-purpose synthetic field	1.4	0	1
Outdoor swimming pool	4.2	0	4
Tennis/pickleball court	10	20	0
Playground	15.5	21	0
Soccer field - adult	4.5	6	0
Soccer field - youth	6.9	34	0
Softball field - adult	3.5	6	0
Softball field - youth	4.8	6	0
Community center	1.4	1	1
Nature center	0.8	0	1
Amphitheater	1	0	1
Recreation center & gym	1.4	1*	1

*Bartlett YMCA is now managing the recreation center, however, the property is still owned by the City.

Based on the benchmarks established by the NPRA and on community feedback, the following new facilities are recommended for Bartlett:

NEW FACILITIES	RECOMMENDATION
Aquatics Center	The Bartlett YMCA and City of Bartlett have already agreed to partner in creating a “Summer Outdoor Experience” to provide an outdoor aquatics facility to the community
Outdoor workout areas	Residents have been emphatic in their desire for more outdoor opportunities to exercise, socialize, and pursue leisure opportunities
Multi-purpose synthetic field	Consideration should be given to replacing the natural turf at the W.J. Freeman Park multipurpose fields; due to their open access it is nearly impossible to keep people from using the fields following heavy rains since there is no existing barriers to prevent access to the fields
Outdoor swimming pool	The Bartlett YMCA and City of Bartlett have already agreed to partner in creating a “Summer Outdoor Experience” to provide an outdoor aquatics facility to the community
Fully-Inclusive Playground	While there are an ample number of playgrounds, there are no fully-inclusive playgrounds in the current parks and recreation inventory, a need which desperately needs to be filled
Community Center	Singleton Community Center's buildings range in age from 40 years to over 100 years. Time is drawing near when serious consideration is given to building a new facility in place of the existing structures.

STAFFING

The Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department consistently seems to deliver more activities, events and programs with fewer resources. Areas within the Department that either need to see increased staffing or adjust operational practices in order to maximize effectiveness, efficiency, and work-life balance for employees, include:

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	RECOMMENDATION
Dedicate maintenance crews to specific areas	Develop maintenance “zones” for crews to have a focus area which will improve accountability for accomplishing assigned tasks
Cloud-based work order system	Current practices require a series of phone calls, emails, and written work orders in order to ensure that tasks and projects are scheduled and assigned. The iWork cloud-based system will be implemented in Parks Maintenance in the latter part of 2024
Event Planning Specialist	With increased emphasis on offering more special events, it will be important to have a full-time staff assigned to the planning, coordinating, and operating the special events offered by the parks department

PROGRAMMING

Balancing both scheduled and passive recreation opportunities is an important strategy that the Bartlett Parks and Recreation needs to keep in mind. Looking at the NRPA data for communities of similar size (population 50,000 to 99,000) reveals that the top trends in programming include: team sports, themed special events, social recreational events, and fitness classes.

PROGRAM	% OF AGENCIES OFFERING PROGRAM	BARTLETT CURRENTLY OFFERING?
Team Sports	97%	Yes
Themed Special Events	95%	Yes
Social Recreation Events	92%	Yes
Fitness Enhancement Classes*	89%	Yes
Racquet Sports	89%	Yes
Individual Sports	87%	Yes
Health & Wellness Education*	84%	Yes
Safety Training	81%	Yes
Aquatics*	81%	Yes
Performing Arts	78%	Yes
Golf	73%	No
Natural & Cultural History Activities	73%	No
Visual Arts	68%	Yes
Martial Arts	62%	Yes
Trips and Tours	62%	Yes
Cultural Crafts	57%	Yes
Running/Cycling Races	49%	Yes
eSports/eGaming	22%	No

*These programs are offered through the Bartlett YMCA

Bartlett remains consistent in its comparison to peer communities as evidenced by offering programming options that align with the national top 10 programs offered. While the parks department does not offer golf or natural and cultural history activities, there are opportunities for residents to participate in programming at other private facilities located in Bartlett.

The following recommendations for adding recreational opportunities are provided:

INITIATIVES	IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS
Expand special events	The parks department is working toward offering more “pop up” style events where recreation staff will travel to one of the local parks to meet residents where they are instead of requiring them to travel to one of our buildings
Take advantage of recent ordinance changes related to food trucks and alcohol in parks/facilities	- Launching “Food Truck Friday” at the A. Keith McDonald Pavilion in May 2024 that will occur every other week - Utilize the Bartlett Parks Foundation Fund
Expand into special recreation programming	Identify ways to partner with existing businesses to leverage resources and provide more opportunities for special needs families to engage in programming that is tailored to their unique needs
Add sports leagues	- Pickleball (singles, doubles: men’s, women’s, mixed) - Ultimate Frisbee - Adult Flag Football



Bluff City Cornhole 2024 SUMMER

Mondays 5pm-9pm (April -Oct) 12090 Forrest St. Arlington, TN 38002

“SUNDAYS: BARTLETT AT THE MUNICIPAL CENTER 5868 Stage Road Bartlett, Tn 38134”

SUNDAY 4/7 WARM UP 2PM/BAGS FLY 3PM *AUDITORIUM

SUNDAY 4/28 WARM UP 2PM / BAGS FLY 3PM *GYM

SUNDAY 5/12 WARM UP 2PM/BAGS FLY 3PM *AUDITORIUM

SUNDAY 5/26 TBD

SUNDAY 6/9 WARM UP 2PM/BAGS FLY 3PM *GYM

SUNDAY 6/23 WARM UP 2PM/BAGS FLY 3PM *GYM

SUNDAY 7/7 TBD

SUNDAY 7/28 WARM UP 2PM/BAGS FLY 3PM *AUDITORIUM



Follow us on Facebook

@bluffcitycommunity.cornhole

Conclusion



CONCLUSION

The future of Bartlett is extremely bright, with signs of new growth and development seemingly occurring on a daily basis. The ability of the Parks and Recreation Department to be able to agilely respond to the recreational needs and wants of the citizenry will be an important catalyst to fueling continued growth in the years ahead. The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide the Parks Department with an actionable plan that will guide its decision-making to ensure that the citizens of the City of Bartlett continue to have equitable access to activities, amenities, events, facilities, recreational opportunities and programming that continue to meet their needs for the next decade. This plan provides recommendations and insights on the best opportunities to continue to invest the precious resources of time, money and labor.



Bartlett

PARKS & RECREATION

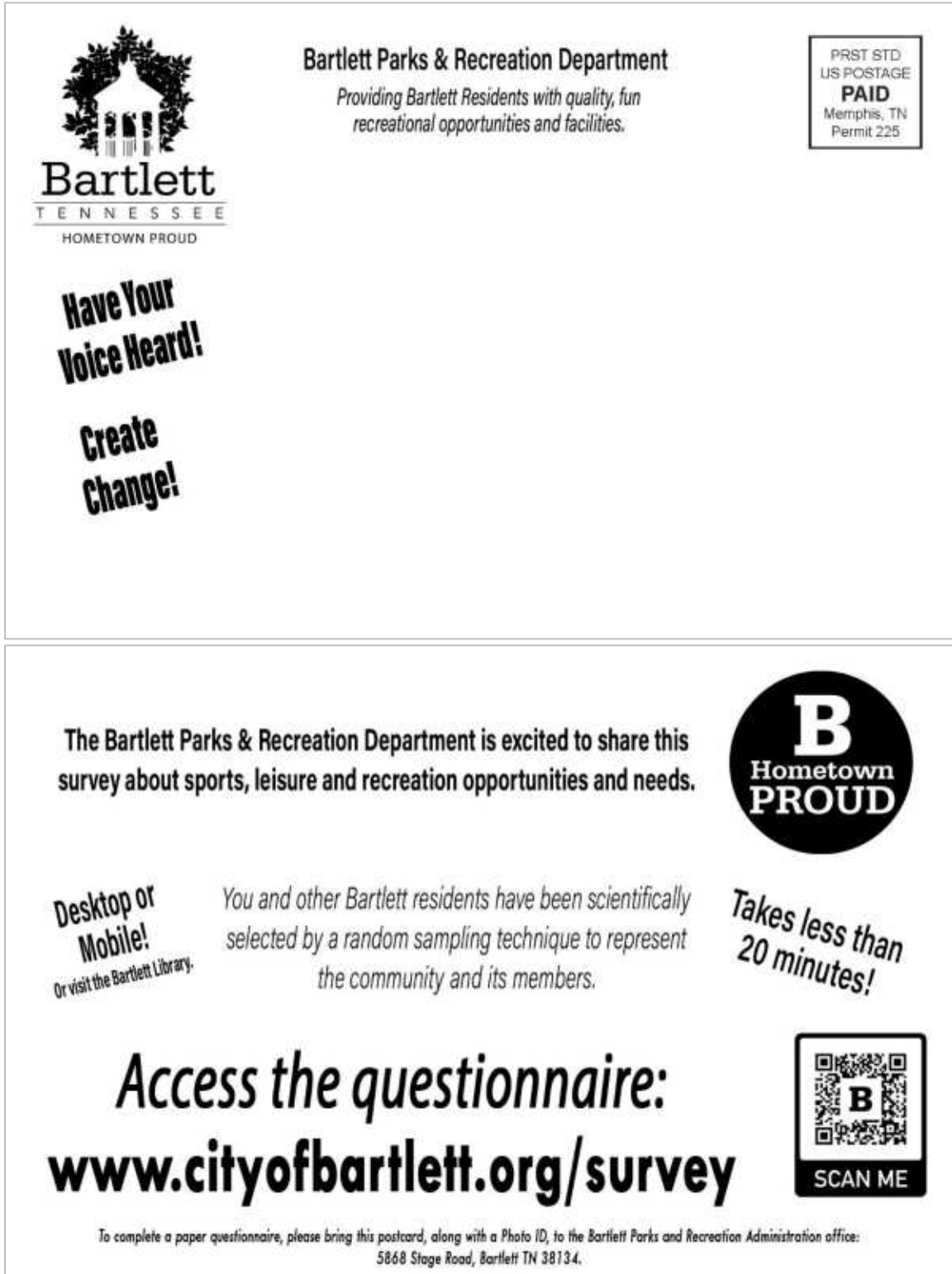
EXPLORE • PLAY • GATHER • GROW

Appendix



Sample of Needs Assessment Postcards

Four-thousand, five-hundred postcards were mailed to a random sample of Bartlett residents, inviting the recipient to complete the Needs Assessment survey. Below is a depiction of the postcards.



Bartlett Parks & Recreation Department Needs Assessment

1. For each activity listed below please indicate how much interest you and/or other members of your household have in the activity/program.

	Great Interest	Some Interest	No Interest
Aquatics	☐	☐	☐
Arts & Crafts	☐	☐	☐
Conservation/Environmental programs	☐	☐	☐
Dining out	☐	☐	☐
Health and Wellness	☐	☐	☐
Individual and/or Team Sports	☐	☐	☐
Performing Arts	☐	☐	☐
Self Improvement	☐	☐	☐
Social	☐	☐	☐
Special Events	☐	☐	☐

Please tell us what other types of leisure activities you participate in

2. Please indicate how many times you and/or other members of your household visited the following facilities during the past 12 months

	Never	Once	2 to 6 times	7 to 12 times	13 to 24 times	25 times or more
Bartlett Recreation Center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bartlett Senior Center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
City of Bartlett athletic fields	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Freeman Park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Nesbit Park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other City of Bartlett Parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pool and/or Splash Pad at Recreation Center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Singleton Community Center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please list any other facilities (public or private) that you have visited in the past 12 months

3. Please indicate if the following are barriers to participation in programs & facilities for you and/or other members of your household.

	Yes	No
ADA accessibility	☐	☐
Competing activities	☐	☐
Feel unsafe	☐	☐
Feeling welcomed by the staff	☐	☐
I do not have the time	☐	☐
Inconvenient timing of events	☐	☐
Lack of appropriate staffing	☐	☐
Lack of information	☐	☐
Lack of maintenance	☐	☐
Lack of parking	☐	☐
Lack of renovation	☐	☐
Lack of special recreation programming	☐	☐
Language barriers	☐	☐
Not interested	☐	☐
Too expensive	☐	☐

Please let us know, in detail, if there are other concerns that act as barriers to participation.

4. Please indicate below the best time for recreation during a typical week for you and/or other members of the household (Select all that apply)?

	5 to 8 am	8 to 10 am	10 to noon	Noon to 2	2 to 4 pm	4 to 6 pm	6 to 8 pm	8 to 10 pm
Monday	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tuesday	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wednesday	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Thursday	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Friday	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Saturday	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sunday	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. Please check how you and/or other members of your household would prefer to be notified about City programs and activities?

	Yes	No
An App dedicated to the Parks and Rec Dept.	☐	☐
City website	☐	☐
Direct mailers to household	☐	☐
E-mail	☐	☐
Electronic signs	☐	☐
Flyers at schools	☐	☐
Social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.	☐	☐
Text messages	☐	☐
Word of mouth	☐	☐

Please tell us the other ways in which the City can reach you.

6. Please indicate whether the following additional facilities are needed for you and/or other members of your household.

	Yes	No
Arts and crafts rooms	☐	☐
Baseball fields	☐	☐
Basketball facilities	☐	☐
Batting cages	☐	☐
Bike trails	☐	☐
Community gardens	☐	☐
Connected trails	☐	☐
Dance studio	☐	☐
Dedicated girls fast pitch softball fields	☐	☐
Dining options	☐	☐
Disc Golf	☐	☐
Inclusive playground	☐	☐
Large gym for multi-purpose sports	☐	☐
Multi-use Community Center	☐	☐
Natural Areas	☐	☐
New/updated playground equipment	☐	☐
Outdoor aquatic facility	☐	☐
Outdoor basketball courts	☐	☐
Pickleball courts	☐	☐
Picnic tables	☐	☐
Places to sit	☐	☐
Skateboard areas	☐	☐
Teen center	☐	☐
Turf fields	☐	☐
Volleyball courts	☐	☐
Walking trails	☐	☐

Please list all other facilities that you think are needed.

7. Please indicate whether the following additional programs are needed for you and/or other members of your household.

	Yes	No
Active recreation for adults	☐	☐
Adult education	☐	☐
Adult events	☐	☐
Arts and crafts programs	☐	☐
Concerts in parks	☐	☐
E-Sports	☐	☐
Educational and instructional programs	☐	☐
Intergenerational programs	☐	☐
Lap swimming	☐	☐
Outdoor fitness	☐	☐
Programs for special recreation populations	☐	☐
Seasonal festivals in parks	☐	☐
Senior Programming	☐	☐
Special events	☐	☐
Teenage sports (high school age)	☐	☐
Theater and drama	☐	☐

Please list all other programs that you think are needed.

8. Please indicate what most closely reflects the attitude of you and/or other members of your household.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I am aware of the public recreation programs and activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am satisfied with the playground equipment available in the parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am satisfied with the recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am willing to pay reasonable users fees for new recreation opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am willing to volunteer for programs and activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I believe the facilities I visit are safe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I go to parks to enjoy nature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have access to parks within walking distance from my home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I prefer to organize my own recreation as opposed to the using public recreation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Strongly Don't

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

9. What is your gender?

10. What is your age?

☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-69 ☐ 70-74 ☐ Over 75

11. How many adults, including yourself, age 19 and above, currently live in your household?

Number

12. How many children in your household are:

Under age five

Ages 5 to 10

Ages 11 to 18

13. Is there a person with a disability in your home?

☐ Yes ☐ No

14. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

☐ Did not attend any school ☐ 10th grade ☐ 11th grade ☐ Graduated from high school
☐ 1 year of college ☐ 2 years of college ☐ 3 years of college ☐ Graduated from college
☐ Some graduate school ☐ Completed graduate school

15. If there is one or more children in your home in the Kindergarten to 12th grade age group, what kind of school do they go to:

☐ There are no children in that age group in my home ☐ They do not go to school
☐ All go to Bartlett City Schools ☐ All go to Independent/Private schools
☐ All are homeschooled ☐ It is a mix of public, private, and homeschool

16. Please indicate which ONE of the following schools is closest to your home.

☐ Altruria Elementary ☐ Ellendale Elementary ☐ Applying Middle ☐ Ninth Grade Academy
☐ Bartlett Elementary ☐ Oak Elementary ☐ Bon Lin Middle ☐ Bartlett High School
☐ Bon Lin Elementary ☐ Rivercrest Elementary ☐ Elmore Park Middle

Public Meeting Sign-in Sheets



Bartlett Parks Recreation Public Meeting Attendance Log
5:30pm, Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Name (please print)	Email (please print)
1 BRAD KING	bking@cityofbartlett
2 David Reeves	drees@cityofbartlett.org
3 Cassi Montoya	cmontoya@cityofbartlett.org
4 Alex Bien	abien@cityofbartlett.org
5 Susan Scott	sscott@cityofbartlett.org
6 Michael Goldberg	mgoldberg@cityofbartlett.org
7 Debbie Christopher	dchristopher@cityofbartlett.org
8 Juanarey	Juanarey@cityofbartlett.org
9 M. Bear Day	JD69MLB@gmail.com
10 Robert Griffin	rgiffin@cityofbartlett.org
11 TIM BRYANT	TIM.BRYANT@KIMLEY-HORN.COM
12 Claudia Tullio Leonard	cdtullio@bellsouth.net
13 Jack Young	JYOUNG@CITYOFBARTLETT.ORG
14 Larry Sefton	Larry@Sefton.info
15 Diane Gantt	dianeagantt@gmail.com
16 Jonathan Walker	jwalker@CityofBartlett.org
17 Nicole Sprangerberg	spangfamily05@gmail.com
18 Rachel Roberts	drobertsdpt@icloud.com
19 LAWRENCE BOGARDY	LBOGARDY@AOL.COM
20 RICK BOWERS	RB.BOWERS44@YAHOO.COM
21 Paul Ireland	paulireland@att.net
22 Christ Sherry Wooley	Swooley1@bellsouth.net
23 Wesley Shappley	Wshappley@BartlettSchools.org
24 Emily Sutton	e.sutton12@yahoo.com
25 Ryan Smith	RYAN.SMITH.02@GMAIL.COM
26 Kevin Quinn	kquinn@cityofbartlett.org
27 Paul Sutton	
28 DIANNE DUNN	DIANNERDUNN@HOTMAIL.COM
29 Ghintan Patel	Patelghintan@gmail.com
30 Gwendolyn Colby	gldc@bellsouth.net
31	Bradi

Bartlett Parks Recreation Public Meeting Attendance Log

5:30pm, Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Name (please print)

Email (please print)

32	Pat Taunert	ptaunert79@gmail.com
33		
34		
35		
36		
37		
38		
39		
40		
41		
42		
43		
44		
45		
46		
47		
48		
49		
50		
51		
52		
53		
54		
55		
56		
57		
58		
59		
60		
61		
62		
63		

Bartlett Parks Recreation Public Meeting Attendance Log

5:30pm, Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Name (please print)

Email (please print)

64	Randy Horn	randyhorn@comcast.net
65	SHIRLEY Jackson	shirleyj_98@yahoo.com
66	Brent & Samantha Hammonds	RuthCawbaysfan@yahoo.com
67	Dennis & Cheryl Lyow	DennisLyow@hotmail.com
68	Jeanyne Rossi	jrossi@cityofbartlett.org
69	Diane Lane	Mrsdee@gmail.com
70	Debra & Kenny Prestage	kenny.prestage@gmail.com
71	Katrina Purify	kpatrina@its.jnj.com
72	Emily Denton	emilypdenton@gmail.com
73	Bert Carr	bertbed45@gmail.com
74		
75		
76		
77		
78		
79		
80		
81		
82		
83		
84		
85		
86		
87		
88		
89		
90		
91		
92		
93		
94		
95		

Bartlett Parks Recreation Public Meeting Attendance Log
6:00pm, Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Name (please print)	Email (please print)
1 Donna Metler	dmetler@comcast.net
2 Kathy Byrd	byrdkathy3@gmail.com
3 Russell Byrd	russellybyrd@gmail.com
4 Jack Young	jyoung@cityofbartlett.org
5 Tracey Oliveira	tracey.goliveira@gmail.com
6 Jon & Jeff Schuber	12035jms@gmail.com
7 SPENCER ROYER	KINGSLEYROYER7501@COMCAST.NET
8 Jeremiah Wooten	jeremiahroycewooten@gmail.com
9 Ryan Neil	Ryan Neil 9211@gmail.com
10 BEAD KING	bking@cityofbartlett.org
11 Shatamara Davis	Shatamaram@gmail.com
12 Dennis & Cheryl Lyoo	DennisLyoo@hotmail.com
13 Marion & Joseph Palazzolo	e.Trinity257@gmail.com
14 Tommie J. Moore	TJMOORE64@att.net
15 Robert Griffin	robert rgriffin@cityofbartlett.org
16 ANGEL RIVERA SIO@GMAIL.COM	ANGEL RIVERA
17 Emily Sutton	e.sutton12@yahoo.com
18 Linda Booth	booth@abilene.com
19 Marcia Hall	hallmarc5@yahoo.com
20 MICHAEL SHELTON	MICHAEL.SHELTON@KIMLEY-HORN.COM
21 Debbie Christopher	dewc6984@yahoo.com
22 Jeff	jdriffin@cityofbartlett.org
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	



April 17, 2024

Page 1 of 2

Project Areas

Bartlett, TN - City Level Report

All statistical results are aggregated for the listed project areas and their service areas. Service areas are based on 10-minute (1/2 mile) walk times from project access points defined for each project area and based upon the walkable network.

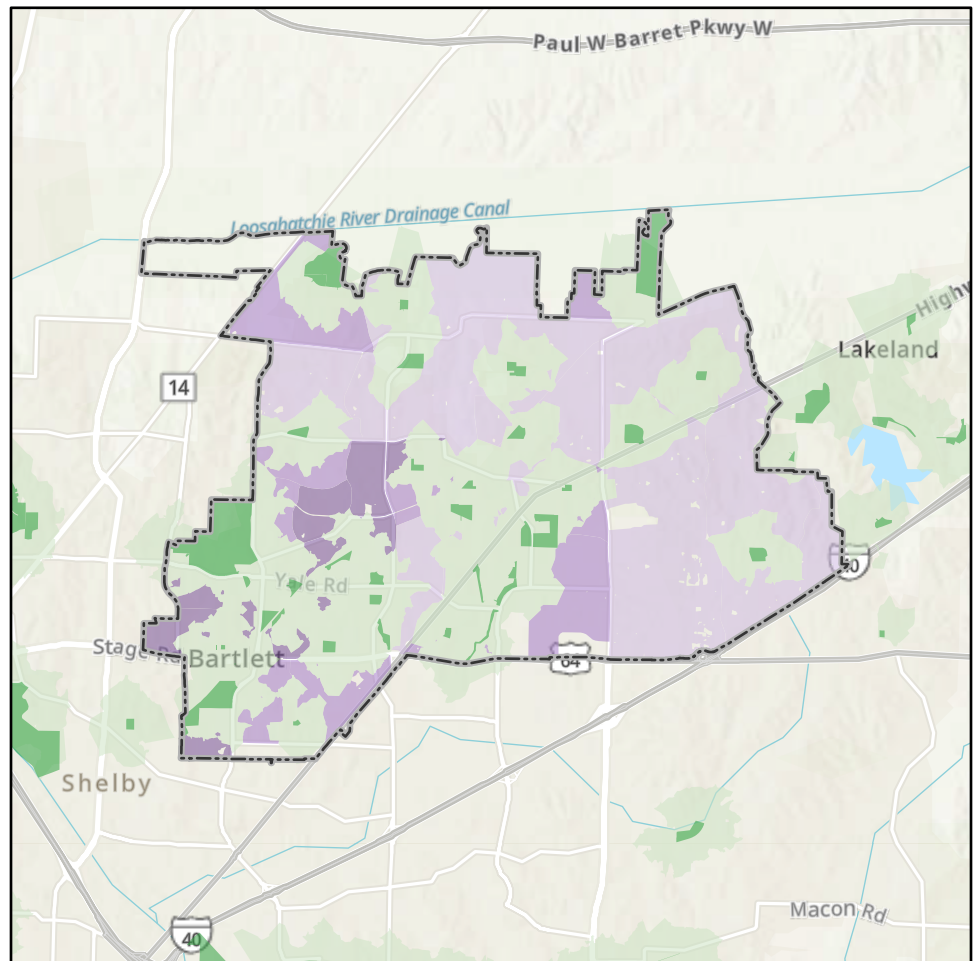
City Statistics

Current

City: Bartlett, TN	
Park Acres	1,077
Total Population	57,892
Served Population	30,756
Percent Served	53.1%

Legend

-  City Boundary
-  Parks
-  Service Areas
- Priority areas for new parks
 -  Very high priority
 -  High priority
 -  Moderate priority



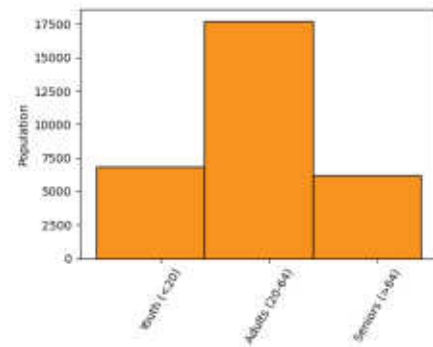
This report was created on April 17, 2024 using the ParkServe® interactive mapping site. It is for informational purposes only. The providers of this report disclaim any and all warranties, express or implied, including fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability, and make no representation that the report is complete, accurate, or error free. Use and reliance on this report is at the sole risk of the party using same.

© 2024 Trust for Public Land.



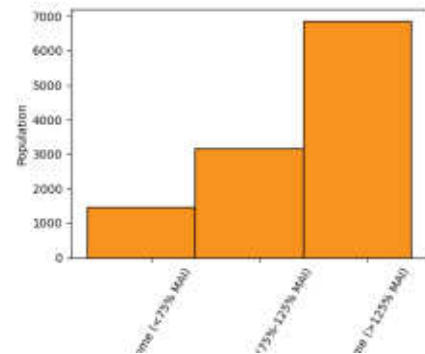
Population	Within a 10-minute walk
Total Population	30,756

Age	Within a 10-minute walk
Children (less than age 20)	6,842
Adults (age 20 to age 64)	17,722
Seniors (age 65 and up)	6,192



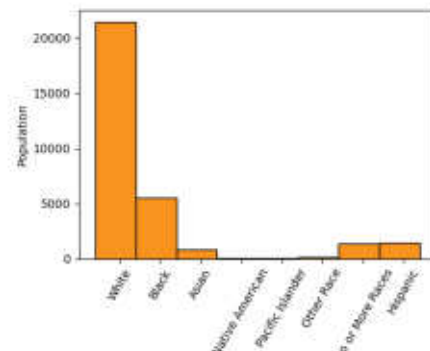
Households by Income	Within a 10-minute walk
Low income	1,466
Middle income	3,177
High income	6,863

(Generated from urban area median income)



Race/Ethnicity	Within a 10-minute walk
White*	21,449
Black*	5,516
Asian*	839
Native American*	60
Pacific Islander*	14
Other Race*	89
Two or More Races*	1,346
Hispanic	1,444

* Excludes those that report Hispanic origin (which is captured separately from race by the U.S. Census)

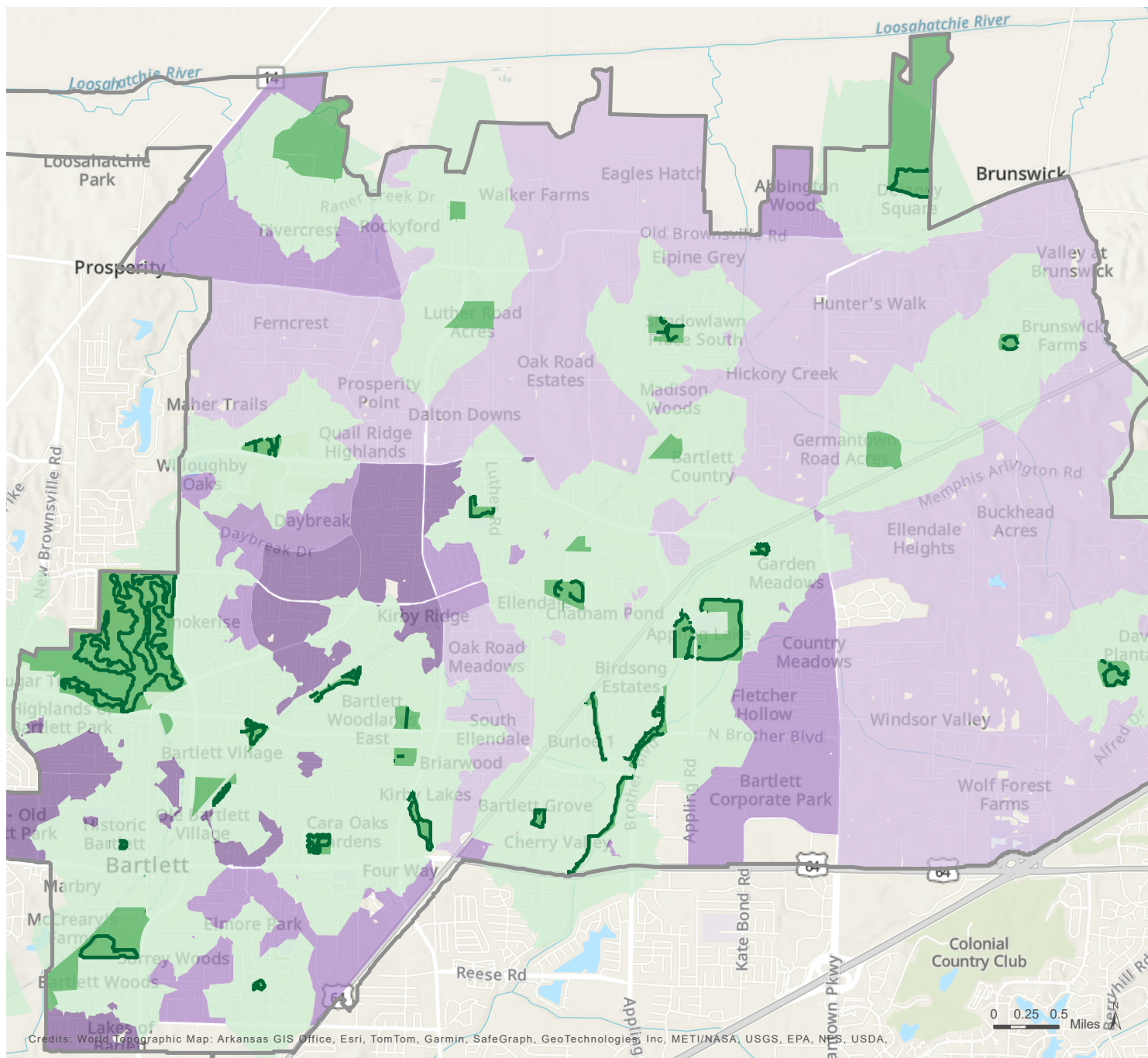


Demographic information is derived from ESRI 2022 Demographic Forecast Block Groups data.

This report was created on April 17, 2024 using the ParkServe® interactive mapping site. It is for informational purposes only. The providers of this report disclaim any and all warranties, express or implied, including fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability, and make no representation that the report is complete, accurate, or error free. Use and reliance on this report is at the sole risk of the party using same.

© 2024 Trust for Public Land.

ParkServe Map Export



- ParkServe Place
- Trail
- Park with public access
- 10-minute walk service area
- Very high priority
- High priority
- Moderate priority
- World Hillshade



This page intentionally left blank.



City of Belton Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan Update 2022-2026

PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN UPDATE



2022-2026





Table of Contents

1.....	Acknowledgment
2.....	Executive Summary
3.....	Demographics
4.....	Updated Park Amenity Matrix
5.....	2021 Parks Community Survey
6.....	2022-2026 Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan Priorities



Acknowledgments

1

The City of Belton conducted an internal 5-year update to the City of Belton Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan 2016-2026. The update was developed between April and December, 2021, with contributions from many individuals and groups. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the development of the Plan Update.

The Belton City Council:

Wayne Carpenter, Mayor
David K. Leigh, Mayor Pro-Tem
Dan Kirkley
Craig Pearson
Guy O'Banion
John R. Holmes, Sr.
Daniel Bucher



The Belton Parks Board:

Josh Pearson, Chair
Jason Wolfe, Vice-Chair
Diane Ring
Ted Smith
Oscar Bersosa



City Staff:

Sam Listi	City Manager
Gene Ellis	Assistant City Manager/ Chief of Police
Matt Bates	Director of Public Works
James Grant	Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Manuel Zapata	Recreation Coordinator
Molly Hart	Events Coordinator
Larry Thorne	Parks Supervisor
Jim McKellar	Parks Supervisor
Jared Siegler	Parks Supervisor
Tammy Robertson	Maintenance Technician



Executive Summary

2

Introduction:

In April 2021, the City of Belton conducted an internal 5-year Master Plan Update. City Staff, Belton Parks Board, and the Belton City Council have produced a document that supports the existing City of Belton Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan 2016-2026. The Update engaged the community and examined existing Park amenities, community needs, and outlined priorities that the City can work towards for the remaining five years of the existing plan before it is formally updated in 2026.





Demographics

3

Population Estimate:

24,610 (Provided by 2020 Census)

Age:

5 to 9 years	6.5 %
10 to 14 years	8.8 %
15 to 19 years	9.3 %
20 to 24 years	12.3 %
25 to 34 years	13.4 %
35 to 44 years	11.8 %
45 to 54 years	8.6 %
55 to 59 years	4.8 %
60 to 64 years	5.1 %
65 to 74 years	6.2 %
75 to 84 years	4.7 %
85 years and over	1.5 %

Sex:

Females:	52.4%
Males:	47.6%

Race & Ethnicities:

White alone, not Hispanic or Latino:	55.1%
Hispanic or Latino:	31.8%
Black or African American:	10.6%
Asian:	.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native:	.1%

Income:

Median Household Income:	\$62,976
Per Capita Income:	\$28,402
Persons Living in Poverty:	13.5%





Updated Park Amenity Matrix

4

Park Facility Name	Location	Acres	Park Classification	Amphitheaters	Baseball Fields (including T-ball)	Basketball Courts	BBQ Grills	Benches	Bike Rack	Boat Ramp / Access to Creek	Community Garden	Concession Buildings
Liberty Park	700 Veterans Way	16.5	C				1	6	1	1		
Yettie Polk Park	101 S. Davis Street	7.47	C			2	2	81	2			
Chisholm Trail Park	3115 Dunns Canyon Rd	34.19	C		2	1	4	6	3			1
Heritage Park	1502 Park Avenue	149.08	C		5	1	17	3	2	1	1	2
Beall Park	1101 N. Beal Street	1.26	N					3	1			
Carla Kay Park	905 Carla Kay Drive	0.25	N									
Continental Fields	306 W. 14th Ave	2.64	S		2							
Harris Community Park	312 N. Alexander Street	6.46	C			1		4	1			
T. B. Harris Community Center	401 N. Alexander Street	2.65	C									
Lena Armstrong Public Library	301 E. 1st Avenue	1.01	C									
Lions Field	505 W. 5th Ave	2.16	S									
Griggs Field	1008 E. Avenue J	1.41	S		1							
Jaycee Field	715 Mitchell St	8.2	S		1							1
Housing Authority	Mitchell Circle/Mitchell Street	2.33	N					1				
Quail Meadows	2606 C Kneese Drive	2.58	N			0.5	2	4				
Miller Heights Community Park	2395 S. Miller	6.2	N			1	3	1	1			
Jeff Hamilton Park	1230 W. Ave J	3.55	N					3				
South Wall Tiger Park	1895 S. Wall	0.86	S			0.5		1				
Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail	Along Nolan Creek		S									
Nolan Creek Nature Trail	1151 MLK Jr Ave	3.26	S									
The Landing at Creekside Park	218 S. East St	2.88	S					1		1		
Ave J Water Tower Lot	Ave J	2.07										
Sendero Estates Park	3101 Digby Dr	3.04	N			1		2				
Liberty Valley Parkland	Franklin Circle, Belton	0.826		Undeveloped								
Wallace Law Park	Red Rock Dr	3.313	N	Undeveloped								
Total		264.19		0	11	8	29	116	11	3	1	4
12.62	N=Neighborhood											
217.36	C=Community											
	R= Regional											
18.31	S= Special Purpose											



Park Amenity Matrix Continued

Park Facility Name	Park Classification	Educational Stations / Story Boards	Exercise Stations	Fishing / Observation Decks	Horseshoe Pits (Set)	Meeting Rooms	Pavilions/Gazebos	Picnic Tables	Playgrounds/Swing Sets	Butterfly Gardens	Skate parks	Soccer Fields	Softball Fields	Splash Pads / Water Fountain Feature	Trails (in Miles)	Volleyball/Sand Volleyball	Trash Cans	Water Fountains	Restrooms	Park Rating 1 thru 10
Liberty Park	C	2					2	8	0						H&B		11	2		8
Yettie Polk Park	C	4					1	14	3	1				1	H&B		17	3		8
Chisholm Trail Park	C				1		1	5	1	1	0	2	3		0.79	1	10	2	1	8
Heritage Park	C			1			2	21	2			4			0.68		65	2	2	9
Beall Park	N							3	2								2	1		9
Carla Kay Park	N							1	1								1			2
Continental Fields	S																			1
Harris Community Park	C	4		1	2		11	19	2	1				1	H&B		17		1	7
T. B. Harris Community Center	C					7														
Lena Armstrong Public Library	C					2				1										
Lions Field	S												1				2			5
Griggs Field	S																			1
Jaycee Field	S																5		1	3
Housing Authority	N						1	3	2								3			3
Quail Meadows	N						3	3	3						0.23		3	1		10
Miller Heights Community Park	N	1	1		1			4	1	1					0.59		4	1		7
Jeff Hamilton Park	N	1						2	2						0.25		2			10
South Wall Tiger Park	S						3	3	1					1			3	1	1	9
Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail	S	10													3.29					
Nolan Creek Nature Trail	S	1			1			2		1					0.25		3			10
The Landing at Creekside Park	S	2															7			10
Ave J Water Tower Lot																				
Sendero Estates Park	N																1			10
Liberty Valley Parkland																				
Wallace Law Park	N																			
Total		25	1	2	5	9	24	88	20	6	0	6	4	3	6.08	1				

2021 BELTON PARKS SURVEY



Playground of Central Texas



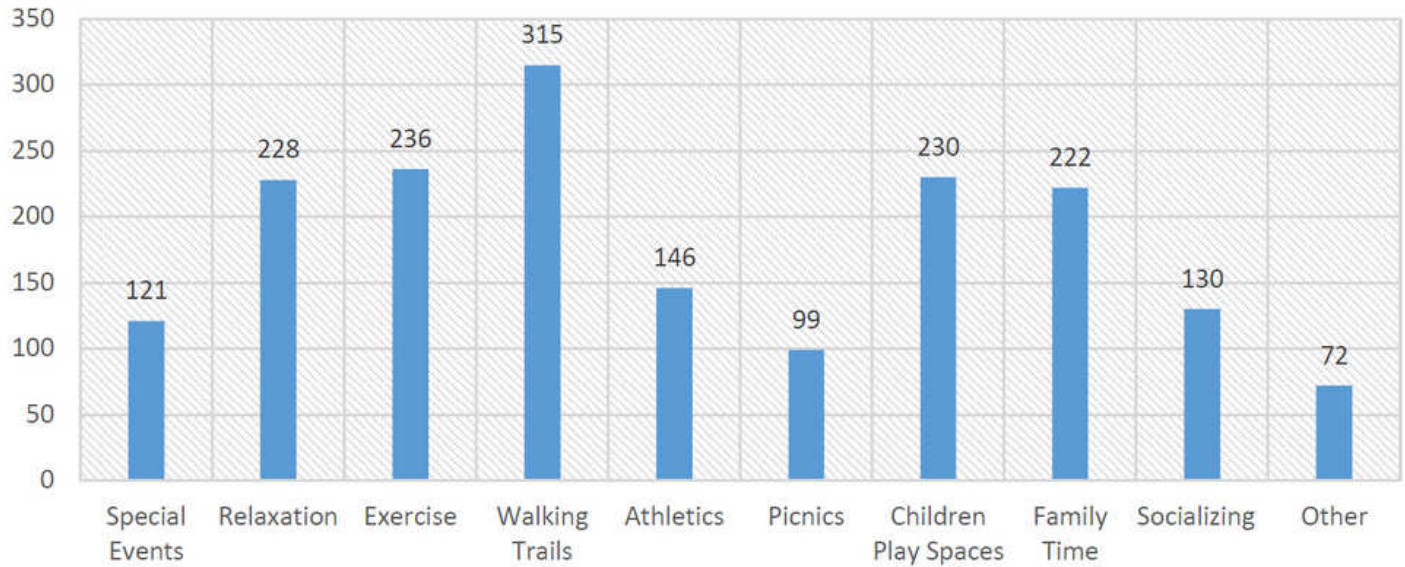


2021 Parks Community Survey

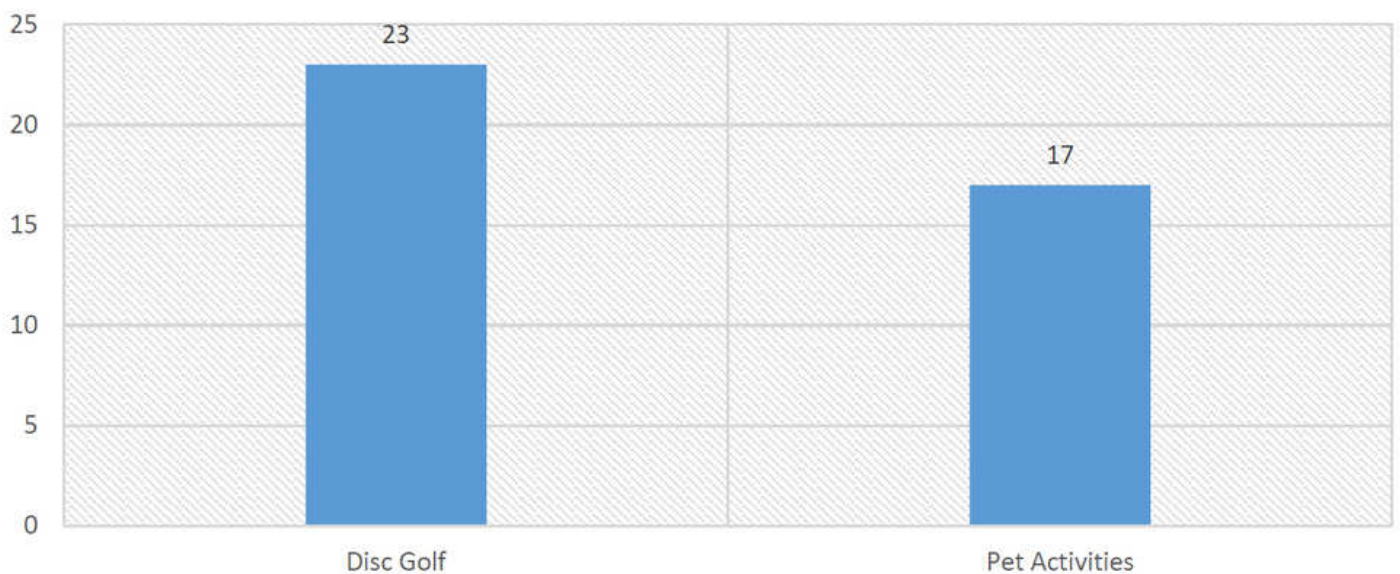
Question 1:

5

Q1: Why do you visit our Parks?



Q1: Why do you visit our Parks? Other: Top Response

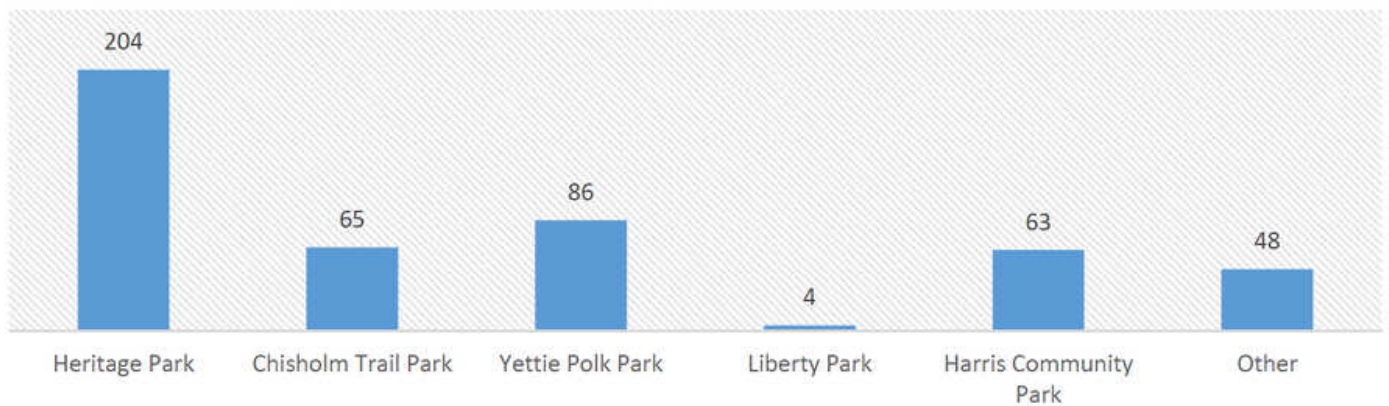




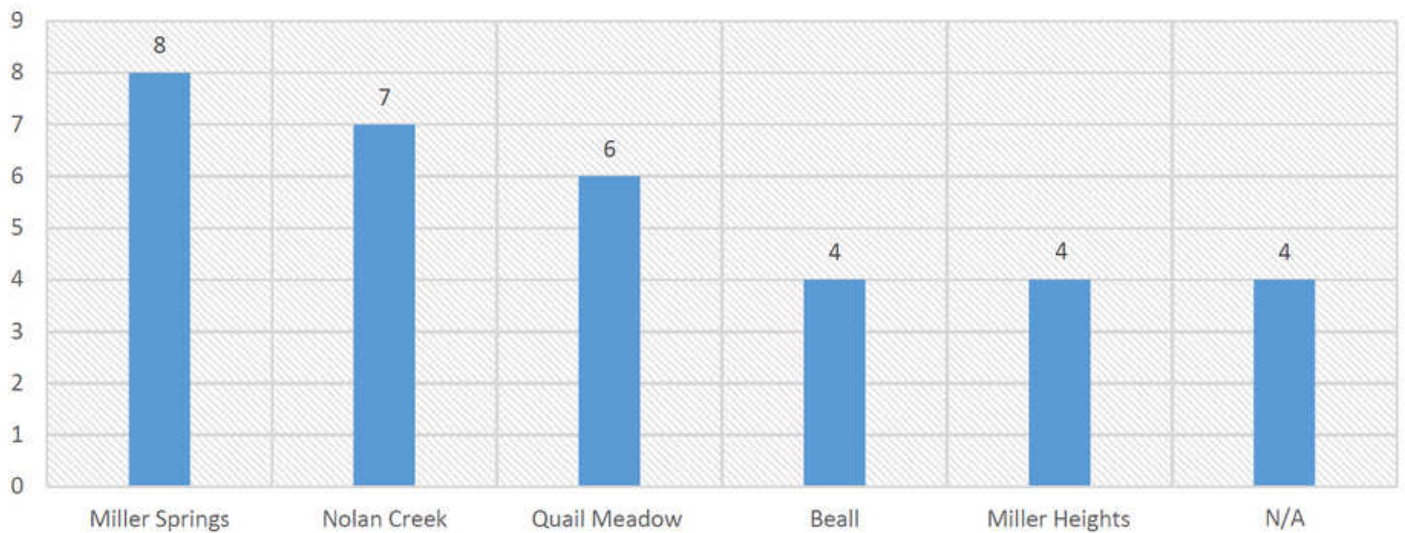
2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 2:

Q2: Which Park do you visit the most?



Q2: Which Park do you visit the most?
Other Top Responses

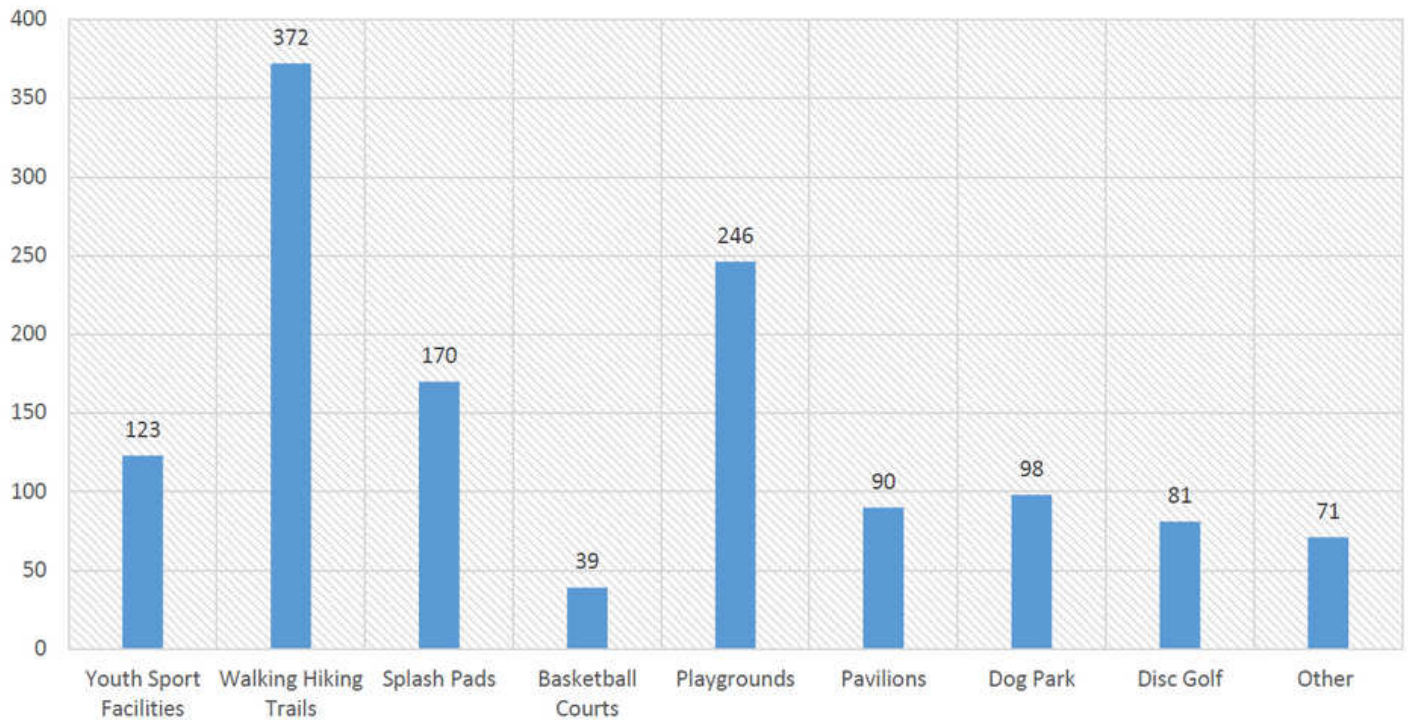




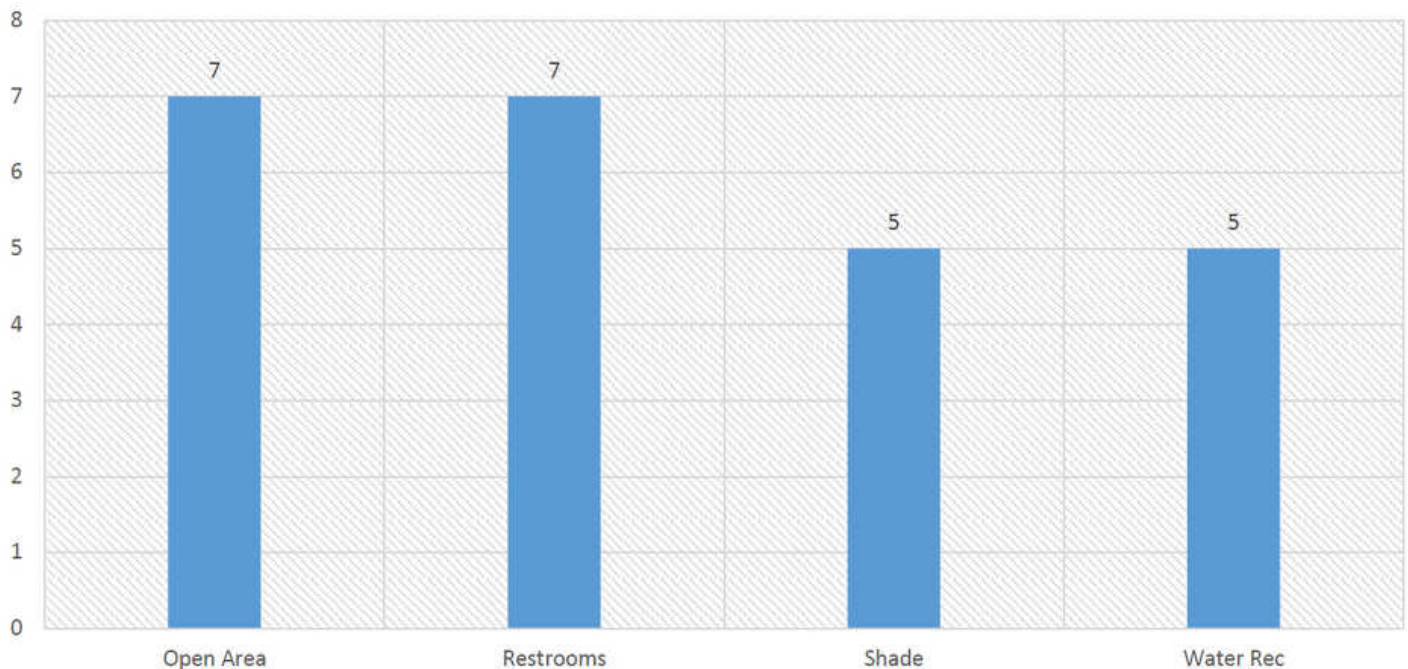
2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 3:

Q3: What three amenities are most important to you?



