



APRIL 2026

GUIDING GAINESVILLE 2040

PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN



LET'S SHAPE OUR FUTURE
TOGETHER 



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Acknowledgments

It takes the dedication of an entire community to shape a vision for the future. The City of Gainesville extends its gratitude to the residents, business owners, and community partners who contributed their time and ideas to the Guiding Gainesville 2040 planning process. Special thanks are due to the following individuals for their leadership in guiding this Plan to adoption.

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Table of Contents

01 INTRODUCTION	1
<i>Executive Summary and Vision</i>	
02 GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS	9
<i>Developing Goals</i>	
<i>Parks & Trails Master Plan Goals</i>	
03 PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS	15
<i>Methodology</i>	
<i>Timeline</i>	
04 AREA AND FACILITY STANDARDS.....	19
<i>Park Classifications</i>	
05 INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES.....	31
<i>Summary Findings</i>	
<i>Non-City Recreation Facilities</i>	
06 NEEDS IDENTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT	67
<i>Assessing Parks and Recreation Facility Needs</i>	
<i>Demand-Based Approach</i>	
<i>City Staff Interview Findings</i>	
<i>Standards-Based Approach</i>	
<i>Resource-Based Approach</i>	
07 PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVES	87
<i>Prioritization Process</i>	
<i>System-Wide Recommendations</i>	
<i>Existing Facilities Recommendations</i>	
<i>New Facilities Recommendations</i>	
<i>Downtown Green Corridor</i>	
08 IMPLEMENTATION.....	121
<i>Implementation Strategies</i>	
<i>Potential Funding Sources</i>	
APPENDIX	142
<i>NRPA Benchmarking Tables</i>	

Acronyms

AASHTO: *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials*

TPWD: *Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

BNSF: *Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad*

HOA: *Home Owners Association*

MUTCD: *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*

NRPA: *National Recreation and Park Association*

NPS: *National Park Service*

TPL: *Trust for Public Lands*

TPWD: *Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

TXDOT: *Texas Department of Transportation*

USDOT: *United States Department of Transportation*



CO PRODUCTS

OR DRINK

GROUND

TICKETS

Welcome

01 INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary and Vision

Parks, in their many forms, have the capacity to become vital, attractive destinations when cities pace the placemaking process to maximize community engagement rather than deliver rushed, “boilerplate” public improvement projects: Meaningful connection precedes meaningful transformation and resilience.

The City of Gainesville, Texas (“City”) is a forward-thinking, rural gateway city rich in historic charm and patriotic identity. In many ways Gainesville celebrates the best of what America and Texas have to offer. Its Parks & Recreation system makes a significant contribution to that standard of quality of life: That system includes many valuable assets and now stands, both figuratively and physically, poised at the crossroads of many opportunities. Ultimately the enduring success of Gainesville’s Parks & Recreation will depend on how effectively it creates quality places that people want to live, work, play, and learn in; a process and approach that produces community attachment, better known as Placemaking.

The purpose of the **Guiding Gainesville Parks & Trails Master Plan** (“Plan”) is to provide guidelines and strategies for managing keeping pace with growth and trends, the future acquisition and development of the City’s recreational facilities, as well as reinvestment in current assets, while targeting community goals. This Plan is based on recognized park planning principles and standards, and is informed by input from citizens, city staff, elected officials, and the Parks and Recreation Board.

In accordance with the City’s municipal code Ch. 14, Article II, Section 14-35 (5), “the parks and recreation board shall have the following powers and perform the following duties:

It shall develop and maintain a master planning guide for parks and recreation facilities. Such master planning guide shall be considered, revised and maintained with technical assistance and recommendations of the park and recreation department and the planning and zoning commission. The master planning guide shall be reviewed at least annually and periodically updated.”¹

As one of the key focus areas of the Guiding Gainesville 2040 Comprehensive Plan (“Guiding Gainesville 2040”), Parks, Public Space, & Nature Trails, this Parks & Trails Master Plan update is complementary to the Comprehensive Plan, advancing its goals specific to Parks,

Research has demonstrated that placemaking directly impacts community well-being and identity.