Q3: What three amenities are most important to you?
Other Top Responses

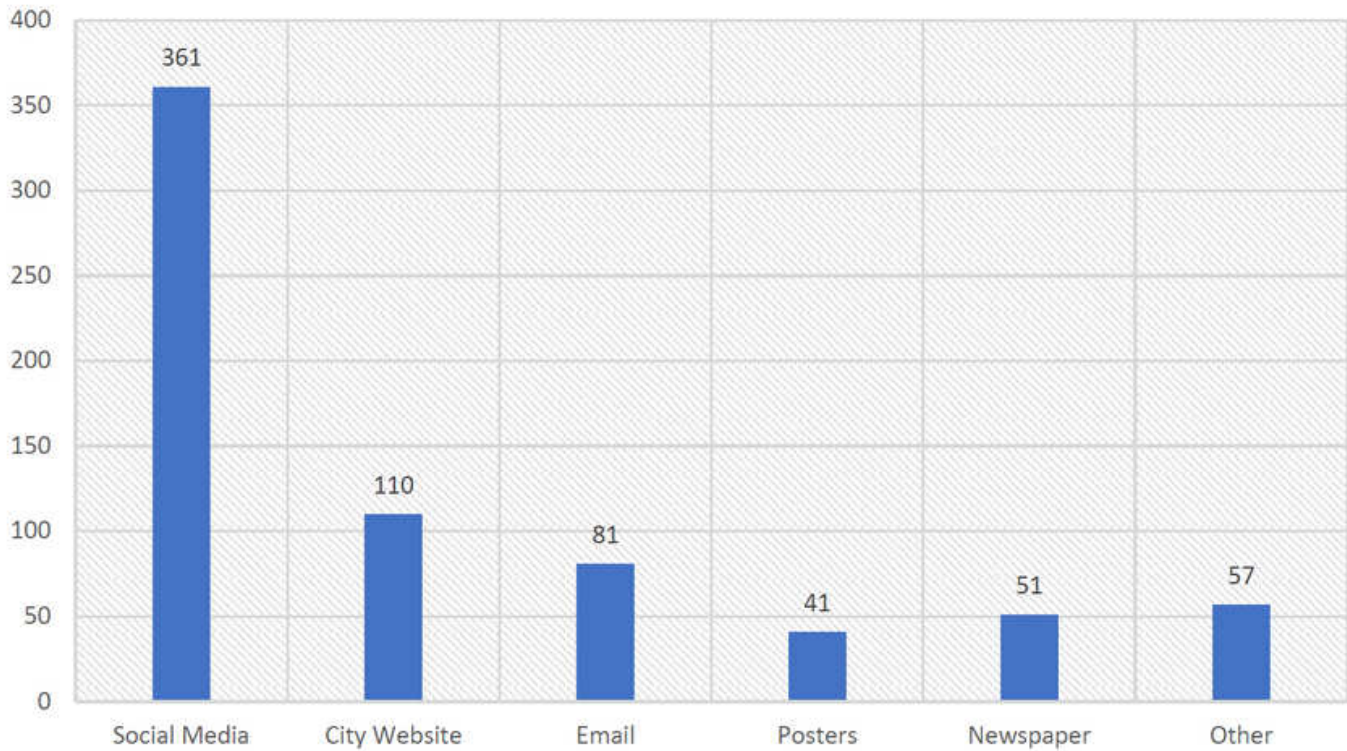




2021 Parks Community Survey

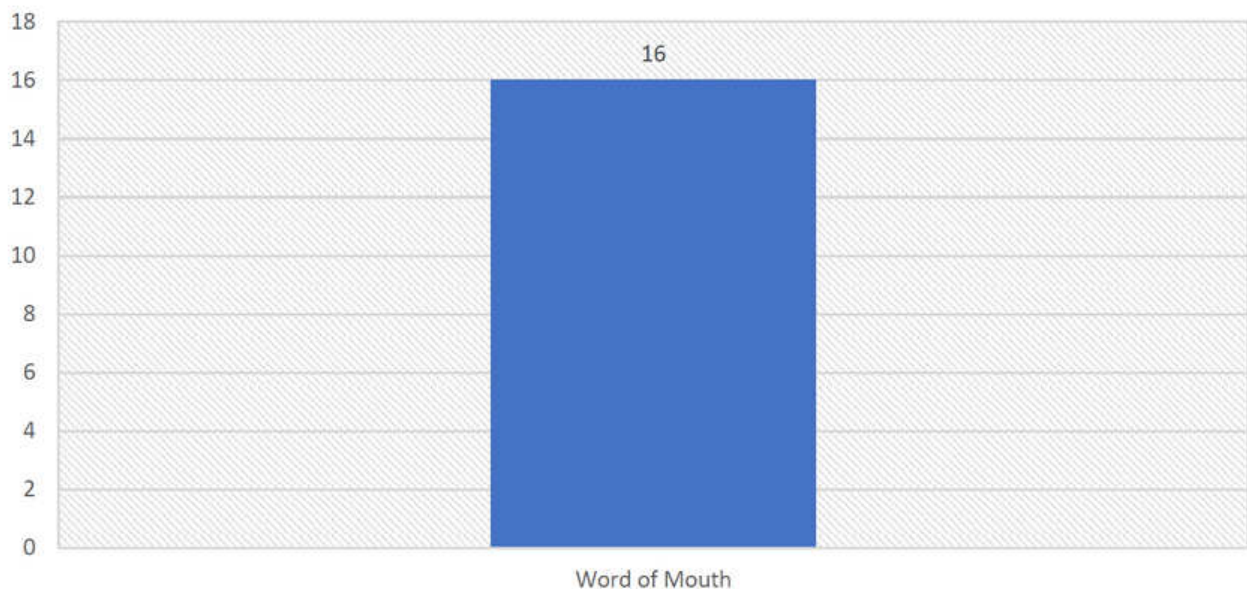
Question 4:

Q4: How do you find out about programs & events?



Q4: How do you find out about programs & events?

Other: Top Responses

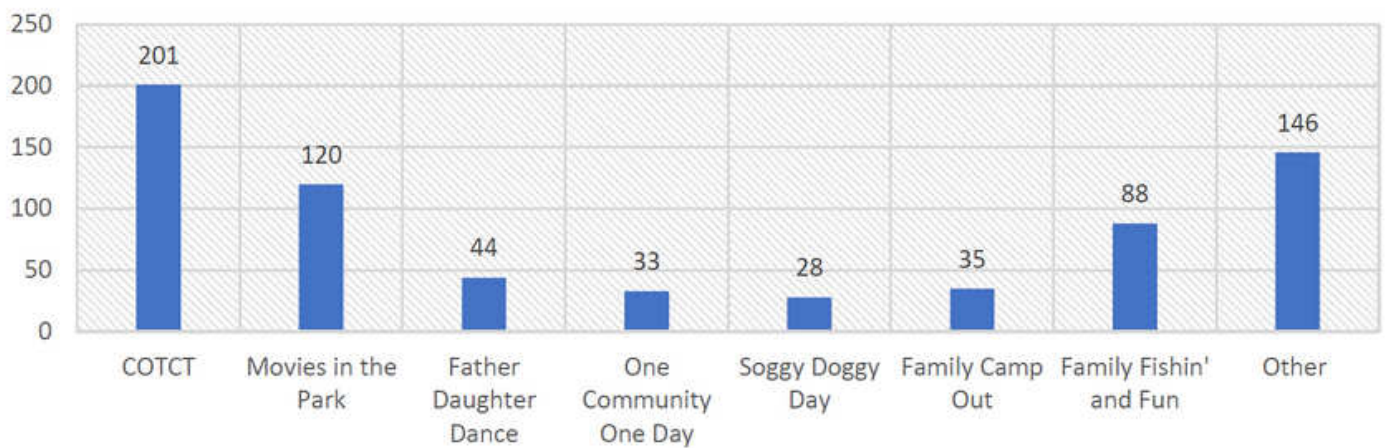




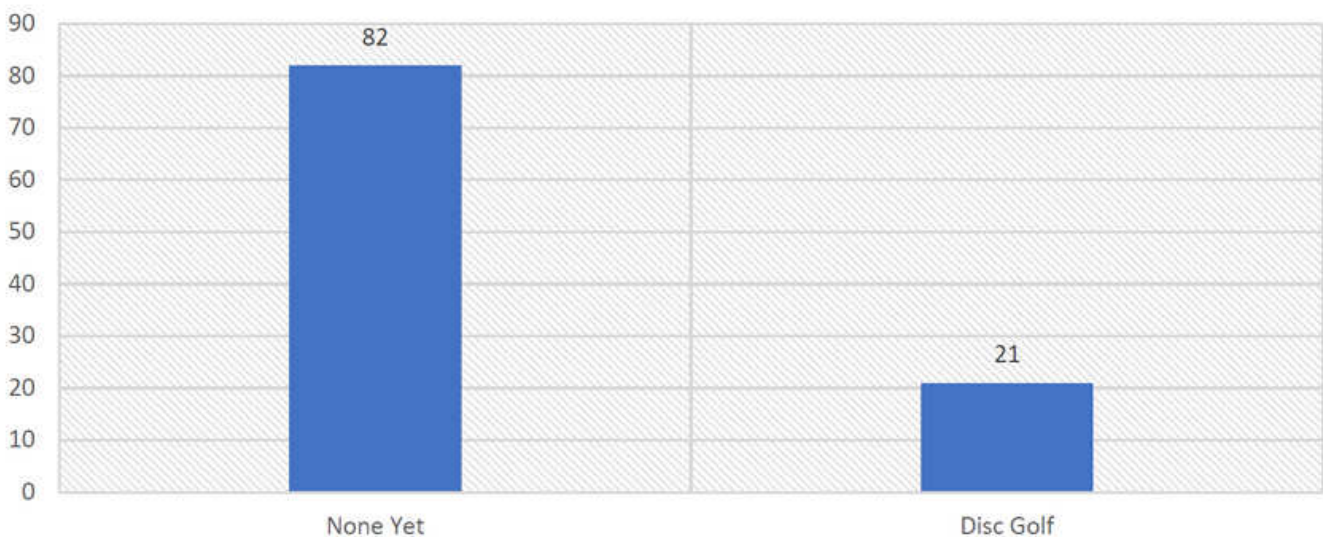
2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 5:

Q5: What Belton Parks and Recreation events have you attended in the past 2 years?



Q5: What Belton Parks and Recreation events have you attended in the past 2 years?
Other: Top Responses

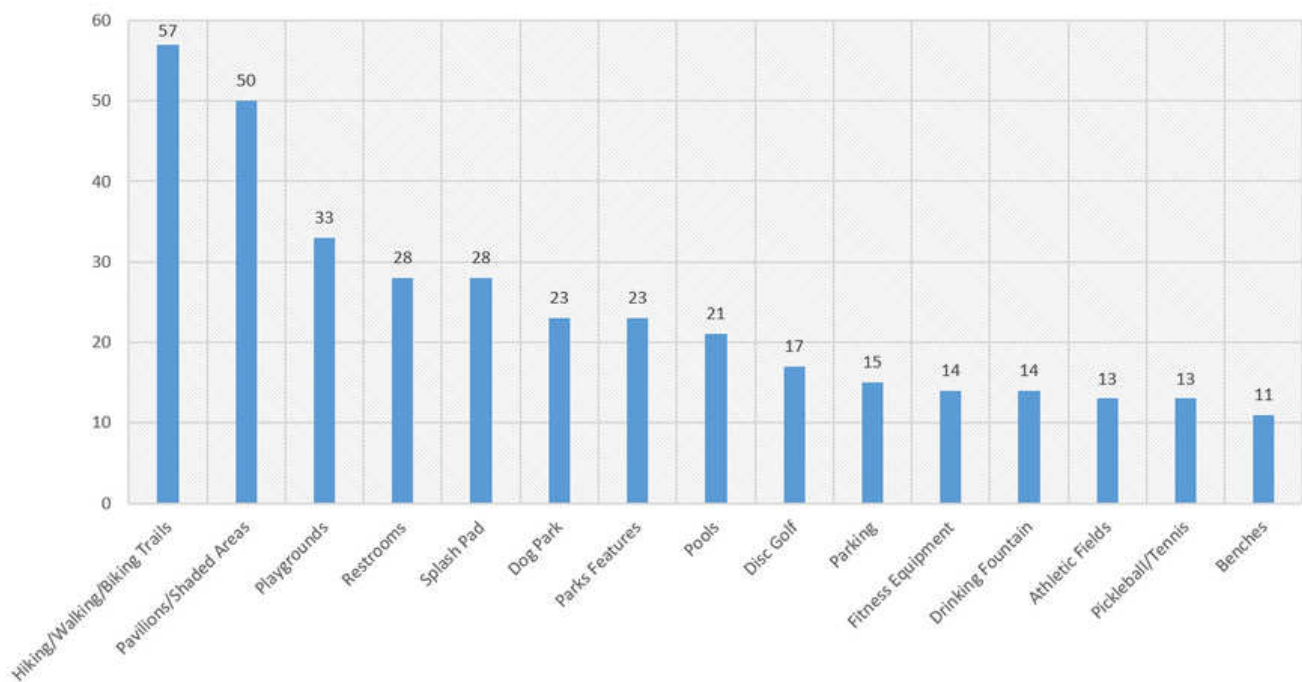




2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 6:

Q6 : What amenities would you like added to our parks?

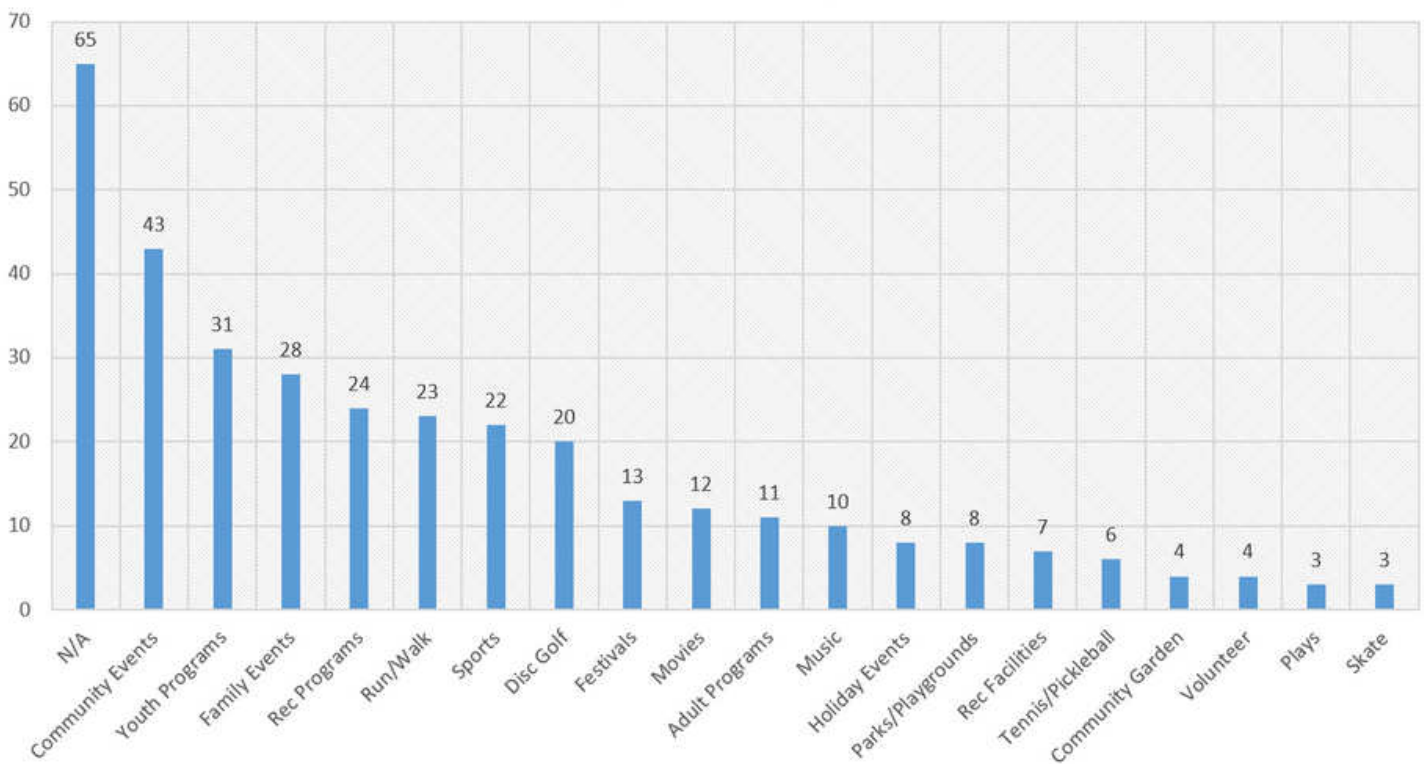




2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 7:

Q7 : What activites or programs would you like to see in the future?





2022-2026 Park & Recreation Strategic Master Plan Priorities:

6

- **Walking & Hiking Trails**
- **Youth Sports/Athletic Fields**
- **Expanding Services and Parkland**
- **Preservation and Development of Existing Infrastructure**
- **Water Recreation (Kayak, Fishing, Splash Pad)**

Walking & Hiking Trails

Walking and Hiking Trails ranked as the number one most requested and used amenity in the City's Park system during the 2021 Parks Community Survey. Currently the City of Belton has over 6+ miles of trails. Five-year priorities include:

-Continue to expand connectivity within our trail system including Loop 121 widening, Sparta Rd, Heritage Park, and 13th Avenue.

Youth Sports/Athletic Fields

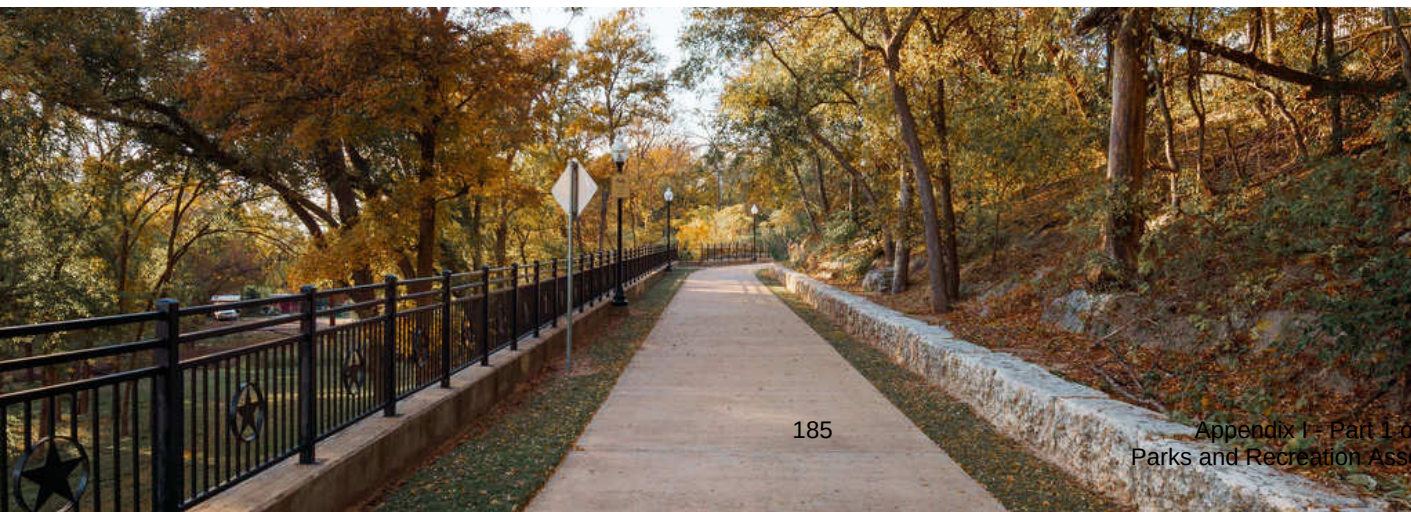
The City of Belton is home to several Youth Sport Associations who utilize Parks and Recreation Department facilities to conduct seasonal leagues. Five-year priorities include:

-Soccer: Increased parking, addition of a fifth game field, and a new concession & restroom facility. Explore installation of lights on game fields.

-Baseball: Explore need for larger game field at Heritage Park. Convert existing ball field lighting to LED, addition of batting cages. Address several facility upgrades including bleachers, foul ball netting, and scoreboards.

-Softball: Explore the need for a 4th Field at Chisholm Trail Park. Batting Cages, LED Lighting, improved storage options, and portable outfield fencing.

-Miscellaneous: Provide more multi use fields that can offer other sports an opportunity to operate at City facilities.





2022-2026 Park & Recreation Strategic Master Plan Priorities:

Expanding Services & Parkland

The City of Belton is experiencing unprecedented growth and the Parks & Recreation Department is committed to continuing to expand services to meet the various needs of our residence. Areas that have been identified as priorities include:

- New Parks coming online soon including the Heritage Park Expansion and the Standpipe Park.
- Pursue expanding programming and event efforts including more Downtown & Community-wide events, and Summer programs.
- Leverage partnerships for success.
- Explore new Parkland needs in the rapidly growing Southern and Southwestern portions of the city.
- Chisholm Trail Park: Utilization of open space areas to provide year-round amenities for the public.
- Plan for additional playgrounds and playscapes included with new parkland development.

Developing and Preserving Existing Park Infrastructure

The City of Belton Parks & Recreation Department has several facilities and amenities that need ongoing maintenance and attention to ensure they continue to serve the wide range of community needs. Five-year priorities include:

- Replacement and repair of existing playgrounds.
- Resurfacing trails to enhance user experience: Chisholm Trail Park, Heritage Park, and Miller Heights Community Park.
- Pavilions and Gazebos.
- Community Garden, Butterfly Gardens, and native landscapes.

Water Recreation

Belton residents enjoy dynamic water recreation opportunities. Belton is home to two lakes (Lake Belton and Stillhouse Hollow Lake), the Leon River, and the Nolan Creek.

- Continue to utilize the Leon River & Nolan Creek for recreational programming opportunities.
- Upgrade existing Splash Pads Infrastructure.
- Explore conducting a feasibility study for an outdoor community pool.

Belton Lake | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)





This page intentionally left blank.

City of Copperas Cove Appendix C: 2020 Parks Master Plan





City of Copperas Cove

T E X A S

City Built for Family Living

APPENDIX C: 2020 PARKS MASTER PLAN



2020 PARKS MASTER PLAN

City Built for Family Living



MRB | *group*

15 W Central Ave
Temple, TX 76501

(254) 774-9611

www.mrbgrouptexas.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION	1
SECTION 2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	5
SECTION 3 PLAN DEVELOPMENT / PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS	9
SECTION 4 AREA FACILITY / CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS	10
SECTION 5 INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE AREA FACILITIES	17
SECTION 6 NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION	35
SECTION 7 IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS	38
SECTION 8 PLAN SUMMARY AND IMPLEMENTATION	59
SECTION 9 ATTACHMENTS	62

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The City of Copperas Cove recognizes the importance of recreation opportunities in today's active society and health conscious attitudes prompts a community to assess what it has regarding parks and recreation. Urban sprawl and development of rural land has made the creation of parks and preservation of open space a major priority for our community. Parks and open space add economic value to local properties and an intangible value to the local quality of life. To preserve this open space and create parks, a Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan has been written.

The purpose of this Parks Master Plan is to examine and analyze existing park and recreation spaces and facilities, to identify issues related to present and future community needs, and to make recommendations on how the City of Copperas Cove's park and recreation facilities can be integrated into a cohesive system. The Plan evaluates existing, facilities, establishes facility criteria and standards, and provides a comparative analysis of the City's park system to accepted park standards, and identifies park-related issues that the City will need to address in the short-term and long-term.

Brief Historical Background

The City of Copperas Cove, once spelled Coperas Cove, was established in the 1870s. It was primarily a rural community located approximately two miles southwest of the present city. The name Cove was submitted for a post office, but with an already existing location with the name, the name was rejected. An application was resubmitted with the additional name of Coperas added. The name was inspired by the mineral taste of the water in a nearby spring. The Coperas Cove post office was established in March 1879.

The Chisholm Trail passed through Coperas Cove bringing with it the cattle industry which became a primary importance to the local economy. The Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway built its track across the southern corner of Coryell County in 1882 and residents of Coperas Cove moved their community two miles to the northeast in order to better utilize the rail service. Cattle production continued to be important to the local economy, however, area farmers began directing more of their resources to the production of cotton, small grains and feed crops. Farming was the dominant occupation by 1900.

The spelling of the city's name officially changed in 1901. The first mayor was elected in 1913 at which time the population had grown to 600. The population increased through the 1920s to a high of 650 in 1929. Copperas Cove's population declined with the onset of the Great Depression in the early 1930s. The population in the 1940s had decreased to 356 residents.

Copperas Cove realized a boost in population in the early 1940s when the United States government chose southeastern Coryell and northwestern Bell counties as the site for Camp Hood, a new military training center. The 1950 census saw an increase in the population to 1,052 residents. As Fort Hood was established as a permanent base in 1950, the city's population grew at an even faster rate. The establishment of the fort drastically altered the city's character, diversifying the ethnic and religious composition of the city. Populations for

the 1960 census showed 4,567, at 10,818 in 1970 and in 1980, 19,469. By 1990 Copperas Cove's population had grown to 24,079 and in 2000 the population was 29,592. The 2010 census indicated the population increased to 32,032.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Basic demographic data provides valuable information about the community. Data such as population growth and age composition may be used to create a snapshot of the City at a given point in time. The data also provides insight as to the segments of the population who might need and utilize park and recreation facilities.

The information below is based on the 2010 census data. Also, information from the Texas State Data Center was used to present a better picture of the growth in the City of Copperas Cove as it is influenced by growth in Coryell County.

Population Growth

Table 1.1 shows population growth for the City of Copperas Cove. The City has exhibited growth and is anticipating additional growth. This anticipated growth makes the provision of park and recreation services even more important to address in the short-term and long-term.

Table 1.1
Population Change
City of Copperas Cove, Texas

1990 Census Count	24,079
2000 Census Count	29,592
2010 Census Count	32,032
2018 Estimated (Res. 2018-16)	34,272
2023 Projection	36,253
2028 Projection	41,385

Table 1.2 shows population projections for Coryell County and the State of Texas. Coryell County's growth, including Copperas Cove, is anticipated to increase.

Population Projection

Table 1.2
Population Projection
Texas State Data Center

	County	State
2010	75,388	25,145,561
2015	76,750	27,326,252
2020	78,315	29,677,772
2030	97,771	33,913,233
2030	82,198	34,894,429

Race and Ethnicity Distribution

Table 1.3 depicts Copperas Cove's race and ethnic distribution in the 2010 Census.

Table 1.3
Race & Ethnic Distribution
City of Copperas Cove, Texas

Race/Ethnicity	Census Data
White Alone	18,750
Black or African American Alone	5,039
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	184
Asian Alone	763
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Alone	495
Some Other Race Alone	25
Two or More Races Alone	1,961
Hispanic or Latino	5,627

Age Distribution

Table 1.4 contains information on various age groups and how they are represented within Copperas Cove. Age is an important population characteristic because it is a strong indicator as to the types of services and facilities that the city will need to provide. This data suggests that the largest segment of population is the 25 to 34 age group which is typically represented by families having children under 19 years of age. The majority of the population is between 20 and 54 years of age and make up 52.8% of the population of Copperas Cove. Younger populations are typically more active and demand more city amenities like parks and recreation centers. The median age for the City of Copperas Cove is 31.9 years. The figures are reflective of the 2010 Census.

Table 1.4
Age Distribution
Copperas Cove, Texas

Age Group	Census Population	Percent of Population
Under 5 years	2,412	7.3
5 to 9 years	2,445	7.4
10 to 14 years	2,521	7.7
15 to 19 years	2,139	6.5
20 to 24 years	2,711	8.3
25 to 34 years	6,100	18.6
35 to 44 years	4,539	13.8
45 to 54 years	3,961	12.1
55 to 59 years	1,421	4.3
60 to 64 years	1,232	3.8
65 and older	3,363	10.2

Household Income Levels

Table 1.5 shows income data for the City of Copperas Cove as determined in the 2010 Census. The largest percentage of households in Copperas Cove specifically fell into the range of \$50,000 to \$74,999 annually. The median income level was \$52,017.

Table 1.5
Household Income
Copperas Cove, Texas

Income Level	Census Data	Percentage of Population
TOTAL	12,358 Households	
Less than \$10,000	717	5.8%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	581	4.7%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,347	10.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,100	8.9%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,224	18.0%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,682	21.7%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,607	13.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,545	12.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	333	2.7%
\$200,000 or more	222	1.8%

SECTION 2: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Parks and recreation have three values that make them essential services to communities.

1. Economic Value
2. Health and Environmental Benefits
3. Social Importance

Just as water, sewer and public safety are considered essential public services, parks are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in a community, ensuring the health of families and youth, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community.

There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment.

To keep up with the ever-changing population and demographics of the area, this plan will cover a time period of 2019 through 2024. The City will reevaluate the plan every five years to confirm they are proceeding in the direction the citizens of Copperas Cove desire.

The economic value:

- Parks improve the local tax base and increase property values. Property values increase the value of privately owned land the closer such land is to parks. This increase in property values due to the proximity to parks increases property tax revenues and improves local economies.
- People are willing to pay a larger amount for property located close to parks and open space areas than for areas that do not offer this amenity.
- Quality parks and recreation are cited as one of the top three reasons that businesses locate in an area.
- Parks and recreation programs produce a significant portion of operating costs from revenue generated from fees and charges.
- Parks and recreation programs provide significant indirect revenues to local and regional economies from sports tournaments and special events.

The health and environmental benefits:

- Parks are places people go to get healthy and stay fit.
- Parks and recreation programs and services contribute to the health of children, youth, adults and seniors.

- According to studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, creating, improving and promoting places to be physically active can improve individual and community health and result in a 25 percent increase of residents who exercise at least three times per week.
- Parks and open space lands are proven to improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, produce habitat for wildlife, and provide a place for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together.

The social importance:

- Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in a community. Parks and recreation services are often cited as one of the most important factors in surveys of how livable communities are.
- Parks provide gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages and economic status, regardless of their ability to pay for access.
- A majority of the public view parks as an essential priority for government spending.
- Parks and recreation programs provide places for health and well-being that are accessible by people of all ages and abilities, especially to those with disabilities.
- Studies indicate that community involvement in neighborhood parks is associated with lower levels of crime and vandalism.
- Access to parks and recreation opportunities has been strongly linked to reductions in crime and to reduced juvenile delinquency.
- Parks have a value to communities that transcend the amount of dollars invested or the revenues gained from fees. Parks provide a sense of public pride and cohesion to every community.

Based upon the values that make park and recreation essential services to a community, the following goals and objectives were established utilizing a collaborative effort of the City of Copperas Cove, Copperas Cove Quality of Life Committee, and citizens input.

Goal 1: Maintain all of the Copperas Cove parks and recreational facilities in superior condition.

Objectives:

- Provide City parks staff with the manpower and funding resources to maintain all parklands and facilities in a superior manner.
- Provide additional operations and maintenance resources as new recreational facilities are developed and added to the Copperas Cove parks system.
- Implement renovation/improvement master plans for each park as they

age over time and identify a tentative schedule for phasing in improvements.

- Discuss the inclusion of Parks during the planning and development review process, ensuring that all people have access to the benefits of local parks and recreation.
- Promote the use of native plant materials and xeriscape to reduce maintenance and irrigation costs in parks and on City properties.
- Explore and implement innovative techniques to partner with other governmental, non-profit or private organizations to reduce the City's park maintenance burden.
- Use low-maintenance design techniques for future park properties.

Goal 2: To promote respect, conservation, and enhancement of important natural features and resources within the community.

Objectives:

- Develop and implement guidelines to identify and preserve important natural features.
- Preserve major tree lines and stands of trees.
- Develop standards for the preservation, and where appropriate, dedication of floodplain and other flood hazard areas in their natural states in order to ensure that the City's natural drainage systems are not compromised.
- Support acquisition of open space for the purpose of future expansion of the park system.

Goal 3: Create a park system that will improve the physical form and appearance of Copperas Cove.

Objectives:

- Acquire park and open space sites that are prominent and highly visible in the neighborhoods that surround them.
- Provide adequate landscaping and aesthetic elements in new parks as they are built, such as stone walls and pavement accents, large caliper trees, attractive pavilions and other elements.
- Construct trail and pedestrian corridors, along with landscaping, trees, attractive lighting and streetscape furniture so as to promote visual quality along major roads.
- Utilize landscape at key City portals and along selected streets to create a positive and attractive image of the City.
- Develop high quality signage for all parks and major municipal facilities.

Goal 4: Create mechanisms to work with public and private entities to provide resources to acquire, develop and maintain parks, recreation facilities, services and open space.

Objectives:

- Encourage private cooperation through donations of park-land, labor and financial contributions.

- Establish a program where community and business groups and neighborhood associations can help improve and maintain parks and open space areas.
- Consider establishing a general park fund where donations for park improvements may be provided by organizations and the private sector.
- Foster a close working relationship between the City of Copperas Cove and the Copperas Cove Independent School District.

Goal 5: Include a citizen participation process in all ongoing park planning and design, as well as updating of the Parks Master Plan.

Objectives:

- Periodically update the long-range plan and standards to reflect changing conditions in the City and to provide a forum for citizen input.
- Encourage and provide multiple opportunities for citizens to provide input in development, maintenance, and operation of the City's parks and open space system. Utilize public meetings, workshops, regular meetings of the Parks Committee, citizen surveys, and regular meetings with key user groups.

Goal 6: Ensure that adequate parks and recreation facilities are distributed equitably throughout the City to meet the needs of each and every citizen.

Objectives:

- Establish a hierarchy of park classifications that will provide for the adequate and equitable distribution of park facilities throughout the community.
- Establish guidelines that create standard specifications for each park classification.
- Develop standards for the preservation and/or dedication of land for park facilities to ensure that adequate park amenities will be provided through the planning process.
- Provide for an integrated system of parks, which are connected in a linear fashion throughout the community. Said linear connections may be achieved by utilizing the alternative transportation systems, major easements, and preserved floodplains/open spaces.
- Utilize existing utility easements and rights-of-way to provide connectivity for the linear park system.

SECTION 3: PLAN DEVELOPMENT / PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The City of Copperas Cove employed a private consulting firm, MRB Group, to prepare the Parks Master Plan. The consultant worked with the City of Copperas staff, Quality of Life Committee, and citizens to develop the Parks Master Plan. Meetings were conducted to gather information from various sources. From these meetings, needs, findings, and preliminary recommendations were obtained. To obtain a comprehensive and complete analysis of the City's park and recreation needs and park system, a two-phase process was used for this evaluation.

- Phase 1 involved base map preparation, inventory/supply analysis, population analysis, standards analysis, and community input process.
- Phase 2 involved the prioritization of needs/recommendations, expenditure analysis, action plan and final report.

The Master Planning Process

Phase 1

Step 1 – Base Map Preparation

A computer generated base map from digital data was prepared by the consultant. The base map illustrates information such as streets, drainage corridors, vegetation, park sites, school sites, municipal facilities, city limits, etc.

Step 2 – Inventory/Supply Analysis

An inventory of all parks and facilities owned by the City in Copperas Cove was performed.

Step 3 - Population Analysis

Demographic and population characteristics of the community were analyzed. This included evaluating factors of age, income, gender, education, ethnicity, median income and projection of population changes.

Step 4 – Standards Analysis

Park classifications and acreage guidelines were developed which apply to the City of Copperas Cove. Existing facilities were compared against standards to determine acreage and facilities required to meet present and future needs of the community.

Step 5 – Community Input Process

A series of steps were utilized to determine the park and recreation needs of the community. This included public meetings and a survey that was provided to citizens in either hard copy form or by using Survey Monkey. (See attachments) From the feedback it was possible to quantify the specific needs of the community.

Step 6 – Review of Previously Completed Parks Needs Assessment

The City had a Parks Needs Assessment on parks performed in 2011. The document includes components that address parks and recreation. This information was referred to during the development of this Parks Master Plan.

SECTION 4: AREA FACILITY / CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS

Copperas Cove has a network of eight parks and a municipal golf course distributed throughout the City. While the parks have great potential, many lack the level of amenities such as internal walking trails and lighting. This section identifies where park service is deficient and discusses park standards and the general condition of Copperas Cove's parks.



In order to provide the parks, recreational, and open space facilities needed by Copperas Cove's residents, a set of standards and design criteria should be followed. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed such standards for parks, recreation, and open space development, which are intended to guide communities in establishing a hierarchy of the park areas. The general standard established by the 2019 NRPA for park acreage for cities the size of Copperas Cove is 10.1 acres per 1,000 people and one (1) park for 2,181 residents. Copperas Cove currently has 471 acres of developed public parkland.

The following analysis identifies the NRPA classification of parks, their description, location criteria within the community, and criteria for size. Each park type is discussed in order to:

1. Identify the function of each park type
2. Identify the recreational activities generally associated with each park type
3. Define the general service area and the physical relationship of each type of park to the population residing within its service area

These various park types will be considered within the Parks Master Plan as possible components of Copperas Cove's park system.

Mini Park

The mini park is the smallest classification. This type of park provides open space in densely populated urban neighborhoods. It is used to address limited and/or isolated recreational needs.

Specific attributes of a Mini Park:

- Size: Less than one (1) acre
- Service area radius: ¼ mile
- Location and access: Mini parks are centrally located within a neighborhood; frontage on two (local or collector) streets; easily accessible by residents; all parts of the park are visible from the street.
- User groups: Generally for families with children from toddlers through 12 to 13 years of age.

Neighborhood Park

The neighborhood park, sometimes referred to as a playground, is considered to be the most important feature of a park system and is one of the major cohesive elements in neighborhood design. Its primary function is the provision of recreational space for the entire neighborhood which surrounds it. Space in the neighborhood park should be distributed between active and passive uses.

Specific attributes of a Neighborhood Park:

- The neighborhood park should be located near the center of a planned neighborhood and have a park service area of approximately one-half mile to one-quarter mile.
- The size should be related to the service area population and the menu of activities chosen for placement in the park. Five (5) to ten (10) acres is the optimal size for this park. An appropriate standard in relation to size and population for this type of park is 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons.
- Safe and convenient pedestrian access is considered important to a neighborhood park location.
- Generally, the location should not be adjacent to a heavily traveled major or minor thoroughfare.
- When it is possible to combine elementary or middle school with this type of park, the two features further enhance the identity of the neighborhood by providing a central location for recreation and education and a significant open space feature within the neighborhood.
- As a general rule, roughly 50% of the park's acreage should be used for active recreational facilities and 50% for passive activities.
- Facilities normally provided at a neighborhood park consist of:
 1. Playground equipment for small children
 2. Multi-purpose hard surfaced play area(s)
 3. An athletic area (non-lighted) for games such as baseball, football and soccer, and a surfaced area for such sports as volleyball, basketball and similar activities
 4. Pavilions with tables and grills for picnics
 5. Drinking fountains
 6. A passive area with landscaping, trees and natural elements

Community Park

A community park is larger in size than a neighborhood park and provides service to several neighborhoods or specific sections of the community. They allow for group activities and offer other recreational opportunities not feasible, nor perhaps desirable, at the neighborhood level. The community park should be conveniently accessible by automobile and should include provisions for off-street parking.

Specific attributes of a Community Park:

- Should serve two or more neighborhoods.
- Site should be serviced by arterial and collector streets
- Optimal size for a community park is between 20 and 50 acres, based upon the land area needed to accommodate desired uses
- Should provide active and passive activities
- Service radius of a community park play field is a minimum of one mile
- Designed to serve a medium to large population
- Appropriate size standard in relation to size and population is 5 acres per 1,000 persons.

Activities provided in these parks include:

1. Game and practice fields for baseball, football, soccer and softball
2. Walking or biking trails
3. A community building / recreation center
4. Tennis courts
5. A surfaced multiple-purpose play area
6. Playground structures
7. A passive area for picnicking

Sports Complex

The sports complex classification consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities at larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community. This allows for:

- Economies of scale and higher quality facilities
- Improved management/scheduling
- Improved control of facility use
- Greater control of negative impacts to neighborhood and community parks, such as overuse, noise, traffic congestion, parking, and domination of facilities by those outside the neighborhood.

Specific attributes of a Sports Complex:

- Developed to accommodate the specific needs of user groups and athletic associations based on demands and program offerings
- Should be located within reasonable and equal driving distance from

- populations served
- Located adjacent to non-residential land uses is preferred
- Buffering (topographic breaks, vegetation, etc.) is used where facilities are located adjacent to residential areas
- Accessible from major thoroughfares
- Accessible by way of interconnecting trails
- Site size should be a minimum of 40 acres, with 80 to 150 acres being optimal.
- Parking lots to accommodate participants and spectators
- Lighting facilities for security and safety
- Field lighting

Activities and Amenities provided in these parks:

1. Programmed athletic use such as organized baseball, softball, etc. and tournaments.
2. Play structures
3. Hardcourt and volleyball courts
4. Internal trails
5. Group picnic areas and shelters
6. Multi-purpose buildings, restrooms, and common space

Special Use Parks

These parks or recreational spaces are identified by a single use and fall into three categories:

1. Historical / Cultural / Social Sites - which offer recreational opportunities because of their unique characteristics;
2. Recreational Facilities - single purpose facilities such as a senior center, community center or golf course;
3. Outdoor Recreational Facilities - uses such as tennis center, stadium, or possibly a special type of sports complex designed specifically for a single sport.

Specific attributes of Special Use Parks:

- Location is influenced by recreation need, community interests, type of facility, and land availability
- Should be viewed as strategically located community-wide facilities rather than as serving well-defined neighborhoods or areas
- The facility space requirements are the primary determinants of size
- Geographically central site is optimal

Private Park / Recreation Facility

Private park/recreation facilities are often created as part of a subdivision development in response to market desires for park facilities and competition of builders to meet the housing needs of buyers. Also, this encourages cooperation between the private and public sectors toward meeting a growing park and recreation demand.

Specific attributes of a Private Park / Recreation facility:

- Private parks are generally within a residential area developed for the exclusive use of residents
- Maintained through a neighborhood association
- Can fill voids which the public sector cannot
- Frees up limited public funds to meet high priority needs for land and facilities
- Location often negotiated between developer and city
- Size is dependent upon its intended use
- Development of private park/recreation facility should be determined by other park classifications

Activities provided in these parks:

1. Private Parks - swimming pools, tennis courts, and party houses
2. Private Recreation Facilities - For-profit enterprises, such as health and fitness clubs, golf courses, water parks, amusement parks, and sports facilities

Open Space/Conservation Areas

In this classification are lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics. These spaces are generally natural corridors along creeks/flood prone areas unsuitable for development or along easements containing a man-made feature.

Examples of this classification include parcels with steep slopes and natural vegetation, drainageways and ravines, surface water management areas (man-made ponding areas), and utility easements. Also included are protected lands, such as wetlands/lowlands along waterways, lakes and ponds.

The objective of dedicating areas as open space/conservation areas is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible. To accomplish this, a city may:

- Designate specific conservation and open space areas for preservation purposes.
- Regulate development to preserve conservation areas and open space.
- Work with conservation agencies i. e. Corps of Engineers. Watershed districts, floodplain and wetland districts, etc. to protect the conservation areas and

ecosystems.

Greenbelt Areas

Attributes of greenbelt areas:

- Tie park components together to form a cohesive park, recreation, and open space system.
- Provide uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community.
- Provide users with a resource based outdoor recreational opportunity and experience.
- Can enhance property values.
- Preserves natural resources, mediating between larger habitat areas, open space, and corridors for wildlife.
- Natural greenbelts generally follow suitable conservation areas.
- Man-made corridors built as part of development projects or renovation of old development areas (i.e. abandoned railroad beds, revitalized river/creek fronts, old industrial sites, safe powerline rights-of-way, pipeline easements, etc.).
- Minimum greenbelt width is 50 feet with widths of 200 feet being considered optimal.
- Utilized for different modes of recreational travel.
 - Hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling
 - Horseback riding
 - Canoeing where there are navigable creeks or streams
 - Automobiles in boulevard or parkway setting

Park Trails

Park trails are multi-purpose trails located within parks, conservation areas and greenbelts.

Attributes of park trails:

- Provide harmony with the natural environment.
- Allow for relatively uninterrupted pedestrian movement to and through the city's park system and development areas.
- Tie the various parks and recreation areas together to form a comprehensive park and trail system.
- Provide connectivity of urban development and associated transportation network.
- Provide accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Trail Types:

- Type I - used in situations where recreational activities dictate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Type II - suited to lighter use patterns, such as from a housing subdivision to a conservation area.
- Type III - suited for areas requiring minimum impact, such as nature preserves.

Connector Trails

The connector trails emphasize safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclists to and from parks and around the community. They are generally located within existing road rights-of-way and utility easements or along artificial drainageways. They accommodate walkers, bicyclists, and horseback riders.

Trail Types:

- Type I - used in situations where patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Type II - suited to lighter use patterns, such as a link between a parkway or thoroughfare and a nearby housing development.

Bikeways

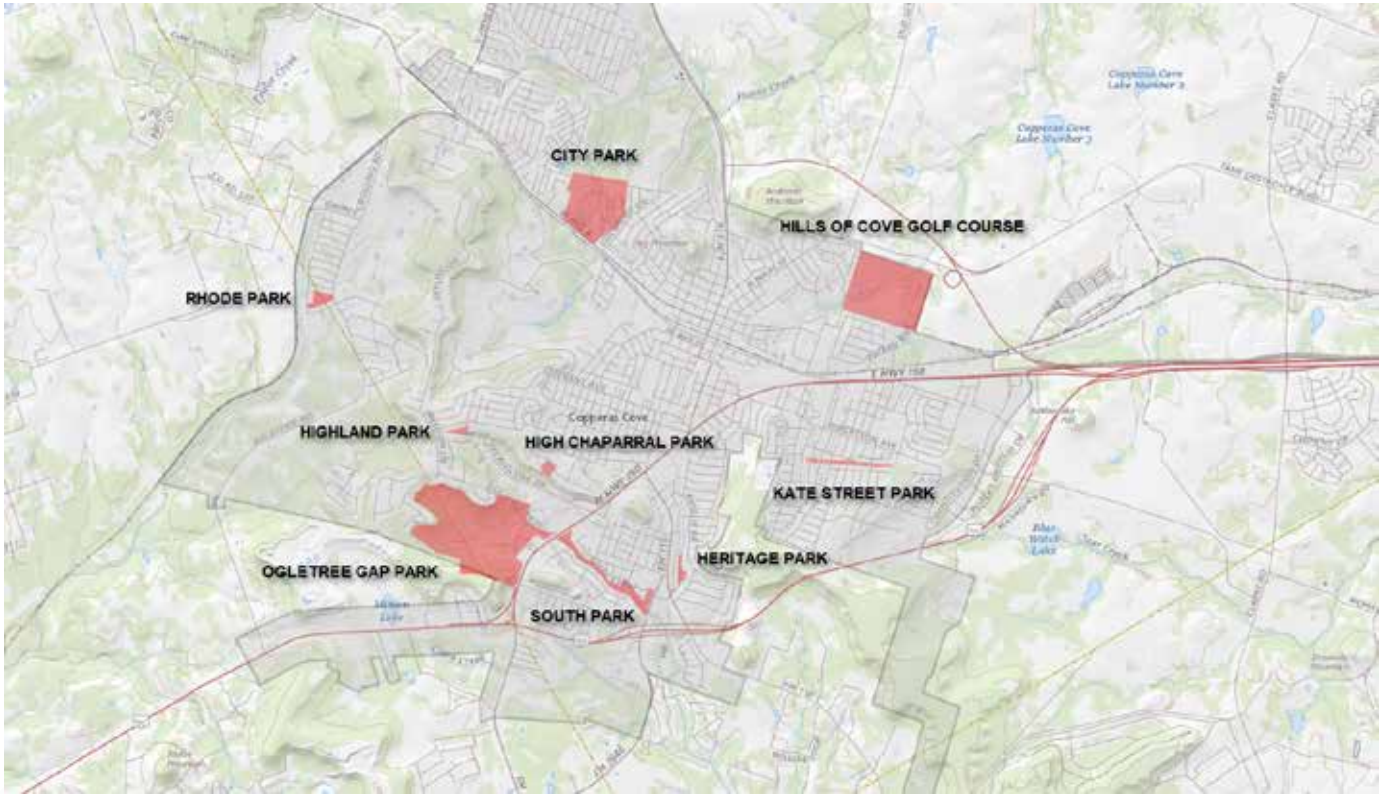
Bikeways are paved segments of roadways that serve to safely separate bicyclists from traffic.

Bike lanes are designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. They should be used in situations where traffic volumes are heavy enough to warrant clear separation between bicycles and vehicles.

Bike routes are essentially paved segments of roadway that serve to increase the level of safety and security by separating bicyclists from vehicular traffic.

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE AREAS FACILITIES

The City of Copperas Cove has eight parks and a public golf course. The park locations are shown in the exhibit below.



1. City Park

Size: 88 acres
Location: 1206 W Avenue B

Park Classification: Community Park

Recreation Amenities: 1 adult baseball field, 3 youth baseball fields, 2 outdoor basketball courts, 9 covered picnic areas, 3 playground areas, 4 public restrooms, 4 soccer fields, 2 softball fields, 1 outdoor swimming pool





01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



09



10



11



12

2. Heritage Park

Size: 7 acres
 Location: 1929 Pleasant Lane
 Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Recreation Amenities: 2 uncovered picnic areas, 1 playground area





01



02



03



04



05



06

3. High Chaparral Park

Size: 5 acres
 Location: 1310 High Chaparral
 Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Recreation Amenities: 1 covered picnic area, 1 playground area, 1 youth baseball practice field





01



02



03



04

4. Highland Park

Size: 4 acres
 Location: 1203 Craig Street
 Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Recreation Amenities: 1 uncovered picnic area, 1 playground area





01



02



03



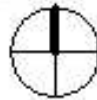
04



05

5. Kate Street Park

Size: 23 acres
 Location: 603 Kate Street
 Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Recreation Amenities: 2 uncovered picnic areas, 1 playground area





01



02



03



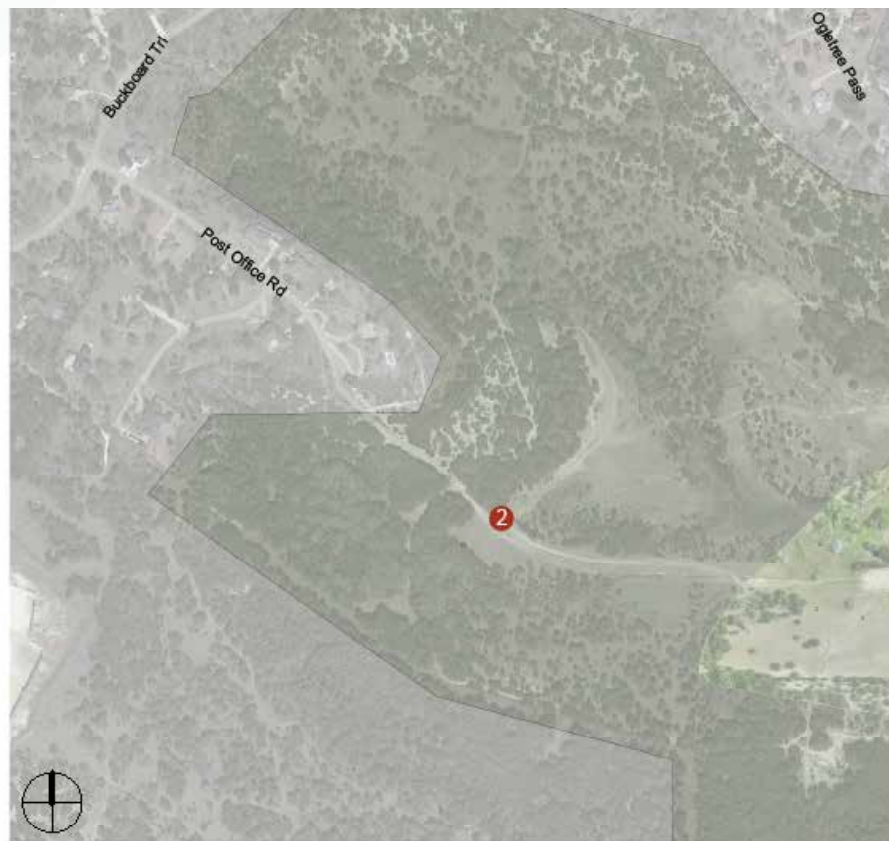
04



05

6. Ogletree Gap Park

Size: 218 acres
 Location: 1878 Post Office Road
 Park Classification: Park Preserve / Passive
 Recreation Amenities: 1 large event pavilion, 1 public restroom, 1 trail (bike/walk/run)





01



02



03

SECTION 5

7. Rhode Park

Size: 4 acres
 Location: 3514 Rhode Way
 Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Recreation Amenities: 1 multi-use sports field



01

8. South Park

Size: 22 acres
 Location: 2602 Dennis Street
 Park Classification: Community Park
 Recreation Amenities: 1 covered picnic area, 1 playground area, 1 public restroom, 2 soccer fields, 1 trail (bike/walk/run), 1 outdoor swimming pool, 1 splash pad

SECTION 5





01



02



03



04

9. Golf Course

Size: 100 acres
 Location: 1408 Golf Course Road
 Park Classification: Golf Course
 Recreation Amenities: 18-hole golf course, golf range, tennis courts





01



02



03



04



05



06

SECTION 6: NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

Development of a Parks Master Plan must be reflective of community values and the public's vision of what is needed to provide park and recreation amenities. The City of Copperas Cove was very committed to having an open public dialogue in the development of the plan. In order to accomplish this objective, the City organized public outreach to receive input from the public on what they wanted to have in terms of facilities. Quarterly Town Hall meetings were conducted to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the parks and to gather input to determine community needs.

Surveys distributed through Survey Monkey were conducted and made available for a period of 60 days. (A sample of this survey is included in the attachments.)

Various types of analysis may be used to determine the types of facilities a community wishes to include within its jurisdiction. Those types of analysis are:

Demand-Based Analysis

The Demand-Based approach relies on information gathered from participation rates, surveys, and other information that indicates how much of the population wants certain types of facilities.

Standard-Based Analysis

This approach is used to assist in assessing the future recreational needs, and follows established and recognized standards for assessing the quantity of parkland and the number of facilities that are required to meet the needs of a given population.

Facility-Recreation Standard

One source is the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA has functioned as a source of guidance for park standards and development for a number of years. The NRPA's standards are suggested to be a guide for determining park and open space needs. From community to community, differences will be found in the socio-economic and cultural characteristics, and in climatic conditions. Therefore, the range of demands and preferences for recreational activities will vary with these differences. Obviously, these variances will directly influence a uniform standard for all locations. NRPA is very specific to point out that their data is to be used only as a guide to the development of local standards. Therefore, the NRPA provides input to the formation of local needs. NRPA provides recommendations on activity/facility standards for municipalities to utilize in developing what the amenities their parks may include based on population. Below is an exhibit which illustrates those standards.

2019 NRPA PARK FACILITY STANDARDS

ACTIVITY / FACILITY	NRPA RECOMMENDED STANDARD	EXISTING CITY OWNED FACILITIES IN COPPERAS COVE
Amphitheater	1 per 32,000	0
Baseball Fields (adult)	1 per 21,000	1
Baseball Fields (youth)	1 per 5,000	3
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	1 per 7,000	2
Community Centers	1 per 27,000	1
Community Gardens	1 per 25,000	0
Dog Park	1 per 28,000	0
Football Fields	1 per 18,000	0
Disc Golf	1	0
Swimming Pool (outdoor)	1 per 26,000	2
Swimming Pool (indoor)	1 per 50,000	0
Large Event Pavilion (200 person or larger)	1 per 20,000	1
Multi-Use Courts (basketball, volleyball)	1 per 14,000	1
Pavilions/Covered and Un-covered Picnic Areas	1 per 4,000	11
Playgournd Areas	1 per 3,000	6
Recreation Centers	1 per 28,000	0
Skate Park	1 per 28,000	0
Soccer Fields (youth)	1 per 5,000	6
Soccer Fields (adult)	1 per 10,000	0
Softball Fields (youth)	1 per 8,000	0
Softball Fields (adult)	1 per 11,000	2
Splash Pad	1	1
Tennis Courts	1 per 4,000	2
Tot Lots	1 per 11,000	0
Trails (bike/walk/run)	1 system	2

NRPA also provides guidance on the size and requirements for different types of parks located within a municipality. Below is a recap of those.

NRPA PARK ACREAGE GUIDELINES

TYPE	SIZE/ACRES	SERVICE AREA	Acres per 1,000 Population
Mini-Park	2,500 sf-1 Acre	Less than 1/4 mile distance in residential setting	Variable
Neighborhood Park	1 - 15 Acres	One neighborhood 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius	1.0 - 2.0 Acres
Community Park	16 - 99 Acres	Several neighborhoods 2-mile radius	5.0 - 8.0 Acres
Regional Park	100 - 499 Acres	Several communities under 1-hour drive	5.0 - 10.0 Acres
Special Use Areas	Varies	No applicable standard	Variable
Greenways / Linear Park	Sufficient width to protect the natural resource and provide maximum use	No applicable standard	Variable
Natural Resource Areas	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable	Variable

Based upon the NRPA's suggested number of acres, Copperas Cove offers for its citizens a sufficient number of neighborhood parks. However, the city is lacking in community park based upon NRPA standards and the current population of Copperas Cove.

Responses and comments received identified recreational facilities desired by the community.

SECTION 7: IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS

The identification of needs in this section are a result of incorporating the inventory, demographics analysis, standards analysis, and needs assessment into an action plan to direct the growth, development, and maintenance of the parks system over the next five to ten years.

Recommended Improvements

City Park

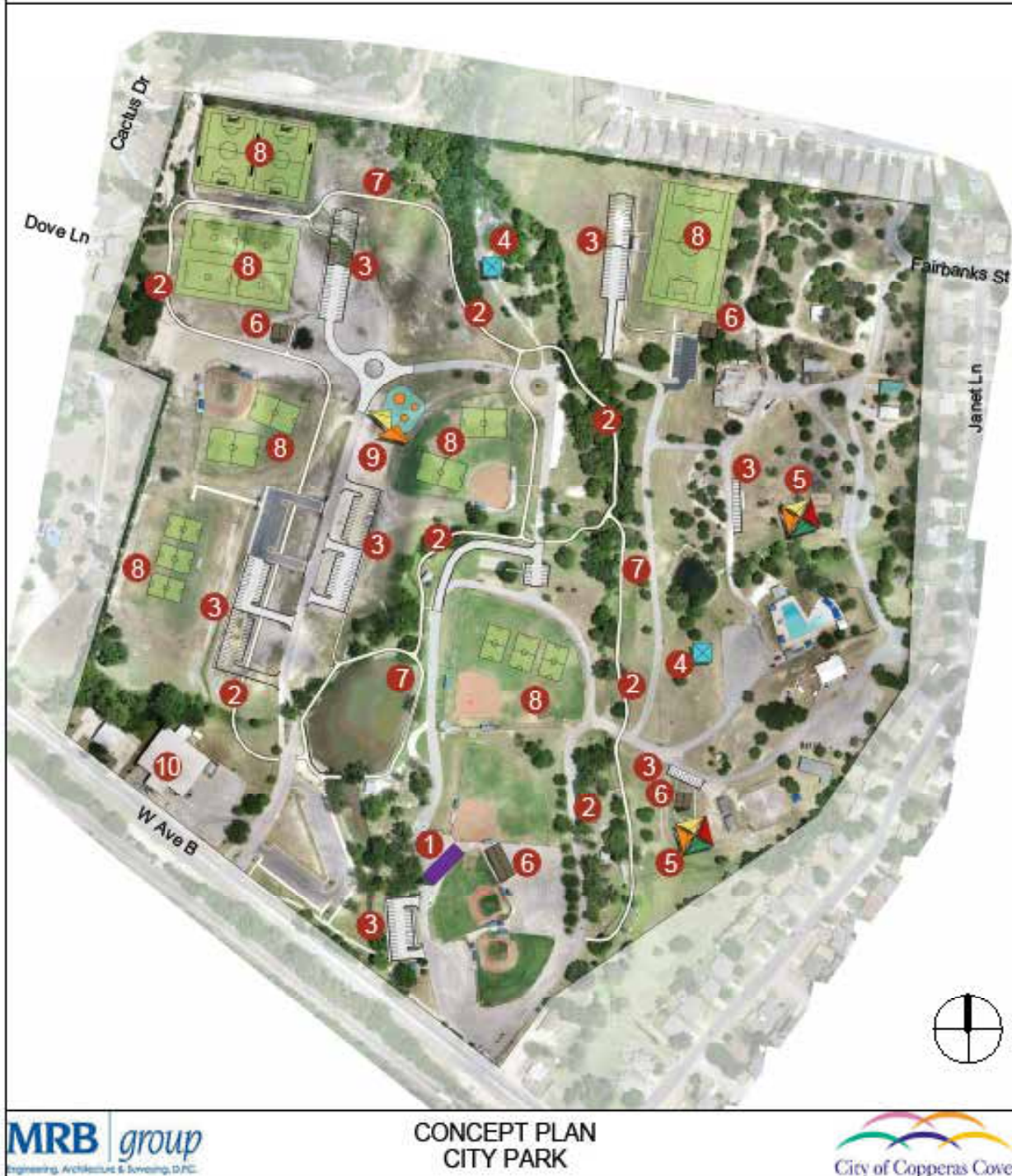
City Park Proposed Park Amenities	Estimated Cost
• Walking Trail	\$30 - \$110 per foot *
• Multi-Use Sports Field	\$ 245,000
• Splash Pad with Shade Structure	\$ 300,000
• Playscape with Shade Structure	\$ 155,000
• Batting Cages	\$ 78,000
• Fitness Stations	\$ 1,500 EA.
• Pavilion (25 People)	\$ 165,000
• Restroom/Storage/Concession	\$ 380,000
• Security Lighting	\$ 135,000
• Renovation of Civic Center into	\$ 1M-8M **
• Recreation Center	
• Additional Parking	\$ 750,000

* Dependent upon trail construction

** Dependent upon amenities included in renovation

LEGEND:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. BATTING CAGES | 4. PAVILION WITH BBQ GRILL | 7. WALKING TRAIL |
| 2. FITNESS STATIONS | 5. PLAYScape SHADE STRUCTURE | 8. MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD |
| 3. PARKING AREA WITH FUTURE EXPANSION | 6. RESTROOM / STORAGE / CONCESSION | 9. SPLASH PAD W/ SHADE STRUCTURE |
| | | 10. RECREATION CENTER |



Heritage Park

Proposed Park Amenities	Estimated Cost
• Walking Trail • Benches • Playscape with Shade Structure • Pavilion (10 People) • Covered Picnic Areas (4-8 People) • Barbeque Grills • Pedestrian Bridge (50’ Span) • Security Lighting • Landscaping	\$30 - \$110 per foot * \$ 750 / each \$ 155,000 \$ 115,000 \$ 95,000 \$ 700 / each \$ 230,000 \$ 45,000 \$ 28,000
* Dependent upon trail construction	

LEGEND:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. BENCH | 4. PICNIC SHELTER W/ BBQ GRILL | 7. WALKING TRAIL |
| 2. LANDSCAPING | 5. PLAYScape WITH SHADE STRUCTURE | 8. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE |
| 3. PAVILION WITH BBQ GRILL | 6. SECURITY LIGHTING | |



High Chaparral Park

Proposed Park Amenities

- Walking Trail
- Shade Structure over Existing Playscape
- Pavilion (10 People)
- Barbeque Grills
- Multi-Use Sports Field
- Security Lighting
- Landscaping

* Dependent upon trail construction

Estimated Cost

\$30 - \$110 per foot *
 \$ 45,000
 \$ 115,000
 \$ 700 / each
 \$ 245,000
 \$ 45,000
 \$ 15,000

LEGEND:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. LANDSCAPING | 3. SHADE STRUCTURE OVER
EXISTING PLAYScape | 4. WALKING TRAIL |
| 2. PAVILION WITH BBQ GRILL | | 5. SECURITY LIGHTING |
| | | 6. MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD |



Highland Park

Proposed Park Amenities	Estimated Cost
• Benches • Walking Trail • Playscape with Shade Structure • Covered Picnic Areas (4-8 People) • Barbeque Grills • Security Lighting • Landscaping	\$ 750 / each \$30 - \$110 per foot * \$ 155,000 \$ 95,000 \$ 700 / each \$ 45,000 \$ 35,000
* Dependent upon trail construction	

LEGEND:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. BENCH | 4. PLAYScape WITH
SHADE STRUCTURE | 6. WALKING TRAIL |
| 2. LANDSCAPING | 5. SECURITY LIGHTING | |
| 3. PICNIC SHELTER W/ BBQ GRILL | | |



Kate Street Park

Proposed Park Amenities	Estimated Cost
- Walking Trail - Covered Picnic Areas (4-8 People) - Barbeque Grills - Playscape with Shade Structure - Benches - Security Lighting	\$30 - \$110 per foot * \$ 95,000 \$ 700 / each \$ 155,000 \$ 750 / each \$ 45,000
* Dependent upon trail construction	

LEGEND:

- 1. BENCH
- 2. PICNIC TABLE WITH BBQ GRILL

- 3. SHADE STRUCTURE OVER EXISTING PLAYScape
- 4. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT UPDATE

- 5. SECURITY LIGHTING
- 6. WALKING TRAIL



Ogletree Gap Park

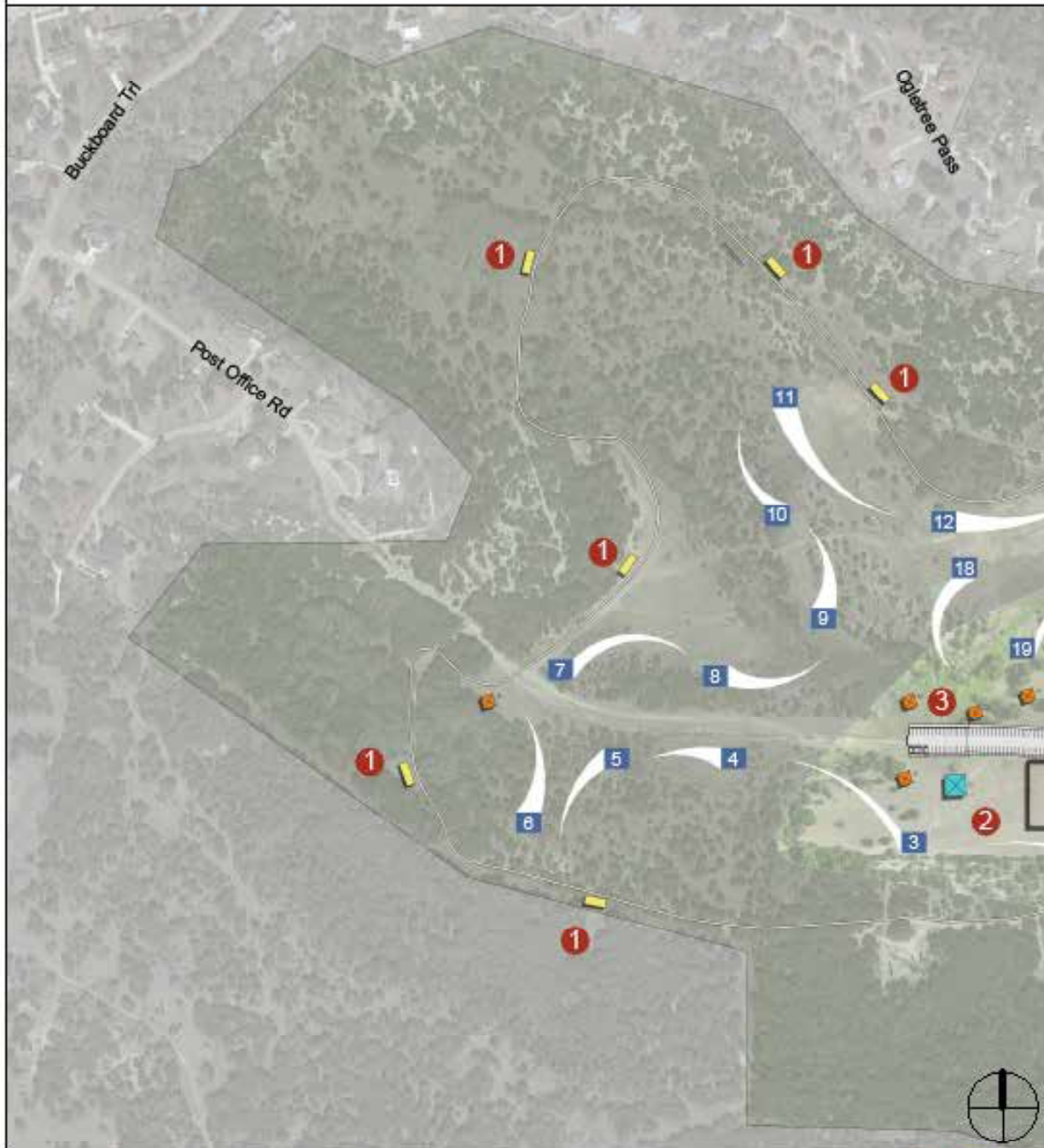
Proposed Park Amenities

Estimated Cost

• Nature Hike/Bike Trail	\$ 45.00 per foot (Granite 12' wide)
• Disc Golf (21 holes)	\$ 800.00 per hole
• Sand Volleyball Court	\$ 27,000
• Covered Picnic Areas (4-8 People)	\$ 95,000
• Barbeque Grills	\$ 700 / each
• Benches	\$ 750 / each
• Obstacle Course Trail	\$ 30-\$55 per foot* \$4500 per Obstacle
• Outdoor Auditorium	\$ 178,000
• Dog Park	\$ 7,500
• Multi-Use Sports Fields	\$ 245,000
• Ornamental Fencing Surrounding Old Post Office	\$ 85.00 per foot

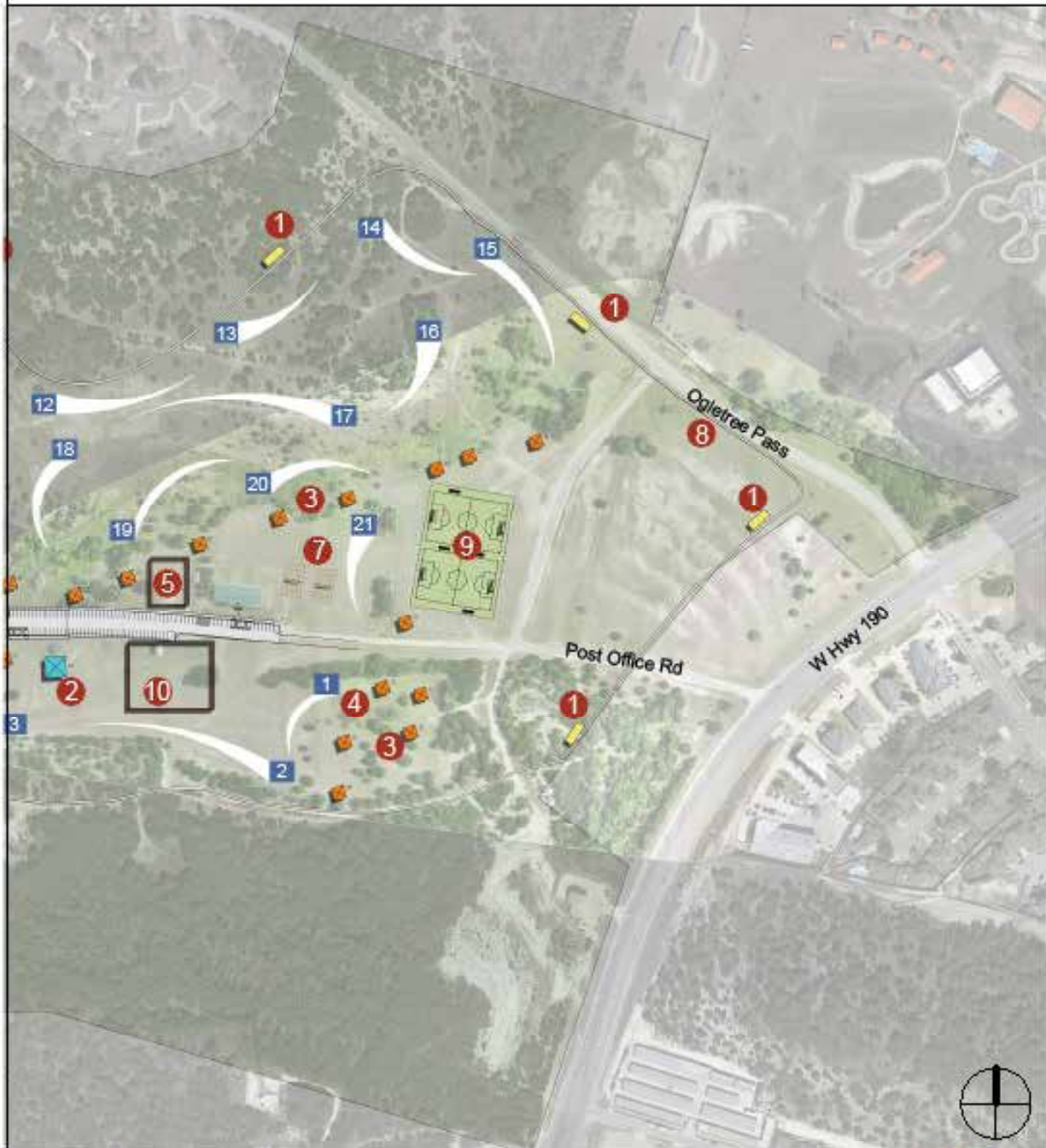
LEGEND:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. BENCH | 6. OBSTACLE TRAIL | 10. ORNAMENTAL FENCE SURROUNDING OLD POST OFFICE |
| 2. PAVILION WITH BBQ GRILL | 7. SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT | 11. OUTDOOR AUDITORIUM |
| 3. PICNIC SHELTER W/ BBQ GRILL | 8. NATURE HIKE/BIKE TRAIL | |
| 4. DISC GOLF, 21-HOLE COURSE | 9. MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD | |
| 5. DOG PARK | | |



LEGEND:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. BENCH | 6. OBSTACLE TRAIL | 10. ORNAMENTAL FENCE SURROUNDING OLD POST OFFICE |
| 2. PAVILION WITH BBQ GRILL | 7. SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT | 11. OUTDOOR AUDITORIUM |
| 3. PICNIC SHELTER W/ BBQ GRILL | 8. NATURE HIKE/BIKE TRAIL | |
| 4. DISC GOLF, 21-HOLE COURSE | 9. MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD | |
| 5. DOG PARK | | |



Rhode Park

Proposed Park Amenities	Estimated Cost
• Walking Trail • Adaptive Use Playscape with Shade Structure • Covered Picnic Areas (4-8 People) • Pavilion (10 People) • Restroom • Adaptive Use Sports Field • Barbeque Grills • Benches • Landscaping	\$30 - \$110 per foot * \$ 155,000 \$ 95,000 \$ 115,000 \$ 120,000 \$ 245,000 \$ 700 / each \$ 750 / each \$ 29,000
* Dependent upon trail construction	

LEGEND:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. BENCH | 4. PICNIC SHELTER W/ BBQ GRILL | 6. RESTROOM |
| 2. LANDSCAPING | 5. ADAPTIVE USE PLAYScape WITH SHADE STRUCTURE | 7. WALKING TRAIL |
| 3. PAVILION WITH BBQ GRILL | | 8. ADAPTIVE USE SPORTS FIELDS |



South Park

Proposed Park Amenities

Estimated Cost

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Pavilion (10 People) | \$ 115,000 |
| • Multi-Use Sports Fields | \$ 245,000 |
| • Updated Playscape with Shade Structure | \$ 155,000 |
| • Fitness Stations | \$ 1,500 EA. |
| • Benches | \$ 750 / each |
| • Security Lighting | \$ 45,000 |

LEGEND:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. BENCH | 3. UPDATE PLAYScape AND ADD SHADE STRUCTURE | 6. IMPROVED WALKING TRAIL |
| 2. PAVILION WITH BBQ GRILL | 4. FITNESS STATION | 7. MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD |
| | 5. SECURITY LIGHTING | |



LEGEND:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1. BENCH | 3. UPDATE PLAYScape AND
ADD SHADE STRUCTURE | 6. IMPROVED WALKING TRAIL |
| 2. PAVILION WITH BBQ GRILL | 4. FITNESS STATION | 7. MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD |
| | 5. SECURITY LIGHTING | |



Golf Course

The City has previously made improvements to the facility. A multi-phase plan to repair or replace cart paths has been implemented. It is recommended that these improvements continue.

Proposed Amenities	Cost Estimate
• Phase II	\$175,425.00
• Phase III	\$163,439.00

City-wide Trail system

Walking trails were ranked as a top priority by the community. Linkage of parks by a city-wide trail/sidewalk system will provide for active transportation for the community. Trails are an important component of the future park system, as they serve recreational, transportation, and linkage purposes.

Funding Sources

Improvements to the parks is a substantial public investment. The various sources of funds for these improvements are as important as the diversity of those sources. When there are several sources of funds for implementing this Parks Master Plan, then no one source is over-burdened and the Parks Master Plan has a better probability of being successfully implemented. The sources discussed below relate to the development and renovation of parkland and facilities.

GENERAL FUND

This source of funding is supported by ad valorem tax revenues and is generally the primary source of funds for maintenance and operation of the existing park system. The general fund is also the source for projects requiring smaller amounts of capital investment. Although projects funded by this source make a small annual contribution to the expansion of the park system, analysis over a number of years usually reflects a major accomplishment in improvements to the park system. It is important to include funding for on-going maintenance and staff requirements for new developments and improvements.

BONDS

Bonds are generally the most common source used by cities for the purchase of land and for providing development monies. There are two types of bonds which are used for parks, both of which must be approved by referendum.

- General Obligation Bond - The General Obligation Bond is amortized using ad valorem taxes and is used for the funding of capital projects which are not supported by a revenue source. These projects include water service, sanitary sewer service, and park acquisition and development. The availability of bonding for parks is often dependent upon the overall municipal needs financed by this source. Capital items such as purchase of land and physical improvements with a useable life expectancy of 15 to 20 years can be funded with general obligation bonds.

- Revenue Bonds - Revenue bonds finance projects which produce enough revenue to retire their debt, such as golf courses, batting cages, and enterprise-oriented park projects.

Private Donations

This source of financial assistance would usually come from citizens, organizations or businesses which have an interest in assisting with the development of the park system. Land dedication is not an uncommon occurrence with property that is being developed. The location of a neighborhood park within a residential development offers additional value to residential units within that neighborhood, especially if the residential development is occupied by younger families with children. Once property is acquired through this method, the City should be prepared to improve the facility for use within a reasonable length of time.

Private donations may also be received in the form of funds, facilities, recreation equipment, or in-kind services. Donations from local and regional businesses as sponsors for events or facilities should be pursued.

Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) Program

The Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The TPWD program allows a city to request matching funds for both the acquisition and construction of park facilities. Currently funds are available on a fifty percent (50%) cost share basis. The grant is secured through submission of an application which follows a standard format for applicants. All applications received are ranked on a point system which is designed to evaluate the need for the purchase or construction being requested. Funds are distributed among the applicants having the greater number of points until all allocated funds are expended.

Applications to TPWD can be made annually with a six-month waiting period following the submission date before the successful applications are notified. The number of applications a city may submit at any given time is based on past performance on grants and TPWD evaluation criteria. This funding source is used by many communities. The competitiveness of the program generally allows cities having bona fide park needs to prevail in obtaining grant funding for recreation and parks.

GRANT PROGRAM	Eligible Population (2010 Census)	Grant Ceiling
Small Community	< 20,000	\$150,000
Outdoor Recreation	< 500,000	\$750,000
Indoor Recreation	< 500,000	\$1 million
Urban Outdoor Recreation	> 500,000	\$1.5 million
Urban Indoor Recreation	> 500,000	\$1.5 million

The Local Parks Grant Program

The Local Parks Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs. Funding for these programs comes from a portion of the state sales tax on sporting goods through the TRPA, the Texas Large County & Municipality Recreation and Parks Account and from off-shore gas royalties through the federal Land and Water Conservation fund.

The Local Park Grant Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants.

Outdoor Recreation Grant

This grant provides 50% matching grant funds to municipalities, counties, MUDs, and other local units of government with populations less than 500,000 to acquire and develop parkland or to renovate existing public recreation areas. Eligible projects include sports fields, picnic facilities, splash pads, trails, camp sites, community gardens, basketball courts, volleyball courts and other sports courts, small amphitheaters, small bandstands, rodeo arenas, golf courses, landscaping using native plants, etc. Projects must be completed within three years of approval.

The Recreational Trails Grants

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The reimbursable grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of \$400,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants. Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.

SECTION 8: PLAN SUMMARY AND IMPLEMENTATION

PLAN SUMMARY

The Parks Master Plan is a fluid planning tool which will guide the development and acquisition of new parkland and recreational facilities. The Parks Master Plan has identified the need for park improvements, recreational facilities and restoration of existing parks. As with any public or municipal project, the amount of available funding or the potential to retire debt is the controlling factor in deciding which project or projects should be completed first.

As identified, renovation projects for existing parks typically have smaller construction budgets. The renovations specified in this Parks Master Plan outline required new construction overhauls. These types of projects generally receive money from the City's general fund and/or a bond issue which requires voter approval. Projects of this nature and scope would take approximately 6 to 8 months to complete. This includes development of plans and specifications and construction.

The Parks Master Plan should be reviewed annually or after a major project or task has been accomplished.

IMPLEMENTATION

Priorities for improving and developing parks and recreation over the next ten years were determined by public input and throughout the overall master plan process.

POLICIES AND ORDINANCES

The accuracy of these implementation mechanisms is dependent upon the proper coordination of input from contributing bodies including elected and appointed City officials, City staff, sports groups, and most importantly, the citizens of Copperas Cove. All parties must communicate and work collectively toward common goals - only this will ensure the successful development of the park system. An example of this communication would be the incorporation of the Parks Master Plan during review of proposed development plans with various entities involved.

Ordinances provide the legal framework for implementation of this Parks Master Plan, and therefore, aid in park system development and protection.

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding sources for park improvements is discussed above. Utilization of the various funding sources will ensure completion of the desired outcome for providing parks, recreation, and open space amenities.

FUTURE PARKLAND

The City of Copperas Cove wishes to ensure that adequate parks and recreation facilities are being distributed equitably throughout the City to meet the needs of each and every citizen. The City will continually oversee the development of new subdivisions to ensure that park and recreation facilities are included. Provisions for open space and/or greenbelts will also

be monitored to ensure passive recreation opportunities for citizens. It will be important for homeowners' associations within the subdivisions maintain the parks and recreation facilities established.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

Recommended improvements for each park have been outlined in Section 7 above.

City-Wide Trail System

Trail systems was identified as the number one need in parks within the City of Copperas Cove.

• **Purpose of the Trail System Plan**

First and foremost, a city-wide trail system plan will serve as a planning tool for the City of Copperas Cove. It will also serve to create a vision for a city-wide trails and greenway network and assist public and private entities who wish to contribute funds or resources to the development of the system. Another key purpose of the trail plan is to serve as a basis for coordinating with City departments to reduce conflicts with their developmental activities including utility installation, transportation, water quality, storm water runoff, planning services, and other activities.

• **Design Considerations**

The following is a general discussion of the parameters associated with trail design and construction.

Types of Trails

1. Separated Trails – Separate trails and trail systems are provided for each type of trail user, e.g. bicyclist, pedestrian, skaters.
2. Shared Trails – Trails are shared by two or more user groups but design parameters restrict the use of the trail by some groups.
3. Multi-Use Trails – All trail user groups occupy the same trail or trail corridor. The physical design of the trail must be modified accordingly, to accommodate the demands of the expected user groups.

Trail Surfaces

There are several different types of trail surfaces that can be considered. Those types include natural surface, mulch, gravel, asphalt, concrete, and board walks. The type of surface is dependent upon several factors including soil type, slope of ground, sensitive environmental areas, drainage, life expectancy of trail, type of users and cost to name a few.

Trail Widths

Trail width is determined by the common usage. American Disability Act (ADA) guidelines must be adhered to when designing along with American Association of State Highway and Transportation (AASHTO).

Vertical Clearance

Vertical clearance is a minimum 9.5 feet. This may need to be greater to permit passage of maintenance vehicles. Clearance under crossings and tunnels should be ten feet (10') for adequate vertical shy distance.

Longitudinal Slope (Grade)

Grades on off-street paths should be kept to a minimum, especially on long inclines. Grades greater than five (5) percent are undesirable because the ascents are difficult for many bicyclists and the descents cause some bicyclists to exceed the speeds at which they are competent. ADA compliance must be adhered to for longitudinal slope.

Signs

Adequate signs and markings are essential on trails, especially to alert users to potential conflicts and to convey regulatory messages to both users and motorist at street intersections. In addition, guide signs, such as those indicating destination, direction, distance, route numbers and names of cross streets, should be used in the same manner as they are on highways.

Access Points

Although access to the trail will usually be available at every road crossing, the users of the trail should be encouraged to enter the trail at specific access points. By designating specific points of access, there may be an elimination of possible encroachment on private property, as well as, preventing possible congestion at busy road crossings.

Lighting

Lighting should be considered, especially if the off-street routes are intended for transportation purposes, many trail commuters may need to travel during poorly lit morning and evening hours. Fixed source lighting reduces conflicts along paths and at intersections. In addition, lighting allows the trail user to see the path direction, surface conditions and obstacles. Lighting should be considered through underpasses or tunnels and when night time security could be a problem.

Traffic Control Devices

Pedestrian signals designed to accommodate a one meter (3.2 feet) per second walking speed, should be provided at major streets where traffic volume and speed is high. ADA regulations will have to be adhered to when traffic control devices are utilized.

SECTION 9: ATTACHMENTS

Attachments to the Parks Master Plan:

- Ordinance approving, adopting and implementing the Parks Master Plan
- Survey and Results

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-8

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS ADOPTING THE 2020
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE ALONG WITH ITS
SUBORDINATE UNITS; TO BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON
ITS PASSAGE AND APPROVAL.**

- WHEREAS,** Texas Local Government Code Chapter 213 authorizes the City of Copperas Cove to adopt a Comprehensive Plan for the long-range development of the City and implement regulations regarding zoning and land within the city limits of the City of Copperas Cove for the purpose of promoting a safe, orderly, and healthful development of the City of Copperas Cove; and
- WHEREAS,** Tex. Loc. Gov't Code Chapter 213 empowers the City for the purpose of promoting sound development and promoting public health, safety, and welfare; and adopted under Chapter 2-16 Code of Ordinances, City of Copperas Cove; and
- WHEREAS,** the City retained under contract K. Friese & Associates, Inc., a professional planning consultant, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. (LAN), a professional engineering consultant and B.G. Services, a professional administrative consultant to assist in the updating of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan along with its subordinate units; and
- WHEREAS,** the first public meeting and workshop was held at the City of Copperas Cove Police Department Community Room on August 24, 2016 to present the Comprehensive Plan Update by K. Friese and Associates and the Transportation Master Plan by Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc. (LAN) to receive public comments, answer questions and discuss updates to the City's planning efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** a draft of the Comprehensive Plan Update was presented by K. Friese and Associates on April 23, 2018 to the Planning and Zoning Commission and presented to City Council at their Workshop meeting on May 1, 2018. The City Council provided direction that future discussions be presented in smaller portions for each meeting; and
- WHEREAS,** the City Council on July 3, 2018, after a series of discussions and meetings, made the determination to send the entire Comprehensive Plan Update back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for further discussion, input and review before taking any final action; and
- WHEREAS,** the Planning and Zoning Commission held a series of fourteen meetings

in review of the Comprehensive Plan Update along with its subordinate units from July 23, 2018 to August 26, 2019 providing a thorough evaluation, review and analysis of the contents of the plan; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing notice to amend the 2007 Comprehensive Plan by adopting the Comprehensive Plan Update along with its subordinate units was published on August 15, 2019 in the Cove Leader Press; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Copperas Cove held a public hearing on August 26, 2019, and voted unanimously to recommend approval to the City Council on the request by Development Services Department to amend the 2007 Comprehensive Plan by adopting the Comprehensive Plan Update along with its subordinate units; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove held the required public hearing, considered testimony on September 17, 2019 and continued the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Update along with its subordinate units to October 15, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove held the continued public hearing, considered testimony on October 15, 2019, closed the public hearing and voted to continue the Comprehensive Plan Update to a special workshop for November 7, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove held a special workshop on November 7, 2019 to review each element of the plan and providing guidance and comments, and voted to continue the Comprehensive Plan Update to November 22, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove voted on January 21, 2020 to adopt the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update along with its subordinate units; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove hereby finds and determines it to be in the public interest to adopt the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update along with its subordinate units, which in the best judgement promotes the health, safety, morals and general welfare and protects the use for enjoyment of properties throughout the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Copperas Cove, TX.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1.

Ordinance 2020-8
Page 2 of 4

That the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update and its subordinate units consisting of Chapters 1 through 7, Plates 1 & 2, Future Land Use Plan (FLUP) map, Appendix A, 2018 Fort Hood Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), Appendix B, 2020 Transportation Master Plan and Appendix C, 2020 Parks Master Plan (to be adopted at a later date).

SECTION 2.

That this consolidated Plan is intended to constitute the Comprehensive or Master Plan of the City of Copperas Cove, TX, for all matters relating to long-range planning and guidance relative to zoning decisions, land subdivision, transportation construction, and growth management of the City.

SECTION 3.

That the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Update is replaced by the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update along with its subordinate units.

SECTION 4.

That it is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance is passed was properly noticed and open to the public as required by law.

SECTION 5.

Should any section, clause, or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance or any other ordinance of the City as a whole or any part thereof, other ordinance of the City as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

SECTION 6.

This ordinance shall go into effect upon passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 21st day of January, 2020, at a regular meeting held by the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove, Texas, such meeting was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, *Tex. Gov't Code*, §551.001, et. seq. at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

ATTEST:

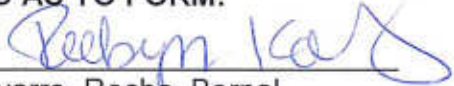
Lisa Wilson, City Secretary



Ordinance 2020-8
Page 3 of 4

Bradi, Diaz, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

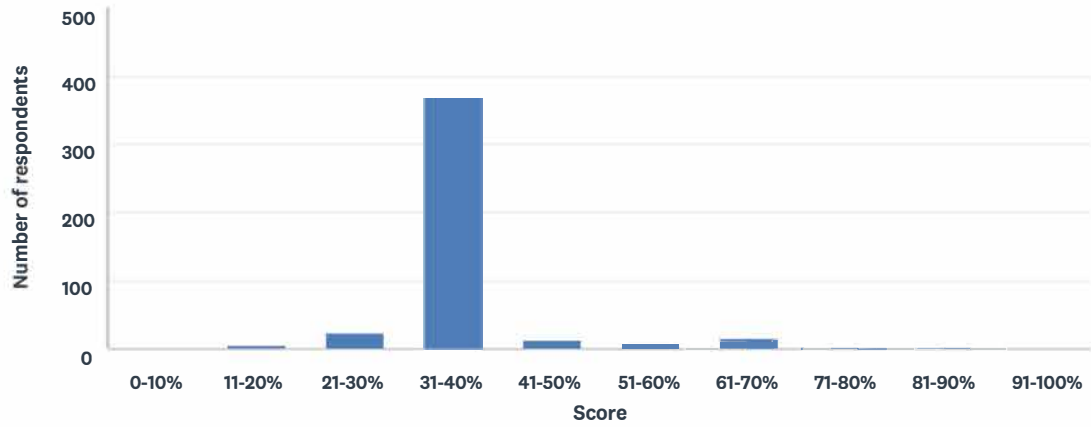


Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal,
& Zech, P.C., City Attorney

Copperas Cove Master Parks Plan

Quiz Summary

AVERAGE SCORE
39% • 5.1/13 PTS



STATISTICS

Lowest Score	Median	Highest Score
8%	38%	85%

Mean: 39%

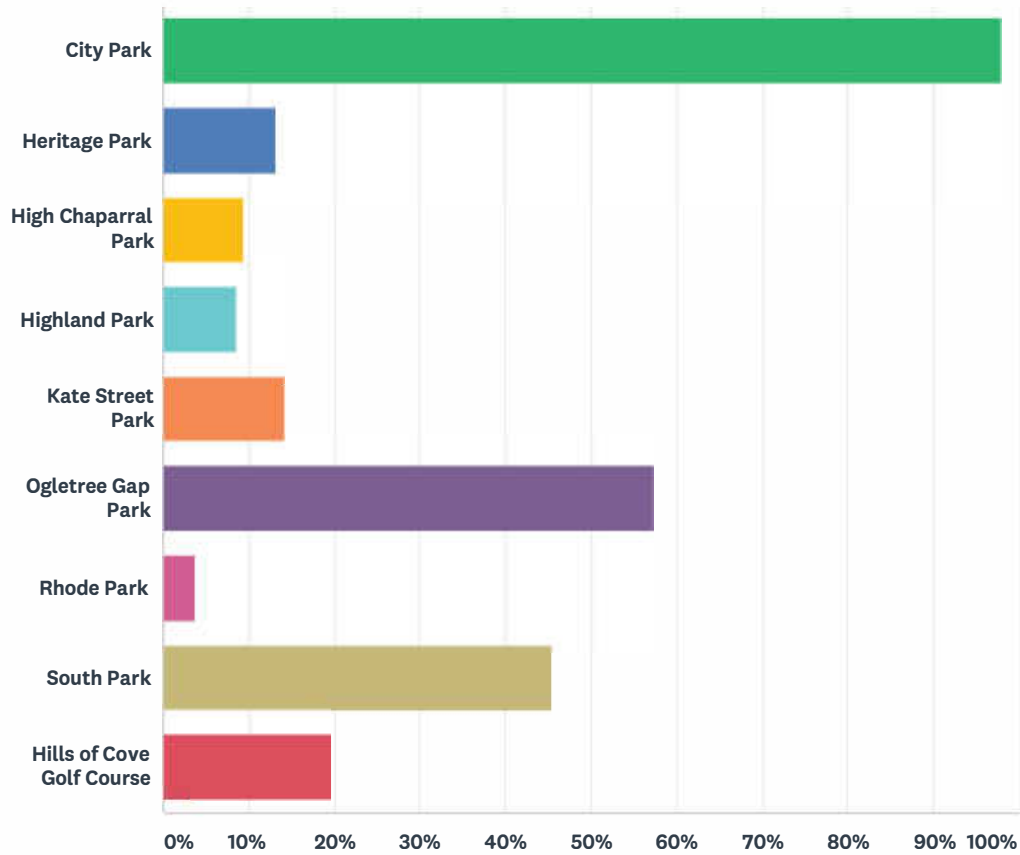
Standard Deviation: 8%

Question Ranking

QUESTIONS (3)	DIFFICULTY	AVERAGE SCORE
Q10 When choosing to participate in a sport, camp, program or class, what THREE criteria would you identify as being most important to your household?	1	35%
Q2 Are you aware that the Parks and Recreation Department is currently navigating a (5) year park improvement program?	2	50%
Q18 Would you support the construction of an additional splash pad in a park that does not currently have one?	2	50%

Q1 From the following list, please check ALL the Copperas Cove Parks that you or any member of your household has used or visited within the past 12 months.

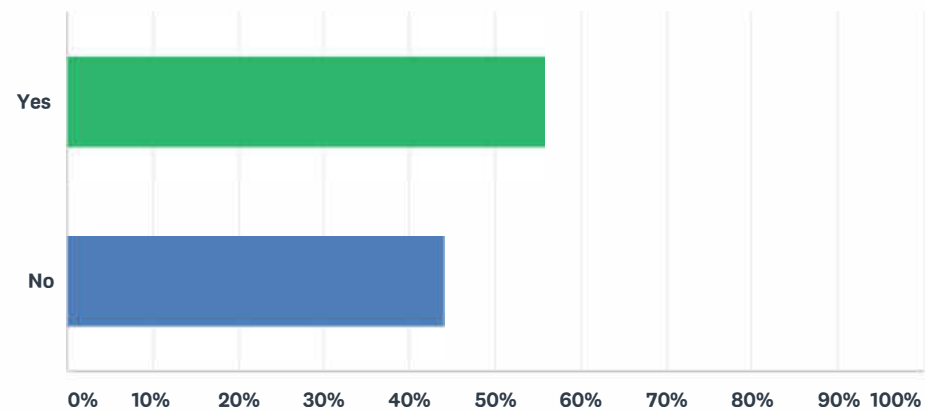
Answered: 434 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City Park	97.93%	425
Heritage Park	13.13%	57
High Chaparral Park	9.45%	41
Highland Park	8.53%	37
Kate Street Park	14.29%	62
Ogletree Gap Park	57.37%	249
Rhode Park	3.69%	16
South Park	45.39%	197
Hills of Cove Golf Course	19.59%	85
Total Respondents: 434		

Q2 Are you aware that the Parks and Recreation Department is currently navigating a (5) year park improvement program?

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct	Average Score	Standard Deviation	Difficulty
0%	1.0/2.0 (50%)	0.00	2/3

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes	1/2	55.81%	245
✓ No	1/2	44.19%	194
Total Respondents: 439			

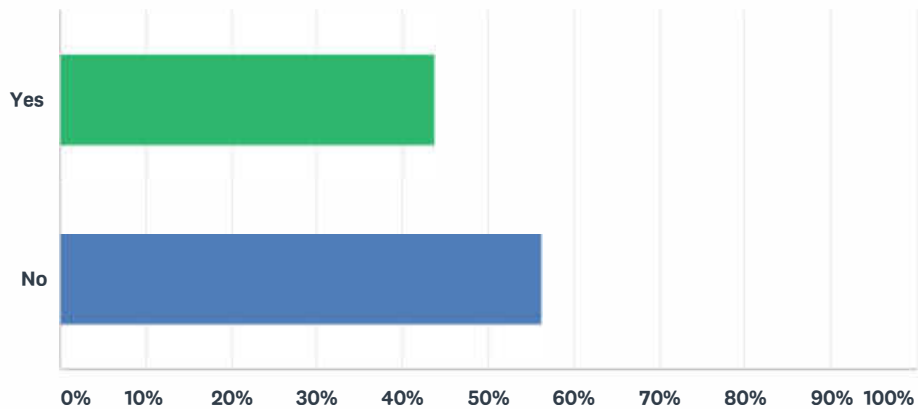
Q3 From the list in Question #1, which THREE Parks are MOST IMPORTANT to you and members of your household?

Answered: 429 Skipped: 10

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1st Most Important	100.00%	429
2nd Most Important	89.74%	385
3rd Most Important	72.03%	309

Q4 Overall, do you think the City of Copperas Cove has maintained parks, keeping them updated and safe for patrons to visit?

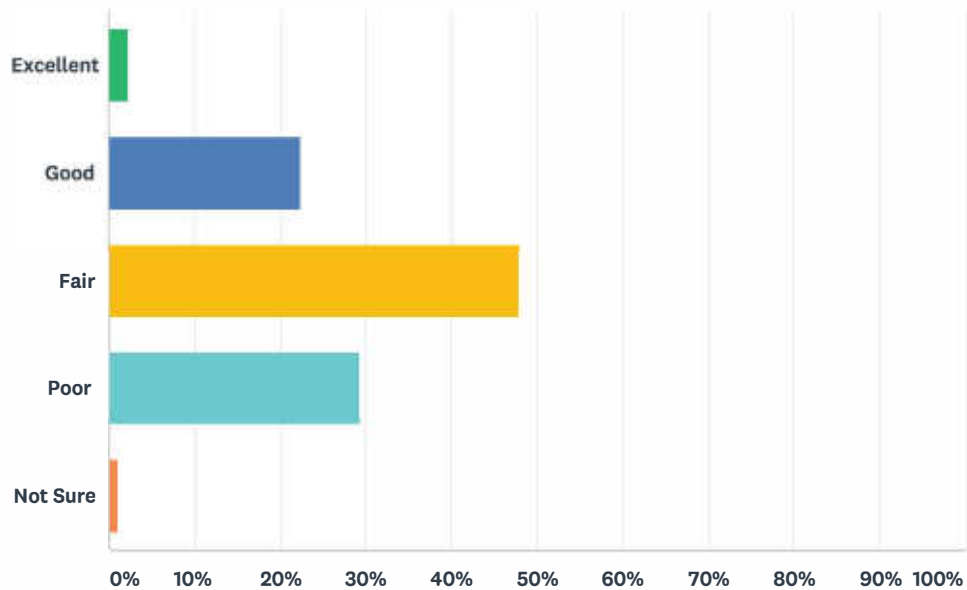
Answered: 437 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		43.71%	191
No		56.29%	246
TOTAL			437

Q5 How would you rate the quality of the recreational facilities that you use in the City of Copperas Cove Parks?

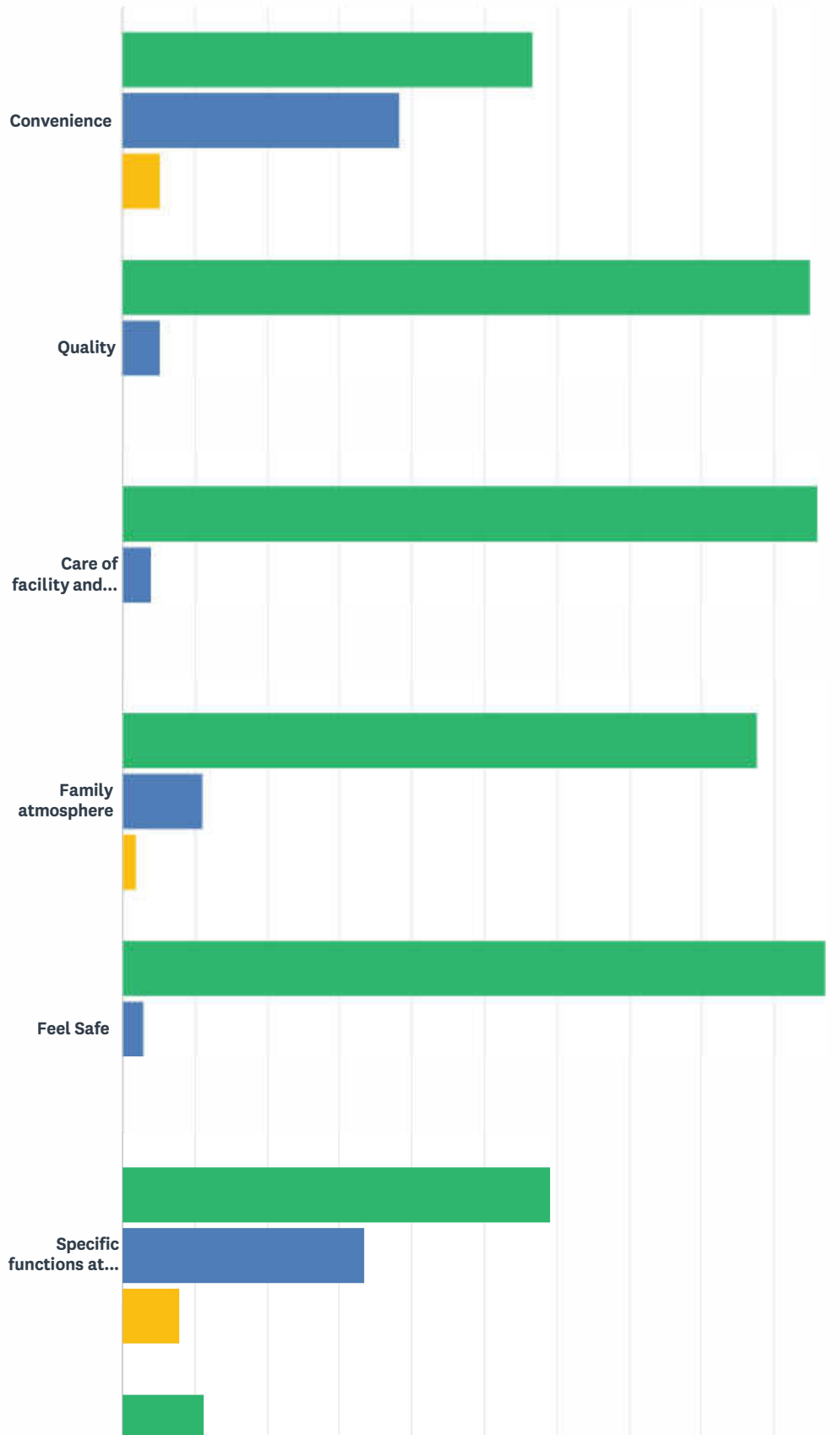
Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



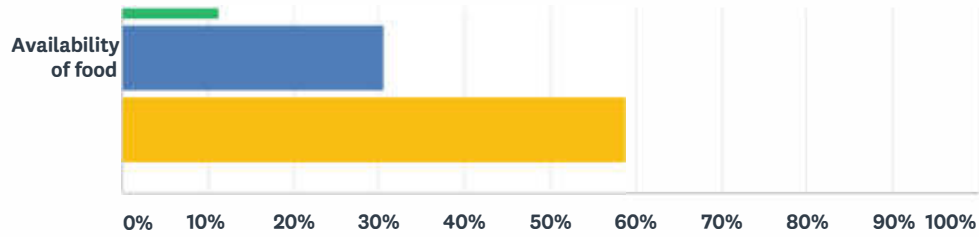
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Excellent		2.28%	10
Good		22.32%	98
Fair		47.84%	210
Poor		29.38%	129
Not Sure		1.14%	5
Total Respondents: 439			

Q6 When choosing to visit or use a Park, what is most important to you?

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



Copperas Cove Master Parks Plan

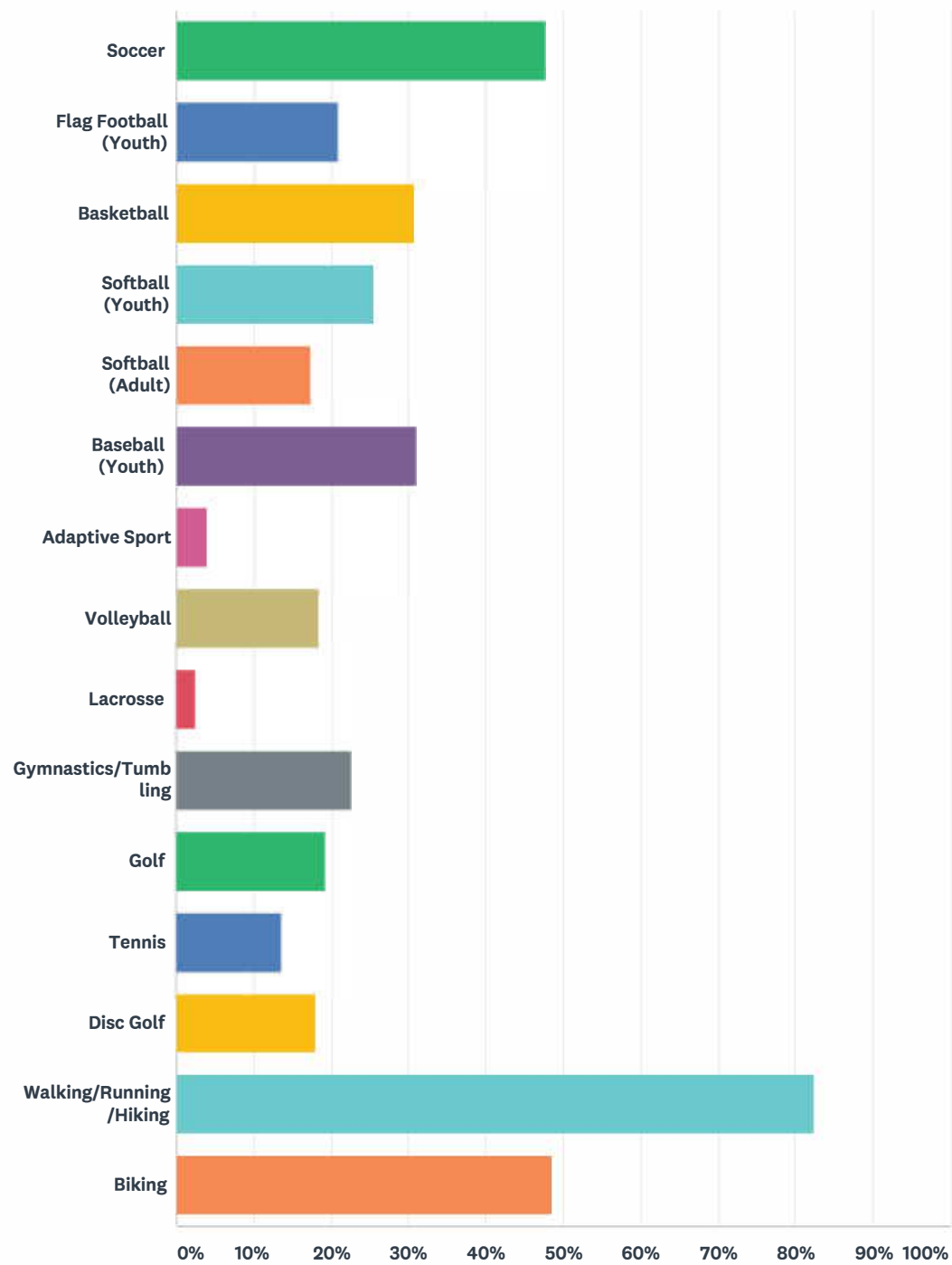


■ Important
 ■ Somewhat Important
 ■ Not Important

	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Convenience	56.62% 248	38.36% 168	5.25% 23	438
Quality	94.97% 415	5.26% 23	0.00% 0	437
Care of facility and infrastructure	96.13% 422	3.87% 17	0.00% 0	439
Family atmosphere	87.67% 384	11.19% 49	1.83% 8	438
Feel Safe	97.04% 426	2.96% 13	0.00% 0	439
Specific functions at facility	59.23% 260	33.49% 147	7.97% 35	439
Availability of food	11.26% 49	30.57% 133	58.85% 256	435

Q7 Please check the sports listed below that you or members of your household have a need for.

Answered: 422 Skipped: 17



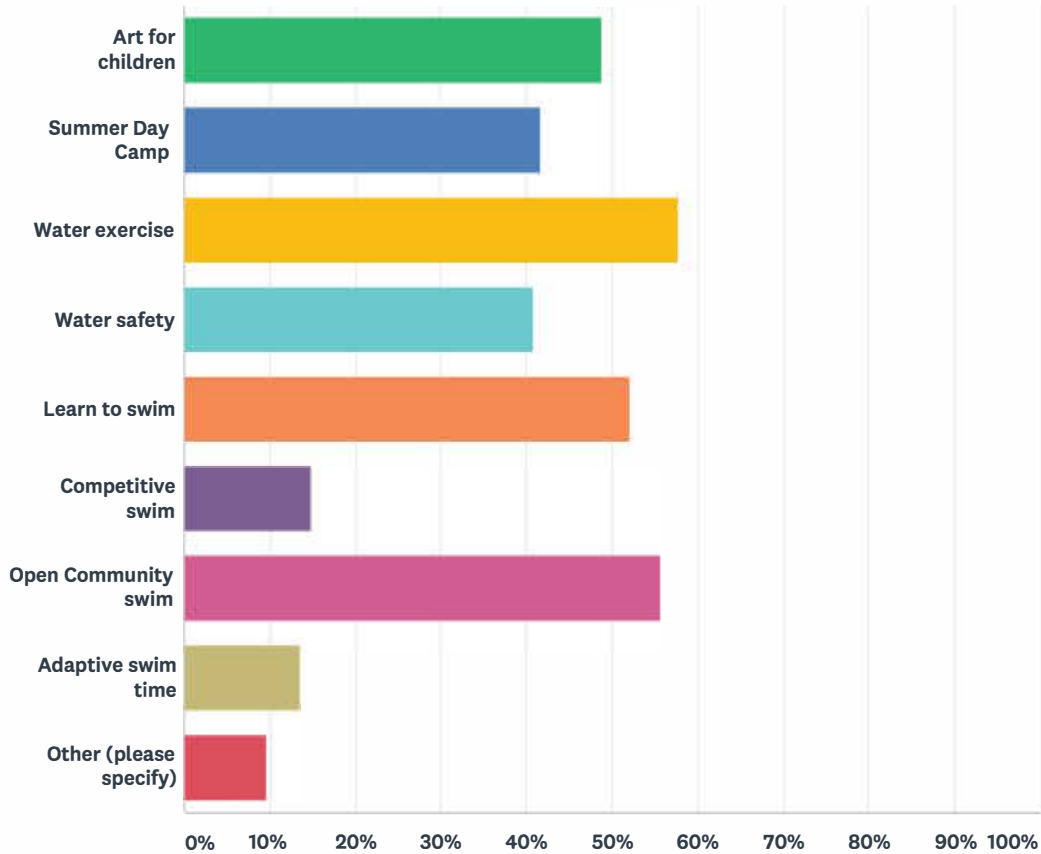
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Soccer	47.63%	201
Flag Football (Youth)	20.85%	88
Basketball	30.81%	130

Copperas Cove Master Parks Plan

Softball (Youth)	25.59%	108
Softball (Adult)	17.30%	73
Baseball (Youth)	31.04%	131
Adaptive Sport	4.03%	17
Volleyball	18.48%	78
Lacrosse	2.61%	11
Gymnastics/Tumbling	22.51%	95
Golf	19.19%	81
Tennis	13.51%	57
Disc Golf	18.01%	76
Walking/Running/Hiking	82.46%	348
Biking	48.58%	205
Total Respondents: 422		

Q8 Please check all programs listed below that you or members of your household have a need for.

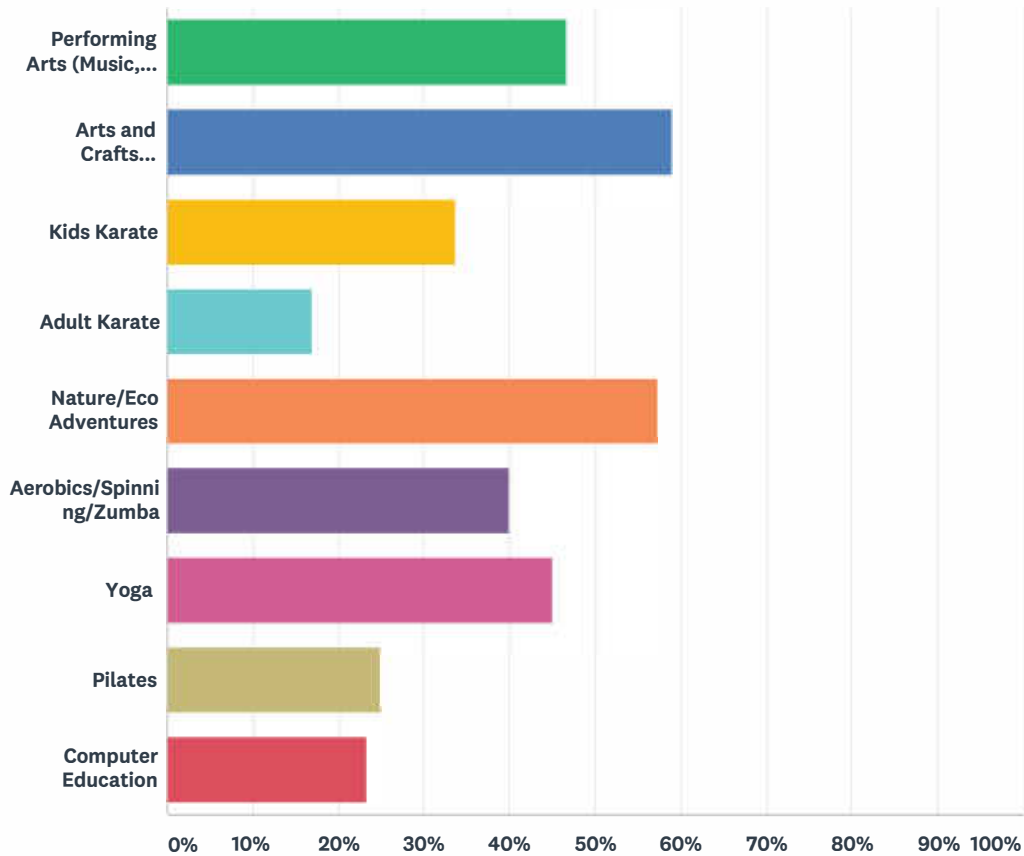
Answered: 409 Skipped: 30



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Art for children	48.66%	199
Summer Day Camp	41.56%	170
Water exercise	57.70%	236
Water safety	40.83%	167
Learn to swim	52.08%	213
Competitive swim	14.91%	61
Open Community swim	55.75%	228
Adaptive swim time	13.69%	56
Other (please specify)	9.54%	39
Total Respondents: 409		

Q9 Please check all classes that you or members of your household have a need for.

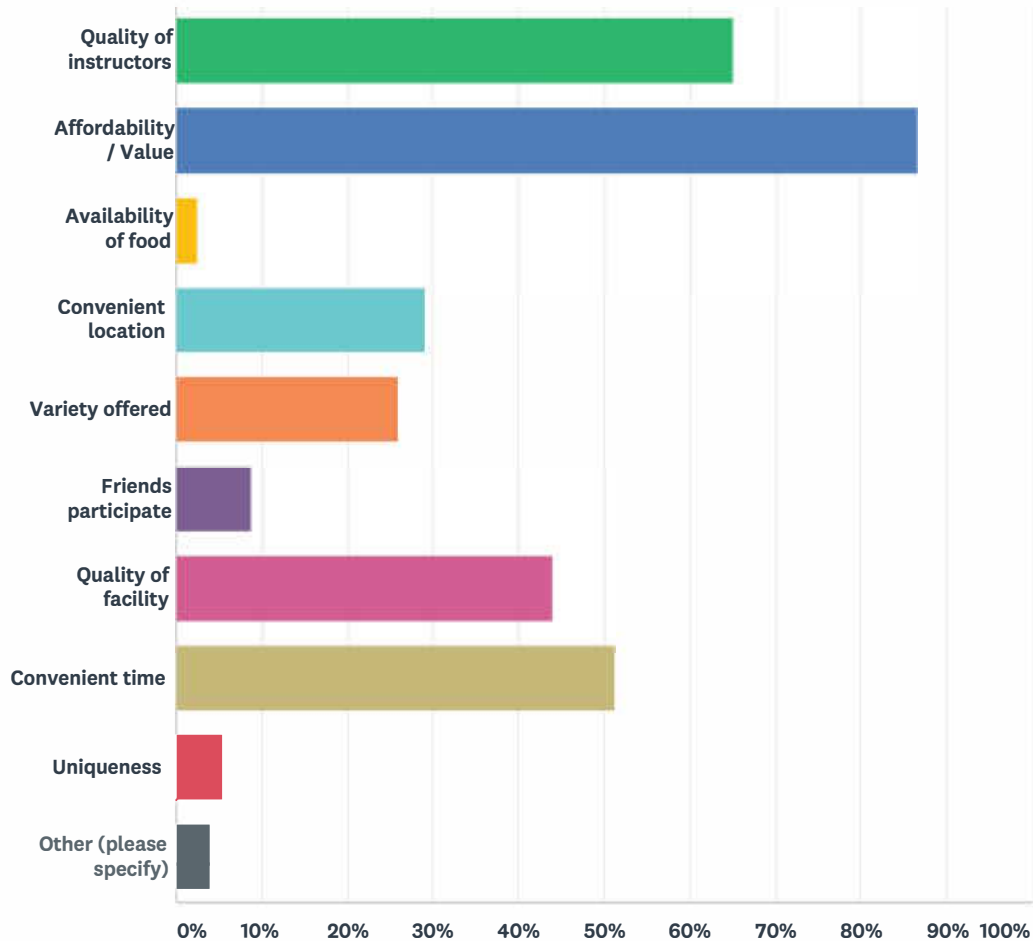
Answered: 393 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Performing Arts (Music, Dance, Theater)	46.56%	183
Arts and Crafts (Painting, Ceramics)	59.03%	232
Kids Karate	33.59%	132
Adult Karate	17.05%	67
Nature/Eco Adventures	57.25%	225
Aerobics/Spinning/Zumba	39.95%	157
Yoga	45.04%	177
Pilates	24.94%	98
Computer Education	23.16%	91
Total Respondents: 393		

Q10 When choosing to participate in a sport, camp, program or class, what THREE criteria would you identify as being most important to your household?

Answered: 433 Skipped: 6



QUIZ STATISTICS

Percent Correct 0%	Average Score 3.2/9.0 (35%)	Standard Deviation 0.94	Difficulty 1/3
-----------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------

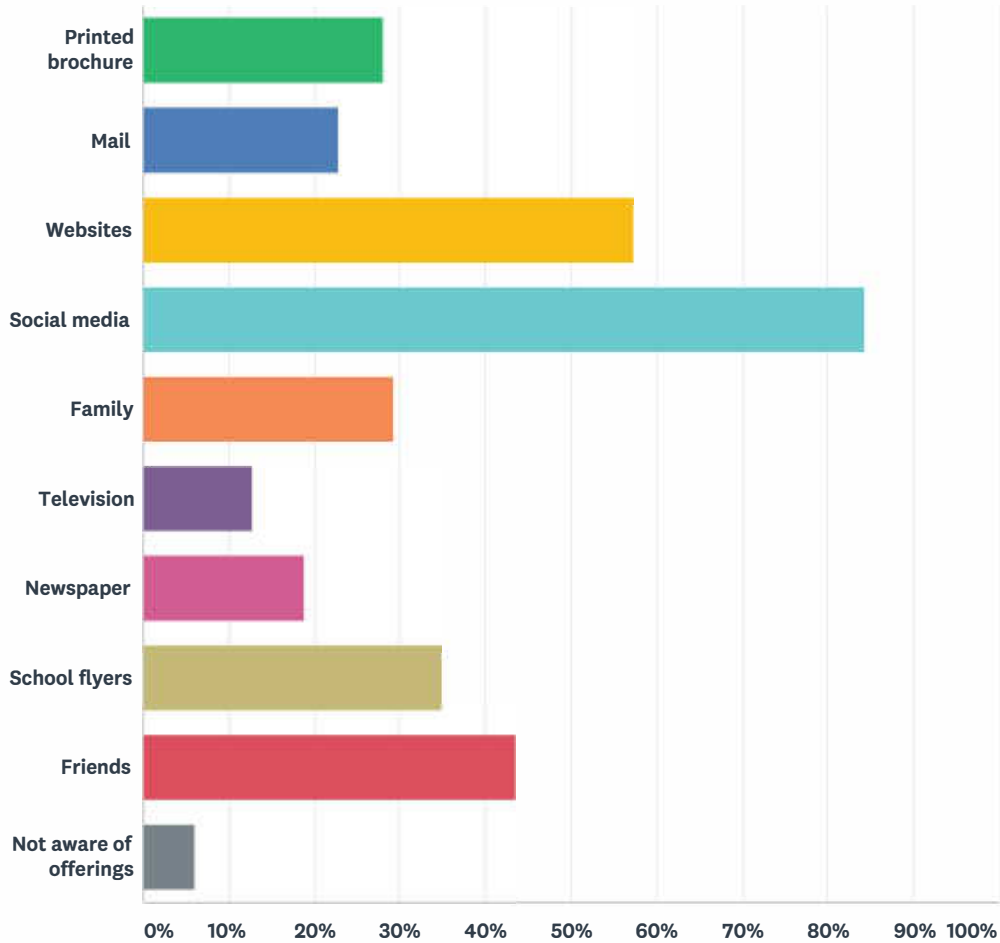
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Quality of instructors	1/9	65.13%	282
✓ Affordability / Value	1/9	86.61%	375
✓ Availability of food	1/9	2.54%	11
✓ Convenient location	1/9	29.10%	126
✓ Variety offered	1/9	25.87%	112
✓ Friends participate	1/9	8.78%	38
✓ Quality of facility	1/9	43.88%	190

Copperas Cove Master Parks Plan

✓ Convenient time	1/9	51.27%	222
✓ Uniqueness	1/9	5.54%	24
Other (please specify)	—	3.93%	17
Total Respondents: 433			

Q11 From the following list, please check ALL the ways in which you learn about programs, classes and/or events.

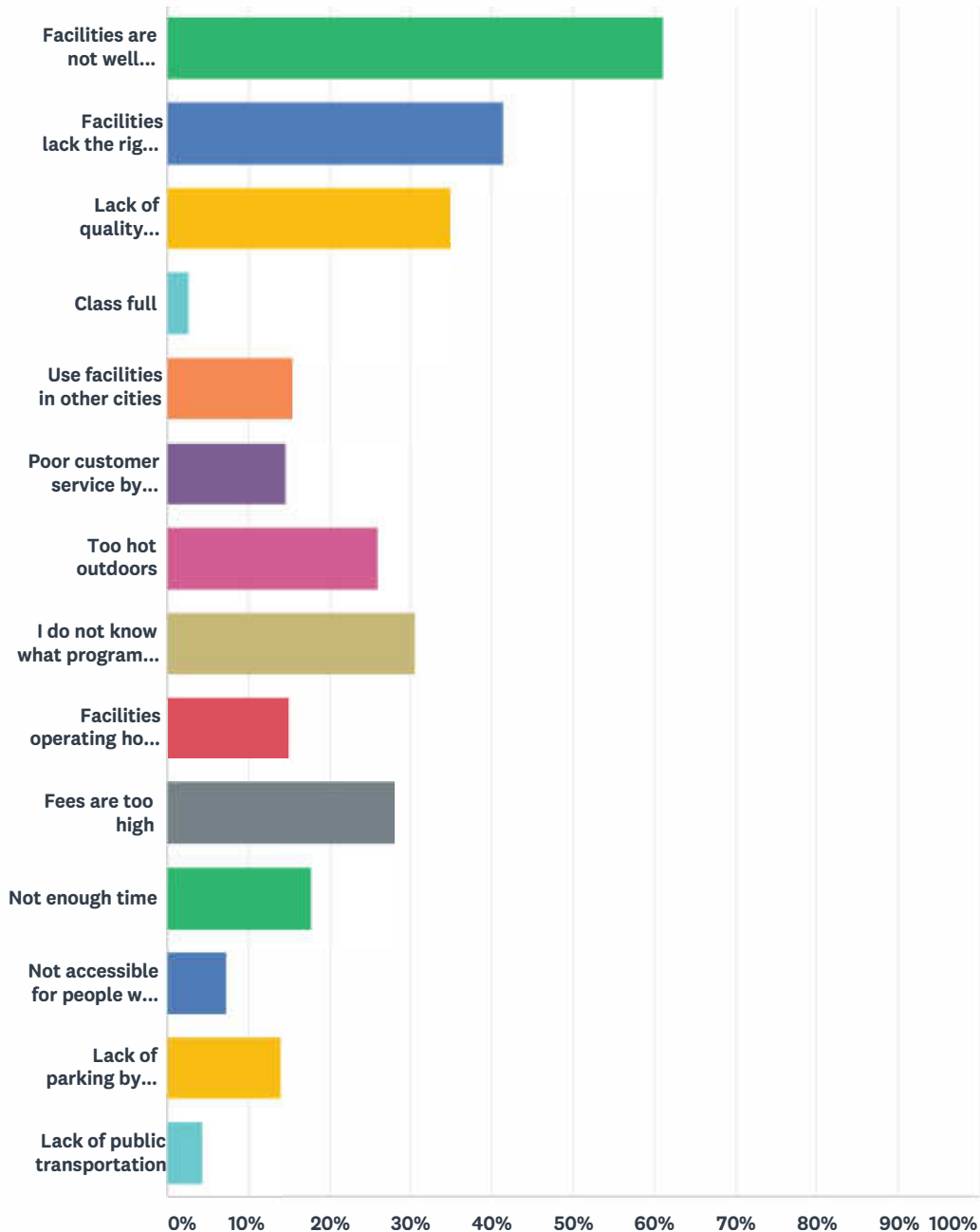
Answered: 434 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Printed brochure	28.11%	122
Mail	22.81%	99
Websites	57.37%	249
Social media	84.33%	366
Family	29.26%	127
Television	12.67%	55
Newspaper	18.89%	82
School flyers	35.02%	152
Friends	43.55%	189
Not aware of offerings	5.99%	26
Total Respondents: 434		

Q12 From the following list, please check ALL the reasons that prevent you from using parks, trails, recreation programs and activities in Copperas Cove more often.

Answered: 418 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facilities are not well maintained	61.00%	255
Facilities lack the right equipment	41.39%	173
Lack of quality programs	34.93%	146

Copperas Cove Master Parks Plan

Class full	2.63%	11
Use facilities in other cities	15.55%	65
Poor customer service by staff	14.59%	61
Too hot outdoors	25.84%	108
I do not know what programs are offered	30.62%	128
Facilities operating hours not convenient	15.07%	63
Fees are too high	27.99%	117
Not enough time	17.70%	74
Not accessible for people with disabilities	7.42%	31
Lack of parking by facilities and parks	14.11%	59
Lack of public transportation	4.31%	18
Total Respondents: 418		

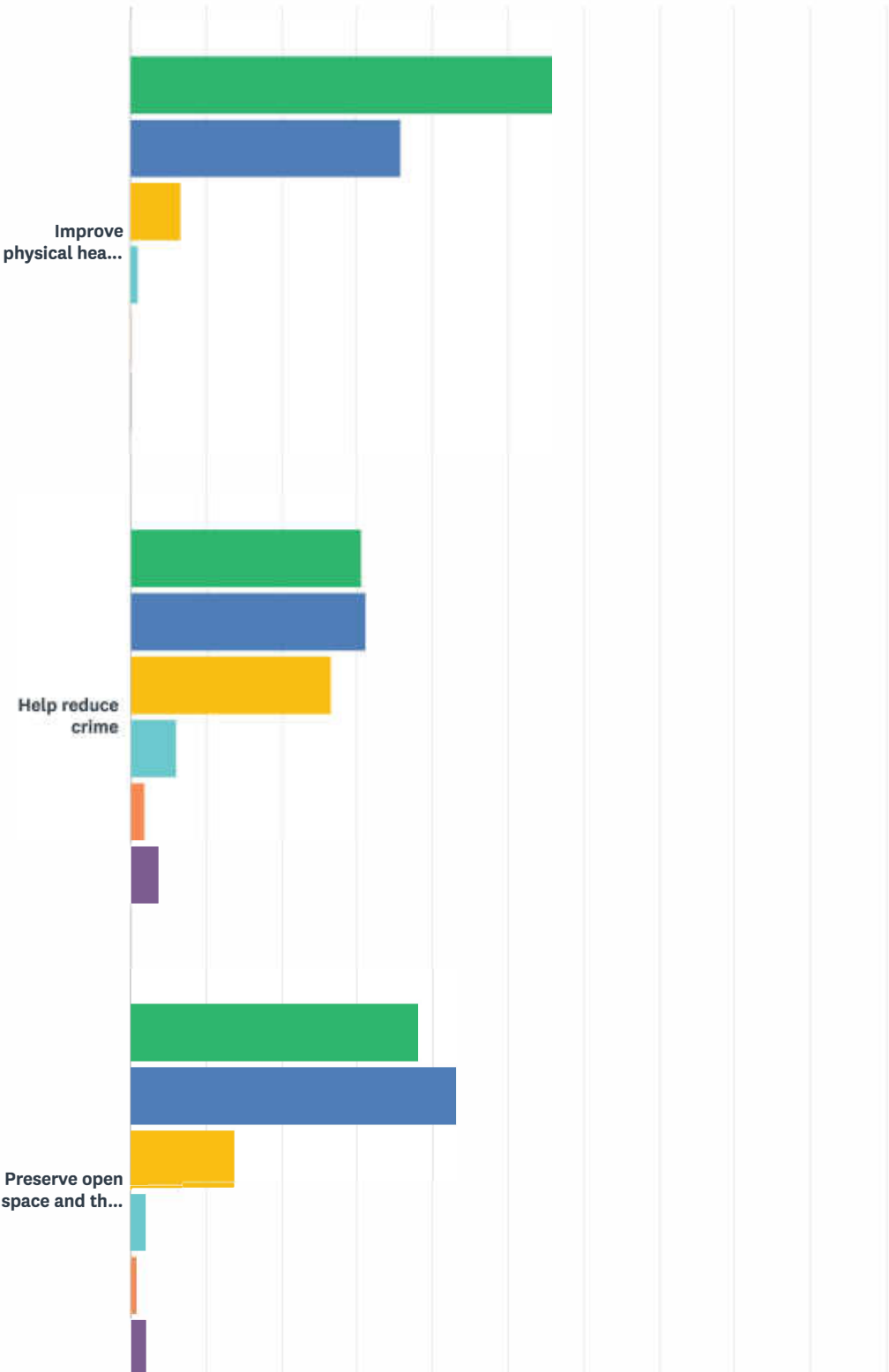
Q13 Which THREE of the reasons listed in Question 12 do you think are the major reasons preventing you and members of your household from using parks, trails, recreation programs and activities in Copperas Cove?

Answered: 384 Skipped: 55

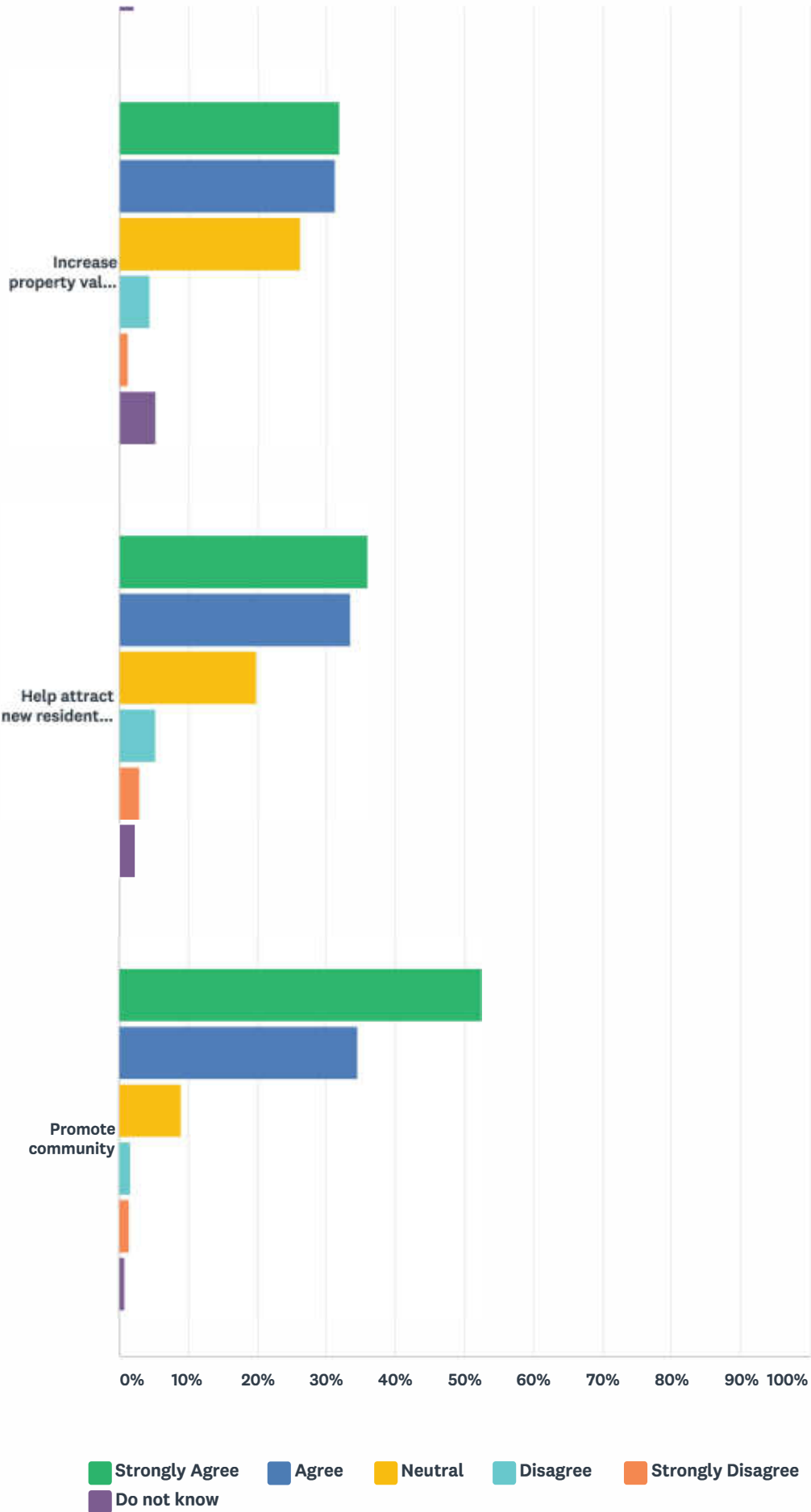
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1st Choice	100.00%	384
2nd Choice	82.03%	315
3rd Choice	66.41%	255

Q14 The following are benefits that you and your household may receive from participating in recreational activities in parks, trails and recreational facilities. For each benefit, please indicate your level of agreement with the benefits provided by parks, trails and recreation facilities?

Answered: 435 Skipped: 4



Copperas Cove Master Parks Plan

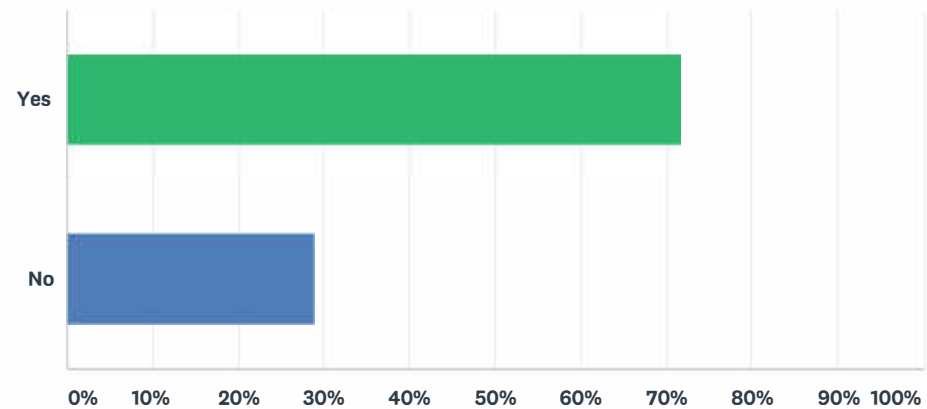


Copperas Cove Master Parks Plan

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DO NOT KNOW	TOTAL
Improve physical health and fitness	55.86% 243	35.86% 156	6.67% 29	1.15% 5	0.23% 1	0.23% 1	435
Help reduce crime	30.56% 132	31.25% 135	26.62% 115	6.02% 26	1.85% 8	3.70% 16	432
Preserve open space and the environment	38.02% 165	43.09% 187	13.82% 60	2.07% 9	0.92% 4	2.07% 9	434
Increase property values in surrounding area	31.87% 138	31.18% 135	26.10% 113	4.39% 19	1.15% 5	5.31% 23	433
Help attract new residents and businesses	36.03% 156	33.49% 145	19.86% 86	5.31% 23	3.00% 13	2.31% 10	433
Promote community	52.53% 228	34.56% 150	8.99% 39	1.61% 7	1.38% 6	0.92% 4	434

Q15 When visiting a park, do you have a need for open aired pavilions?

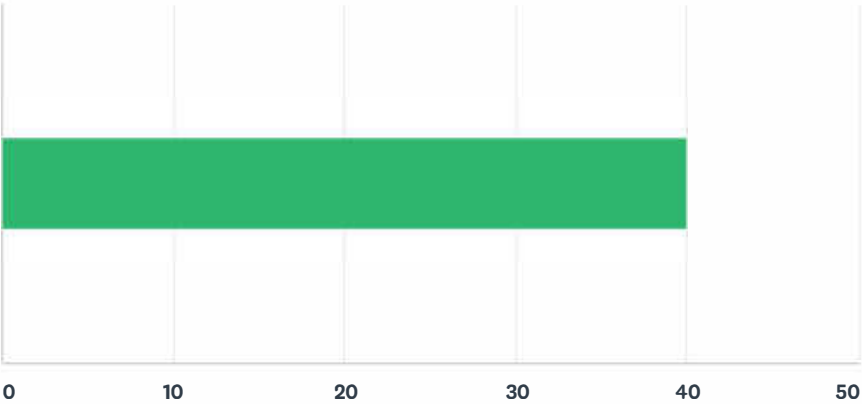
Answered: 437 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.85%	314
No	28.83%	126
Total Respondents: 437		

Q16 On a scale of 1 (being extremely low) to 5 (being excellent), how would you rate the walking trails within the parks in regards to safety, walkability, quantity, cleanliness and accessibility?

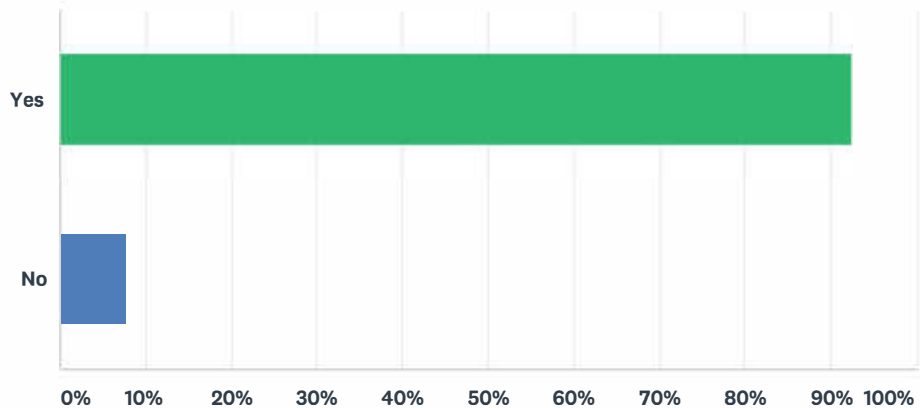
Answered: 427 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	40	17,054	427
Total Respondents: 427			

Q17 Would you support the City restructuring the City's Civic Center for use as a Community Center to serve youth sports, provide meeting and banquet rooms, fitness rooms and more?

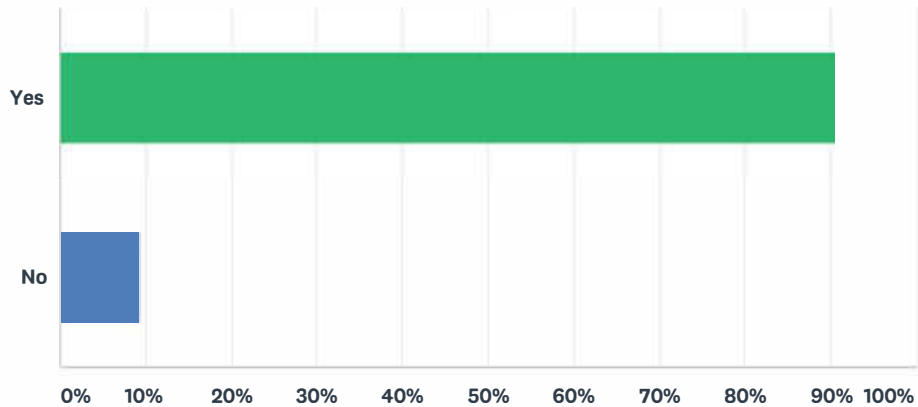
Answered: 435 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.41%	402
No	7.82%	34
Total Respondents: 435		

Q18 Would you support the construction of an additional splash pad in a park that does not currently have one?

Answered: 433 Skipped: 6

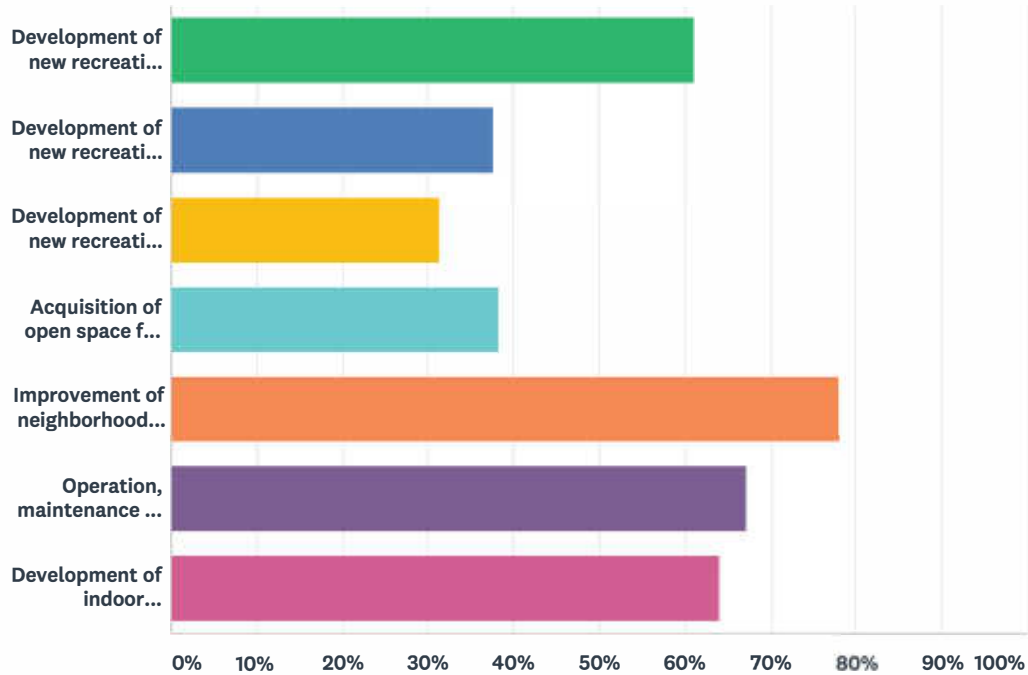


QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct	Average Score	Standard Deviation	Difficulty
0%	1.0/2.0 (50%)	0.00	2/3

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes	1/2	90.53%	392
✓ No	1/2	9.47%	41
Total Respondents: 433			

Q19 From the list below, please indicate the priorities you would most support with your tax dollars.

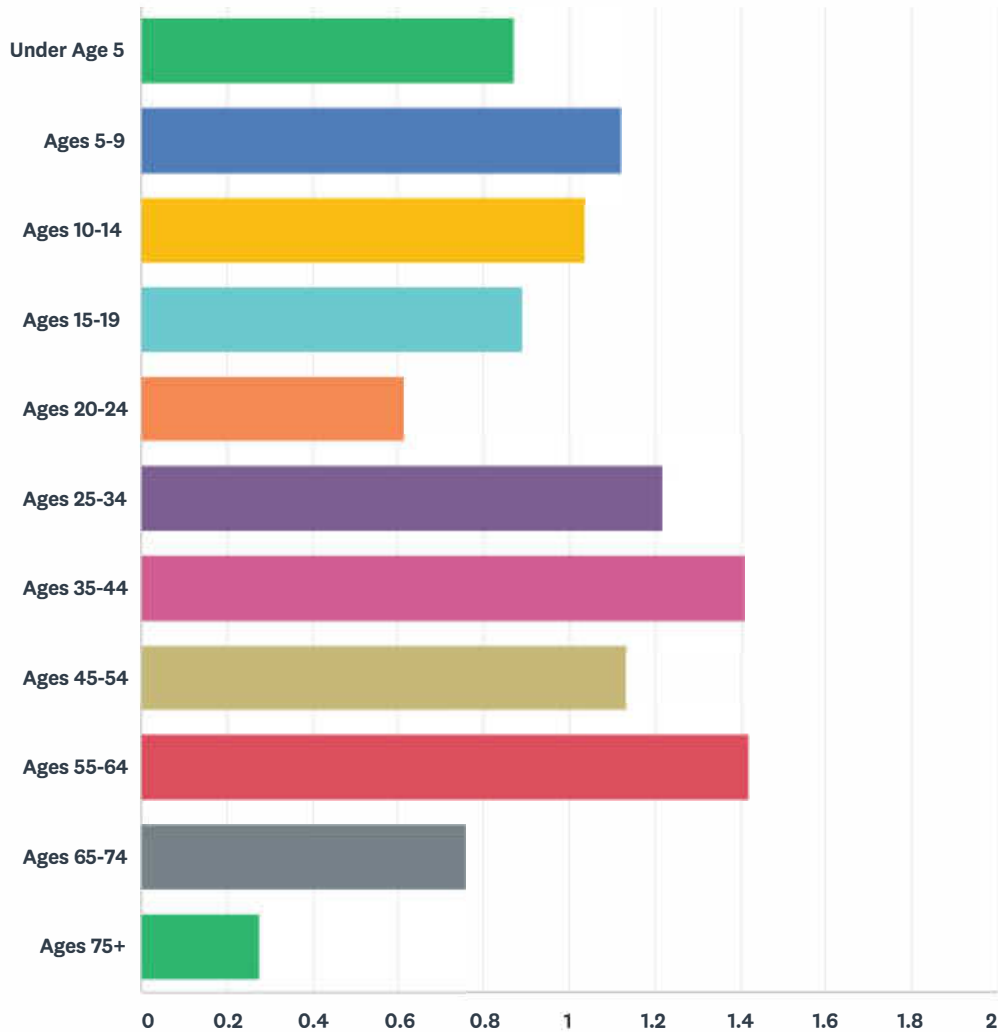
Answered: 434 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Development of new recreation programs for children	61.06%	265
Development of new recreation programs for adults	37.56%	163
Development of new recreation programs for seniors	31.34%	136
Acquisition of open space for sports facilities (baseball, softball, soccer, etc.)	38.25%	166
Improvement of neighborhood and community parks	78.11%	339
Operation, maintenance and security of neighborhood and community parks	67.05%	291
Development of indoor recreation facilities	64.06%	278
Total Respondents: 434		

Q20 The following demographic questions are optional and are included in order to validate the survey. All responses are confidential. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:

Answered: 426 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Under Age 5	1	153	176
Ages 5-9	1	247	220
Ages 10-14	1	211	203
Ages 15-19	1	137	154
Ages 20-24	1	61	99
Ages 25-34	1	228	187
Ages 35-44	1	306	217
Ages 45-54	1	195	172

Copperas Cove Master Parks Plan

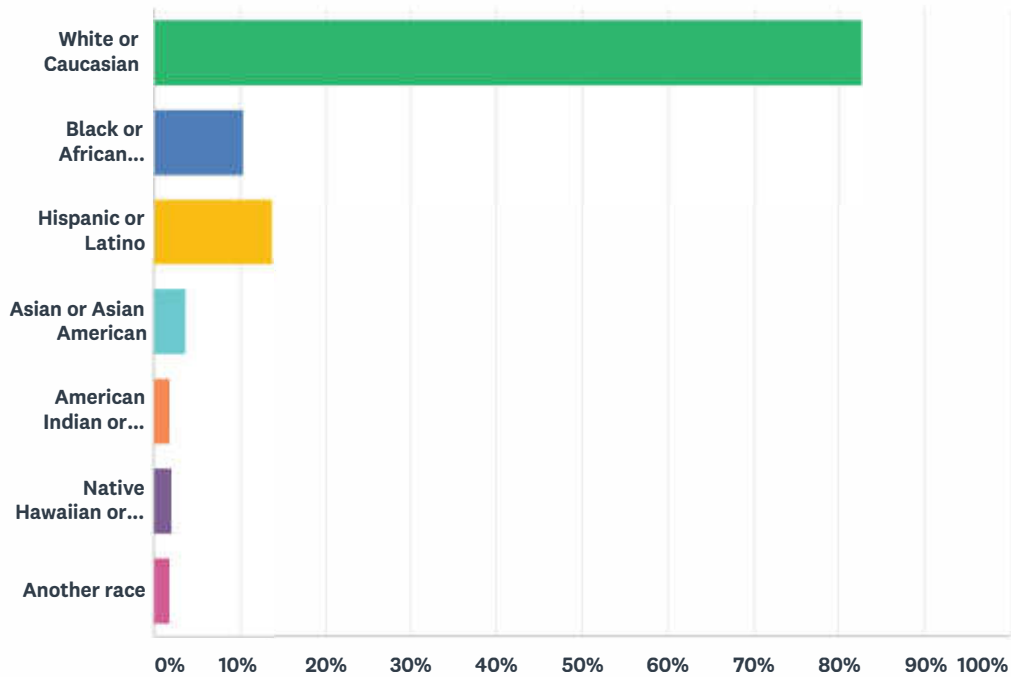
Ages 55-64	1	156	110
Ages 65-74	1	65	86
Ages 75+	0	17	62
Total Respondents: 426			

Q21 What is your age?

Answered: 423 Skipped: 16

Q22 Check ALL of the following that describes your race/ethnicity.

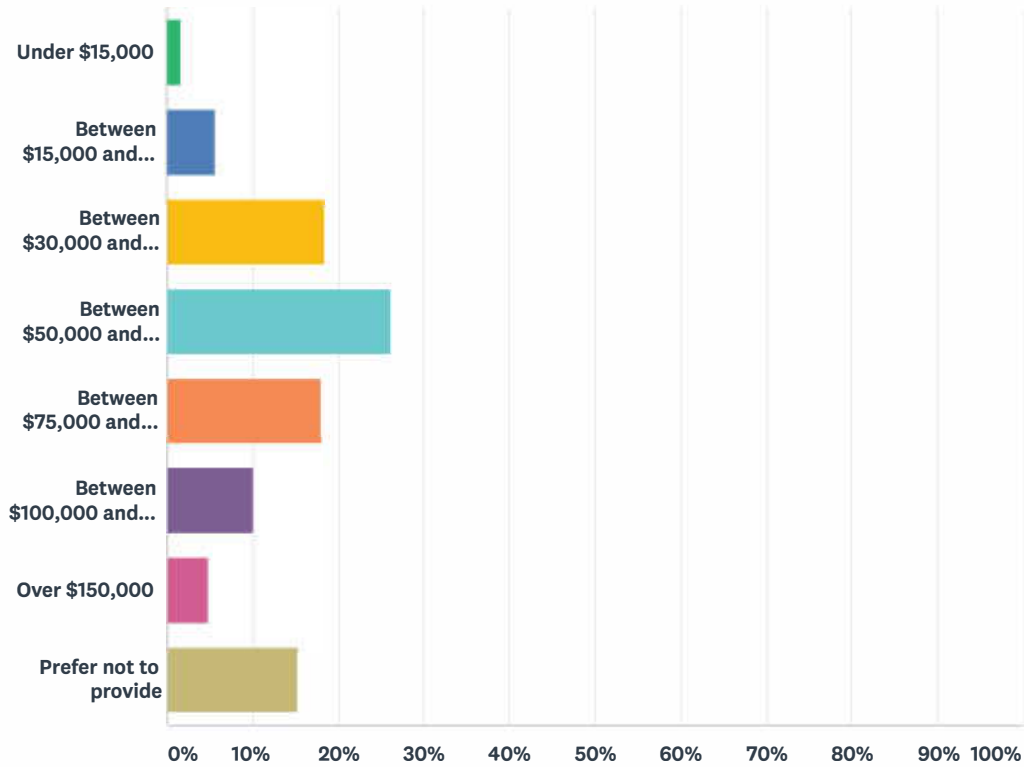
Answered: 417 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White or Caucasian	82.73%	345
Black or African American	10.55%	44
Hispanic or Latino	13.91%	58
Asian or Asian American	3.84%	16
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.92%	8
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2.16%	9
Another race	1.92%	8
Total Respondents: 417		

Q23 What is your household income?

Answered: 428 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under \$15,000	1.64%	7
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	5.61%	24
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	18.46%	79
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	26.17%	112
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	17.99%	77
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	10.05%	43
Over \$150,000	4.91%	21
Prefer not to provide	15.19%	65
TOTAL		428

Fort Hood





This page intentionally left blank.

City of Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020 - 2030





Harker Heights
Parks & Recreation
Creating Community

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2020-2030

June 23, 2020

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS, TEXAS, ADOPTING
THE 10-YEAR PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

WHEREAS, the City advertised for Requests for Qualifications for Parks Master Plan services on February 23 and March 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2019, the City Council of the City of Harker Heights authorized the City Manager to enter a contract with Luck Design Team to provide the City with a Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master plan; and

WHEREAS, City of Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Staff and Luck Design Team met regularly in 2019 and 2020 to obtain public input and to examine research and data regarding the City's existing park and trail system, its environmental resources, and its anticipated needs for future parks, recreation, trails, and open space in order to update the 10-Year Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Luck Design Team identified and evaluated the parks, recreation, trails, and open space opportunities; established goals and objectives for updating the citywide system of parks, trails, and open space; and made recommendations on park, recreation, trail, and open space opportunity sites for acquisition and development in order to update this citywide system; and

WHEREAS, City Council reviewed the 10-Year Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan update at their June 16, 2020 Council Workshop with Parks and Recreation Staff and Luck Design Team and provided input on the final document.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Harker Heights, Texas that the 10-Year Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan update, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Attachment 2 is hereby adopted as the City of Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department's 10-Year Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 23rd day of June, 2020, by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Harker Heights, Texas at which meeting a quorum was present, held in accordance with the provisions of Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.



Spencer H. Smith, Mayor
City of Harker Heights

ATTEST:



Juliette Helsham, City Secretary
City of Harker Heights

TABLE OF CONTENTS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City Council of Harker Heights - Harker Heights Parks Advisory Board-City Staff
PAGE 3



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PAGE 4



METHODOLOGY

Inventory-Public Input-Goals and Objectives-Facilities Needs-Recommendations
Implementation Plan-Adoption
PAGE 9



INTRODUCTION

History of Harker Heights
Climate
Schools
Demographics
Goals of the City of Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030
PAGE 11



INVENTORY

Existing Developed Parks Inventory
Matrix of Existing Park Amenities
Map-City of Harker Heights - Existing Neighborhood Parks Service Radius
Map-City of Harker Heights - Existing Community Parks Service Radius
Non-City Owned Public Recreational Amenities within the City Limits
PAGE 14



NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY PRIORITIES

Results
PAGE 32



PARK ACREAGE AND FACILITY STANDARDS / GUIDELINES

Existing Parkland Acreage
Park Acreage Guidelines
Park Facility Guidelines
PAGE 42



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Facility Improvements
Parkland Acquisition
PAGE 46



APPENDIX

Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Survey 2020-2030
Public Comments from Survey Questions 8, 11 & 14
Bibliography
PAGE 48



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Harker Heights, Texas and Luck Design Team, LLC collaborated to prepare the City of Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030. The plan was developed between August 2019 and February 2020, with input from many individuals and groups through the needs assessment survey, public meetings and communication with City personnel and leadership. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the development of the plan.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF HARKER HEIGHTS:

Spencer H. Smith , Mayor

Jennifer McCann, Place 1 Council Member

Michael Blomquist, Mayor Pro-Tem, Place 2 Council Member

Jackeline Soriano Fountain, Place 3 Council Member

John Reider, Place 4 Council Member

Jody Nicholas, Place 5 Council Member

THE HARKER HEIGHTS: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD:

Natalie R. Austin, Board Member

Heidi Heckel, Board Member

Eva Keagle, Board Member

Patrick W. Kerr, Board Member

Jack Palmer, Board Member

Angie Wilson, Board Member

Brittany Harris, Alternate

Alonzo Williams, Alternate

CITY STAFF:

David Mitchell, City Manager

Jeff Achee, Director of Parks and Recreation

Nicole Loayza, Administrative Assistant



2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Harker Heights is located in Bell County just off of U.S. Highway 190 approximately 15 miles west of Interstate 35. The cities of Killeen and Nolanville border the city; however, Fort Hood is just a few miles away. The City of Harker Heights is located 60 miles north of Austin, 150 miles northeast of San Antonio, 190 miles northwest of Houston, 65 miles southwest of Waco, and 162 miles southwest of Dallas/Ft. Worth.¹

The City, with an existing population in excess of 31,000 and 181 acres of parkland, contracted with Luck Design Team to guide the City in the development of a 10-year growth plan for the City's park system. Luck Design Team, City Staff, together with the Harker Heights Parks Advisory Board produced a document the City Council could support and use as a tool in planning future park growth. The plan focuses on the entire parks system, establishing benchmarks documenting where the City is currently and outlining priorities for its future growth.

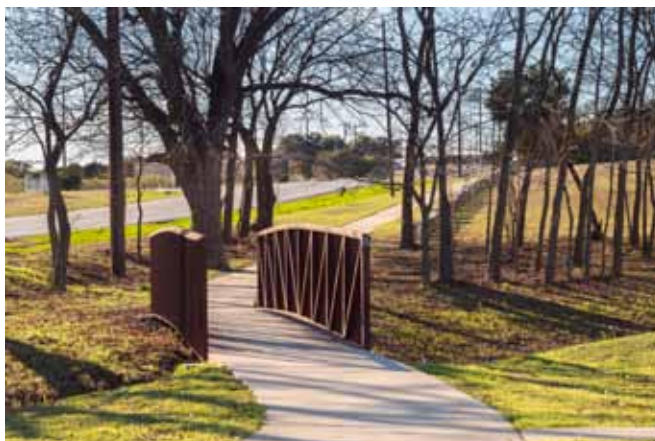


EXISTING FACILITIES INVENTORY

The first step of the planning process was a comprehensive inventory of the existing recreational facilities in the community's parks system. Parkland in the City can be categorized in two distinct groups:

Neighborhood Parks are smaller than community parks, usually under 5 acres in size. They are primarily used by residents in the immediate walking area and require very little on-site parking. The goal of a neighborhood park is to provide a gathering place for nearby neighborhoods to utilize, take pride in, and help with enhancement and maintenance. Harker Heights has three neighborhood parks.

Community Parks are the largest parks, serving traditional family groups and alternate-use groups from the city and the outlying area populations. They have a wide variety of park facilities for recreation and competitive sports use that attract patrons during all seasons. Off-street parking is provided so



that residents may drive from greater distances to utilize the park facilities. Community parks represent significant construction and maintenance investments by the taxpayers of a city. Harker Heights has four community parks, excluding the Community Gardens that are an extension of Carl Levin Park.

The City of Harker Heights owns and maintains 178 acres of parkland. The parks system includes approximately 24 acres of neighborhood parks and 154 acres of community parks,.

PUBLIC INPUT

A series of public forums were conducted to gather public input and an online survey was distributed to gather feedback in determining if the community's park needs are being met.

These meetings were held at the following dates and locations:

- September 16, 2019 Skipcha Elementary (located south of Interstate 14)
- September 18, 2019 Harker Heights Elementary (located north of Interstate 14)
- November 14, 2019 Harker Heights City Hall

A community parks needs assessment survey was available online from September 2019 thru January 2020 and distributed to attendees of the public meetings to receive input from the residents and property owners in Harker Heights. 357 responses to twenty-one park related questions were completed. See "Section 0 - Appendix" for the survey that was distributed.



PARKS GOALS

Through the public meetings, survey responses, input from the Parks Advisory Board and discussions with City Staff, four broad goals were identified for the City's park system:

- **Accessibility:** Provide parks that are available for all abilities and accommodates both vehicular and non-vehicular connectivity to those parks and recreation opportunities;
- **Sustainability:** Develop and enhance parks and recreational programs within the City that promote environmental awareness and place environmental education and stewardship as a leading tenet for patrons of the City's park system;
- **Maintenance:** Take care of the excellent park infrastructure that the City has and ensure that future park improvements are developed with best practices of maintenance in mind;
- **Innovation:** Bring energy and vitality to recreational facilities in the City's park system by providing unique park experiences.

KEY NEEDS/PRIORITIES FOR MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The prioritization of the improvements is based on community input, the needs assessment and direction from the Harker Heights Parks Advisory Board. Some recommendations will be accomplished within the life of this master plan, which is effective until the year 2030. Other recommendations have a completion date ranging beyond the ten year horizon of this plan. The three priority categories are as follows:

- High Priority – to be completed within 5 years
- Medium Priority – to be completed between 5 and 10 years
- Moderate Priority – these items might be initiated during the life of the master plan, but they may not be completed within 10 years. Additionally, several of these priority items are currently meeting the needs of the community (for example, soccer, baseball and softball) but there is an express desire and need for the continued upkeep and maintenance of these facilities that the City has already invested in.

The City's park priorities are divided into "Outdoor Recreation Priorities" and "Indoor Recreation Priorities" as shown:

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

High Priority Items

1. Walking, Hiking & Biking Trails/Paths/Lanes
2. Picnic Tables (Trail Support Amenity)
3. Benches (Trail Support Amenity)
4. Water Playscape / Splash Pads

Medium Priority Items

5. Playscapes / Playgrounds
6. Dog Park
7. Outdoor Swimming Pool
8. Wildlife Viewing Areas/ Natural Area and Open Space

Moderate Priority Items (Long-Range Priority Items)

9. Soccer Fields
10. Tennis Court
11. Skate Park
12. Baseball Fields
13. Fishing /Water Access Opportunities
14. Basketball
15. Softball

INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

Medium Priority Items

1. Indoor Pool
2. Senior Center

Moderate Priority Items (Long-Range)

3. Multipurpose Indoor Recreation Center

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Implementation Plan focuses on "Facility Improvements", with a specific emphasis on outdoor improvements. The implementation plan focuses on the highest outdoor priority facilities. Parkland Acquisition was not deemed a major priority at this time.

FUNDING FOR PARK FACILITIES

Funding for the recommended parks system projects will come primarily from local sources, including:

- General fund expenditure

- Bond funds, if required and appropriate
- User generated revenues
- Cash and equipment donations
- Land donations
- Funding assistance from other area public entities

The City should seek grant funding from state and federal government agencies, educational districts, and from private foundations to supplement local funds. Some grants that could help to further develop the parks and recreation system include:

- TRPA Grants – The Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) is administered and distributed by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD). The TRPA has been the primary source of parks and recreation grant funding in Texas over the past 10 years.
- Transportation Enhancement Grants – The funds are administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), with an emphasis on the need for safer, more efficient management of integrated, multi modal transportation systems.
- Safe Routes to School Grants – This grant is also administered by TxDOT, with the overall purpose to improve safety in and around school areas. Bicycle and pedestrian corridors would be eligible for this type of grant funding.

CONCLUSION

Several overriding themes dominated both input received from the public and the development of this plan. Multiple references were made to “Take care of what we have” in regards to the City’s Park system. There was an overall high level of satisfaction in the current level of park acreage and development that exists within the park although there was also communication from residents who asked for more parkland to be added to the parks system.

At the time of this writing, the City of Harker Heights is exploring the feasibility of taking over the Maintenance and Operations of Dana Peak Park from the Corps of Engineers as part of a potential lease

agreement. While Dana Peak Park will not be listed as part of the official Harker Heights park amenity and acreage inventory, the open space and recreational amenities will directly service Harker Heights residents. Therefore, only a modest increase of 20 acres in City parkland is proposed over the next 10 year growth cycle for the parks department.

Market and communicate the wide variety of recreational opportunities available to residents. Many residents simply do not know what is available to them currently for outdoor recreation within the City.



A focus on providing activities and social places for the City's teen and the adolescent population is stressed through the goal of providing "Innovation" in the City's parks and providing "Instagram-able" moments.

Connectivity through trails is by far the number one priority for the City's future park system. The definition of trails as the number one priority encompasses trails, paths and lanes accommodating walkers, runners, bikers and the potential of micromobility devices such as electric scooters, docked and dockless shared bikes, etc. The development of trails on site at parks and off site as part of a thoroughfare plan is a community vision exhorted to be shared by the City's Public Works Department and the Texas Department of Transportation as future street improvements are undertaken.

There is an expressed interest to develop trail connectivity with the vision of having parks within a ten minute walk of homes: to connect homes to parks; parks to parks; connect to other cultural amenities within the City. Inherent to this goal is connecting to the trail systems of surrounding cities and providing trail support amenities along trails (such as benches and picnic tables) as a key element to the success of that trail connectivity.

3 METHODOLOGY

The Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030 follows the general guidelines for local park master plans, as published in Appendix G: Master Plan Guidelines of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Outdoor Recreation Grant Application. Development of the plan was carried out in seven chronological steps:

1. INVENTORY

The inventory assessed the condition of parks system facilities that provide recreational opportunities for Harker Heights residents, and identified needed improvements for each location. Additionally, the inventory assessed recreational areas and opportunities provided by other public entities in the city limits. Beginning in the late summer of 2019, City Staff and members of LUCK Design Team went to each park, photographically documenting the facilities, writing



a detailed list of features, and charting each feature on a map of the park. The data was compiled into a table listing each City-owned park with a count of each feature or amenity in that park.

2. PUBLIC INPUT

Working with a LUCK Design Team, the City formulated a process for public input to gather ideas for the master plan. The elements for public input involved community meetings, an opinion survey from park users, and discussions with City Staff.

In September 2019, the Harker Heights Parks Advisory Board, along with City Staff, hosted two community meetings, at Skipcha Elementary and Harker Heights Elementary respectively. The meetings were advertised through newspaper advertisements and articles. Through a slide presentation, attendees learned about Harker Heights' existing park system and had an opportunity to ask questions and comment about facilities and programs. At the close of each meeting attendees had the opportunity to take the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Survey. An electronic version of the survey was also available through the City of Harker Heights web site.

A third meeting was held on November 14, 2019 at City Hall to present and discuss developed park priorities.

3. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Analysis of the collected data and information resulted in a list of priorities that fit into one of four broad categories or Park System Goals. These were then defined into specific objectives or “tracts” within the Implementation Plan.

4. FACILITY NEEDS

Facility needs were assessed using standard and resource based methods utilizing information from the public input process.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations were formulated for the park system’s future growth, based on public input and discussions with City Staff,. The recommendations focus primarily on facilities Improvements.

6. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In March of 2020, the Harker Heights Parks Advisory Board formulated a recommendation for the Harker Heights City Council regarding a prioritized future parks plan. The implementation plan describes potential project priorities, the goals of the plan each recreational priority project satisfies, potential funding sources and estimated budget expenditures. The Parks Advisory Board received and accepted the plan at their March 2020 meeting.



7. ADOPTION

The City of Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030 was adopted by the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Advisory Board through e-mail approval in April 2020 and presented to City Council.

The plan is effective May 2020 through the end of 2030. Comprehensive updates to the plan are recommended to be made every five years.

4

INTRODUCTION

A HISTORY OF HARKER HEIGHTS

"The land on which the current City of Harker Heights is located drew inhabitants long before the City was incorporated. Native Americans were prevalent in the area long before the first settlers arrived here. No doubt the Native Americans were drawn to the area because of its' natural beauty, just as those who come today. The influence of the Native Americans is seen in street names today, such as Comanche Gap Road. Comanche Gap Road is named for the natural "gap" in the hills that the Native Americans utilized in their travels. This "gap" in the hills was utilized by Native Americans as late as 1870. Indian campsites in the area have been dated to as far back as 200 years. Later in history, cattle drives were said to have commonly come through the City along portions of what is our current FM 2410.

The land comprising the original City of Harker Heights was utilized in the 1940's for its agricultural benefits. However, the original owners of the property, Pinckney R. Cox and Harley Kern, envisioned a town evolving from where their agricultural interests then stood. In 1955, the creation of the Water Control and Improvement District #4 set the stage for water improvements to the 400 acres Cox and Kern owned. The roots of the new city grew further when in 1957 Cox began subdividing the lands and selling lots. Mr. Kern became ill in 1957 and was unable to participate in the subdividing and died later that year. Individuals who purchased lots wanted a water system. Pinckney R. Cox took leadership in getting a water system established for the residents. The water system was in place by 1960. Sometime before the completion of the water system, residents of the area filed a petition for an incorporation election. On September 24, 1960, voters approved the incorporation and the Town of Harker Heights was born. The town took part of its name from one of its' two founders, Harley Kern. In October of 1963, Harker Heights officially designated its' name as a city.

The City has been influenced significantly by Fort Hood, a military base that began as Camp Hood back in 1942. In 1951 the Camp received Fort status.

The city at its inception was approximately 950 acres in size. Through various annexations, the city grew from 945 acres to its current size of 9,064 acres. Due to annexations and growth, population increased from a projected 600 in 1960 to today's estimate of over 26,000 residents."¹



CLIMATE

The annual "Average High Temperature" for the City of Harker heights is 96.8 degrees. The "Average Low" is 35.5 degrees.

Annual Rainfall for the City is 34.3 inches.

SCHOOLS

Harker Heights is included in the Killeen Independent School District. Located within the boundaries of Harker Heights are three elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.¹

Several area colleges and universities serve the people of Harker Heights, including:

- Central Texas College – Killeen;
- Texas A&M University – Central Texas;
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor – Belton;
- Temple Junior College – Temple;
- University of Texas – Austin.



DEMOGRAPHICS

By using demographic information as a tool for future parks system planning, the City is able to identify opportunities and provide enhancements that attract and provide essential services to previously excluded or under served populations and facilities.

The population projections used in this document are based on existing census data and current building permits.

The current 2019 population estimate is 31,849. The projected full population build out for the City of Harker Heights is anticipated to be between 40,000 and 50,000 people.

For planning purposes the population estimate for 2025 is extrapolated to be 34,287 and for 36,725 in 2030 based on “Active Residential Water Accounts Forecast” as developed by the City of Harker Heights Planning and Development Department.

CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS

The goals of the City of Harker Height Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030 were developed by the Harker Heights Parks Advisory Board as a result of the communication received from the public meetings and discussions with City Staff. They guide the vision of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030. These goals are:

The goals include:

- **Accessibility:** Provide parks that are available for all abilities and accommodates both vehicular and non-vehicular connectivity to those parks and recreation opportunities;
- **Sustainability:** Develop and enhance parks and recreational programs within the City that promote environmental awareness and place environmental education and stewardship as a leading tenet for patrons of the City’s park system;

- **Maintenance:** Take care of the excellent park infrastructure that the City has and ensure that future park improvements are developed with best practices of maintenance in mind;
- **Innovation:** Bring energy and vitality to recreational facilities in the City's park system by providing unique park experiences.

In order to implement the four goals of the parks master plan, specific objectives were identified as action items. These action items are further expanded upon in "Section 8 - Implementation Plan".



5 INVENTORY

In order to project the future park and recreation needs of the City of Harker Heights, City Staff conducted a parks/facilities inventory review of the fifteen parks/facilities within the City's park system. Each of the parks were inventoried for the number and type of park amenities located at the park, documented with photographs as the parks looked in the summer/fall of 2019, and categorized according to the following parks classification system:

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood parks provide the foundation for recreation under the parks system. They are average sized parks, usually under 5 acres. Neighborhood parks provide recreational opportunities for the entire family and are primarily used by residents within immediate walking or biking distance. There are five neighborhood parks in Harker Heights.

Neighborhood parks are places where neighbors gather, take pride in, and help with enhancement and maintenance. A neighborhood park in Harker Heights should serve approximately 2,000 to 3,000 residents. Neighborhood parks can represent significant construction and maintenance investments, primarily because of the multiple sites throughout the community. In some instances, depending on location and facilities, community parks supplement the need for neighborhood park type service for residential areas within walking or biking distance.

Size – The average neighborhood park in Harker Heights should be 5 or less acres. However, the size of a particular park may vary greatly depending on the surrounding property and types of uses in the park itself. The park should be small enough not to encroach on the neighborhood by attracting too many visitors, but large enough to provide a variety of facilities. The layout of a neighborhood park should be very efficient, as room for expansion will be limited and any future development will have to take place within existing park boundaries.

Location – Neighborhood parks are located throughout the City and are accessible to residents living within a one-half mile radius. These parks are frequently located adjacent to elementary schools, so as to share acquisition and development costs with the school district.

Typical facilities that can be found in neighborhood parks include:

- Playground equipment with a safety surface
- Unlighted practice fields
- Unlighted tennis or basketball courts
- Unlighted multi-purpose courts



- Jogging exercise trail with exercise stations
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables and grills
- Small pavilion or gazebo
- Limited security lighting
- Nature education stations
- Neighborhood gardens



Parking – This varies on the facilities and size of the park, but the National Recreation and Park Association recommends a minimum of eight spaces per newly developed neighborhood park with at least two handicapped accessible spaces. Off-street parking is not recommended in most cases because the park should primarily serve those residents within walking or biking distance.

COMMUNITY PARK

- Community parks are the largest parks, serving family and alternate-use groups from the city and outlying area populations. They have a wide variety of park facilities for recreational and competitive sports use that attract patrons during all seasons. The majority of access to this type of facility is by driving to the park and parking on-site, enabling residents to come from greater distances to utilize the park facilities. Community parks represent significant construction and maintenance investments from the taxpayers. Harker Heights has five community parks.
- Size – Average park size ranges from 15 acres to more than 50 acres. Community parks should be large enough to provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for passive recreation and pre-existing natural areas. Ideal community park sites will have room for expansion and growth as new facilities are required.



- Location – Parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access and identification from different parts of the city and for those visitors and tourists coming from out of town. Because of the potential disruption caused by noise and intense illumination during the night hours, community parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

Typical facilities that can typically be found in community parks include:

- Indoor recreation or community centers
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Hiking and/or bicycling trails
- Playground equipment
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)

- Restrooms
- Security lighting
- Nature trails
- Fishing ponds
- Swimming pools
- Skate parks

Parking – This varies on the facilities and size of the park. The National Recreation and Park Association recommends a minimum of five spaces per acre, plus additional parking for any future facilities.



CARL LEVIN PARK

400 Millers Crossing



EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	CONDITION			ACCESSIBILITY
		GOOD	FAIR	DELETE / REPAIR	
Amphitheaters	1	1			N
Basketball Courts	1	1			Y
Benches	19	7	12		Y
Community Garden	1	1			Y
Exercise Stations	4	2	2		Y
Gazebo	1	1			Y
Grilling Stations	9	8	1		Y
Pavilions	1	1			Y
Picnic Tables	38	12	22	4	Y
Playgrounds - Ages 2-5	1	1			Y
Playgrounds - Age 5-12	1	1			Y
Swimming Pools	1	1			Y
Swing Set	2	2			Y
Trails (in Miles)	1.05	1.05			Y
Little Free Library	2	2			Y

Acreage: 29.69 Acres

Current Classification: Community Park

CARL LEVIN PARK CONTINUED

400 Millers Crossing



COMMUNITY PARK

1501 East FM 2410



EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	CONDITION			ACCESSIBILITY
		GOOD	FAIR	DELETE / REPAIR	
Baseball Fields (incl. T-ball)	4	4			Y
Batting Cage	1		1		N
Benches	18	14	4		Y
Bike Rack	2	2			Y
Pavilions	1	1			Y
Picnic Tables	25	18	6	1	Y
Playgrounds - Ages 2-5	1	1			Y
Playgrounds - Ages 5-12	1	1			Y
Softball Fields	4	4			Y
Swing Set	1	1			Y
Trails (in Miles)	1.39	1.18	0.21		Y

Acreage: 62.14 Acres

Current Classification: Community Park

COMMUNITY PARK CONTINUED

1501 East FM 2410



GOODE-CONNELL PARK

110 E. Beeline Lane



EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	CONDITION			ACCESSIBILITY
		GOOD	FAIR	DELETE / REPAIR	
Benches	5	3	2		Y
Bike Rack	1	1			Y
Picnic Tables	2		2		Y
Playgrounds	1	1			Y
Rock Climbing Equipment	1		1		Y
Soccer Fields (Practice)	1		1		Y
Softball Fields (Practice)	1		1		Y
Trails (in Miles)	0.53	0.53			Y

Acreage: 14.18 Acres

Current Classification: Neighborhood Park

GOODE-CONNELL PARK CONTINUED

110 E. Beeline Lane



KERN PARK

400 S. Ann Boulevard



EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	CONDITION			ACCESSIBILITY
		GOOD	FAIR	DELETE / REPAIR	
Basketball Courts	0.5	0.5			N
Benches	5		3	2	N
Picnic Tables	2		2		N
Playgrounds	1		1		N
Swing Set	1	1			N

Acreage: 4.48 Acres

Current Classification: Neighborhood Park

PURSER FAMILY PARK

100 West Mountain Lion Road



EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	CONDITION			ACCESSIBILITY
		GOOD	FAIR	DELETE / REPAIR	
Benches	15	14	1		Y
Bike Rack	1	1			Y
Disc Golf	18	18			N
Grilling Stations	2	2			N
Pavilions	6	6			Y
Picnic Tables	12	11	1		Y
Playgrounds - Ages 5-12	1	1			N
Swing Set	1	1			N
Trails (in Miles)	1.25	1.25			Y

Acreage: 30.29 Acres

Current Classification: Community Park

PURSER FAMILY PARK CONTINUED

100 West Mountain Lion Road



SKIPCHA PARK

515 Prospector Trail



EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	CONDITION			ACCESSIBILITY
		GOOD	FAIR	DELETE / REPAIR	
Basketball Courts	1.5		1	0.5	Y
Benches	3	1	2		Y
Multi-Purpose Fields	2		2		N
Pavilions	1		1		Y
Picnic Tables	4	4			Y
Playgrounds - Ages 2-5	1	1			Y
Playgrounds - Ages 5-12	2	2			Y
Swing Set	3	1	2		Y
Trails (in Miles)	0.24	0.24			Y

Acreage: 5.27 Acres

Current Classification: Neighborhood Park

SUMMIT SOCCER COMPLEX

401 North Amy Lane



		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	GOOD	FAIR	DELETE / REPAIR	ACCESSIBILITY
Soccer Fields	11	11			Y

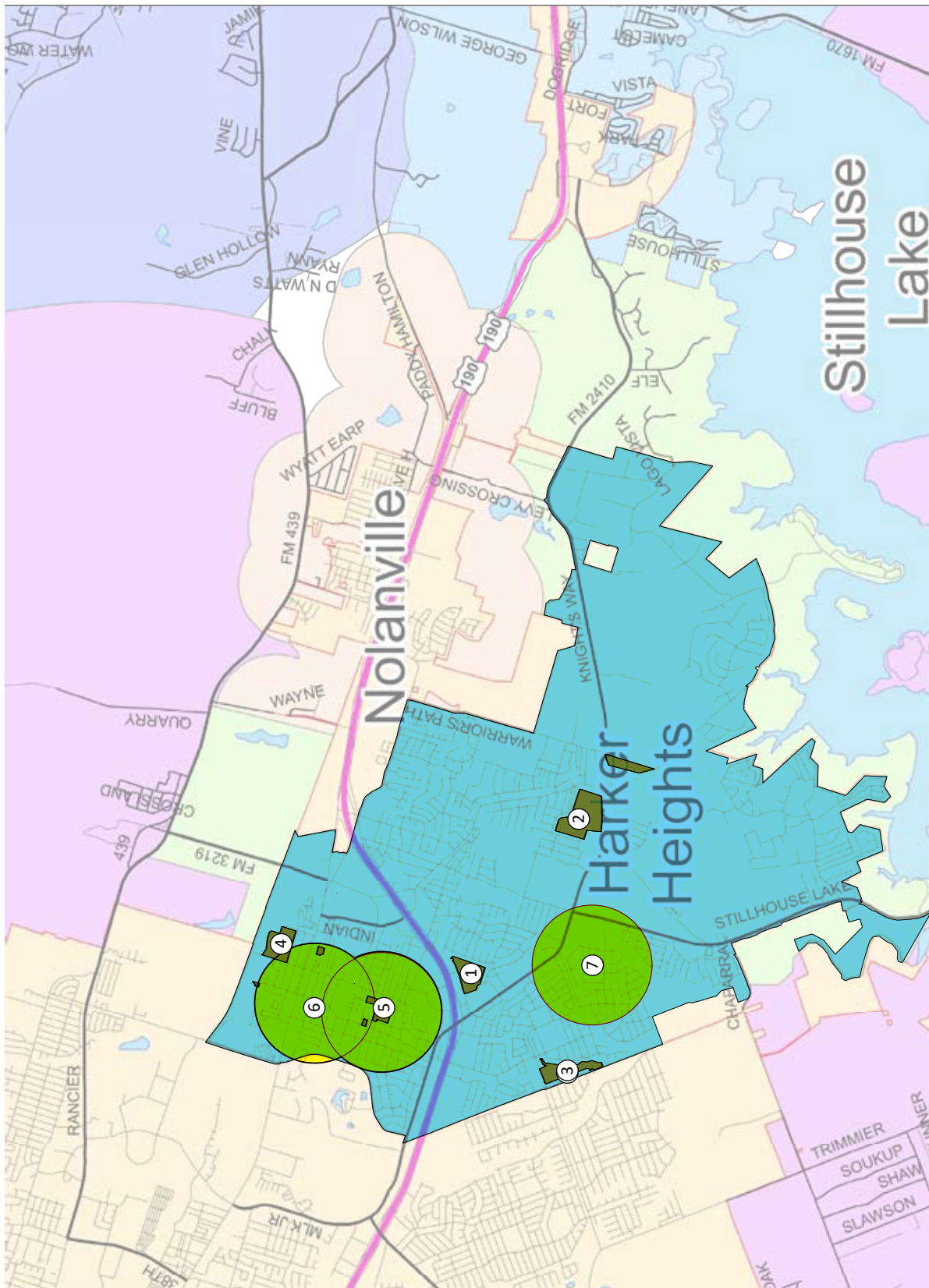
Acreage: 32.77 Acres

Current Classification: Community Park

The results of the physical inventory were tabulated below, documenting acreage and the number of recreational amenities at each park location.

Appendix I - Part 1 of 3
Parks and Recreation Assets

- Community Parks**
1. Carl Levin Park
 2. Community Park
 3. Purser Family Park
 4. Summit Soccer Complex
- Neighborhood Parks**
5. Goode-Connell Park
 6. Kern Park
 7. Skipcha Park



HARKER HEIGHTS PARKS SYSTEM - Existing Neighborhood Parks- 1/2 Mile Service Radius

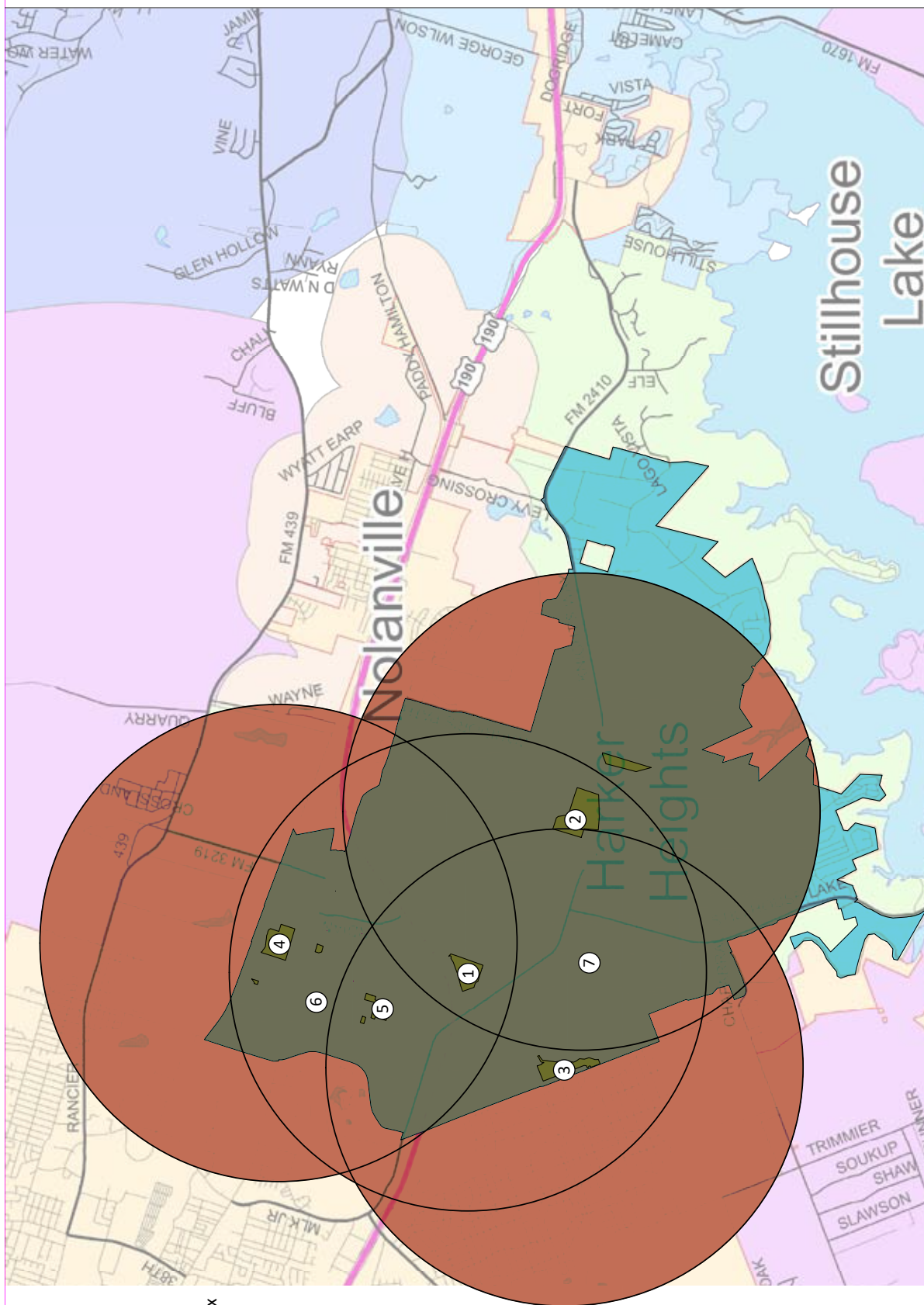
City of Harker Heights

March 30, 2020

LUCK DESIGN TEAM

0 2000 4000

- Community Parks**
- 1. Carl Levin Park
 - 2. Community Park
 - 3. Purser Family Park
 - 4. Summit Soccer Complex
- Neighborhood Parks**
- 5. Goode-Connell Park
 - 6. Kern Park
 - 7. Skipcha Park



HARKER HEIGHTS PARKS SYSTEM - Existing Community Parks- 2 Mile Service Radius

City of Harker Heights

March 30, 2020

LUCK DESIGN TEAM



In addition to the City-owned park facility inventory, non-City-owned recreational amenities located within the City limits were also documented. They are outlined below.

NON-CITY OWNED PUBLIC RECREATIONAL AMENITIES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

<u>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:</u>	
Harker Heights Elementary School	726 South Ann Boulevard
Recreational Amenities: Playgrounds, Four Square Courts, 2 Basketball Standards	
Mountain View Elementary School	500 Mountain Lion Road
Recreational Amenities: Basketball Courts, Multi-Use Fields, Playgrounds, Mini-Track	
Skipcha Elementary	515 Prospector Trail
Recreational Amenities: Basketball Courts, Multi-Use Fields, Playgrounds, Picnic Tables, Benches	
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOLS:</u>	
Eastern Hills Middle School	300 Indian Trail
Recreational Amenities: Football Field (Game); Multi-Use Field; 2 long jump pits	
Union Grove Middle School	101 East Iowa Drive
Recreational Amenities: Football Field (Game), 2 Multi-Use Fields, 4 Tennis Courts, long jump pit,shot put	
<u>HIGH SCHOOLS:</u>	
Harker Heights High School	1001 Farm to Market 2410
Recreational Amenities: Football Field (Game); 8-Lane Track; 60 yard Football Field (Turf), 2 Football Field (Practice / Grass); Baseball Field (Game); Softball Field; 2 Soccer Fields; 8 Tennis Courts; 2 basketball courts	
All three elementary schools have perimeter fencing around the recreational amenities on site but the facilities are largely open to the public for after school hours use. From conversations with KISD personnel, it is believed this “open access” policy will continue into the future.	
However, the recreational and athletic facilities at the two middle schools and Harker Heights High School are for “student use” only and as such provide no recreational use for the general public.	

The Armed Services YMCA provides indoor recreational facilities at 110 Mountain Lion Road and another YMCA facility in the northern part of the City off South Ann Boulevard offers an outdoor pool and splash pad. All YMCA amenities are maintained and operated independently of the City.

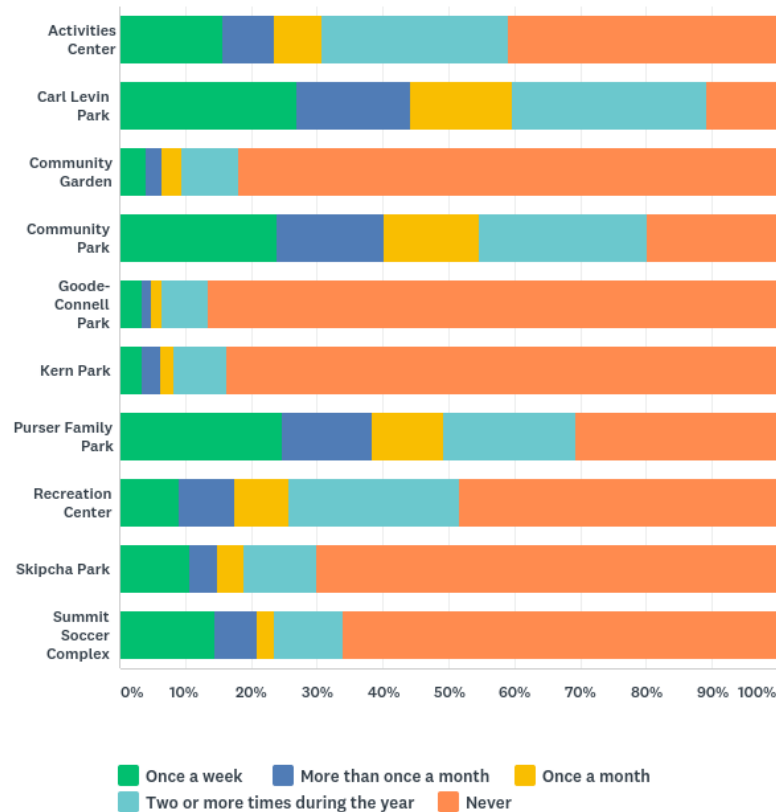
The Central Texas Athletic Club (CTAC) is a privately owned fitness facility within the City limits. CTAC offers a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities including the only non-ISD tennis facilities within the City. The Club also has the only outdoor volleyball courts located within the City limits.

6 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY PRIORITIES

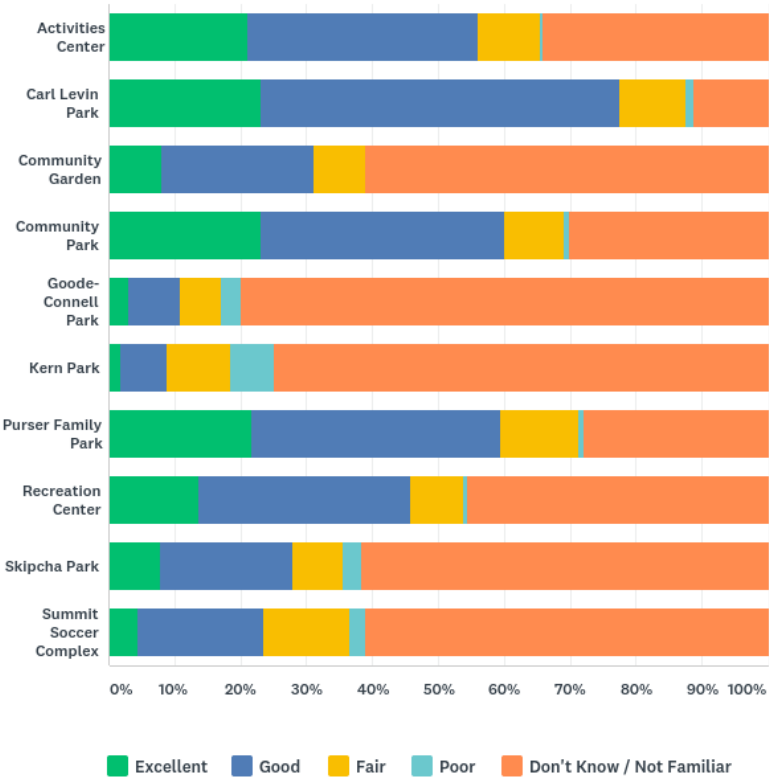
To assist in the development of the City's park priority needs, the City of Harker Heights developed the "Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Survey 2020-2030" and distributed to the public electronically on the City's web site and through hard copy distribution at the public meetings and other civic events.

357 surveys were completed; the results of this informal public information survey are shown on the following pages:

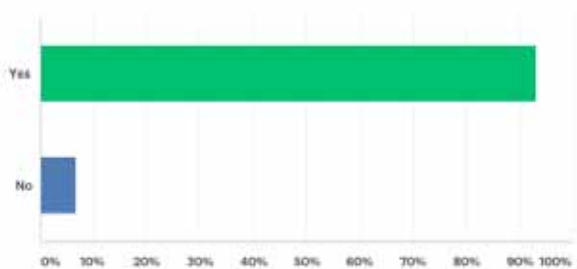
QUESTION 1: How often have you or members of your household visited the City parks listed below or used recreation facilities in Harker Heights in the last year? (Multiple answers may be indicated.)



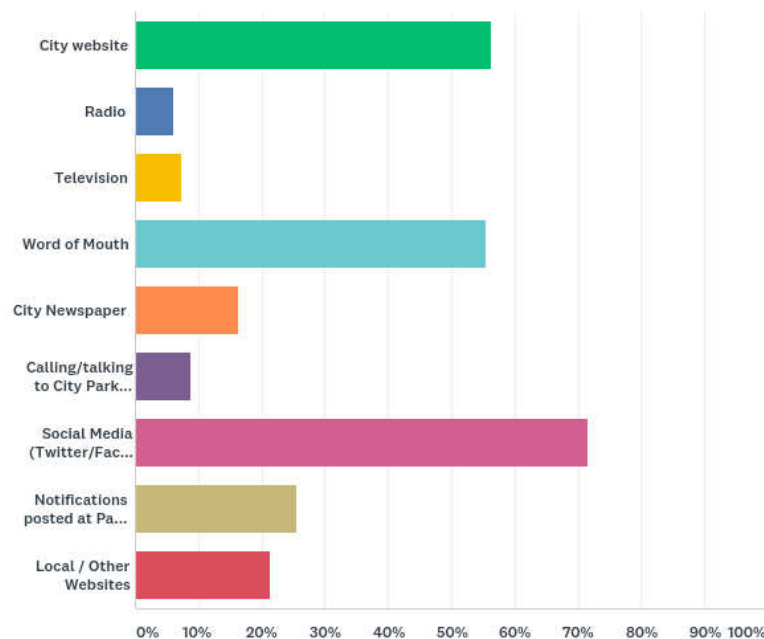
**QUESTION 2: How would you rate the physical condition of the parks in Harker Heights?
(Multiple answers may be indicated.)**



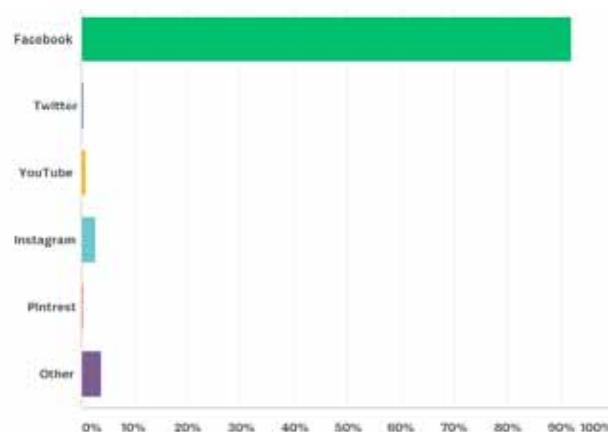
QUESTION 3: Do you feel as though the City’s parks are easily accessible?



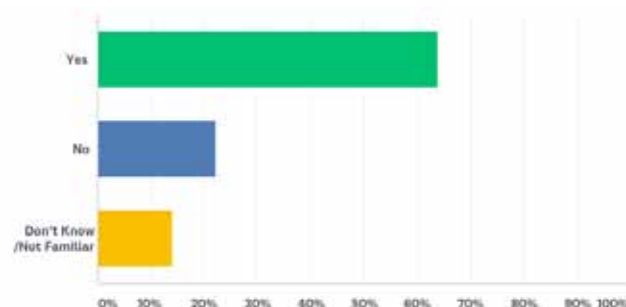
QUESTION 4: From the list below, please mark the top four ways you learn about parks and recreation activities offered in Harker Heights? (Indicate only four answers.)



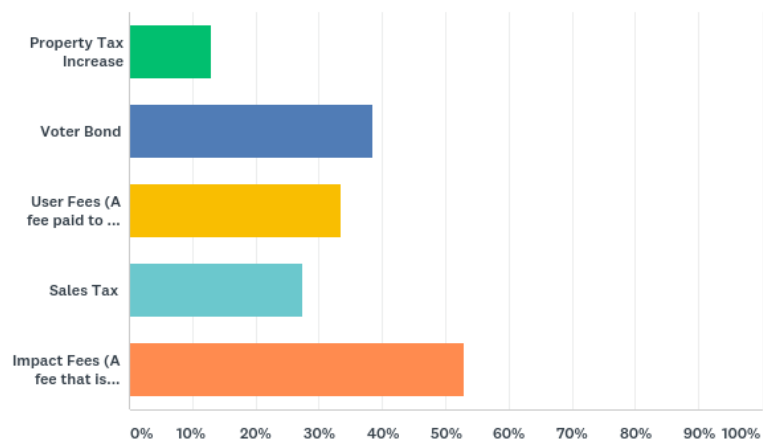
QUESTION 5: If you selected “social media” in Question 4 as one of the top four ways you learn about parks and recreation activities offered by the City of Harker Heights, which social media platform do you prefer? (Indicate only one answer.)



QUESTION 6: Does the City have enough parkland? (Please indicate one answer.)



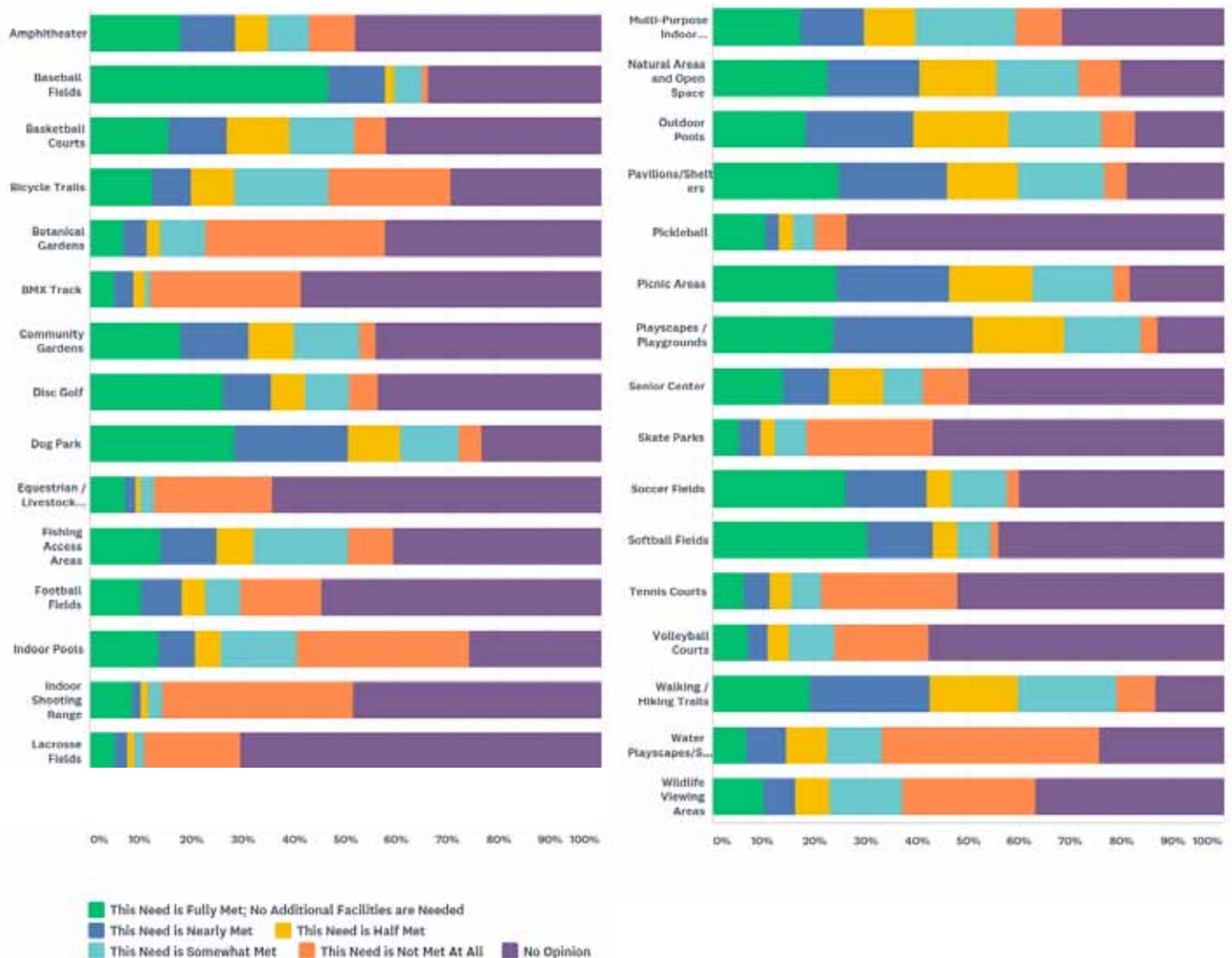
QUESTION 7: Please identify two, if not more, of the following funding methods you prefer for developing new and existing public parks and recreation facilities.



QUESTION 8: What is the single most important issue or need concerning City of Harker Heights parks or recreation programs?

The City received 220 written responses to this question. All responses are included in Section “9 - Appendix of this document.

QUESTION 9: From the FACILITIES listed below, please indicate how well you or someone in your household feels this need is currently being met in existing parks in Harker Heights. (Please indicate one answer for each program activity.)

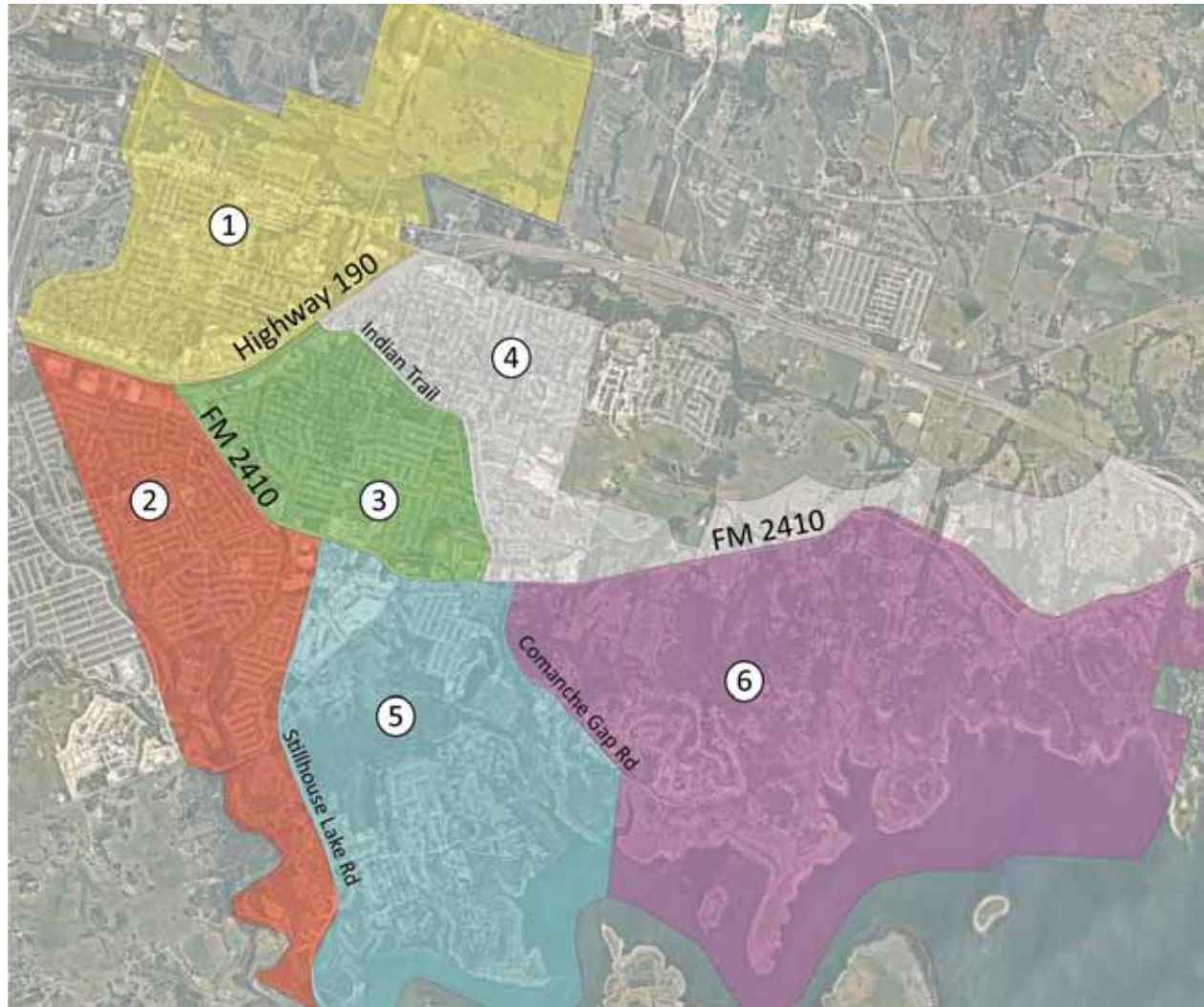


QUESTION 10: From the FACILITIES listed in Question 9, please indicate the top three that are the most important to your household? (Write in your preference below.)

The City queried the responses to Question 10 for each of the six areas of the City as depicted in the map subset below. The listings below represent the top park priorities as provided by survey respondents in the area in which they live.

1	High Priorities Hiking and Walking Trails Medium Priorities Dog Park Soccer Senior Center Playground	2	High Priorities Hiking and Walking Trails Splash Pads Medium Priorities Playground Indoor Pool Dog Park Soccer Skate Park Bicycle Trail Outdoor Pool Tennis Courts Rec.Center
3	High Priorities Hiking and Walking Trails Medium Priorities Outdoor Pool Splash Pad Dog Park Rec. Center Playground Senior Center Tennis Courts	4	High Priorities Splash Pads Medium Priorities Hiking and Walking Trails Playground
5	High Priorities Hiking and Walking Trails Splash Pads Medium Priorities Splash Pads Open Space Soccer Indoor Pool Dog Park Outdoor Pool Skate Park Bicycle Trail	6	High Priorities Hiking and Walking Trails Medium Priorities Outdoor Pool Wildlife Viewing Areas Playground Dog Park Bike Trails Tennis Courts Rec Center Sr. Center

AREAS OF THE CITY



Area 1 (North of Highway 190/Interstate 14)	
Area 2 (South of Highway 190/Interstate 14; West of FM 2410 and West of Stillhouse Lake Road)	
Area 3 (South of Highway 190/Interstate 14; East of FM 2410 and West of Indian Trail)	
Area 4 (South of Highway 190/Interstate 14; East of Indian Trail)	
Area 5 (South of FM 2410; East of Stillhouse Lake Road; West of Comanche Gap Road)	
Area 6 (South of FM 2410; East of Comanche Gap Road)	
Area 7 (Any Area Other than Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6)	

QUESTION 11: Please list any FACILITIES not noted in the survey that the City of Harker Heights should consider constructing in the future. (List and write in any comments.)

The City received 85 written responses to this question. All responses are included in Section “9 - Appendix of this document.

QUESTION 12: From the PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES listed below, please indicate if you or someone in your household has a need for each of the activities or recreational programs. (Please indicate one answer for each program activity.)



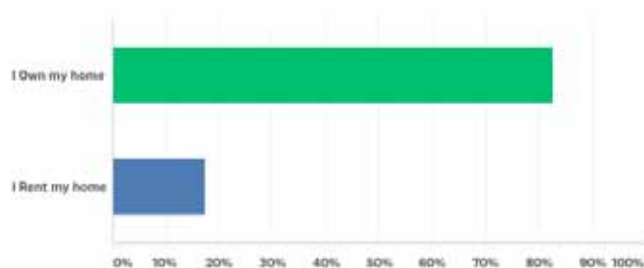
QUESTION 14: Please list any PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES not noted in the survey that the City of Harker Heights should consider providing in the future. (List and write in any comments.)

The City received 62 written responses to this question. All responses are included in Section “9 - Appendix of this document.

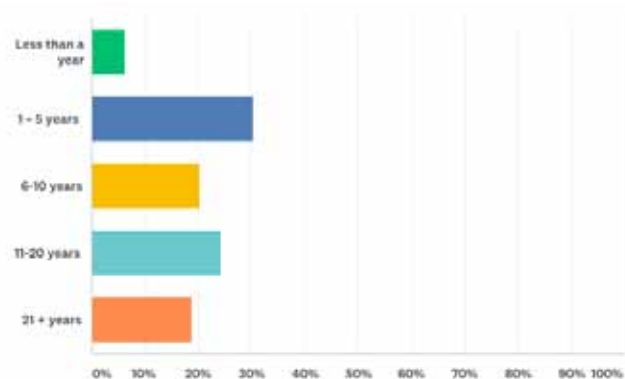
QUESTION 15: I am...



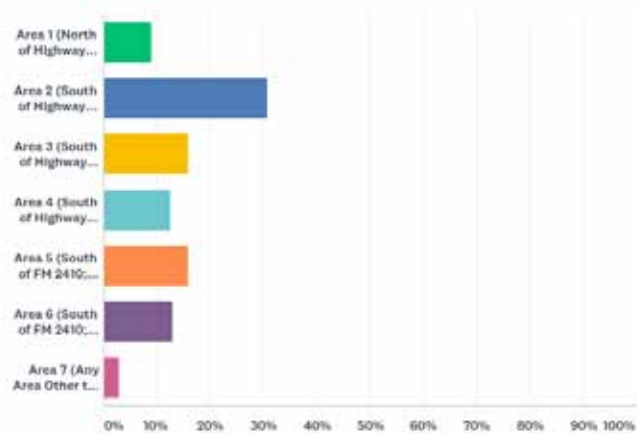
QUESTION 16: I Own my home / Rent my home



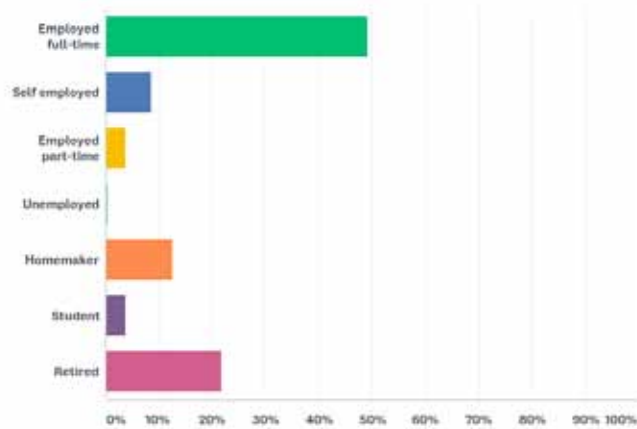
QUESTION 17: I have lived in Harker Heights for _____ years. (Indicate only one answer.)



QUESTION 18: Which area of the City do you live in? (Indicate only one answer.)



QUESTION 19: I am: (Indicate only one answer.)



QUESTION 20: Including yourself, indicate the NUMBER of people in your household who are in the following age categories. (If none, write "0".)

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>% of Responses to this Question Have an Individual in this Age Group</u>
Under 6 years	56.3%
6-12 years	60.07%
13-18 years	50.37%
19-24 years	41.04%
25-44 years	75.75%
45-64 years	58.21%
65 years and older	41.79

QUESTION 21: If you would like to be contacted by City Staff as a follow-up to any item on this survey or to be notified of potential volunteer opportunities, please write your name, phone and e-mail below

The City received 41 written responses to this question.

7

PARK ACREAGE AND FACILITY STANDARDS/GUIDELINES

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides the industry standard for parks, recreation, and open space design as recognized by park planning professionals throughout the country. This master plan follows the latest published nomenclature and standards as outlined by NRPA in the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines 1990 edition.

NRPA directed each municipality or governmental agency to develop and provide its own guideline for growth and park planning as dictated by local conditions. As such, a numerical nationwide template of standards for parks growth does not exist, although the development of a standard for each municipality is exhorted. Previously, NRPA directed a minimum of 11 acres of parkland /1000 population.

Keeping NRPA directives in mind, the following standards and guidelines are to be used by the City of Harker Heights as a guide for minimum goals to be achieved by the City as its park system further develops. As with any issue that arises, the practice of these standards to specific situations should be applied with the wisdom of the local needs.

For purposes of this master plan, the Harker Heights park system is divided into the following park classifications:

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS - As the basic unit of any City's park system, neighborhood parks serve residents in a 1/4 to 1/2 mile area. Typically, there is little if any parking and roadway infrastructure at the park and the focus tends to be on informal activities and servicing passive recreational needs.

COMMUNITY PARKS - Active program elements such as ball fields and larger community based recreation needs are served by the Community Park classification. Typically, these parks range from 30 to 100 acres in size and have a two mile level of service area.



COMPARISON OF PARK ACREAGE TO ADOPTED STANDARDS - PROJECTIONS FOR 2025 AND 2030

In order to assist the City in acquiring additional parkland to meet the needs of a growing population, the following tables have been developed. Each table reflects a desired acreage amount per 1000 unit of population for each park classification group. These desired acreages are compared to existing park acreages within the City limits. The differences between the existing and desired acreages offer a guideline for the years 2025 and 2030 and provide the City of Harker Heights with a systematic park acquisition goal to meet the needs of the population.

EXISTING PARKLAND ACREAGE – CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS

This table lists parkland inventory acreage as indicated in ‘Section 5 - Inventory’ of this master plan document.

Neighborhood Parks	
Goode-Connell Park	14.18
Kern Park	4.48
Skipcha Park	5.27
Total Neighborhood Parks Acreage=	23.93 Acres
Community Parks	
Carl Levin Park	29.69
Community Park	62.14
Purser Family Park	30.29
Summit Soccer Complex	32.77
Total Community Parks Acreage=	154.89 Acres
TOTAL PARK ACREAGE=	178.82 Acres



CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS PARK ACREAGE GUIDELINES

	Existing 2020 Population of 31,849	Guidelines for 2025 Population of 34,287 ¹	Guidelines for 2030 Population of 36,725 ¹
Facility	Existing Parks AC/1000	Suggested AC/1000	Suggested AC/1000
Neighborhood Parks	23.93 0.75 ac/1000	23.93 0.70 ac/1000	23.93 0.65 ac/1000
Community Parks	154.89 4.86 ac/1000	164.89 4.81 ac/1000	174.89 4.76 ac/1000
Totals	178.82 5.61 ac/1000	188.82 5.51 ac/1000	198.82 5.41 ac/1000

At the time of this writing, the City of Harker Heights is exploring the feasibility of taking over the Maintenance and Operations of Dana Peak Park from the Corps of Engineers as part of a potential lease agreement. While Dana Peak Park will not be listed as part of the official Harker Heights park amenity and acreage inventory, the open space and recreational amenities will directly service Harker Heights residents. A modest increase of twenty acres in City parkland (excluding any park acreage associated with a potential Dana Peak Park lease) is proposed over the next ten year growth cycle for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Notes:

1. City Staff estimates that total population build out for the City of Harker Heights will occur at 40,000 people around Year 2040. Population projections for Year 2025 and Year 2030 above are based off of "Active Residential Water Accounts Forecast" provided by the City of Harker Heights Planning and Development Department.



Facility Development Guidelines:

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has published guidelines for the number of recommended recreational facilities based on population. Information from these guidelines is listed below along with facility development guideline recommendations from LUCK Design Team specific to the City of Harker Heights. The recommendations from LUCK Design Team are in reference to facilities that were not covered in the NRPA recommendations. Proposed guidelines for fiscal years 2025 and 2030 as developed by City staff are also listed below.

CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS PARK FACILITY GUIDELINES

Activity / Facility	Guidelines Recommended For Facilities Per Population	Existing Facilities In 2020 Pop. of 31,849	Facilities Proposed For 2025 Pop. of 34,287	Facilities Proposed For 2030 Pop. of 36,725
Amphitheaters	1/50,000^	1	1	1
Baseball Fields	1/5,000^	5	5	5
Basketball Courts (outdoors)	1/5,000*	3.5	3.5	3.5
Disc Golf	18 holes/20,000^	18 holes	18 holes	18 holes
Fishing Docks	1/10,000^	0	0	0
Football Fields	1/20,000*	0	0	1
Golf Course	1/50,000*	0	0	0
Multi-Purpose Fields	1/20,000*	2	2	2
Pavilion/Shelters	1/2,000*	10	11	12
Picnic Tables	1 table/300*	83	93	103
Playgrounds	1 area/1,000*	11	12	13
Recreation Centers	1/20,000-30,000*	1	1	1
Skate Parks/Pads	1/20,000^	0	0	1
Soccer Fields	1/3,000^	12	12	12
Softball Fields	1/5,000*	4	4	4
Swimming Pools	1/20,000*	1	1	1
Splash Pads	1/10,000^	0	1	2
Tennis Courts	1/5,000*	0	0	0
Trails	1/2/1,000*	4.46 miles	6.00 miles	8.00 miles
Volleyball Area	1/5,000*	0	0	2 (outdoors)

* - Source: Guidelines from Appendix A in Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, p. 60-61, 4th printing 1990, a publication of the National Recreation and Park Association. ^- Source: LUCK Design Team professional recommendation for the City of Harker Heights.
National Standard for Baseball: 1/5,000
National Standard for Soccer: 1/5,000

8

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The following page represents a condensed action plan of implementation for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030. This matrix represents all of the park and recreation goals of the City of Harker Heights and is envisioned to be a working document to guide the City in the future growth of its park and recreation system.

The outline is a proposed approach to implementing the highest recreational facility priorities derived from the public outreach process. By targeting specific high priority items that might be accomplished within the 10-year horizon of this planning document, the City has a proposed approach to meet the current and future park needs of the City of Harker Height

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

High Priority Items

1. Walking, Hiking & Biking Trails/Paths/Lanes
2. Picnic Tables (Trail Support Amenity)
3. Benches (Trail Support Amenity)
4. Water Playscape / Splash Pads

Medium Priority Items

5. Playscapes / Playgrounds
6. Dog Park
7. Outdoor Swimming Pool
8. Wildlife Viewing Areas/ Natural Area and Open Space

Moderate Priority Items (Long-Range Priority Items)

9. Soccer Fields
10. Tennis Court
11. Skate Park
12. Baseball Fields
13. Fishing /Water Access Opportunities
14. Basketball
15. Softball



It is not the intent of the matrix to encumber City leadership to future expenditures.

City of Harker Heights Parks Implementation Plan 2020-2030							
Recreation Priority	Goal(s) Satisfied from Master Plan	Project Name	Project Location	Project / Phase	Project Description	Funding Sources	Est. Budget Amount
Outdoor Priority - WALKING, HIKING & BIKING Trails/Paths/Lanes	Accessibility	10 MINUTE WALK Plan for Harker Heights	Overall City	Master Planning	Develop Trail Connectivity Master Plan with Goal of 10 MINUTE WALK to City parks and cultural centers as well as connectivity to other Cities' trail systems	City General Fund	\$15,000 - \$20,000
Outdoor Priority - WALKING, HIKING & BIKING Trails/Paths/Lanes	Accessibility	Kern Park ADA and Path Improvements	400 S. Ann Boulevard	Design and Construction	Provide 1/4 mile Loop Trail within the park and ADA access to the existing recreational amenities in the park	Parks General Fund	\$102,400 - \$120,000
Outdoor Priority - WALKING, HIKING & BIKING Trails/Paths/Lanes	Accessibility	Purser family Park ADA Improvements at Playgrounds and Grilling Stations	100 West Mountain Lion Road	Design and Construction	Provide ADA accessible concrete connections to Playgrounds and Grilling stations at Purser Family Park	Parks General Fund	\$10,000 - \$20,000
Outdoor Priority - WALKING, HIKING & BIKING Trails/Paths/Lanes	Accessibility	Carl Levin Park ADA Amphitheater Improvements	400 Millers Crossing	Design and Construction	Provide 140 LF ADA accessible concrete connections to the amphitheater at Carl Levin	Parks General Fund	\$7,000 - \$10,000
Outdoor Priority - WALKING, HIKING & BIKING Trails/Paths/Lanes	Accessibility	Community Park ADA Batting Cage Improvements	1501 East FM 2410	Design and Construction	Provide 80 LF of 6' wide ADA accessible concrete connections to the batting cage at the Community Park	Parks General Fund	\$4,000
Outdoor Priority - WALKING, HIKING & BIKING Trails/Paths/Lanes	Accessibility	Comanche Gap Park Phase 1 - Trail and Trailhead Improvements	Comanche Gap Park	Grant Application, Design and Construction	Unimproved Parking and Trails for Comanche Gap Park	Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreational Trails Grant (Due Feb. 1st); 20% City	Grant Max \$200,000 (80/20 Match)
Outdoor Priority - WALKING, HIKING & BIKING Trails/Paths/Lanes	Accessibility	Summit Soccer Complex - Loop Trail Improvements	Summit Soccer Complex	Grant Application, Design and Construction	Unimproved Parking and Trails for Summit Soccer Complex	Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreational Trails Grant (Due Feb. 1st); 20% City	Grant Max \$200,000 (80/20 Match)
Outdoor Priority - SPLASH PADS	Innovation / Maintenance	Explore possibility of Splash Pad at 3.5 acres of Mountain Lion Road to provide a Splash Pad South of Hwy 190	West Intersection of Mountain Lion Road and Crowfoot Drive	Master Planning	Conduct Due Diligence to see if this site is suitable for a proposed splash pad	City General Fund	No cost; staff time expense
Outdoor Priority - SPLASH PADS	Innovation / Maintenance	Explore possibility of Splash Pad Interlocal with the Armed Services YMCA to provide a Splash Pad North of Hwy 190 Open Year Around	901 S. Ann Boulevard	Master Planning	Conduct Due diligence and approach the YMCA to see if this facility could be open year around; if an interlocal agreement is appropriate, etc.	City General Fund	No cost; staff time expense
Outdoor Priority - PLAYGROUNDS	Accessibility / Maintenance	Certified Playground Safety Institute (CPSI) Certification for City Staff	N/a	Training	Investing in training for City Staff to become CPSI certified	Parks General Fund for Staff Training	To Be Determined
Outdoor Priority - PLAYGROUNDS	Accessibility / Maintenance	Establish Annual Audit Best Practices for Playgrounds	N/a	Training	Investing in training for City Staff to become CPSI certified	Parks General Fund for Staff Training	To Be Determined
Outdoor Priority - PLAYGROUNDS	Accessibility / Maintenance	Summit Soccer Complex Playground	N/a	Training	Install new playground at Summit Soccer Complex	Parks General Fund for Staff Training	To Be Determined
Outdoor Priority - PLAYGROUNDS	Accessibility / Maintenance	Playground at Corner of Indian Trail and Verna Lee	N/a	Training	Install new playground at Corner of Indian Trail and Verna Lee	Parks General Fund for Staff Training	To Be Determined
Outdoor Priority - PLAYGROUNDS	Accessibility / Maintenance	Install Shade Canopy over the playground at Kern Park	400 S. Ann Boulevard	Construction	Provide over existing playground at Kern Park	Parks General Fund	\$20,000-\$30,000
Outdoor Priority - PLAYGROUNDS	Accessibility	Comanche Gap Park Phase 2 - Administration and Playground Improvements	Comanche Gap Park	Grant Application, Design and Construction	Improvements to include parks Admin Office and Interpretive playground area	Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation (Due	Grant Max \$750,000 (50/20 Match)
Outdoor Priority - DOG PARK	Maintenance	Develop Maintenance Plan for Dog Park at Purser Family Park	100 West Mountain Lion Road	Master Planning	Develop best practices maintenance plan for the dog park at Purser Family Park	Parks General Fund	No cost; staff time expense
Outdoor Priority - DOG PARK	Accessibility	Install new dog park at Corner of Indian Trail and Verna Lee	Indian Trail and Verna Lee	Master Planning, Design and Construction	Conduct Due diligence with the Public Works department to explore this possibility;	City General Fund	\$400,000 - \$500,000
Outdoor Priority - SOCCER	Maintenance	Provide Irrigation at Goode/Connell Park for the Soccer and Baseball Practice Areas	110 East Beeline Lane	Design and Construction	Develop plans and install irrigation; top dress and level fields for more suitable play	Parks General Fund	\$15,000 - \$20,000
Miscellaneous	Sustainability / Innovation	Develop "Sustainability" Best Practices for the Harker Heights Parks System	Overall City	Master Planning	Examples: Eliminate single use plastic at concessions; place recycling bins next to trash cans, utilize SITES initiatives in new design	Parks General Fund	No cost; staff time expense
Miscellaneous	Sustainability / Innovation	Develop "Innovation in Programming" Best Practices for the Harker Heights Parks System	Overall City	Master Planning	Examples: wildflower meadow to reduce mowing and provide seasonal interest; temporal artwork	Parks General Fund	No cost; staff time expense
Miscellaneous	Sustainability / Innovation	Equip the City's Community Parks with Wi-Fi Capabilities	City's Community Parks	Design and Construction	Provide Wi-Fi infrastructure at each of the City's Community Parks	Parks General Fund	To Be Determined

9 APPENDIX

QUESTION 8: What is the single most important issue or need concerning City of Harker Heights parks or recreation programs?

1. Exciting things for families other than sports.
2. An area that is dedicated to extreme sports (e.g. skateboarding, BMX, roller blading, etc.) is highly needed. None of the City's parks have an area designated for these sports, and it is illegal to practice them in almost all public & private properties!
3. Year around playing field (indoor soccer/football field).
4. We are a small town. Please ensure we don't overextend the budget trying to create to many new parks.
5. Splash pad.
6. Park trails deteriorating.
7. Safety.
8. Safe access.
9. Upkeep trash.
10. More family friendly activities.
11. I have none.
12. Maintenance.
13. Keep poop bag dispensers full and keep parks safe.
14. Sidewalk at Kern Park and a dog park with separate areas for dog size.
15. Why does it take so long to fix problems in the parks. Lights stay out for months leaking irrigation making muddy areas trash cans over flowing on weekends trimming of areas mowed not done.
16. Hiking trails along the lake, new soccer fields that reflect the excellence of our city, natural areas and green belts with a central arboretum of native tree, plants and flowers.
17. Safety.
18. Safety.
19. Safety.
20. Recycling bins + connected trail system.
21. Keen park needs more attention.
22. Recreation joggers.. No dog.
23. Handicap accessible playground.
24. Trying to take the only mountain bike trails around.

25. More exposure.
26. Accessibility to the trails at Dana Peak for biking during city control by lease.
27. When the smaller kids are playing soccer or mainly tee ball doesn't seem like there very much city staff involved at all to keep stuff flowing properly.
28. More hike/bike trails.
29. Splash pad or water park.
30. It'd be nice to have more shaded areas for trails especially due to heat.
31. Summit Soccer fields needs some seating and shaded areas for people that are watching. Also not scheduling the games at the same time to make it more single parent friendly.
32. Cleanliness and safety.
33. Keep investing in our parks and community.
34. Nature trails which are accessible to families.
35. Pool access.
36. Skateboard/BMX park.
37. Needing more dog parks instead of one that everyone goes to.
38. Shade for purser. Completion of bike path on Rosewood that leads to Purser.
39. Keeping them nice.
40. Parks should have shade for kids and water fountains for kids year around.
41. A place for the community to gather safely.
42. Safety at the parks.
43. Larger bus for community activities.
44. More activities for residents to enjoy: like classes, movies in the park, kite day, to name a few.
45. Walking areas off the streets as the streets are very narrow.
46. Need more green space in general and not all of it manicured.
47. Summit Soccer Complex is awful for both recreational teams and travel teams.
48. They need to clean bathrooms daily!
49. The parks in Heights are fantastic. Kern park needs some care and access to a bathroom when it is being used. Besides that it's great.
50. Bathrooms at the pool are horrible and always smell like urine.
51. Draw commercial business to our city - a place for citizens to recreate.
52. We need some lighted tennis courts.
53. Tennis walls for self play/practice.
54. Not enough green space. I prefer to go to parks in other cities that have greenbelts and trail systems. Other than Purser Park, Harker Heights parks resemble treeless parking lots. It should be remembered that a persons needs change over time. At one time my focus was playgrounds and

youth sports, now it is fitness and nature.

55. Nothing.
56. We need parks in all areas of the city, older areas are lacking recreation programs.
57. Getting a calendar of events for each program.
58. Support for workers that have great ideas.
59. City growth.
60. Enough volunteers to meet the demand and putting the messages and communication out on social media.
61. More hiking and preserve lands.
62. Family life.
63. Bicycle lanes, bicycle skills park, more bicycle friendly.
64. None.
65. Side walks in neighborhoods.
66. Security scans during the early and late hours.
67. Broken lights/ lights out.
68. Visibility and advertising.
69. Keep parks especially Skipcha Park in better condition.
70. Need more access for seniors pickleball.
71. More shopping stores.
72. Parks and Rec programs are doing fine.
73. Most important for me is the senior citizen programs and services.
74. Need outside tennis/Pickleball courts. There are volley ball and basketball courts but no tennis courts in HARKER heights. You can combine tennis and Pickleball courts by painting lines on the surface. You can also put basketball hoops and volley ball on the same courts. We will need at least four courts.
75. Make sure all neighborhoods have safe access to all parks through the use of wide sidewalks and trails.
76. None.
77. None.
78. More things for children and seniors.
79. Need public Tennis Courts. I've been asking for 20 years!!!
80. Senior Activities need a bigger bus for day trips.
81. Use pylons to keep trucks from backing up over the walking paths. People get hurt when running. I have witnessed this walking in Purser Park in the early mornings.
82. Recycling bins next to trash bins; community composting center, more areas to affordably rent for outdoor events.

83. Ensuring year round shaded areas in parks, preferably by trees
84. Being accessible through sidewalks in the city - Even for the small parks that are near me, I need my car to get there as the walk to the park, even short, is TOO dangerous.
85. Advertising
86. User friendly
87. Safety of equipment for my children
88. Spectacle, the parks are nice but basic. With the military influence and range of cultures the parks should grab themes and ideas from around the world. Our parks should not just be run of the mill parks. With the majority of the residents spending time in countries with hundreds of years of history it silly not to have world historical education intertwined with our parks.
89. More pickleball time.
90. Need to have new and different amenities at each park.
91. Trash collection! In Purser Park there is more often than not trash in the water areas. I notice this in Carl Levin as well.
92. Need a bigger or second pool in the area with better hours.
93. Ensure youth in the area have activities in the summer.
94. Would like all the facilities to have multiple activities available. Currently, only one disc golf course, only one of the facilities I'm familiar with has basketball. Would be nice to have more choice.
95. Updating and renovations to existing structures.
96. Having activities that can be repeated various times of the year regardless of the seasons (cold weather camping, polar bear swims, hot cocoa in the park (spin off from the popsicles), various sports that can be done indoors as well. Also, Heights could really use another city sponsored activity or event that draws in a large amount of both citizens and noncitizens. Food, Wine & Brew fest is great but sponsored by the Chamber. If the Parks dept. could have their own "Fall Fest" or "Spring Spectacular" that is an annual event that folks could look forward to you may begin to gain more traction and draw to the area.
97. Community activity rooms in the parks to rent for events (ex. Parties). W/Full prep facilities.
98. Safe environment for families.
99. The trash at Goode-Connell Park is often overflowing (I think the apartment people use them) and some grass areas gets missed sometimes when it's cut.
100. Safety. Park security guards (doesn't have to be police officers) that patrol parks.
101. Finding and keeping qualified Parks and Rec staff.
102. They need to focus on the up keeping of existing parks rather than taking on new projects that cost.
103. We need a skate park in Harker heights.
104. More programs encouraging to use the parks.
105. Need a splash pad.
106. Harker Heights needs a skateboard park.

107. Bathrooms.
108. Lots of programs for small children. Not much for pre-teens/middle schoolers.
109. We are still new here trying to find out.
110. Updating the Recreation Center and its amenities.
111. With such hot summers, it's difficult to find any places we can enjoy outside (spray pad, biking paths, sidewalks in neighborhoods).
112. We need more parks.
113. Need water fountains, shade and restrooms.
114. More qualified coaches.
115. Bathrooms at parks and better communication between Parks and Rec and the programs offer.
116. We would love to have a free splash pad!
117. Not sure.
118. Leave Dana Peak Park alone.
119. More activities for kids like a splash pad and more shade covering the playground.
120. FUNDING! I know it's hard to stretch that dime into a dollar you need.
121. I know it's hard to control, but the soccer fields have quite a lot of ant piles.
122. Better screening of volunteers and participants. Maybe some type of incentive.
123. Opportunities for youth.
124. Get rid of all the brush.
125. Security.
126. The kids sports rec could be drastically improved, there is no reason our citizens should leave the community to play in other cities. My involvement in the baseball and softball teams has shown me that we have poor communication and organization by the city staff in charge. When I am told by staff that I should feel privileged for what work they do indicates the wrong attitude set forth by the director.
127. Cleanliness. They were cleaner a few years ago than they are now. It almost seems as though no one checks them.
128. Summit Soccer Fields needs at least a long bench for the players to sit down on.
129. A larger gym with more courts and workout area.
130. More staff members.
131. Lack of communication.
132. Lack of amenities comparable to other cities with similar property tax.
133. Summit fields need a place for parents to sit just a little bench even if just for the kids on the sidelines also there are a ton of holes on the field a kid could easily be hurt.
134. More free activities for children, like a splash pad.
135. Harker Heights is really doing a great job. Know some of us are very appreciative!

136. Development of Dana Peak Park. Living in the Ridge prefer the peace and quiet. Cannot afford another property tax increase as already being taxed out of our home.
137. Use of unused space for natural park areas, walking trails, fishing etc.
138. Summit soccer field stink. Sewage smell in that area.
139. All proposed future should be brought to a vote by the citizen's not just the city council.
140. Summit Soccer fields needs some seating and shaded areas for people that are watching.
141. Sun/shade cover.
142. Security.
143. Don't know.
144. Upgrade Summit Park.
145. Growing larger annual community events.
146. Cleaner bathrooms and more activities for kids and adults.
147. Fall softball would be great. They offer soccer twice a year. It would be nice if they offered softball twice a year as well.
148. Lack of water activities or areas for families during the summer. For the amount we pay in property taxes there should at least be a splash of for the kids to play in.
149. I would like to have more gyms available for playing basketball with kids.
150. Ensuring there are enough diverse activities to children actively engaged.
151. Have all gates open when games are going on, gate by batting cage almost always closed.
152. More restrooms and shade covering the children's area. An area for toddlers is needed.
153. What came first, the sewage treatment facility or the soccer complex? Highly inconvenient to watch your child play youth sports with the smell in the air. City planners did not think this one out.
154. Safety and cleanliness.
155. Leave Dana Peak Park alone!
156. Proximity to living areas.
157. Maybe just leave Dana Peak park alone and not worry about taxing residents. To create it into a money making project but no plans of widening roads and no other exit for residents of the Ridge is unsafe. Also, residents of the Ridge paid premium to be away from noisy areas. Maybe find another place to build parks instead of rebuilding an existing park.
158. Need more advertising.
159. More options such as water parks. Ex. Summer Fun USA.
160. You have enough parks, you just need to improve them and enforce park rules. Need more shade and less playgrounds. Improving the landscaping and making sure the existing plants and trees are thriving would do a lot toward making them nicer places to visit. Please do NOT Turn Dana Peak Park into what all your other parks are. It is the only nice place left in Harker Heights that you can really enjoy nature and beautiful scenery!!

161. Restrooms,drinks.
162. Safety.
163. No more property tax hikes.
164. The parks need trees. I used to used the community park for running, but it gets too hot without shade. That's park in particular needs more trees. Also, limited amount of
165. Charge users and not homeowners. A lot of homeowners never use facilities, why should they pay for others to use?
166. More trees and tables.
167. Put the word out on the current parks you have, and make them better.
168. No splash pad in the city.
169. Preserve Dana Peak. Leave as it is.
170. Improve what already is here - until this survey didn't know we had this much.
171. Don't raise property taxes to fund parks.
172. The condition of the baseball softball & soccer fields when it rain.
173. Up keep.
174. No skate park at any park here in Harker Heights.
175. More lighting in parks and access to more water fountains throughout trail.
176. There's nothing around the parks. Partner with retail locations to create experiences and destination, multi-use property.
177. Safety.
178. Facilities for pre-teens and teen. Such as a skate park.
179. Splash park.
180. To my family it's pool accessibility. Morning hours. Another pool built to fit the crowd or constant closing due to pooping? Splash pad?
181. We need additional community pools.
182. Effort to keep programs fun and competitive for the kids. Find ways to help preserve resources such as a protective Canopy over the batting cages at the Community Park to help maintain better condition of the facility.
183. Play structure upkeep.
184. Safety.
185. More variety (such as tennis courts, splash pads, basketball courts).
186. Additional activities (tennis, water park).
187. Needs better lighting.
188. Homeless/dog poop.
189. Safe access and close proximity to neighborhoods.

190. A splash park and access from Skipcha Final to Skipcha Park that is not on Stillhouse Hollow Road. Clear out that nasty swamp creek thing and make it a park.
191. Mowing & keeping parks up.
192. Responsibility of those who use the park--and fines for those who don't. i.e. picking up their dog waste. I generally pick up 4 to 5 piles each time I walk at Community Park.
193. Abuse of parks, people are driving through Carl levin park every weekend to get to the reserved areas. Y'all need to gate off the park to vehicular traffic.
194. Keep them pretty.
195. Safety.
196. A water park or splash pad would be nice.
197. Bike lanes.
198. We need a splash pad!! It's too hot in TX to enjoy the parks without a way to cool off. A splash pad would be a great way to do that!
199. Splash pad needed.
200. Lack of trees.
201. More teenage/children programs.
202. Keeping them safe.
203. Trees need to be trimmed of dead branches in Purser Park.
204. A splash pad.
205. Summit Soccer Complex could use a sidewalk around the complex for people to walk around for exercise. Also clean up the area around the creek, maybe make something for kids to fish in. Kern Park is a big park for a small playground. Needs more attention. These 2 parks are the oldest in Harker Heights and I just fill like this side of town is being neglected.
206. Purser park has a lot of hazards.....3 and 4 foot drop offs along walking path, numerous dead trees with large limbs falling off, swampy/slim growing in creek because no one cleans them out, tree branches hanging down below eye level all over park. Lot of safety hazards in my opinion.
207. The dog park is gross. People don't clean up after their dogs like they are supposed to. It needs a regular cleaning and maybe get more strict in those who don't clean up after their dogs. Also, I feel like children under 10 shouldn't be allowed in the big dog park area. My dog loves people and other dogs but I can't take her to the park when there are small children in the park because she gets scared and I'm afraid she'd hurt a small child. It's just not safe for kids no matter how well behaved people think their kids are. So the issue of the dog park should be addressed. Also, a LOT of residents in our Facebook page talk about how they'd like to see a splash pad for kids at one of the parks.
208. Getting the information out to the public.
209. Shade! Going to sporting events here for Grandchildren is almost unbearable. Pavilions and trees are needed.
210. Some of the parks need an increase police Patrol.

- 211. Shaded playground areas! The playground structures get very hot to the touch in the heat making some parts unusable (ie slide, climbing parts).
- 212. Better covers to block the sun and keep the slides cool. Also add watering areas for dogs to all parks with dog walk areas.
- 213. Pet waste cleanup.
- 214. Need for a splash pad.
- 215. They all need SHADE! Harker Heights Community park has -no- shade on the playground equipment itself and it's brutal on the little ones!
- 216. Safety.
- 217. Connectivity.
- 218. More activities posts
- 219. We need a splash pad like other towns.
- 220. Funding to provide new amenities in our parks.

QUESTION 11: Please list any FACILITIES not noted in the survey that the City of Harker Heights should consider constructing in the future. (List and write in any comments.)

1. Skate Parks (which are covered by a roof).
2. Splash pad.
3. Canal system between lake Belton and lake Stillhouse to be used for kayaking, canoeing, and or rafting.
4. Bike Trails.
5. Whatever happened to volleyball at community park.
6. Nature Trails similar to Chalk Ridge.
7. Arboretum of native trees, plants and flowers.
8. It would be awesome to have an all abilities playscape/playground, a water playground/ Splash pad, and a tennis court.
9. Hospital near the night way Dr.
10. Mountain biking trails.
11. BMX Track.
12. Walking & hiking trails.
13. Skate park.
14. Zoo, outdoor players theatre, more senior activities with tours, and more community sidewalks.
15. Running trails, indoor pool.
16. I would like to see the city develop the old oakridge neighborhood golf course into a community park. There is trails, greens, a pool and lots of room for anything the community needs.
17. Recreational pool center.
18. Tennis courts?
19. Bigger playgrounds - need family activities.
20. None it's a waste of money and time.
21. Indoor soccer field.
22. Bicycle skills park.
23. Sidewalks in neighborhoods.
24. Dana Peak camping area.
25. Senior center on indian trails. Need more activity rooms/ activities.
26. None.
27. A place for people with special needs and seniors can go and feel like apart of the community.
28. Larger library.
29. No sure.

30. Indoor pool.
31. None.
32. Botanical garden.
33. Senior Center with indoor exercise area.
34. Community self-serve recycling center.
35. Cant think of anything else.
36. A dedicated SENIOR Center.
37. Swimming pool.
38. Splash pad.
39. Garden maze.
40. Horseshoes.
41. Golf putting areas! OOO! GOLF LESSONS! This may be a library/activities center thing but having a "Teen Room" or rather an open, specific teen gathering area within one of the existing city facilities that could have more teen-esque atmosphere that is monitored and safe (think gaming consoles, popcorn machine, ping-pong table, big screen tvs).
42. Cheer/Gymnastics Areas.
43. A bigger, free public gym with walking trails to encourage a healthy community.
44. Multi-purpose complex like in McAllen,TX.
45. Too broad a question. I'd like to see additional parks with outdoor pools and or spray pads for the kids; walking/hiking trails; dog parks; picnic areas; Disc Golf; Amphitheater, Bike Trails.
46. Water Park.
47. Splash Pad.
48. More Bathrooms (clean).
49. FOOTBALL FIELDS FOR YOUTH FOOTBALL LIKE ROUNDROCK MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX. FOOTBALL IS YEAR ROUND, THIS WILL BRING LOTS OF PEOPLE TO HARKER HEIGHTS AND WILL BOOST OUR HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES.
50. Sand Volleyball Court, Tennis Court, Splash Pad.
51. All-abilities playground.
52. More trees.
53. Restrooms and drinking fountain and sidewalks in residential areas. Also needs crosswalks (mid block) in high traffic areas near the schools (Skipcha in particular)
54. None.
55. Street hockey rink.
56. Gazebos.
57. More trash cans in the parks.

58. Zen or tranquility space.
59. Indoor Pool Space.
60. On street bike lanes to Park Facilities - like Kern Park since there is not a parking lot.
61. Summit Soccer Fields needs a bench for players to sit down on.
62. Skate park, Another outdoor park with a pool.
63. Splash pad?
64. Indoor Sports Arena.
65. Out door splash Parks with amphitheaters and more sidewalks with trash and poop bags.
66. Sidewalks and lights along Stillhouse road.
67. Football, soccer, indoor pools, tennis, volleyball.
68. Healthy restaurants.
69. Putt putt golfing, facilities like MAKs in Copperas Cove.
70. Stop constructing and start improving existing sites!!
71. Botanical gardens.
72. Porta Potty's along hiking/biking trails.
73. A small park in The Ridge.
74. FIX what we have. INFORM public as to what we have; don't try to create more by spending more.
75. None.
76. Additional disc golf course.
77. N/A.
78. PLEASE build a splash park!! And better covers and benches at the parks. Its HOT in TX and although there is some cover, it's too far away from where kids play. We need to be closer to the kids.
79. Botanical Gardens.
80. Indoor pool with slides and lazy river.
81. Splash pad!
82. Dog water areas on all the water fountains. Make sure all parks have filter water fill ups.
83. Dog playscape/agility course.
84. Archery.
85. Splash pad along Mountain Lion Road.

QUESTION 14: Please list any PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES not noted in the survey that the City of Harker Heights should consider providing in the future. (List and write in any comments.)

1. Outdoor theatre.
2. Golf archery paint ball.
3. More tech/art activities offered by library.
4. None.
5. Trail bike skipcha mountain.
6. BMX Track.
7. More youth programs/classes..etc. (like swimming lessons, Dance classes for kids like Ballet or tap, Fun activities for the summer for kids).
8. Community/senior tours within the United States or abroad; nature hike, walk, and bike trails, increase our towns walkability score.
9. Theatre and music.
10. Tennis.
11. More community activities.
12. Tennis.
13. None it's a waste of money and time.
14. Biking.
15. None.
16. Ballroom dancing,tap dancing,stage plays.
17. Senior Travel Trips.
18. I am not sure.
19. Speakers at Senior Center/Library on topics such as Alzheimer's, senior Health etc.
20. Lunches for seniors.
21. Nine.
22. Geocaching, Kid exploring programs, Park cleaning events.
23. Yoga and gym for Senior with a REAL instructor .
24. Survival skills.
25. Senior softball.
26. Festivals.
27. 5k and 10k running races.
28. Skeet Shooting...?, Disc Golf Competitions hosted by the City?

29. Adult dance classes.
30. Cheer/Gymnastics.
31. Youth/Teen football camps.
32. Karate.
33. Adult volleyball.
34. MORE FOR PRE-TEENS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 11-14.
35. More programs for teens and family .
36. Annual Music in the Park Festival, Zumba Class,.
37. Closer tie in with BSA to camp in the parks (mostly just the Cub Scouts).
38. Nothing needs to be added.
39. Yoga.
40. A summer cohesion program. Where I used to live it went from 9am til noon or 1 depending on the year. Kids did sports, crafts, etc. fees were income based. at or below poverty level was free then went from small to larger fees depending on income. most of the workers were high school and college kids. Again they played games and sports and did simple crafts like coloring and painting pictures also made kites out of trash bags and balsa wood. It gave the elementary students something to do in summer.
41. Youth Sports - Basketball for the older divisions.
42. Water Park.
43. Skate park.
44. July 4 fireworks?
45. Senior trips.
46. Day sports classes for adults like yoga.
47. 1812 Overture Music Event in Park. Maybe an annual event.
48. Cheer leading and football.
49. Fall league baseball youth.
50. Fishing, duck hunting, hiking.
51. Don't stop the parades and yearly Santa's ride through the city.
52. None, you have enough.
53. Nude Star Bathing.
54. Water activities, kayaks, boating, fishing etc.
55. None.
56. Carnival.
57. Continuing education type classes not just for seniors.

58. N/a.

59. Camping.

60. Splash pad.

61. I believe Harker Heights does a fantastic job in providing to the citizens excellent opportunities, a well trained staff and am grateful for all that is currently offered. (Would be nice to have an indoor pool though.)

62. Resource conservation education (water etc).

Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Survey 2020-2030

The City of Harker Heights is currently preparing the Harker Heights Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030 (Plan) to guide the long-range planning of parks and event facilities within the City. Public input is an important portion of the Plan.

To ensure the public has an opportunity to voice their opinion, City officials ask citizens living within the City of Harker Heights, the Harker Heights Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), and Killeen Independent School District to participate in a short 21-question survey. Answering survey questions will allow individuals to express opinions, wants, and needs regarding City owned and managed parks and event facilities, the future development of open space in Harker Heights, and recreational programs. The results of the survey will be viewed in context with other input received from the public to establish the highest need park priorities within the City.

Please complete this survey by indicating the answers that best reflect your attitudes and opinions.

Your opinion is important and the City would like to thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

1) How often have you or members of your household visited the City parks listed below or used recreation facilities in Harker Heights in the last year? (Multiple answers may be indicated.)

How often do you visit parks in Harker Heights?	Once a week	More than once a month	Once a month	Two or more times during the year	Never
Activities Center					
Carl Levin Park					
Community Garden					
Community Park					
Goode-Connell Park					
Kern Park					
Purser Family Park					
Recreation Center					
Skipcha Park					
Summit Soccer Complex					

2) How would you rate the physical condition of the parks in Harker Heights? (Multiple answers may be indicated.)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know / Not Familiar
Activities Center					
Carl Levin Park					
Community Garden					
Community Park					
Goode-Connell Park					
Kern Park					
Purser Family Park					
Recreation Center					
Skipcha Park					
Summit Soccer Complex					

3) Do you feel as though the City's parks are easily accessible?

(Please indicate one answer.)

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

If you answered "No", why do you think the City's parks are not easily accessible?

4) From the list below, please mark the top four ways you learn about parks and recreation activities offered in Harker Heights? (Indicate only four answers.)

City website		City Newspaper	
Radio		Calling/talking to City Park employees	
Television		Social Media (twitter/Facebook/etc.)	
Word of Mouth		Notifications posted at Park Facilities	

Other (List): _____

5) If you selected "social media" in Question 4 as one of the top four ways you learn about parks and recreation activities offered by the City of Harker Heights, which social media platform do you prefer? (Indicate only one answer.)

Facebook	
Twitter	
YouTube	
Instagram	
Pintrest	

_____ Other (List): _____

6) Does the City have enough parkland? (Please indicate one answer.)

Yes		No		Don't Know /Not Familiar	
-----	--	----	--	--------------------------	--

If you answered "No" where do you think new parks are needed?

7) Please identify two, if not more, of the following funding methods you prefer for developing new and existing public parks and recreation facilities:

Property Tax Increase	
Voter Bond	
User Fees (A fee paid to a facility owner by a facility user as a necessary condition for using the facility.)	
Sales Tax	
Impact Fees (A fee that is imposed by the City on a new or proposed development project to pay for the costs of providing public services (for example, a new park) to the new development.)	

_____ Other (List): _____

8) What is the single most important issue or need concerning City of Harker Heights parks or recreation programs? (Write in any comments.)

9) From the FACILITIES listed below, please indicate how well you or someone in your household feels this need is currently being met in existing parks in Harker Heights. (Please indicate one answer for each program activity.)

This need is:	Fully Met; No Additional Facilities are Needed	Nearly Met	Half Met	Somewhat Met	Not Met At All	No Opinion
Amphitheater						
Baseball Fields						
Basketball Courts						
Bicycle Trails						
Botanical Gardens						
BMX Track						
Community Gardens						
Disc Golf						
Dog Park						
Equestrian / Livestock Arenas / Showbarn						
Fishing Access Areas						
Football Fields						
Indoor Pools						
Indoor Shooting Range						
Lacrosse Fields						
Multi-Purpose Indoor Recreation Center						
Natural Areas and Open Space						
Outdoor Pools						
Pavilions/Shelters Water						
Pickleball						
Picnic Areas						
Playscapes / Playgrounds						
Senior Center						
Skate Parks						
Soccer Fields						
Softball Fields						
Tennis Court						
Volleyball Courts						
Walking / Hiking Trails						
Water Playscapes / Splash Pads						
Wildlife Viewing Areas						

10) From the **FACILITIES** listed in Question 9, please indicate the top three that are the most important to your household? (Write in your preference below.)

_____1st _____2nd _____3rd

11) Please list any **FACILITIES** not noted in the survey that the **City of Harker Heights** should consider constructing in the future. (List and write in any comments.)

12) From the **PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES** listed below, please indicate if you or someone in your household has a need for each of the activities or recreational programs. (Please indicate one answer for each program activity.)

This need is:	Fully Met; No Additional Facilities are Needed	Nearly Met	Half Met	Somewhat Met	Not Met At All	No Opinion
Adult Sports						
Birding / Wildlife Viewing						
Creative Arts & Crafts						
Equestrian and Livestock Activities						
Fitness & Wellness						
Indoor Recreation						
Movies in the Park						
Music in the Park						
Nature Education						
Outdoor Adventure Sports						
Senior Programming						
Swimming & Aquatics						
Visual & Performing Arts						
Youth Sports						
Youth Summer Camps						

13) From the **PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES** listed in Question 12, please indicate the top three that are the most important to your household? (Write in your preference below.)

_____1st _____2nd _____3rd

14) Please list any **PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES** not noted in the survey that the **City of Harker Heights** should consider providing in the future. (List and write in any comments.)

About you:

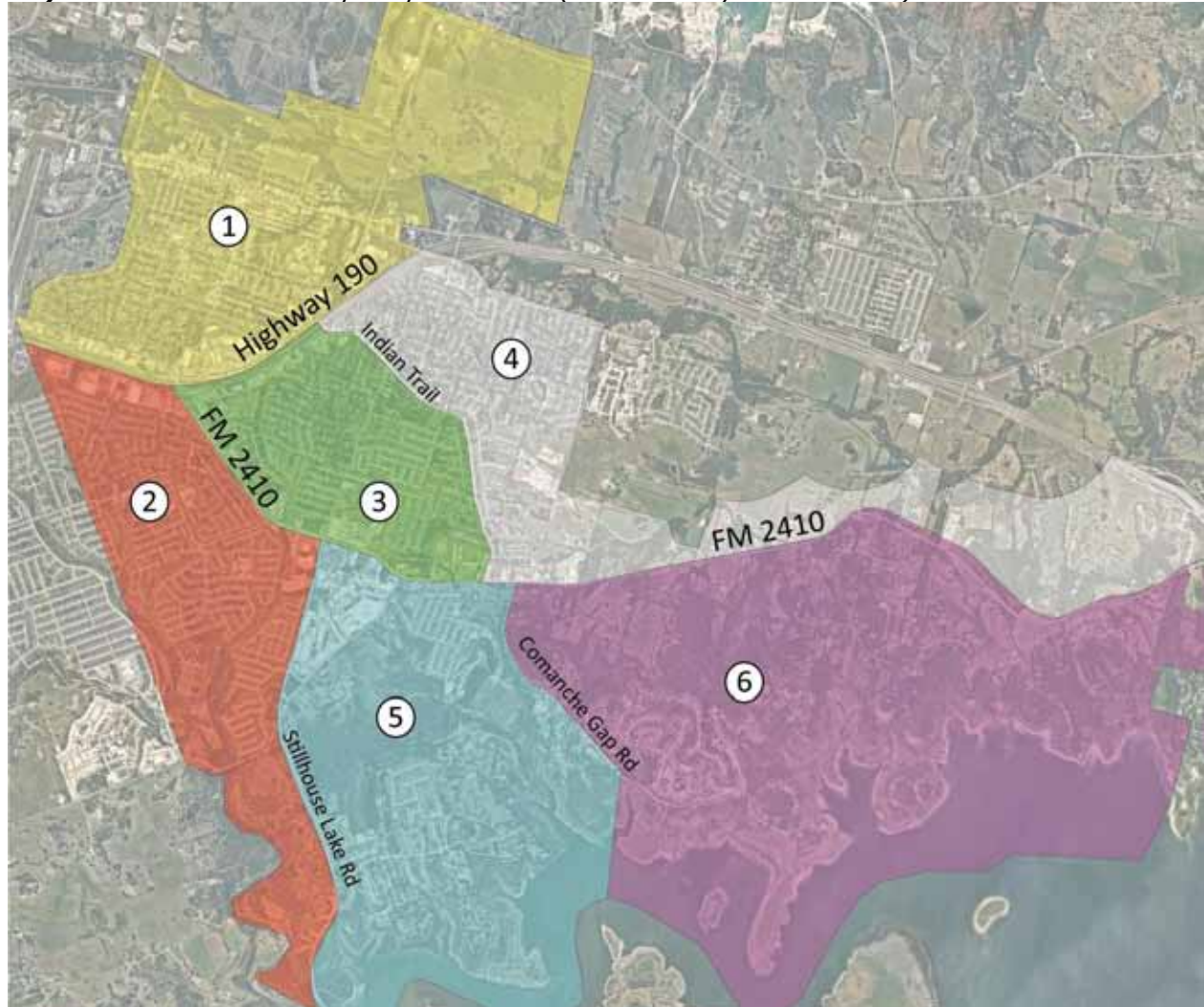
15) I am Male / Female / Other

16) I Own my home / Rent my home

17) I have lived in Harker Heights for _____ years. (Indicate only one answer.)

A	Less than a year	
B	1 – 5 years	
C	6-10 years	
D	11-20 years	
E	21 + years	

18) Which area of the City do you live in? (Indicate only one answer.)



Area 1 (North of Highway 190/Interstate 14)	
Area 2 (South of Highway 190/Interstate 14; West of FM 2410 and West of Stillhouse Lake Road)	
Area 3 (South of Highway 190/Interstate 14; East of FM 2410 and West of Indian Trail)	
Area 4 (South of Highway 190/Interstate 14; East of Indian Trail)	
Area 5 (South of FM 2410; East of Stillhouse Lake Road; West of Comanche Gap Road)	
Area 6 (South of FM 2410; East of Comanche Gap Road)	
Area 7 (Any Area Other than Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6)	

19) I am: *(Indicate only one answer.)*

A	Employed full-time	
B	Self employed	
C	Employed part-time	
D	Unemployed	
E	Homemaker	
F	Student	
G	Retired	

20) Including yourself, indicate the NUMBER of people in your household who are in the following age categories. (If none, write "0".)

Under 6 yrs		25-44 years	
6-12 years		45-64 years	
13-18 years		65 yrs & older	
19-24 years			

21) If you would like to be contacted by City Staff as a follow-up to any item on this survey or to be notified of potential volunteer opportunities, please write your name, phone and email below.

Thank you for your participation in this survey. Your input will help develop the future vision for parks and recreation in the City of Harker Heights.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. "History/Demographics; source: [http://www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us/docs/22-09-10\(4\)%20History,%20Demographics,%20page%2019-24.pdf](http://www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us/docs/22-09-10(4)%20History,%20Demographics,%20page%2019-24.pdf); retrieved February 2, 2020.



This page intentionally left blank.



City of Holland





This page intentionally left blank.



City of Kempner





This page intentionally left blank.

City of Killeen Parks and Open Space Master Plan February 2022



FEBRUARY 2022

THE KILLEEN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

CITY OF KILLEEN, TEXAS



Appendix I - Part 1 of 3
Parks and Recreation Assets

WELCOME STATEMENT

On behalf of the City of Killeen and the Recreation Services Department, it's with great excitement that we bring you a parks and open space master plan which prioritizes smaller, incremental improvements which result in transformational change over time. As many of you know our parks system is well behind in park acreage and many of our parks are outdated and in need of re-activation through well planned, strategic efforts to replace, and in many parks, build new amenities that invite park users of all types. The core of this plan is to develop and activate a "Complete Parks" system—one which serves all users.

We are adhering to the principles set out in this plan as we implement improvements in our existing park system and plan and prepare for longer-term sustainable growth. We are constantly asking ourselves: are our parks adequately maintained, are they accessible (i.e., open and enticing to all), are they safe and comfortable, do they provide for social interaction, and lastly, are they activated?

Your Recreation Services staff will continue to work in step with City Council, area partners, and residents to implement the vision, goals, and actions set out in this plan so that our community truly achieves one "Complete Parks" system.

We look forward to creating and developing the very best parks system possible and hope that this summary plan accurately captures and reflects your aspirations for the future of the Killeen parks and open space system.

Respectfully,



Joe Brown, CPRP

Executive Director of Recreation Services

City of Killeen





The Parks and Open Space Master Plan embodies a new vision for Killeen’s future—one which aspires to maximize the number of people in the park system and on the wealth creation parks, trails, and open spaces bring to the community. It explores an innovative approach to parks system planning—one founded on Strong Towns and Complete Park principles—developed with the community during the planning process.

These principles were developed out of necessity, in that there is a lot of opportunity to improve upon the provision of parks-related services moving forward. This includes improving access to unserved and underserved parts of the community and providing for a more diversified set of facilities, amenities, and activation which serve a broader cross-section of the Killeen community. To accomplish this, this plan sets a vision for first improving on the quality of conditions and incremental improvement of existing parks. It then focuses on a smarter, more prudent approach to long-term park growth and development through parkland dedication, donations, further development of other existing City non-park property, and strategic partnerships with area partners.

This Summary Plan is organized as set out below.

History.....	3
Demographics.....	5
Existing Parks System.....	7
Plan Methodology.....	9
Plan Recommendations.....	23
Plan Implementation.....	37
Acknowledgments.....	43

HISTORY

In 1881, the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway platted a 70-block town on its land near the adjacent community known as Palo Alto. The town was named after the assistant general manager of the railroad, Frank P. Killeen. At this time the population was approximately 40 people.

By 1884, the population had reached 350 people. As Killeen became an important shipping location for cotton, wool, and grain from the surrounding farms, the town continued to grow.

In 1942, the Camp Hood military training base was established to meet the demands of World War II. Thousands of people moved to the area including construction workers, soldiers, and their families. The opening of Camp Hood changed the local economy. In 1949, the adoption of the City Charter established the council-manager form of government for the City.

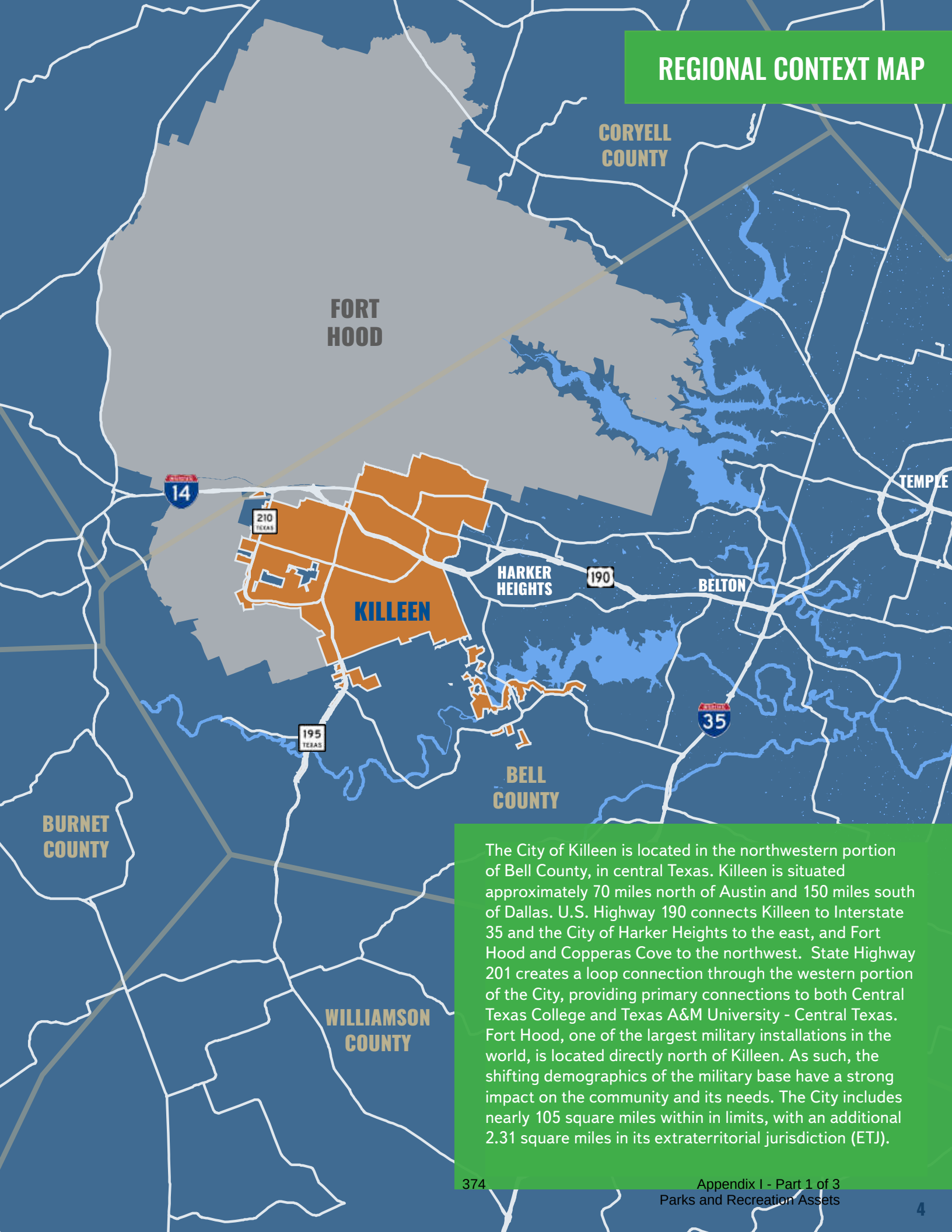
In 1970, the City developed one of its first larger community parks—Long Branch Park. Over the next 20-30 years, Killeen experienced some of its greatest growth in the park system. Many of the City's original neighborhood parks (e.g., Fowler, Stewart, etc.) and some of the community parks (e.g., Conder) were developed concurrent with growth with good proximity to area residents.

Since 2000, however, public policy disfavored growing the park system concurrent with overall city growth. As such, many of the newer parts of the city are devoid of public park properties. During this same time, limited available resources were focused more on bigger and newer capital investments (e.g., Lions Club Park) and less on keeping up with accessible park growth and deferred maintenance. This resulted in a fragile park system.

Today, Killeen is thriving city of over 150,000 people and this plan identifies a new shift in public policy—one which refocuses efforts on maximizing community benefit and wealth creation of the parks system as an essential part of the City's overall "civic" infrastructure.



REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP

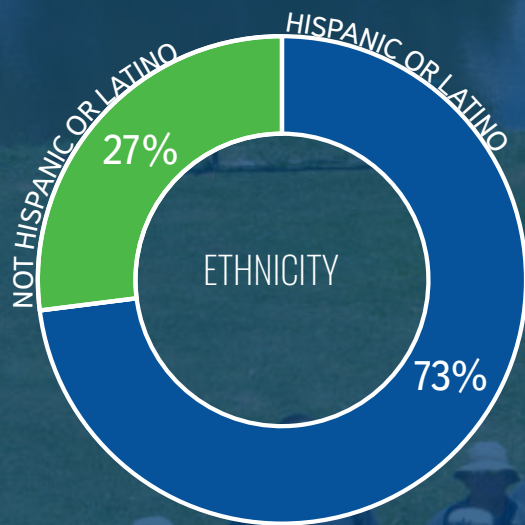
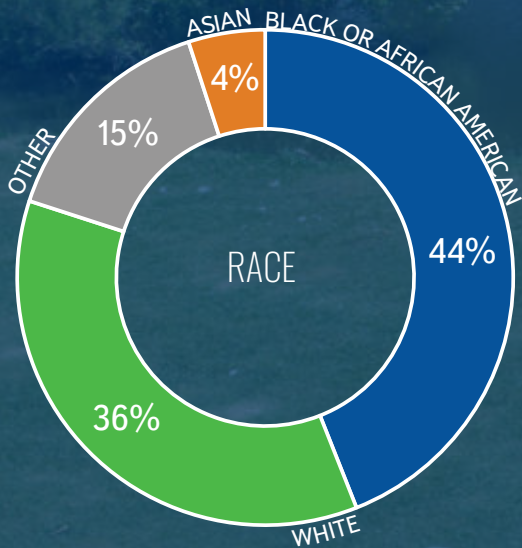


The City of Killeen is located in the northwestern portion of Bell County, in central Texas. Killeen is situated approximately 70 miles north of Austin and 150 miles south of Dallas. U.S. Highway 190 connects Killeen to Interstate 35 and the City of Harker Heights to the east, and Fort Hood and Copperas Cove to the northwest. State Highway 201 creates a loop connection through the western portion of the City, providing primary connections to both Central Texas College and Texas A&M University - Central Texas. Fort Hood, one of the largest military installations in the world, is located directly north of Killeen. As such, the shifting demographics of the military base have a strong impact on the community and its needs. The City includes nearly 105 square miles within its limits, with an additional 2.31 square miles in its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

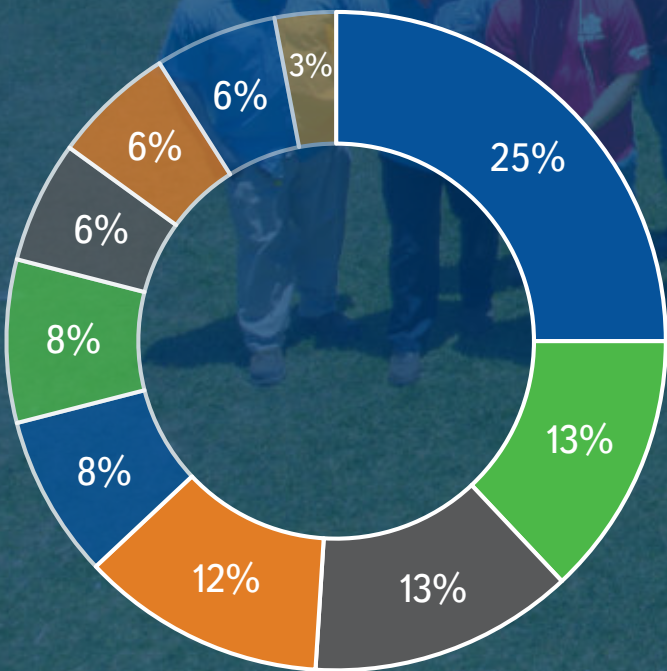
KILLEEN DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

This planning process analyzed the latest demographic trends of the City of Killeen. These demographics were used to set a baseline for the existing conditions, as well as inform the various parks assessments that are outlined on page 17. Population projections were extrapolated directly from the City’s concurrently-developed comprehensive plan.

RACE AND ETHNICITY PROFILE

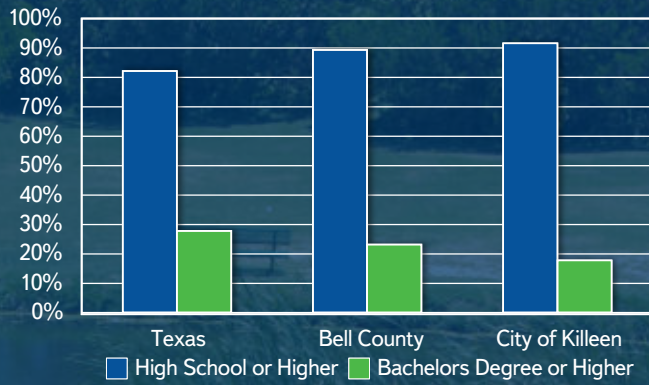


OCCUPATION

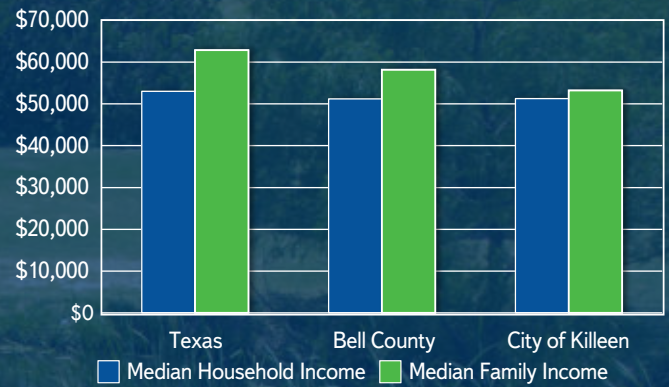


- Educational, health care, social services
- Construction
- Public administration
- Professional, scientific, management services
- Retail trade
- Other services, except public administration
- Transportation and warehousing, and utilities
- Finance and insurance, real estate
- Arts, entertainment, recreation, food services
- Manufacturing

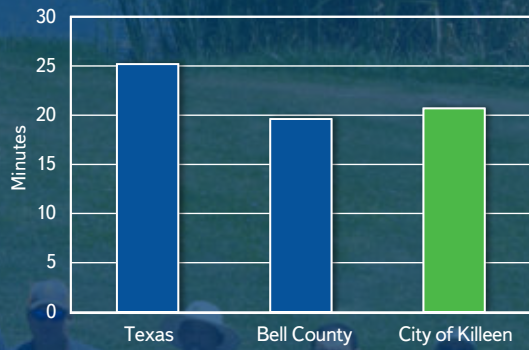
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



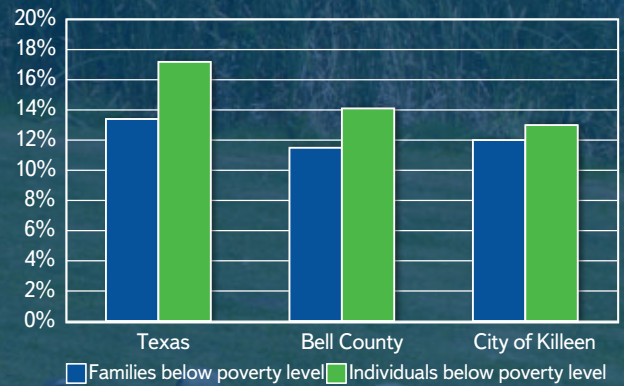
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



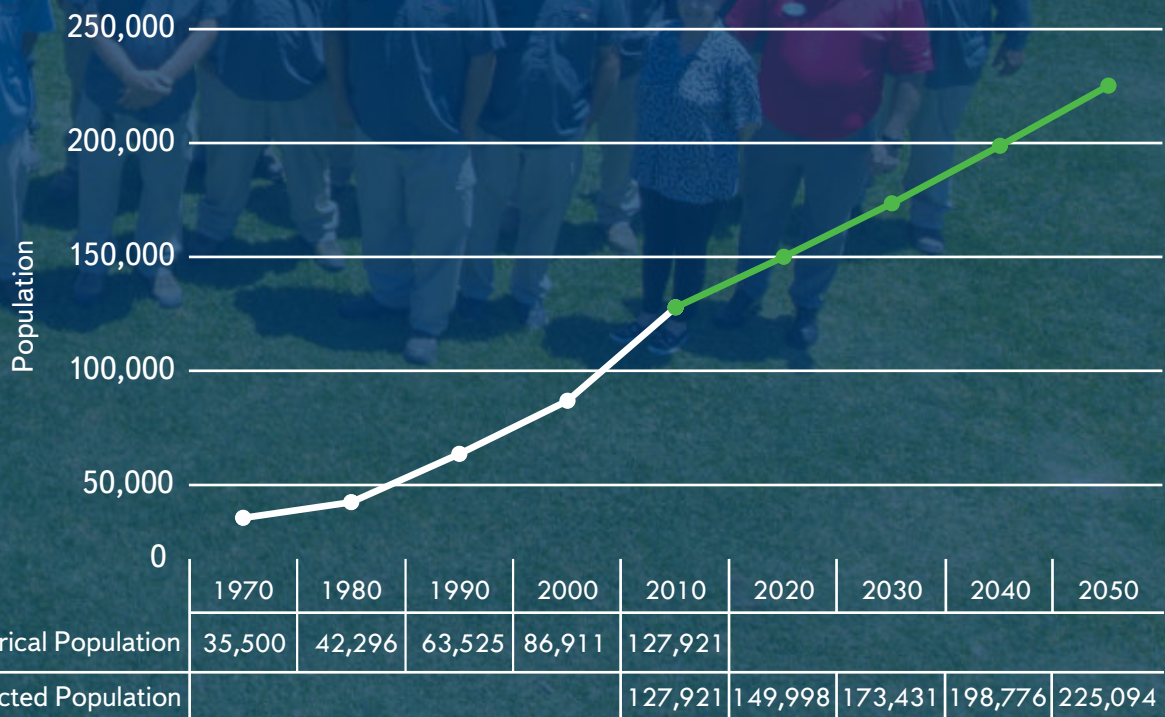
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



POVERTY LEVEL



HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED POPULATION



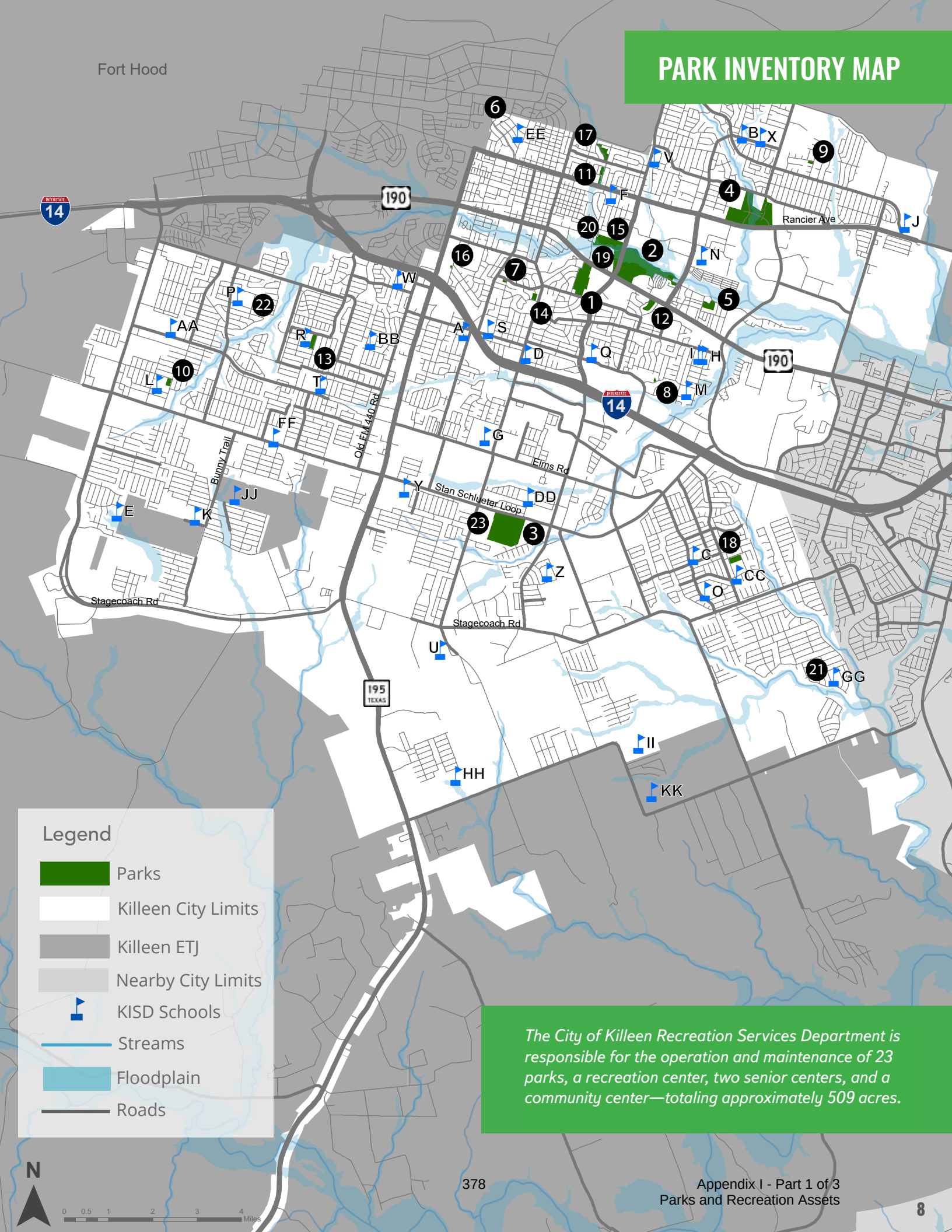
CITY OF KILLEEN EXISTING PARKS SYSTEM

Killeen Parks and Amenities Inventory Table

Park #	Park Name	Athletic Fields ¹	Playscapes	Sport Courts ²	Aquatics ³	Walking Paths (Miles)	Open Play Areas	# of Parking Spots	Pavilions	BBQ Grills	Picnic Units	Benches	Drinking Fountains	Dog Park	Disc Golf Course	Gazebo	ADA Parking	Skatepark	Address	Acreage
Community Parks																				
1	Conder Park	1	1	2	0	1.5	1	120	2	4	11	13	2	0	1	0	18	1	810 Conder Street	31.4
2	Killeen Community Center	9	0	1	0	1.1	1	492	0	0	5	2	2	0	0	1	25	0	2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.	29.1
3	Lions Club Park	14	2	2	1	1.3	1	166	3	0	0	24	5	0	0	0	39	0	1600 E. Stan Schlueter Lp.	67.8
4	Long Branch Park	0	3	6	2	.25	6	229	2	5	0	22	0	0	0	0	16	1	1101 Branch Dr.	78.7
Total Community Parks		24	6	11	3	4.2	9	1007	7	9	16	61	9	0	1	1	98	2		207.0
Neighborhood Parks																				
5	AA Lane Park	1	1	2	0	0	1	50	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	400 48th Street	7.0
6	Camacho Park	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1706 Walton Walker Dr.	0.2
7	Fowler Park	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100 W. Fowler Street	0.9
8	Fox Creek Park	0	1	.5	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1909 Grey Fox Trail	0.9
9	Hunt Park	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2301 Hunt Drive	1.1
10	Iduma Park	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4400 Foster Lane	2.4
11	Lions Neighborhood Park	0	1	2	0	.25	1	11	1	0	8	7	0	0	0	0	4	0	1307 Culp Ave.	4.3
12	Marlboro Park	0	2	1	0	0	2	7	1	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	2902 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.	6.5
13	Maxdale Park	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2500 Westwood Dr.	4.6
14	Phyllis Park	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	405 Phyllis Dr.	2.4
15	Rotary Club Children's Park	0	2	0	0	0	2	54	3	0	9	5	1	0	0	0	8	0	2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.	5.6
16	Santa Rosa Park	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	901 Eva St.	0.4
17	Stewart Park	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1702 24th St.	6.4
18	Timber Ridge Park	0	1	3	0	0	1	58	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5402 White Rock Dr.	4.6
Total Neighborhood Parks		1	19	12.5	0	.25	17	180	9	3	55	37	1	0	0	0	19	0		47.3
Special Use Parks																				
19	Mickey's Dog Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	4	0	4	2	1	0	0	2	0	2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.	4.7
Linear Parks																				
20	Andy K. Wells Trail	0	0	0	0	2.5	0	456	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	2201 E Veterans Memorial Blvd.	28.3
21	Heritage Oaks Trail	0	0	0	0	3.8	0	50	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	8001 Pyrite	123.0
22	Fort Hood Regional Trail	0	0	0	0	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3450 Robinett Road	88.8
23	Lions Club Park Hike and Bike Trail	0	0	0	0	1.4	0	166	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	39	0	1600 E. Stan Schlueter Loop	9.5
Total Linear Parks		0	0	0	0	8.9	0	672	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	72	0		249.6
Total Park System																				508.5

1. Baseball, softball, football, and soccer, 2. Basketball, tennis, volleyball, and pickleball, 3. Swimming pools or splash pads.
Source: National Recreation and Parks Association

PARK INVENTORY MAP





PLAN METHODOLOGY

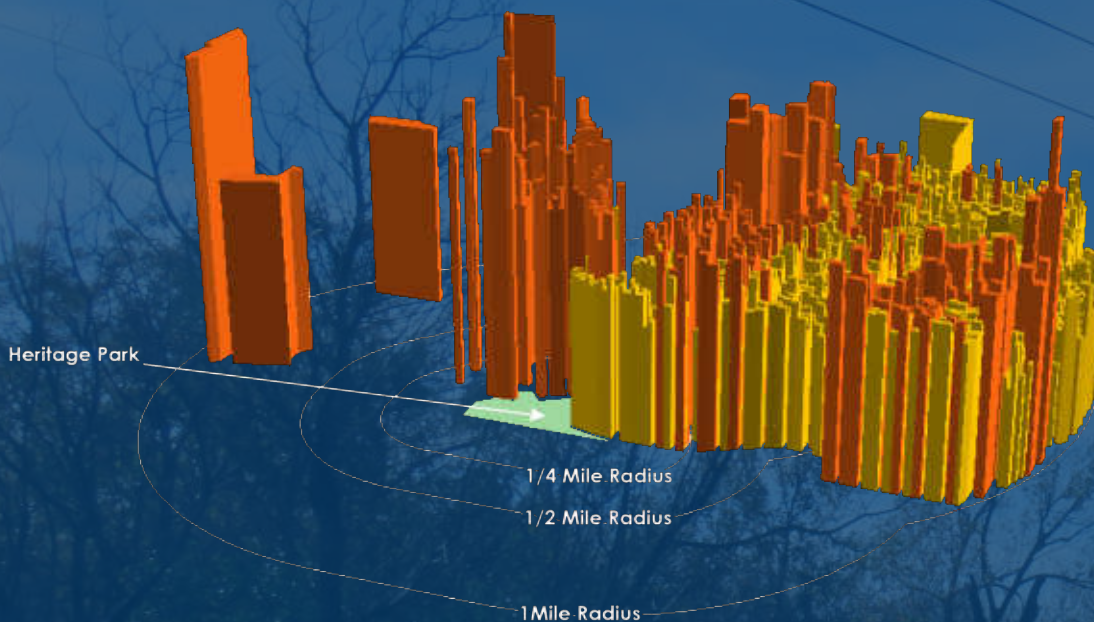
This section summarizes the process used to develop the plan including guiding principles, assessment methods, community engagement and aspirations, growth targets, and classifications and standards.



STRONG TOWNS PRINCIPLES

While there is no actual Strong Towns approach to park growth and development, there are a few philosophical considerations which are important to parks and open space. A Strong Towns approach to overall community development requires a fundamental paradigm shift in how we approach the growth and redevelopment of our cities—and by association, our provision of parks, trails, and recreation resources.

One of the primary considerations is that parks should be an essential part of the civic infrastructure and create community wealth for the surrounding areas. As part of this plan, a fiscal assessment on a few key parks was undertaken and determined that the existing parks system did not significantly add to the overall community wealth (see example below).



Moving forward, this plan identifies a future which adheres to Strong Towns principles by focusing on both smaller, incremental improvements and a more prudent growth strategy which, when implemented, can result in substantial changes over time. The recommendations explored later in this plan were all developed using the Strong Towns paradigm shift as a foundational principle. These include:

- Understanding that parks and other civic infrastructure should create community wealth
- Acknowledging that all cities (and parks) go through life cycles of investment, disinvestment, and rejuvenation
- Prioritizing purposeful maintenance and reallocating staff time for park improvements
- Prioritizing incremental improvement and redevelopment, not just new growth
- Being strategic about new growth targets and future commitments
- Targeting fiscal sustainability in design and operations to minimize long-term liabilities
- Improving communication about how parks contribute towards the City's overall economic prosperity
- Maximizing usage through adherence to Complete Parks principles (see pg. 13)



“

Our problem was not, and is not, a lack of growth. Our problem is 60 years of unproductive growth—growth that has buried us in financial liabilities. The American pattern of development does not create real wealth. It creates the illusion of wealth.

”

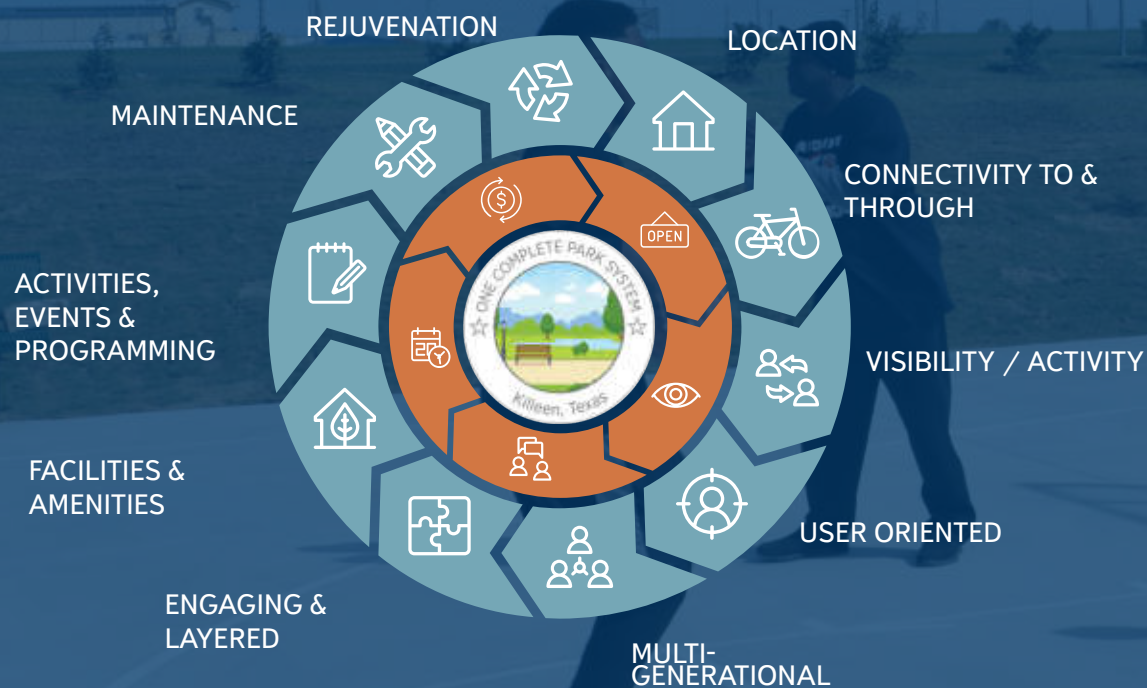
- Chuck Marohn, Founder of Strong Towns

COMPLETE PARKS PRINCIPLES

The true measurement of success for a parks and open space system should be about maximizing the number of people who use the system. For too long parks planning has primarily focused just numbers and metrics, which are important, but do not tell the whole story. This plan proposes a new vision for Killeen—one that aspires to develop a Complete Parks system which better serves existing and future residents and visitors alike.

This Complete Parks model, developed by Halff, is comprised of five attributes which cover all aspects of a park (and park system) through its full life cycle of development, use, maintenance, and redevelopment. The five attributes include a detailed focus on accessibility, safety and comfort, social interaction, activation, and maintenance. These attributes are further delineated by 10 essential building blocks which comprise the Complete Parks model (below). The recommendations explored later in this plan were all developed using the Complete Parks model as its foundational principle.

Complete Parks Model



TYPES OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR COMPLETE PARKS



ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

- **Crosswalks.** Painted crosswalks at all intersections which abut the parks
- **Bike Racks.** Bike racks which let park users secure their bicycles so that they can actively engage park amenities
- **Parking.** On-street parking (preferably) for neighborhood parks; off-street parking for regional, community, and linear (at trailheads) parks
- **Sidewalks & Off-site Connectivity.** Connected sidewalks and/or trail linkages to surrounding areas



USER COMFORT & SAFETY

- **Lighting.** If parks are open to users during dark hours, lighting is recommended to keep users safe
- **Sight Visibility.** Good site visibility from the public rights-of-way; abutting properties should be designed/encouraged to have their front doors face the park to keep eyes on the park



SOCIAL INTERACTION

- **Drinking Fountains/Bottle Refill Stations.** Because of the hot temperatures much of the year in Texas, the addition of water stations in a park is important to keep trail users and pets hydrated; these should include bottle filling stations
- **Restrooms.** Regional, community, and linear parks should include restrooms; neighborhood parks generally do not need restrooms as they typically serve immediate neighborhoods
- **Shade.** Shade should be a central focus in Texas parks including the provision of shade canopies over target amenities like playgrounds, social seating, and some sport courts like basketball; should also include a large focus on protecting existing trees or adding new shade trees throughout the park and near amenities
- **Trash/Recycling/Dog Waste Stations.** Good access to trash/recycling/dog waste stations
- **Socially-Oriented Amenities.** Purposeful design which orients the location and configuration of amenities to promote social interaction (e.g., shade playscape, mini splash pad, and centralized social group seating all oriented together so that parents can interact and socialize while watching over multiple children who are active at multiple play elements)
- **Seating and Socialization Areas.** Shaded places for seating near park amenities.



ACTIVATED



MAINTAINED

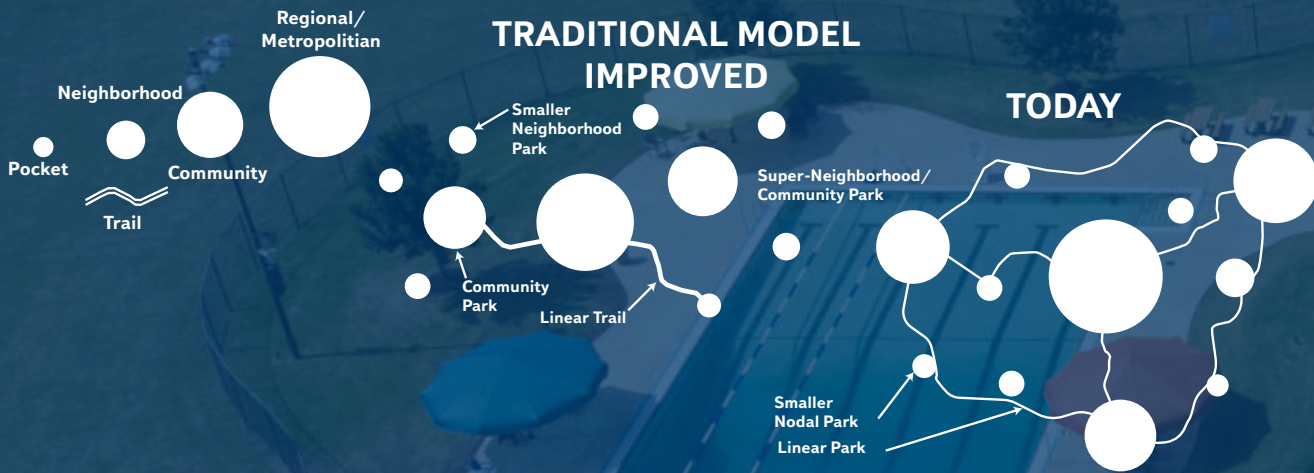
- **Multi-generation/Multi-user Design.** Design and programming considerations which maximize the largest number of users (of all age groups) at all times of the day or night
- **Loop Trails.** In-the-park ADA loop trails around the exterior of the park (with off-shoot connections to key destinations and amenities) and off-site trail and sidewalk connectivity
- **Fitness Stations.** Fitness stations along loop trails or in fitness courts; could include passive (e.g., chin up bar) or active station design
- **Programming.** Proactive consideration as to on-going City-sponsored events and programming to bring community members into the parks (e.g., in-the-park classes, food trucks, special events, etc.)

GROWTH MODEL

In the U.S., park system growth has undergone a continuous evolution for hundreds of years. From the Boston Common in (1634) to Frederick Law Olmstead/Calvert Vaux’s Central Park in New York City (1859) to Olmstead’s “Emerald Necklace” in Boston (1878), parks were viewed as center pieces of city growth and development. Following World War II, however, the nation turned its attention towards suburban, auto-centric growth and development and interest in public parks and civic spaces waned. Focus turned to the private spaces and places in people’s back yards and in semi-public spaces of individual subdivisions. During this time, as downtowns and inner cities declined, so did many of the great existing city park systems.

Today, cities are undergoing a renaissance in growth and redevelopment, including renewed interest in public parks and civic spaces (i.e., where parks, trails, and other outdoor civic spaces became top priorities during the Covid-19 pandemic). City’s are in a position to advance a new growth model—one where parks and trails systems are viewed as an interconnected system, and a critical component, of the overall city “civic” infrastructure.

TRADITIONAL MODEL



Park system growth will need to prioritize equitably spaced public places and spaces connected by quality trails (e.g., like the new Heritage Oaks Trail) and sidewalks.



ASSESSMENT METHODS

After gaining an understanding of the parks and recreation system as it is today, and the historical and projected populations, a growth needs analysis was used to begin to identify the current and future needs of the community. The intent of the analysis was to develop a clearer picture of the overall system (i.e., understanding the gaps, overlaps and deficiencies) and to make targeted recommendations for the future. This plan used a five-part growth needs analysis (developed using accepted methodologies identified by the TPWD) to help determine recommendations for the future.

Types of Assessments



Demand Based Assessment

Uses citizen input to determine actual and/or anticipated park usage that reflect the desires of the local community. This assessment type provides a qualitative analysis of the park system from the user perspective.



Standards Based Assessment

Uses locally developed level of service ratios to compare existing park land and recreation facilities to the projected need based upon the current and future projected population, park land and facility benchmarks.



Resources Based Assessment

Recognizes the opportunities offered by the built environment, the natural environment, or other relationships. The City can pursue obtaining land, developing facilities, or partnering with local organizations to address recreation demands.



Fiscal Based Assessment

Evaluates the existing community wealth that parks have on surrounding neighborhoods. This assessment evaluates a few select parks to identify the potential impacts that parks have on abutting property market values.



Condition Assessment

Analyzes the physical condition of facilities and amenities to reach conclusions regarding the performance of the system as a whole and of individual elements within the system.





COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

To ensure that this Plan embodies the vision of the citizens, an extensive public engagement process was undertaken to identify the needs and desires of where the community wants to go, and equally as important, what they are willing to support during implementation. The information collected during this process created the foundation from which the goals and actions were built. This summary contains the City's public engagement process and key takeaways.

5 

**PARK MASTER PLAN
WORK GROUP MEETINGS
(FROM 8 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS)**

2 

**YOUTH ADVISORY
COMMISSION
MEETINGS**

5 

FOCUS GROUPS

3 

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

575 

**SURVEY RESPONDENTS
FROM 13 ONLINE SURVEYS**

175 

ATTENDEES

**LOVE YOUR PARK DAY
COMMUNITY EVENT**

200 

ATTENDEES

**MOVIES IN THE PARK
COMMUNITY EVENT**



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Concern that there is not enough lighting within the parks and trails during early morning and evening hours
- Concern that majority (86%) of residents are not involved in City athletic leagues
- Concern that restrooms within the park system are not kept clean enough
- Concern that there is not enough shade at most parks
- Need for more joint-use facilities
- Need for smaller neighborhood parks located near HOA's and schools
- Need for parks to be located within safe walking or biking distances
- Need for more gathering places like benches, picnic areas, and pavilions
- Need for additional restrooms
- Desire for additional diversified facilities & amenities
- Desire for additional skateparks, sport courts & fields, and aquatic centers
- Desire for more youth programming, like arts & crafts and special events
- Desire for more free public WiFi access within the park system
- Desire for an equitable quality of park conditions similar to some of the City's greatest park system assets—Lions Club Community Park, Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail, and Killeen Community Center & Ballfields

“

Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.

- Jane Jacobs

”

GROWTH TARGETS

Level of Service (LOS) is an assessment method to determine the quantity of park facilities needed to adequately serve a given ratio of population, oftentimes expressed as a per capita ratio of acres to 1,000 residents. Analyzing the current level of service (CLOS) and identifying future target levels of service (TLOS) helps a community understand how responsive they are in meeting the needs of their existing and future citizens as the community grows over time.

As part of this plan, TLOS was reduced compared to previous plans. This reduction was purposeful as a continued means to advance Strong Towns and Complete Park principles as it relates to future park growth and development. It acknowledges that the City is significantly behind in the provision of parks and recreation resources (compared to comparison Texas communities and national systemwide averages analyzed through NRPA's Park Metrics database). It also acknowledges that the City will not be able to retroactively reach the acreage level of service targets set out in the previous plans while still adhering to the fiscal priorities set out in this plan. As a summary, the changed level of service targets are as follows:

Parkland Level of Service

PARK CLASSIFICATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE (AC. PER 1,000 PERSONS)		
	2005 PLAN	2017 PLAN (UNADOPTED)	2021 PLAN
Neighborhood Parks	1.0 to 2.0	1.0 to 1.5	1.0
Community Parks	5.0 to 8.0	5.0	4.0
Special Use Parks	No Standard	No Standard	No Standard
Regional Parks	N/A	5.0 to 10.0	4.0
Linear Parks/Open Spaces	No Standard	10.0 to 20.0	4.0
Greenway Trails	1 mile / 5,000 persons	No Standard	1 mile / 5,000 persons

As seen below, the City's current inventory of parkland does not adequately serve the existing or future needs of the population. It shows that the City's 2020 current overall acreage inventory is woefully deficient—over 500 acres or 33% deficient even factoring in the reduced targets. Once the City catches up to current TLOS benchmarks through strategic and purposeful growth expansions and partnerships, the incremental addition of needed parkland moving forward is much less.

Parkland Needs as Growth Occurs

TARGET YEAR	EXISTING ACREAGE	CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (AC. PER 1,000 RESIDENTS ¹)	TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE (AC. PER 1,000 RESIDENTS ¹)	TARGET ACREAGE	SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE	PERCENT OF NEED MET (2020)
2020	254.3	1.7	5.0 ac.	764.1	509.8 ac. deficit	33%
2025	254.3	1.6	5.0 ac.	813.1	558.8 ac. deficit	31%
2030	254.3	1.5	5.0 ac.	862.1	607.8 ac. deficit	29%

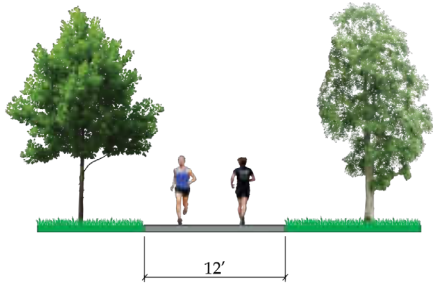
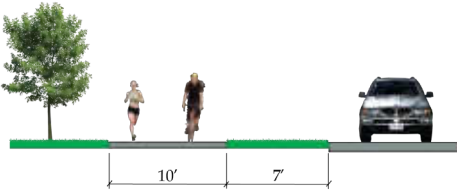
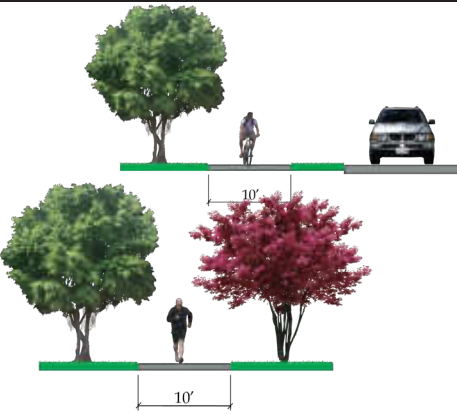


CLASSIFICATION AND STANDARDS

Equally important to setting target levels of service (TLOS) is establishing classifications and standards for what new park and trail growth, development, and improvement looks like. This requires establishing thresholds for different types of facilities which serve different purposes and areas of the community.

Set out below are standards for four trail classifications utilized as part of this plan, but will need to be further explored in separate planning efforts (e.g., a future trails plan).

Trail Classifications

TRAIL INTENT	TRAIL WIDTH	PREFERRED SURFACE MATERIAL	MINIMUM CORRIDOR WIDTH	POTENTIAL AMENITIES	CROSS-SECTION
Greenway Trails					
Multipurpose off-street pathways which provide escape from noise, traffic, and urban conflicts. Preferred location is along creeks and other natural spaces.	10' – 12' (12' preferred)	Concrete	25'	Parking, signage, lighting, water foundations, benches, trees and consideration of Complete Parks amenities.	
Thoroughfare Connector Trails					
Multipurpose near-street shared-use sidepaths located within the rights-of-way of thoroughfare roadways to serve to create a citywide, connected recreational trails system.	8' – 10' (10' preferred)	Concrete	15'	Trees, benches, and lighting (if not provided by thoroughfare)	
Neighborhood Connector Trails					
Neighborhood Connector Trails are located in residential areas (e.g., in drainage areas and along collector streets) providing internal linkages and connecting to other external trail types. They may also serve as neighborhood greenways.	6' – 10' (8' preferred)	Concrete	N/A	Wayfinding signage, crosswalks, lighting, etc.	
In-Park Trails					
In-park trails provide opportunities for walking and exercising inside of a park.	Varies	Concrete	N/A	Trees, benches, and lighting	Varies

Similarly, five park classifications have been established to identify types of park facilities to serve the Killeen community. Although the City does not currently have a regional park, one is being explored in the northwest area of the City in partnership with Ft. Hood.

Parkland Classifications

PARK CLASSIFICATION / INTENT	SIZE	LOCATION / ACCESSIBILITY	FACILITIES/AMENITIES (COMPLETE PARKS CONSIDERATIONS)	TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE (PER CAPITA)	TARGET SERVICE RADIUS
Neighborhood Parks serve a single neighborhood or are central to several smaller neighborhoods	3 acres	Centrally located within the neighborhood(s) prioritizing maximum walkable connectivity	▪ Loop trail ▪ Playscape/splash pad/social group seating ▪ Sport court(s)/sports field ▪ Multipurpose open space ▪ Picnic tables or a pavilion ▪ Trees and shaded amenities ▪ General use lighting for targeted amenities ▪ On-street parking or no parking ▪ Natural areas/no grow zones	1.0 acre per 1,000 residents	¼ to ½ mile (or a distance that takes a typical pedestrian roughly five to 10 minutes to walk); ½ mile is generally accepted as standard
Community Parks provide multiple amenities and sized enough to host community/athletic events, tournaments, and other large-scale activities	From 10 acres to over 50 acres	Good access to citywide thoroughfare network; prioritizing good bike/pedestrian connectivity; buffering against abutting residential uses (to offset lighting and noise)	Same as neighborhood parks, plus: ▪ Restrooms ▪ Off-street parking ▪ Multiple sports fields with lighting (including competitive) ▪ Pavilions and grills ▪ Off-street parking	4.0 acres per 1,000 residents	1 to 2 miles (or a reasonable one-mile walking distance and a two-mile biking distance)
Regional Parks are very large parks which mimic community or special use parks, but with regionally-serving destination amenities	From less than 10 acres to several thousand acres	N/A	Depends on property characteristics and intended use (e.g., large regional nature park or destination sports complex), but should mimic the facilities and amenities set out for the other classification it matches	4.0 acres per 1,000 residents.	5 to 10 miles
Linear Parks and Open Spaces	N/A (based on use)	Good connectivity to thoroughfare connector and in-park trails; maximized access to abutting neighborhoods, schools, and other destinations	Depends on property characteristics, but generally: ▪ Linear greenway trails ▪ Informal hiking and mountain biking trails ▪ Trailhead parking, restrooms, and wayfinding ▪ Trail lighting ▪ Trees, benches, and shade ▪ Natural areas/no grow zones Integrated neighborhood park amenities (as applicable)	4.0 acres per 1,000 residents	¼ to ½ mile (or a distance that takes a typical pedestrian roughly five to 10 minutes to walk); ½ mile is generally accepted as standard
Special Use Parks include specialized or single use amenities	N/A (based on use)	Good access to citywide thoroughfare network	Depends on property characteristics, but could include: ▪ Athletic fields or complexes ▪ Swimming pool centers ▪ Tennis complexes ▪ Golf courses ▪ Dog parks	Varies with the special use(s) of the park	Varies with the special use(s) of the park.



PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

This section summarizes the main recommendations of the Plan: Park Conditions, Park Improvements, Park Growth, and Operations & Maintenance. The plan recommendations are detailed in a series of technical memos to be used by Recreation Services staff and City Council for daily decision making.



PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK CONDITIONS GOAL

Efforts to develop a healthy community depend on the quality of the parks and recreation facilities. Parks provide a place for people to live, work, play, and learn. Parks are essential to the health and well-being of the community.

Baseline Metrics:

- Number of parks per capita
- Number of acres per capita
- Number of miles of trails per capita
- Number of miles of bike paths per capita
- Number of miles of waterways per capita
- Number of miles of greenways per capita
- Number of miles of parkways per capita
- Number of miles of parkland per capita
- Number of miles of parkland per capita
- Number of miles of parkland per capita

PARK IMPROVEMENTS GOAL

Efforts to develop a healthy community depend on the quality of the parks and recreation facilities. Parks provide a place for people to live, work, play, and learn. Parks are essential to the health and well-being of the community.

Baseline Metrics:

- Number of parks per capita
- Number of acres per capita
- Number of miles of trails per capita
- Number of miles of bike paths per capita
- Number of miles of waterways per capita
- Number of miles of greenways per capita
- Number of miles of parkways per capita
- Number of miles of parkland per capita
- Number of miles of parkland per capita
- Number of miles of parkland per capita

© 2018 City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department | www.dallas.gov/parks

PARK CONDITIONS

Ensuring quality park conditions is a fundamental component of a Complete Parks system. Low quality or poor maintenance in and of itself can lead to a declining park system and continuing cycle of poor park usage. Park research has clearly shown that good maintenance is crucial to maintain public perceptions that park properties are low risk. Broken equipment, run down conditions, and vandalism all contribute to perceptions of fear because such things as litter, graffiti, and broken furniture all suggest a place is uncared for and possibly unsafe. This is inline with the community input survey, where almost 44 percent of survey respondents indicated that they do not feel safe while in City of Killeen parks.

As such, a systemwide park condition assessment was undertaken to measure the state of parkland grounds and facility repair. The conditions-based assessment measures whether a park space and the facilities located on the site are maintained in a condition suitable to be used safely, or to otherwise entice continued visitation and usage by surrounding residents and other potential users.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

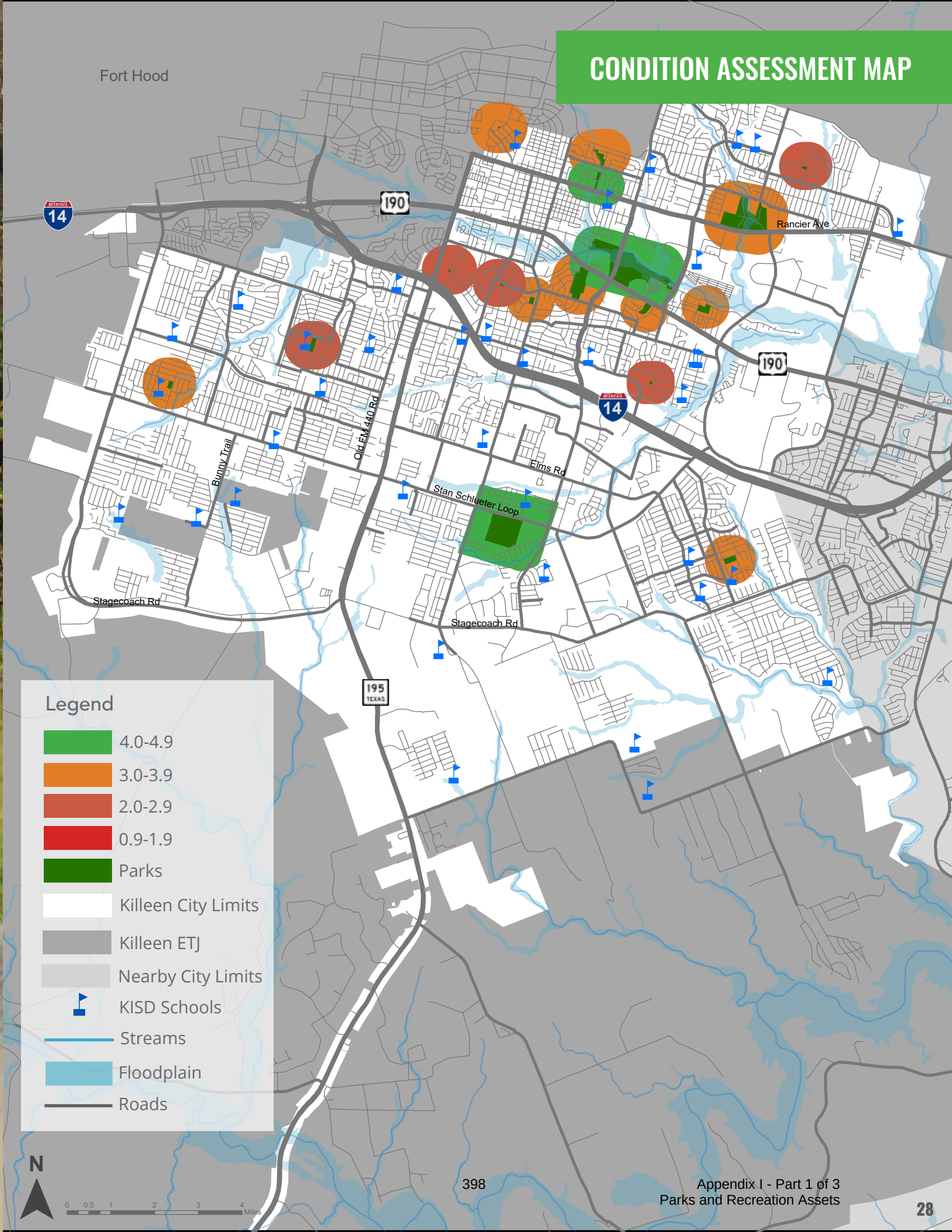
Overall, the Killeen parks system scored 3.3 out of 5 on a weighted scale. This means that the system scored on the lower end of the moderate condition category. As illustrated on the map on the next page, no parks scored high enough to be considered in great condition (5.0), which is not too uncommon. Only four parks scored high enough to be considered maintained in good condition (4.0-4.9). Most of the parks scored in the moderate condition category (3.0-3.9), although many of them ranked at the lower end of the range. Five parks scored low enough to be considered in poor condition (2.0-2.9). No parks scored low enough to be considered failing.

COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to establish and maintain a parks and trails system where all facilities and amenities are maintained in a good condition (i.e., 4.0 or better on a park condition reassessment).

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Achieve full adopt-a-park participation for every park and trail by 2024.
- Improve and maintain the condition of all parks and trails to achieve a moderate condition by 2024.
- Improve the condition of at least 50% of the overall parks and trails system to achieve good condition by 2025.
- Improve the condition of at least 75% of the overall parks and trails system to achieve good condition by 2026.
- Improve the condition of all parks to good condition by 2031.



Legend

4.0-4.9

3.0-3.9

2.0-2.9

0.9-1.9

Parks

Killeen City Limits

Killeen ETJ

Nearby City Limits

KISD Schools

Streams

Floodplain

Roads

N

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Park improvement is a critical component of a Complete Parks system, particularly once there is an acknowledgment that parks go through lifecycles just like cities. Today, there is a policy shift which recognizes the need for smaller incremental investments which can transform the usability of a community park property over time.

This plan identifies a series of investment opportunities per each park which can be implemented through a combination of smaller scale, incremental improvements (many of which can be implemented by volunteer and staff efforts) and more longer-term intensive capital investments (e.g., installation of a bridge, splash pad, and pavilion).

The *LoveMyPark!* project workday is a perfect example of how these incremental investments can be undertaken by resident and neighborhood volunteers, and staff, to build community cohesion and create a lasting difference in their specific park property (see the Stewart Park vision on the next page where community volunteers planted trees and other park improvements).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Moving forward, adherence to the Complete Parks principles can provide for significant improvements within the City's parks and trails and added community wealth. As it relates to parks improvements, key considerations should include:

- Being purposeful about reducing maintenance obligations to repurpose time towards park improvements
- Balancing incremental redevelopment with larger capital investments
- Adherence to Complete Parks principles

COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to develop a fiscally sustainable Complete Parks system through a balance of smaller scale, incremental improvements and purposeful longer-term intensive capital investments.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Reduce and reallocate the percentage of staff hours spent on reoccurring maintenance activities to park improvement activities by 15-20% by 2024 over base year 2021.
- Increase the amount of in-the-park improvement projects undertaken by staff and volunteers year over year.
- Schedule and facilitate a minimum of four volunteer in-the-park community park improvement days annually.



STEWART PARK IMPROVEMENTS

STEWART PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- 1** YOUTH SOCCER FIELD
- 2** SPLASH PAD
- 3** IMPROVED PLAYGROUND
- 4** LARGE PAVILLION
- 5** PICNIC AREAS
- 6** CROSSING BRIDGE
- 7** CONNECTION TRAIL
- 8** LOOPED TRAIL

PARK GROWTH

Park growth should be concurrent with city growth. In Killeen, there was a lot of park development in the 1980s and 90s in the original parts of the City. Although the City continued to grow exponentially over the next two decades, park development did not keep up. This resulted in large parts of the City with no convenient access to public park property and an overall fragile parks system.

Moving forward, the City must think strategically about how it can improve the provision of parks and recreation in the areas of the City which are unserved, or underserved. A priority focus will be on continual investment in existing park properties. Without continual investment, and eventually redevelopment, the embodied wealth of the property or area will decrease over time, further increasing the fragility of the overall system. It also requires a priority focus on being more strategic about new park growth.

This plan identifies a series of prudent park growth strategies which maximize equitable access through a new vision of growth focused on thinking more strategically and maximizing partnerships with area partners.

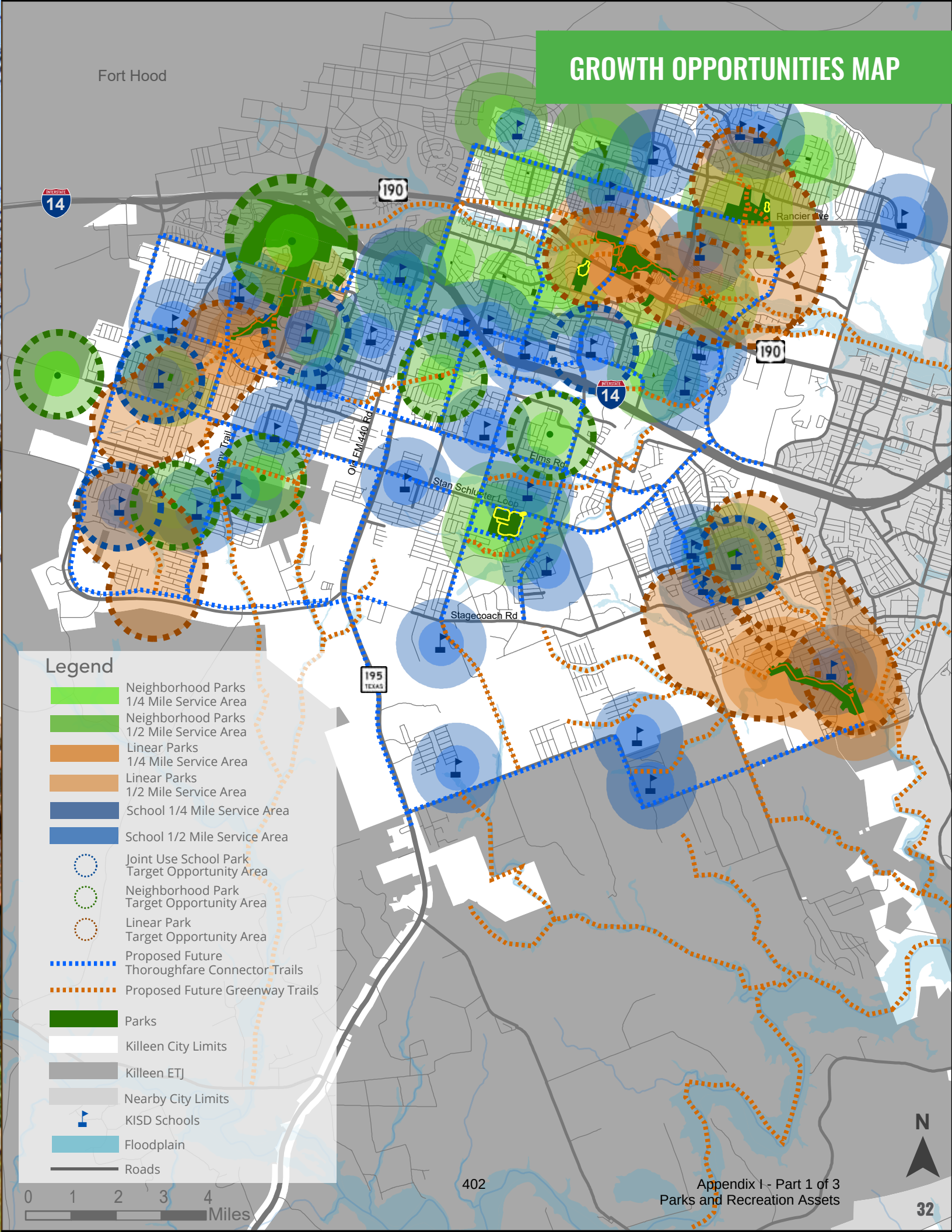
KEY TAKEAWAYS

The key takeaways regarding park growth are further detailed on the following pages (orange tabs) related to:

- New Parks
- Joint-Use School Parks
- Greenway Trails
- Parkland Dedication and Development

Each of these contain their own goals and benchmarks for moving forward.





Legend

- Neighborhood Parks 1/4 Mile Service Area
- Neighborhood Parks 1/2 Mile Service Area
- Linear Parks 1/4 Mile Service Area
- Linear Parks 1/2 Mile Service Area
- School 1/4 Mile Service Area
- School 1/2 Mile Service Area
- Joint Use School Park Target Opportunity Area
- Neighborhood Park Target Opportunity Area
- Linear Park Target Opportunity Area
- Proposed Future Thoroughfare Connector Trails
- Proposed Future Greenway Trails
- Parks
- Killeen City Limits
- Killeen ETJ
- Nearby City Limits
- KISD Schools
- Floodplain
- Roads

0 1 2 3 4 Miles

NEW PARKS

Although a priority focus of this parks planning process was on improving the quality and usability of existing parks, it also identified several key new park properties which could be more quickly developed by maximizing relationships with area partners. Some of these partners include the Fort Hood and the Killeen Independent School District (KISD). During the last planning process, preliminary discussions were held and opportunities identified, but no action was followed up on as part of post-plan implementation. During this process, discussions with both organizations focused on solidifying the action items needed to take the existing partnership to a new level.

As part of the discussions with Fort Hood, a revised conceptual master plan was prepared identifying a new regional park in the northwest part of the City. This new park would serve as a destination amenity for Fort Hood personnel, Killeen residents, and visitors alike. It would include a passive recreation oriented program of activities including an extension and northern terminus of the Fort Hood Regional Trail, and other facilities and amenities such as a kiosk kayak rental station, picnicking, fishing piers, miscellaneous hiking and biking trails, etc. (see the concept on the next page). The transfer of the Fort Hood portion of the property to the City of Killeen was initiated during the planning process.

As part of the discussions with KISD, a conceptual re-envisioning of a joint use school park was developed identifying how a single set of facilities and amenities could better serve both students during school and the community outside of school hours (see the concept on page 34). A new Master Lease Agreement was drafted as part of the planning process, five school parks were identified as target opportunities (see the areas denoted with blue dashed lines on the map on page 32), and Maxwell Park was identified to serve as a prototype new joint use school park demonstration project.

The plan also identified several properties already owned by the City, and targeted parcels in private ownership, as potential targets for new neighborhood and community park development in areas of need. These six properties (see the areas denoted with green dashed lines on the map on page 32) help improve access in areas of the City which are already largely developed. Similarly, seven targeted areas were identified as low hanging fruit for expanding community connectivity and access to a growing greenway trail system (see the areas denoted in orange dashed lines on the map on page 32 and page 38). Finally, parkland dedication and development regulations were developed as part of the planning process to ensure the parks system grows concurrent with new City growth (see page 32).

COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to grow the park system using a fiscally prudent toolbox of park growth solutions including parkland dedication, donations, further development of other existing City non-park property, and strategic partnerships with area partners.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Identify appropriate property and develop access to a regional park by 2026.
- Increase the amount of designated linear park acreage by 140 acres by 2026.
- Increase the amount of designated neighborhood park acreage by 75 acres by 2026
- Increase the amount of designated community park acreage by 50 acres by 2026.



WESTSIDE PARK CONCEPT



LEGEND

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 Main Entrance | 9 Interpretive Stations/Outdoor Classrooms | 17 Large Lakeside Pavilion |
| 2 Animal Shelter | 10 Wildflower Meadow | 18 Family Pavilions |
| 3 Dog Park at Animal Shelter | 11 Event Lawn | 19 Kayak Launch Facility |
| 4 Controlled Entry Gate | 12 Water Turbine Pond and Dam | 20 Archery Zone |
| 5 Outer Loop Trail (5k Trail) | 13 Amphitheater | 21 Agility Course |
| 6 Boardwalk System | 14 Inner Loop Trail (1 Mile) | 22 BMX Course |
| 7 Fishing Piers | 15 Artistic Wind/Solar Farm | 23 Visitor Center |
| 8 Nature/Interpretive Trail | 16 Iconic Lookout Tower | 24 Artistic Solar Panels |

JOINT-USE SCHOOL PARKS

Historically, the City and KISD executed joint use lease agreements for three school properties for the purposes of allowing the City to erect and maintain the premises for public park purposes. The three leases were at Maxdale Elementary School (2000), Iduma Elementary School (2005), and Timber Ridge Elementary School (2006). Besides the development the large Lions Club Community Park, off E. Stan Schlueter Loop, in 1997, there were no other new park properties outside of the original core areas of the city. The leases were for a 20-year period and renewable. Currently, the lease for the Maxdale property has expired. The other two lease agreements expire in 2026 (Iduma) and 2027 (Timber Ridge).

During this planning process, several good conversations between City and KISD staff have led to an interest in taking next steps in the partnership. This involved an acknowledgment that the City had not historically prioritized good maintenance on the existing properties. Moving forward, the City and KISD staff agreed to expand upon the partnership to be better stewards of limited available resources.

The Maxdale Park Concept Plan illustrates a development of a true Complete Park. It includes areas immediately south of the school building designed to meet the basic needs of school children during the school day, including a covered sports court, covered playscapes and social seating. It also includes a mini-splash pad/water feature which would not be turned on during school hours but could be activated by push button outside of school hours. It also includes a raised seating berm (#14) providing separation and enclosure of the primary area serving school kids during school hours. An additional in-the-park-fence could be considered to further provide separation/enclosure (with signage) of the typical school play areas. Improving Maxdale Park would add a quality neighborhood park to Council District 3.

The benefits of joint use for both entities include: (1) Gives kids and communities a safe, accessible places to exercise and socialize after school and/or on weekends; (2) Maximizes use of limited community resources; (3) Reduces the cost burden on both entities (all paid by the taxpayer) in that one entity does not have to buy land and other does not have to buy and maintain equipment; (4) Increases physical and social activity levels of both children and adults; and (5) Increases “eyes on the street” for both the school and the park.

COMMUNITY GOAL

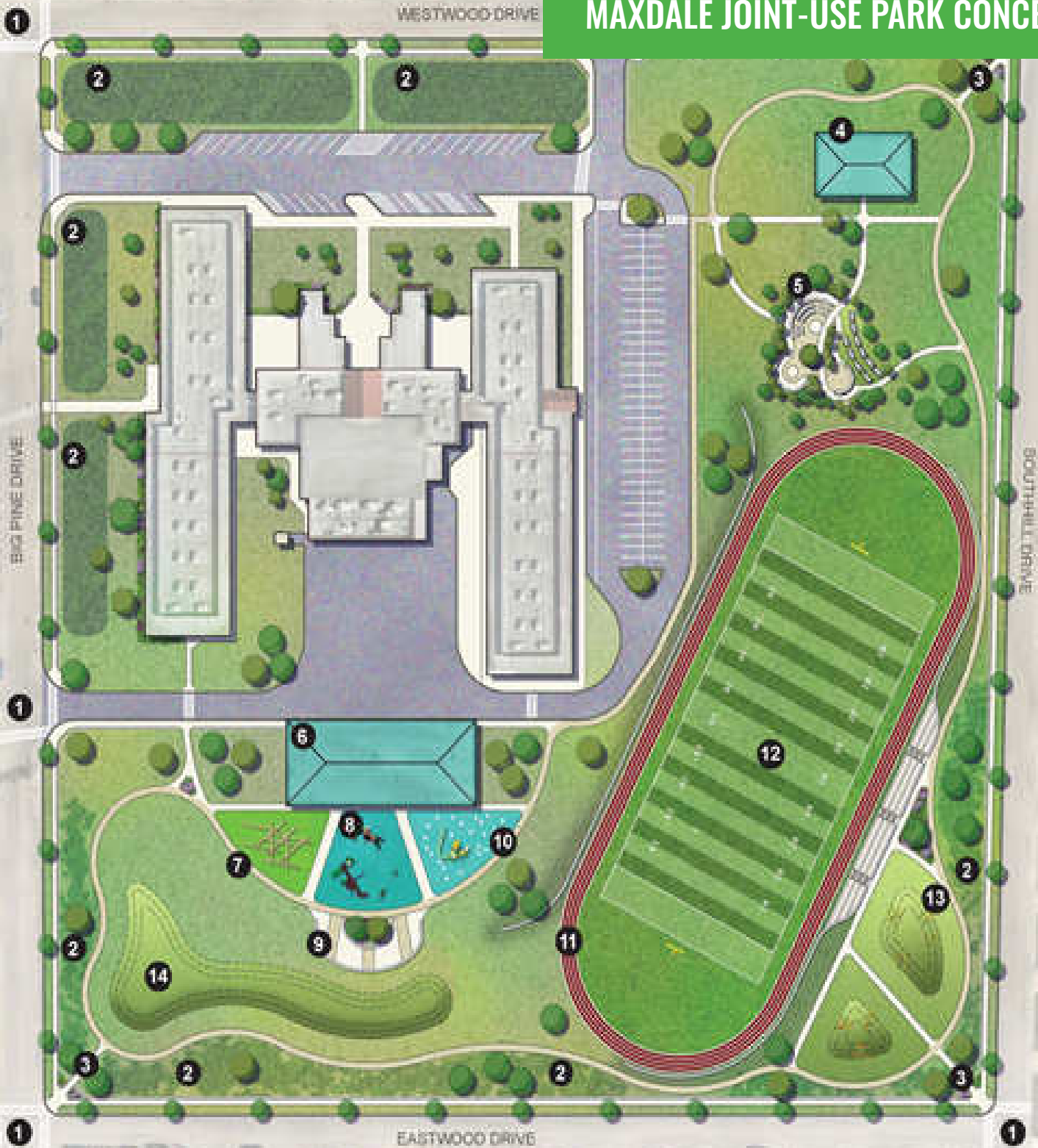
Maximize opportunities to partner with KISD and other area partners to develop Complete Parks in areas of need in a fiscally responsible manner.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Execute a new master joint use agreement by 2023.
- Fund a pilot joint use Complete Park at Maxwell Park by 2023.
- Master plan and budget for Complete Park retrofits at Iduma and Timber Ridge Parks by 2024.
- Master plan and budget for two additional joint use parks in areas of need by 2025.



MAXDALE JOINT-USE PARK CONCEPT



1 Painted Crosswalks

2 No-Mow Areas

3 Entrance Areas and Signage

4 Pavilion

5 Outdoor Education Classrooms

6 Covered Basketball Court

7 Climbing Structure

8 Playscape (2 age ranges)

9 Social Group Seating

10 Splash Pad / Water Feature

11 4 Lane Track

12 Football / Multi-Purpose Field

13 Climbing Skills Course

14 Seating Berm

TRAILS

Trails are seeing continued growth in popularity throughout the country and are increasingly an implementation goal for community planning efforts. Trails improve the quality of life of users and provide alternative commuting options. Additionally, trails improve marketability of public and private property, which benefit from proximity and access to the trails.

Trails also create multi-generational recreation opportunities, promote health, improve the overall quality of life, and provide non-vehicular transportation alternatives. Having close access to trails has become important for communities all over the country as people are gaining more interest in pursuing a healthier lifestyle—even more so since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. As facilities intended for pedestrian and bicycle access, trails have a service area of one-quarter-mile to one-half-mile. As desired by the residents of Killeen, trails should be planned and constructed for the benefits of today's and tomorrow's population.

Although the City has only a few existing trail segments, this plan identified future trail system opportunity areas for both near-street (i.e., thoroughfare connector trails) and off-street (i.e., greenway linear trails) trail linkages. Together, these two trail types help create an interconnected trail system maximizing access to all parts of the community.

Since the City is significantly behind in its provision of public park property, a priority focus on expanding the greenway trail system serves as a great opportunity to quickly improve level of service and resident access to the City's parks system.

This plan identified seven priority low hanging fruit trail segments—on property already owned by the City, or on property owned by potential area partners who would also benefit from improved connectivity—which improve community access to key destinations such as parks, schools, etc. The plan also identifies the importance of cross-purposing floodplains and drainage corridors throughout the City for future greenway trail opportunities.

COMMUNITY GOAL

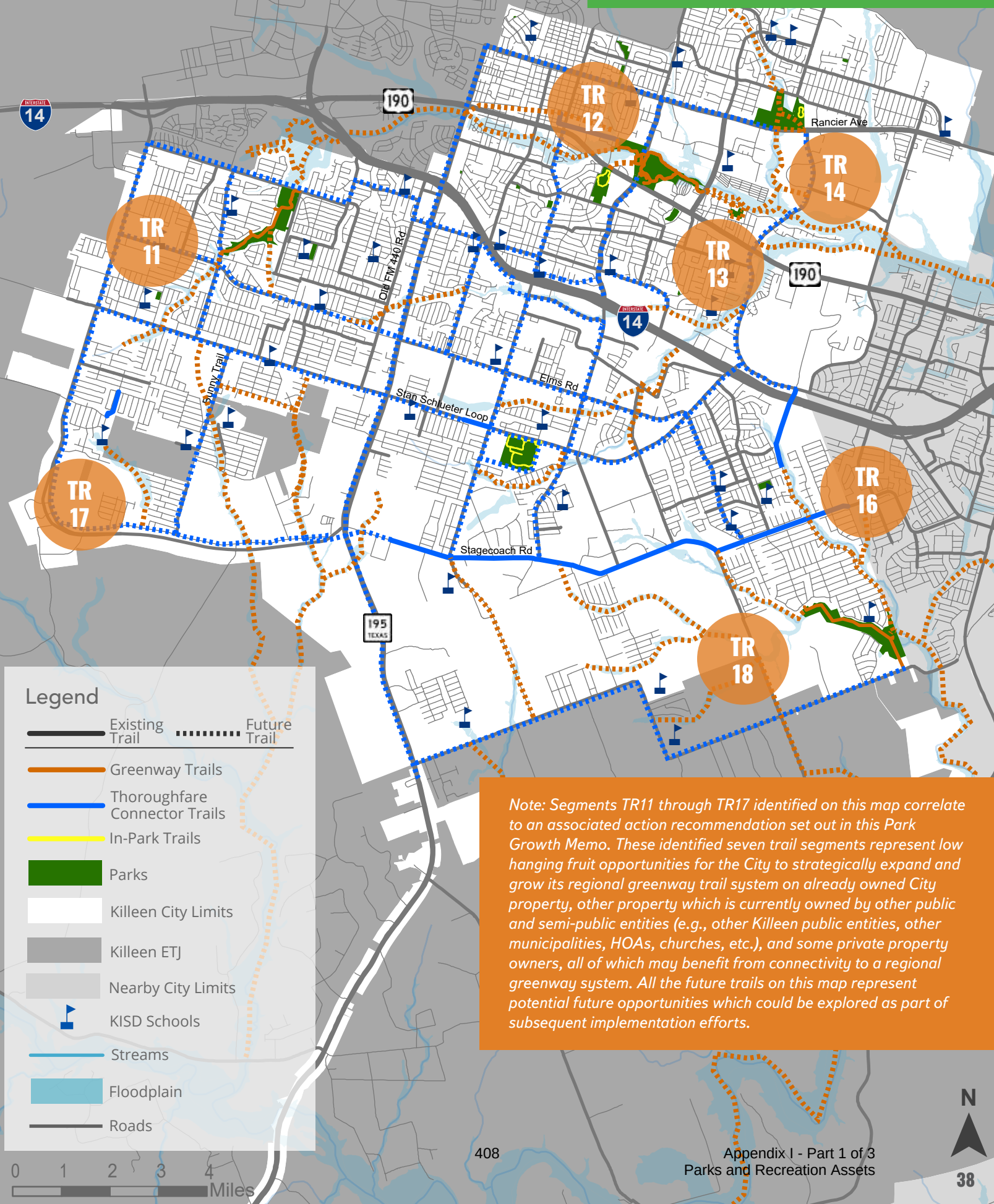
Strive to develop a connected, enhanced citywide trail system through the purposeful acquisition and development of properties and partnerships.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Achieve improved trail connectivity and development standards by 2023.
- Target a doubling of the citywide greenway trails system (i.e., adding 8.7 more miles) by 2026.



FUTURE TRAIL SEGMENTS MAP





Based on the significant need for improving coverage of public park property across the existing and future developed areas of the city, consideration should be given to maximizing public benefit in the most fiscally responsible manner as possible. One way to accomplish this is to maximize opportunities to achieve multiple purposes as part of a single project like acquiring and developing greenway trails along the City's natural floodplains and drainageways .

These undevelopable natural floodplain and drainageway corridors provide unique opportunities not just to serve drainage conveyance purposes, or just for greenway recreational trails, but could also be used (potentially in conjunction with adjacent developable land) to expand these corridors into fully developed and amenitized linear parks (see the original concept plan for Heritage Park on the next page).

HERITAGE OAKS PARK



- 1 North trail extension
- 2 School connection amenities
- 3 Playscape and splashpad amenities

- 4 Rosewood bridge connection & overlook
- 5 Multipurpose practice fields
- 6 Potential community-scaled Complete Park

PARKLAND DEDICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

As is evident in the City’s recent growth and development, the public expansion of the parks and recreation system has not kept up with private sector development. Indeed, much of the existing park system acreage was acquired and developed decades ago and most of it is located in the original core area of the City. There has been relatively little new park development in any of the growth areas going as far back as the mid-1990s. Without further assistance as part of new private sector development, there is a strong likelihood that this trend will continue. This is particularly true considering post-recession nationwide trends where increasing demand for new or expanded services is being met with stronger calls for fiscal conservatism.

As set out on page 21, the City is over 500 acres or 33% deficient in the provision of public parkland even factoring in the reduced targets set out in this plan. Overcoming this projected deficit will require the City to pursue future park development in concert with private sector development. One way many jurisdictions accomplish this is through the enactment of parkland dedication and development regulations.

The purpose of the regulations are to ensure that there is sufficient land dedicated or otherwise set aside, and resources for development, to meet the public demand for parks, trails, and open space that arises from population growth. In this way, when new growth and development occurs, a proportionate and reasonable contribution of land dedication, park development, fees in lieu of land conveyance or park development, or combination thereof, allows the parks, trails, and open space system to grow concurrently. All dedication of parkland and improvements, or fees-in-lieu thereof, must be applied within the same park benefit zone (see the map on page 42). This is to ensure that property dedicated and money collected directly benefits the residents of those same geographic areas.

As part of this planning process, new parkland dedication and development regulations were developed. While not the result of a regulatory requirement, the Heritage Oaks subdivision shows how the design of a new residential neighborhood can set aside new park and trail property to serve the Killeen community (see page 40).

COMMUNITY GOAL

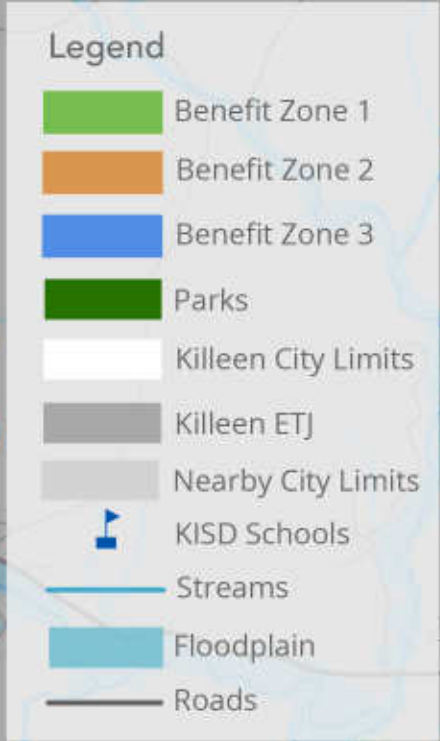
Draft, develop, and implement a parkland dedication development ordinance to have new parks concurrent with growth.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance within 2022.



GROWTH BENEFIT ZONES MAP



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

The Recreation Services Department had a total operating budget for FY2021 of a little under \$7.5M. It is estimated that approximately 40% of that or \$2.9M is dedicated to maintenance of the City's parks and facilities. They currently employs about 95 full-time employees (FTE's). Approximately 39 of those are dedicated to park operations and maintenance by focusing on litter control, mowing, maintenance of sports fields, playscape inspection and maintenance, tree maintenance, trail maintenance, pool maintenance and miscellaneous cleaning and repair of parks and associated facilities.

As part of this planning process, an operations and maintenance assessment was undertaken for the City's four community-scaled parks to establish appropriate levels of service and best management practices based on existing conditions/analysis, City staff input, community expectations and availability of resources. A new O&M framework was developed as template so that City staff could self-expand the assessment to their neighborhood-scaled parks in the future.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Approximately 34% of the acreage (171 acres of the approximate total of 509 acres) that is maintained by Recreation Services is not related to a park, recreation facility, trail or greenbelt. Parks are unnecessarily mowed curb-to-curb increasing reoccurring maintenance costs. Establishing "grow zones" throughout the park system provides an opportunity to repurpose limited staff availability for other important purposes like park improvement and incremental investment.

COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to establish and maintain a parks and trails system where all facilities and amenities are maintained in a good condition (i.e., 4.0 or better on a park condition reassessment).

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Execute a contract to outsource building maintenance by 2022.
- Establish a grow zone pilot program in each community park by 2022.
- Target 25 acres of grow zones in community parks by 2024.
- Reduce the cost of mowing by 5% by 2023.
- Target CAPRA certification by 2026.



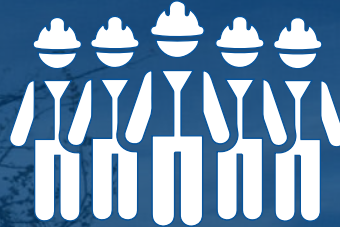
NRPA FTE'S PER NUMBER OF ACRES MAINTAINED

250 acres
or less



17 FTE's

3,500 acres
or more



266.7 FTE's

COST PER MAINTAINED ACRE



Killeen
\$5,811.62



Georgetown
\$3,000.00



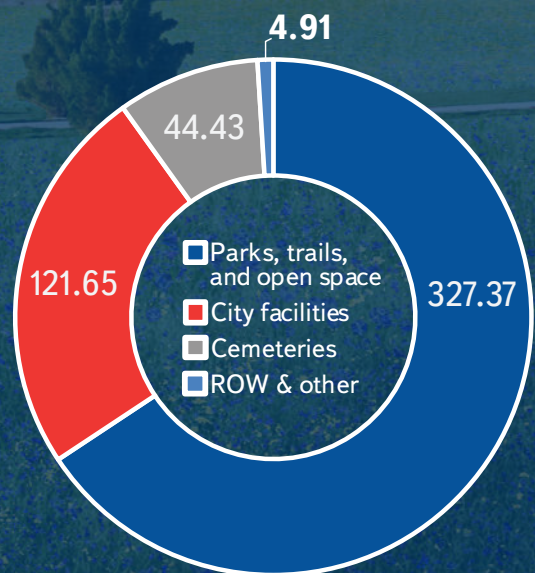
Waco
\$1,600.00



~34%

**~34% OF TOTAL ACRES MAINTAINED ARE NOT
RELATED TO PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE**

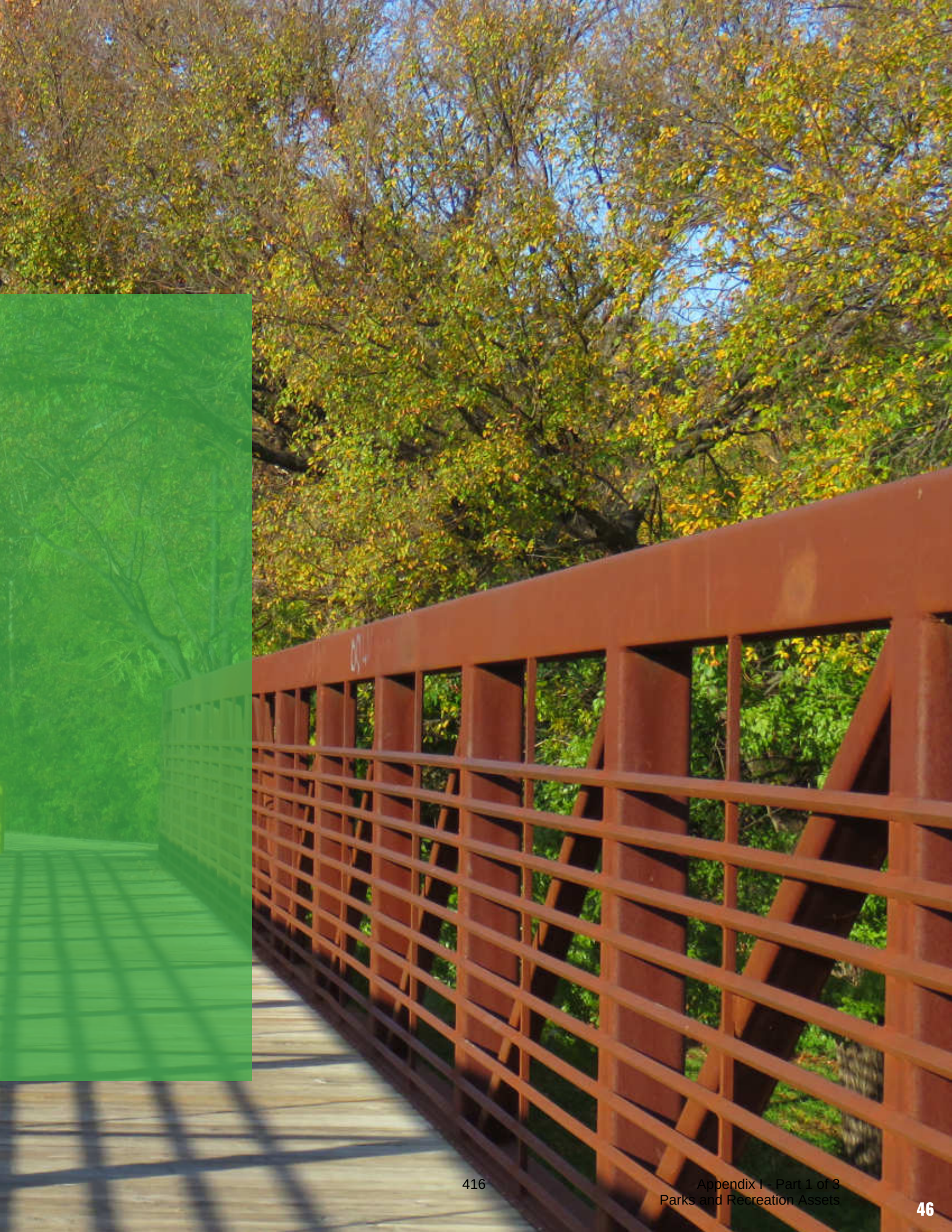
CITY OF KILLEEN MAINTAINED ACRES = 498.46



The background image shows a park scene with a wooden walkway and a railing in the foreground. The walkway is made of wooden planks and has a dark metal railing. The railing is in the foreground, and the walkway leads into the distance. The background is filled with trees with autumn-colored leaves (yellow, orange, and red) against a clear blue sky. A large, semi-transparent green rectangular overlay covers the middle portion of the image, serving as a background for the title and text.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This section outlines the goals and actions necessary to implement the vision set out in this Parks and Open Space Master Plan. This section will guide the Recreation Services Department and allow them to turn this vision into a reality—one investment at a time.



SHORT-TERM WORK PROGRAM

SHORT TERM (0-3 YEARS) PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION SERVICES

- Finalize and adopt the parkland dedication and development ordinance
- Apply the operation and maintenance framework to all neighborhood parks in the park system
- Execute a Master Lease Agreement with KISD to expand park acreage within park system (on-going)
- Establish grow zones within the park system at several parks (on-going)
- Utilize the parks condition assessment to build on replacement cycles through FY O/M and capital budgets
- Launch the YAC Park Ambassador program
- Establish new park properties so that park deficiencies start to be addressed
- Continue City staff led incremental park improvements
- Expand the “Love My Park” workday into a quarterly park investment program
- Work towards benchmark targets identified in the various plan memos
- Focus on maximizing the number of people in the parks



Park improvements can occur through a variety of different mechanisms, from small-scale quick enhancements to large-scale capital projects. The involved effort can come from staff as part of their normal work program or through paid contractors. It can also occur through volunteer park improvement workdays which oftentimes require staff support. In general, the scale and extent of potential improvements grow as the work effort increases in skillset and expertise.



“

The measure of any great civilization is its cities; a city's greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares.

- John Ruskin

”

IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

Action #	Action Recommendation	Initiation Time Frame				Involved entities	Action Type(s)
		Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On-going		
Park Growth Focused Recommendations							
Goal: Strive to grow the park system using a fiscally prudent toolbox of park growth solutions including parkland dedication, donations, further development of other existing City non-park property, and strategic partnerships with area partners.							
PS1	Adhere to Complete Parks principles regarding the future design and development of new parks as it relates to general park features and amenities.				■	City	Operational
PS2	Develop the new Westside Regional Park in the northwest portion of the city.	■				City	Capital
PS3	Identify a property to develop a new community park in an area of need in the western side of the city.	■				City	Study
PS4	Identify properties and develop two additional community parks in areas of need in the southern portion of the City as growth continues to the south.		■			City	Study, Capital
PS5	Identify properties and develop additional neighborhood-scaled parkland in areas of need.		■			City	Study, Capital
PR6	Evaluate opportunities to develop a new 4.57-acre neighborhood park on City-owned property to serve the Bellaire Heights and Loma Vista subdivisions.		■			City	Study
PR7	Evaluation of acquisition opportunities for three new neighborhood parks in need areas.			■		City	Study
PR8	Explore opportunities to improve existing and future indoor recreation centers to better serve multi-generational users.		■			City	Operational, Study
PR9	Explore opportunities to serve multigenerational users across the entire outdoor park system.				■	City	Study
PR10	Continue to explore opportunities to develop additional unprogrammed athletic space for open community use.				■	City	Study
PR11	Develop a second gym at the Killeen Community Center.		■			City	Capital
PR12	Identify opportunities to add Complete Park amenities to linear park properties.				■	City	Study, Capital
PR13	Identify opportunities to fund and construct the additional neighborhood-scaled park amenities originally conceptualized for the Heritage Oaks Linear Park.	■				City	Study, Capital
Joint Use Focused Recommendations							
Goal: Maximize opportunities to partner with KISD and other area partners to develop Complete Parks in areas of need in a fiscally responsible manner.							
JU1	Coordinate with Killeen Independent School District (KISD) to execute a new master city-school joint use agreement for the sharing of resources related to school parks.	■				City, KISD	Coordination, Study
JU2	Utilize Maxdale Park as a pilot project to design and develop a joint-use Complete Park.	■				City, KISD	Capital

Action #	Action Recommendation	Initiation Time Frame				Involved entities	Action Type(s)
		Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On-going		
JU3	Maxdale Park Joint Use Concept Plan.		■			City, Consultant	Study, Capital
JU4	Coordinate between the City and KISD to master plan Complete Park opportunities for Iduma and Timber Ridge Parks.		■			City, KISD	Coordination
JU5	Coordinate between the City and KISD to determine opportunities to develop two additional joint-use Complete Parks on existing KISD properties in areas of need.				■	City, School Districts	Coordination, Study
JU6	Continue to coordinate between the City and KISD to determine opportunities to proactively identify and develop joint use Complete Parks as part of new future school design and development.				■	City, KISD	Coordination., Study
JU7	Continue to coordinate between the City and KISD to determine opportunities to proactively identify and develop additional joint recreational facilities which mutually serve both entities.				■	City, KISD	Coordination, Study
Linear Park / Trail Growth Focused Recommendations							
Goal: Strive to develop a connected, enhanced citywide trail system through the purposeful acquisition and development of properties and partnerships.							
TR1	Prepare a Citywide Trails Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations.	■				City, Consultant	Capital
TR2	Add sidewalks along City streets to complete missing segments on all park properties.	■				City	Capital
TR3	Support the establishment of the regional bicycle and pedestrian system.		■			City	Policy
TR4	Update the City's subdivision regulations to improve trail connectivity and development standards.	■				City, Consultant	Capital, Regulation
TR5	Develop an Active Transportation Plan identifying on-street bike lane connectivity between parks and other citywide key destinations.		■			City, Consultant	Capital
TR6	Preserve drainage corridors and key connections to the existing and future Citywide trail network.				■	City	Policy
TR7	Coordinate with local public transportation providers to ensure that routes are available to City parks.				■	City	Coordination
TR8	Adhere to trail development standards as part of new trail development and redevelopment.				■	City	Regulation
TR9	Adhere to Complete Parks principles for expanding the usability of City greenways and other trails as it relates to for general trail features and amenities.				■	City	Policy
TR10	Coordinate directly with the cities of Nolanville and Harker Heights to explore regional partnerships in connecting the Killeen greenways system to their systems along Nolan and Trimmer Creeks.				■	City	Coordination
TR11	Identify funding and develop a southwest greenway extension of the Ft. Hood Regional Trail.	■				City	Study
TR12	Identify funding and develop a greenway extension between Conder Park and the Andy K. Wells Trail.		■			City	Study
TR13	Identify funding and develop a greenway trail connection along South Nolan Creek between the eastern terminus of the Andy K. Wells Trail and AA Lane Park.		■			City	Study

Action #	X Action Recommendation	Initiation Time Frame				Involved entities	Action Type(s)
		Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On-going		
TR14	Identify funding and develop a greenway trail connection along South Nolan Creek and Long Branch to connect AA Lane Park to Long Branch Park.			■		City	Study, Capital
TR15	Identify funding and develop a greenway extension of the Heritage Oaks Trail north along Acorn Creek/Rosewood Drive.			■		City	Study, Capital
TR16	Identify funding and develop a greenway extension of the Heritage Oaks Trail along Trimmier Creek.			■		City	Study, Capital
TR17	Identify funding and develop a southwest greenway extension of the Ft. Hood Regional Trail.	■				City, Fort Hood	Study, Capital
Parkland Dedication and Development Focused Recommendations							
Goal: Strive to grow the park system using a fiscally prudent toolbox of park growth solutions including parkland dedication, donations, further development of other existing City non-park property, and strategic partnerships with area partners.							
PD1	Adhere to Complete Parks principles regarding the future design and development of new parks as it relates to general park features and amenities.				■	City	Policy
Park Improvements Focused Recommendations							
Goal: Strive to develop a fiscally sustainable Complete Parks system through a balance of smaller scale, incremental improvements and purposeful longer-term intensive capital investments.							
PI1	Establish a Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program.	■				City	Operational
PI2	Improve connectivity and ADA access to all facilities and amenities.				■	City	Policy, Capital
PI3	Improve and strengthen park identity by incorporating new signage throughout park system.				■	City	Capital
PI4	Apply environmental design principles as a key component of crime prevention to provide patrons a greater sense of safety and comfort.				■	City	Policy
PI5	Identify funding and resources to improve the provision of additional site amenities throughout the park system.		■			City	Study
PI6	Identify funding and resources to improve the provision of social gathering spaces in the park system.	■					
PI7	Identify funding and resources to diversify uses and improve the activation throughout the park system.	■				City	Study
PI8	Identify funding and resources to incorporate shade features throughout the park system.				■	City	Study
PI9	Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.				■	City	Study
PI10	Consider development of new dog parks in areas of need.		■			City	Capital
PI11	Identify funding and opportunities to enhance site lighting throughout the parks system for security, light-sensitive amenities, and after hour uses.				■	City	Study, Capital
PI12	Evaluate hours of operation for certain parks and facilities to determine if adjustments could be made for flexibility and usability.				■	City	Operational
PI13	Identify opportunities to add “no grow” areas to reduce maintenance and increase the amount of areas of natural landscapes within each of the parks.				■	City	Study, Operational
PI14	Build upon the LoveMyPark! park improvement day to fund and schedule reoccurring community improvement volunteer days.				■	City	Operational

Action #	Action Recommendation	Initiation Time Frame				Involved entities	Action Type(s)
		Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On-going		
PI15	Evaluate opportunities to increase food access and safety in parks and during special events.				■	City	Study, Operational
PI16	Improve communications to the public regarding parks, events, and for other park promotions.				■	City	Operational
PI17	During facility improvements and building upgrades, identify more holistic opportunities to create more efficient and sustainable sites and buildings.				■	City	Policy
PI18	Implement overall park design guidelines to steer proper design and construction of new and improved facilities and amenities.				■	City	Regulation
PI19	Allocate funding to begin incremental investment to improve Camacho Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PI20	Continue the incremental investment to improve AA Lane Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PI21	Continue the incremental investment to improve Phyllis Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PI22	Allocate funding to begin incremental investment to improve Fox Creek Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PI23	Continue the incremental investment to improve Iduma Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PI24	Continue the incremental investment to improve Stewart Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PI25	Allocate funding to begin incremental investment to improve Lions Neighborhood Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PI26	Continue the incremental investment to improve Hunt Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PI27	Allocate funding to begin incremental investment to improve Fowler Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PI28	Continue the incremental investment to improve Maxdale Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
Park Conditions Assessment Focused Recommendations							
Goal: Strive to establish and maintain a parks and trails system where all facilities and amenities are maintained in a good condition (i.e., 4.0 or better on a park condition reassessment).							
PC1	Develop an official Parks to Standards Program to ensure all parks and trails are all consistently maintained across the system.				■	City	Policy
PC2	Conduct a park condition assessment every five years or with each plan update.				■	City	Study
PC3	Continue to pursue sponsors and community volunteers for the Killeen Adopt-a-Park program.				■	City	Coordination
PC4	Develop a formalized playground risk management inspection schedule and replacement plan.				■	City	Operational, Policy
PC5	Identify best practices and target necessary funding to improve trash management within the parks and trails system.				■	City	Study
PC6	Identify and prioritize funding to proactively and comprehensively improve the general site conditions of parks categorized as poor condition by 2024.		■			City	Study, Capital
PC7	Identify and prioritize funding to proactively improve the general site conditions to good by 2025 for at least 50% of parks currently categorized as moderate condition.		■			City	Study, Capital

Action #	Action Recommendation	Initiation Time Frame				Involved entities	Action Type(s)
		Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On-going		
PC8	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Fox Creek Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PC9	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Timber Ridge Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC10	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Lions Club Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC11	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Iduma Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC12	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Fort Hood Regional Trail.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PC13	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Maxdale Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC14	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Santa Rosa Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PC15	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Flower Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PC16	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Phyllis Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC17	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Green Avenue Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PC17	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Camacho Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PC19	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Stewart Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC20	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Lions Neighborhood Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PC21	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Rotary Club Children's Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
PC22	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Killeen Community Center Athletic Complex.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC23	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Condor Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC24	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Marlboro Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC25	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of AA Lane Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC26	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Long Branch Park.				■	City	Incremental Investment
PC27	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Hunt Park.	■				City	Incremental Investment
Operations and Maintenance Focused Recommendations							
Goal: Strive to establish and maintain a parks and trails system where all facilities and amenities are maintained in a good condition (i.e., 4.0 or better on a park condition reassessment).							
OM1	Continue to identify opportunities to add No Mow Zones across the parks system.				■	City	Incremental Investment
OM2	Continue to identify opportunities to continue outsourcing non-park or trail related efforts to protect park's staff resources.				■	City	Study

Action #	Action Recommendation	Initiation Time Frame				Involved entities	Action Type(s)
		Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On-going		
OM3	Develop an official Parks to Standards Program to ensure all parks and trails are all consistently maintained across the system.		■			City	Capital
OM4	Develop a formalized playground risk management inspection schedule and replacement plan.	■				City	Capital
OM5	Identify best practices and target necessary funding to improve trash management within the parks and trails system.	■				City	Study
OM6	Identify and prioritize funding to proactively and comprehensively improve the general site conditions of parks categorized as poor condition by 2024.				■	City	Study
OM7	Identify and prioritize funding to proactively improve the general site conditions to good by 2025 for at least 50% of parks currently categorized as moderate condition.		■			City	Study
OM8	Pursue CAPRA Certification.	■				City	Capital
OM9	Prioritize budget and resources to continue to develop and digitize park infrastructure and assets into the Cityworks AMS asset management system.				■	City	Capital
OM10	Continue to enter parks system and operations data into NRPA's Park Metrics system.				■	City	Coordination
OM11	Replace or renovate the Conder Park maintenance facility.		■			City	Capital
OM12	Evaluate the need to add satellite park maintenance facilities concurrent with growth to maximize staff resource proximity to different parks and trails in the City.	■				City	Study
OM13	Consider the establishment of a tree nursey on City park property so there is a cost-effective resource for near- and longer-term tree saplings.		■			City	Capital
OM14	Evaluate strategies to improve the safety of users while visiting City parks.				■	City	Incremental Investment

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Killeen Parks and Open Space Master Plan was developed by the City of Killeen with the technical assistance from Halff. Special thanks goes to the many residents and community leaders for their insight and support throughout the duration of this study. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of the 2022 Master Plan.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Jose L. Segarra, Mayor
Debbie Nash-King, Mayor Pro Tem,
Councilmember District 2
Ken Wilkerson, Councilmember at Large
Mellisa Brown, Councilmember at Large
Rick Williams, Councilmember at Large
Jessica Gonzalez, Councilmember District 1
Nina Cobb, Councilmember District 3
Michael Boyd, Councilmember District 4*

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Kirk Latham, Chairman
Louie Minor, Vice Chairman
Ramon Alvarez
Sandra O'Brien
Leo Gukeisen
Randy Ploeckelmann
Michael Hodges
Luvina Sabree
Riakos Adams

RECREATION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Holly Teel, District 1*
Harry Feyer, District 2*
Joe Davis, District 3*
Paul Passamonti, District 4*
David Fleming, At-Large*
Emilio Fenderson, At-Large*
Anthony Kendrick, At-Large*

PARKS MASTER PLAN WORKGROUP

Rodolfo Alvarez - Youth Advisory Commission
Patsy Bracey - Former RSAB
R. David Cole - Former RSAB
Kelly Flading - Former RSAB
Jason Johnson - KISD
Michael Love - Fort Hood
Tanida Mullen - Visitor Bureau
Dr. Marc Nigliazzo - TAMU Central
Brian O'Connor - Chamber of Commerce
Kama Rangel - Youth Advisory Commission

Note: members of the PMPW who are also members of another board or commission are denoted with an * on this page

KILLEEN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Joe Brown, Executive Director of Recreation Services
Heather Buller, Assistant Director of Recreation Services
Joseph Dyer, Parks & Recreation Manager
Luke Behrens, Grounds Superintendent

HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC.

Matt Bucchin, AICP, LEED Green Associate
Chelsea Irby, AICP
James Hemenes, PLA, ASLA, CPRE
Kyle Hohmann
Jim Carrillo, FAICP, ASLA
Julian Salas-Porras
Jill Amezcua, PLA, ASLA
Brandon Hay, PLA, ASLA, CLARB



Effective implementation of this plan necessitates ongoing community engagement. New programs established as part of this planning process (e.g., the Youth Advisory Commission Park Ambassador Program and the Love Your Park Day!) are a mechanism to continually engage the citizens of Killeen in capacity building and the incremental investment in their park system—one which leads to a Complete Parks system founded in Strong Towns principles and increased community wealth building over time.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH





This page intentionally left blank.



Little River Academy





This page intentionally left blank.