¹ City of Gainesville Municipal Code Chapter 14, Article II, Section 14-35 (5). (Ord. No. 179-11-81, § 7, 11-3-81; Ord. No. 218-9-83, §§ 5—8, 9-20-83)

Public Space, & Nature Trails, and clarifying implementation strategies. As indicated in **Chapter 2** of Guiding Gainesville 2040, a core guiding principle of the Comprehensive Plan's development is community engagement; Community attachment is an outcome to successful placemaking for Parks, Public Space, & Nature Trails.

Placemaking can be broadly defined as the process of creating quality public spaces with a user-centered, multi-faceted, holistic approach that results in contributions to people's overall health, happiness, and well-being. Within the larger scope and context of the practice of Placemaking, play, connection to nature, and connection to community can co-exist and thrive together. Gainesville's leaders and citizens have been engaged in placemaking throughout its history as evidenced by both the rich variety and character of its downtown "places," and the long-term success of Leonard Park.

Recognition of the key relationship between special public spaces and economic vitality have also come to greater light. Parks, in their many forms, have the capacity to become vital, attractive destinations when cities pace the placemaking process to maximize community engagement rather than deliver rushed, "boilerplate" public improvement projects: Meaningful connection precedes meaningful transformation and resilience.

The 2010 Soul of the Community study conducted by Gallup/Knight Foundation uncovered several key findings. For Gainesville, investments in placemaking can be expected to positively impact local prosperity.

- ▶ There is a significant correlation between community attachment and economic growth: cities with the highest levels of attachment have the highest rate of GDP growth.
- ▶ Nationwide economic troubles do not have a notable impact on local community attachment.

- ▶ Where residents are more highly attached to their community they will spend more time there, spend more money there, become more productive, and more entrepreneurial.

The 3 key drivers to community attachment are:

- 1. Aesthetics:** physical beauty and green spaces.
- 2. Social Offerings:** opportunities for social interaction and citizen caring; the social infrastructure that allows residents to enjoy their community together.
- 3. Openness:** perception of how welcoming the community is to different types of people.

The City, tasked with providing public recreation services and facilities for the well-being of its citizens, establishes this **Guiding Gainesville Parks & Trails Master Plan** to guide future efforts in fulfilling that responsibility over the next 15 years. Recognizing the vital role of placemaking and public engagement in fostering community attachment, the City is better positioned to refine its identity while leveraging investments in parks and public spaces to make Gainesville a more vibrant, welcoming, and prosperous place to live, work, and play for decades to come.

If this Plan is successfully executed, outcomes should include significant gains in high quality recreational opportunities for all Gainesville citizens through increased access equity, connectivity, economic, public health, and environmental benefits over the next 15 years. In recognizing the vital role of Placemaking through public engagement in the overall development of community attachment, the City of Gainesville stands better ready to refine its identity while leveraging its development efforts of parks and public spaces towards making the City a more wonderful and prosperous place to live, work, and play for decades to come.

Location

The City of Gainesville is situated in central Cooke County, Texas, just north of the confluence of 3 tributaries to the Trinity River, within the Texoma Council of Governments planning region. The City is centered approximately 28 miles north of Denton (the nearest large city), and 6 miles south of the Oklahoma-Texas Border along the Red River, straddling Interstate 35 and US Highway 82. The north-south BNSF Railway passes directly through the City, and brings Amtrak service to the historic downtown depot. Roughly

equidistant from 2 major reservoirs, this prime crossroads location grants substantial advantages over anywhere else in the county. The next nearest neighboring communities are Lindsay directly adjacent on the west, Thackerville, OK to the north, Oak Ridge to the east, Lake Kiowa to the southeast, and Valley View to the south. In terms of parks & trails development potential, Gainesville's location positions it to be a greenbelt nexus unrivaled by any of its peers.

Natural and Cultural Resources

Since its founding in 1850, Gainesville has maintained an identity of a small-town rural community with a rich agricultural heritage. The natural and cultural resources in Gainesville play an integral role in the development of recreational opportunities for a transforming city. Topography, tree-lined watercourses, prairie grasses, historic travel routes, and key landmarks define Gainesville's identity and correlate directly to parks and trails opportunities that can enhance Gainesville's appeal. Many such resources are what attracted its citizens to choose to live in and around the City, and therefore need to be preserved as key anchor points of the character of the City. Both Natural and Cultural Resources are taken into consideration during the inventory phase of the master planning process.

NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Gainesville is located in the Grand Prairie area of the Cross Timbers ecoregion, characterized by undulating open plains underlain with limestone deeply incised by meandering streams. This location is transitional between the moist climate of East Texas and the drier

climate of the Great Plains. Formerly home to the bison, red wolf, and black bear, this terrain now consists of pasture, grassland, shrubland, savanna, and urban settlement, as land uses have shifted to grazing, dairy farming, and crop farming of some corn, grain sorghum, and more notably, wheat.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

According to the National Park Service ("NPS"), Cultural Landscapes are historically significant places that show evidence of human interaction with the physical environment. Their authenticity is measured by historical integrity, or the presence and condition of physical characteristics that remain from the historic period. Cultural landscapes are historically designed, agricultural, industrial, ceremonial, and spiritual places. Their appearance varies widely. They can be found anywhere, from cities to wilderness. They vary in size, from many thousands of acres to less than an acre. They range in age, from thousands of years to just decades old. They vary from naturally-occurring places to human-designed places.

City Parks History

The history of the American public parks and gardens movement begins with Mount Auburn Cemetery, the first rural (or garden) cemetery in the United States, which is located across the Charles River from Boston, Massachusetts and was established in 1831. As a large, cultivated garden landscape open to the public regardless of class, when such facilities were virtually non-existent in major urban centers, the appeal of Mount Auburn inspired a proliferation of imitations and defined it as one of the premier American tourist destinations of the 1840s and 1850s.

Since Gainesville's cemeteries predate its parks, and bear similar value, qualities and maintenance requirements, they are included in this summary.

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

Originally the Howeth Family Cemetery, this site traces its history to 1854, when a tornado struck the Howeth family cabin near Gainesville. First buried here were Thomas and Louisa Howeth, young children of William and Harriet Bell Howeth. William Howeth deeded the ten-acre cemetery to Cooke county in 1868.

In 1878 the Cooke County commissioners turned over the site to the City of Gainesville in a 999-year lease. A city ordinance reserved a section for freedmen. The cemetery's name was changed in 1897 to East Hill, and in 1904 the name was changed again to Fairview. A separate Jewish Cemetery adjoined this site from 1881 until 1964 when the two graveyards were combined. A chapel and Sexton's office, designed by Dallas architect Will Scott Richter, was constructed in 1938 at a cost of \$6,296. The arched gate dates to 1964. This Victorian-era facility has continued to serve as the City's primary cemetery into the 21st Century. Connected to Edison Park, Fairview remains one of the largest open spaces in the City, and defines the surrounding residential neighborhood.

PEERY CEMETERY

The Peery family, consisting of spouses William and Ellender (Nellie) McCrary came to Cooke County in the 1840s by way of Missouri. They, their children, and their slaves established a farm. This unmaintained, 3-acre pioneer family burial ground on undeveloped property adjacent to Hwy 82 and I-35 is currently in private ownership held by 7-Eleven, Inc. Texas state law guarantees that public access to historic cemeteries must be allowed without regard to ownership.

LEONARD PARK

Principally, the story of Gainesville city parks begins with a man named John T. Leonard. Born in Kentucky in 1848, he came to Cooke County in 1886. After teaching in rural and Gainesville schools, he founded the Gainesville Register newspaper in 1890, and served as Gainesville's mayor from 1901-1909. Under his leadership in 1902, the City purchased the first 20 acres of land for a park. Upon leaving office, Leonard continued to foster the development of the park, and in 1928 the City named it in his honor. Leonard died August 9, 1935, minutes after suffering a heat stroke while in the park which bears his name. Over time, popular park amenities came to include the Frank Park Zoo, a ¼ scale passenger steam train, 8 ball fields, multiple monuments, and a large, post-war WPA-constructed pool and bathhouse complex. Early in the 21st Century, the aging pool and bathhouse were replaced with the current aquatics complex. Leonard Park has evolved into Gainesville's signature park, as well as its most meaningful; every Gainesville native holds memories anchored to Leonard Park.

MOFFETT PARK

The owner of 90 acres in this vicinity, Missouri native Ned Moffett, Sr., (1842-1924) wed Mary Stone on April 19, 1866. The couple had nine children, and early census records listed the family as mixed race. The Moffetts permitted use of this property along Elm Creek for celebrations by local African American citizens, and in 1943 the City of Gainesville bought the land from heirs to form Moffett Park. The first large social event in the new park was the 1944 Juneteenth celebration. Recreational facilities eventually included playground equipment and a pool. Following integration of nearby Leonard Park in the mid-1960s, the Moffett Park site declined in use, but it remains a tangible reminder of the City's past social structure.

GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY CIRCUS

Editor A. Morton Smith (1903-57) organized and promoted this show after a circus fundraising parody by the town's little theater group revealed many talented amateurs. Chartered as a non-profit corporation, the 3-ring community circus opened in 1930 at the Cooke County Fair in Gainesville, and used its earnings to buy tents, trucks, and costumes. Local performers practiced their acts with circus professionals who spent the winters in Gainesville. They toured in the summers through Texas and neighboring states and the popular show won national fame. This amusement enterprise delighted enthusiastic audiences in Texas and Oklahoma for over 28 years, growing in size to 7 tents at its peak. In the midst of the rise of the popularity of television, the Gainesville Circus declined after 1954, when a devastating fire destroyed most of its equipment, bringing an era to a close.



FRANK BUCK ZOO

Former circus ringmaster, entrepreneur and local philanthropist F.E. (Frankie) Schmitz helped relocate the circus animals from Fair Park to its current location on the west bank of Elm Creek in 1962. The Zoo was named in 1954 after the father and pioneer of modern era zoos, Gainesville native Frank Buck, who made his first expedition to South America in 1911. From this date, he crossed the Pacific Ocean forty-five times and traveled the globe twelve times collecting animals for zoo collections around the world. Frank Buck also acted as honorary ringmaster for the Gainesville Community Circus on return trips to Gainesville. By careful stewardship, the zoo has educated and entertained generations of visitors through to the present day. In a time when many small zoos struggle to stay open, Frank Buck Zoo is now poised to grow.





02 GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

Developing Goals

The **Guiding Gainesville Parks & Trails Master Plan** creates a foundation for all parks and recreation development in the City of Gainesville for the next the next 15 years.

The vision set forth herein will support the three key drivers of community attachment introduced in **Chapter 1**:

→ **Aesthetics**

→ **Social Offerings**

→ **Openness**

Universal Access to Parks

Although recreation centers and aquatic facilities tend to be highly popular elements to a city parks and recreation system, equitable access to neighborhood parks and trails forms the foundation of a healthy park system. Everyone in a city should be able to access and enjoy a great local park. Balancing park

development priorities is strategically essential. ChangeLab Solutions, a research-backed policy think tank focused on helping communities become more livable, has developed the **Complete Parks strategic framework** in order to assist Gainesville's parks planners with better meeting the goal of universal access to parks.

Complete Parks

Like its **Complete Streets** counterpart, Complete Parks seeks to achieve planning, design, and operations of parks for everyone in a community by targeting 3 key aims:

1. Provide all residents with easy access to a great park that fulfills each community's needs for nature, open space, and recreational activities, recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all solution;
2. Close the gaps in parks access and quality by improving parks in neglected places and increasing park area for groups with the least access and greatest need;
3. Support health and health equity by incorporating holistic health into how parks are distributed, operated, and used by people and communities.

COMPLETE PARKS INDICATORS

ChangeLab Solutions prescribes the following elements as indicators and metrics for communities working towards the Complete Parks aims:

- ▶ **ENGAGE:** Engaging Everyone in the Process with Inclusive, Meaningful, Ongoing Dialogue
- ▶ **CONNECT:** Creating Safe Routes to Parks
- ▶ **LOCATE:** Ensuring Equitable Access to Parks
- ▶ **ACTIVATE:** Programming Community-led Activities and Amenities for Parks
- ▶ **GROW:** Planting and Maintaining Sustainable Parks
- ▶ **PROTECT:** Making Parks Safe
- ▶ **FUND:** Committing to Finance the Complete Parks System

A Complete Parks Indicators assessment guide can be found at www.changelabsolutions.org/product/how-complete-parks

Complete Streets

The critical infrastructural means to park access across communities is **Complete Streets**.

Created by national non-profit Smart Growth America, **Complete Streets is a process and approach to planning, designing, and building streets that enables safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.**

In most North American cities, road designs have predominantly evolved into high-speed thoroughfares with considerations made only for motorized vehicles, or with non-driver accommodations applied only as an afterthought. This failed approach has led to the prevalence of the street-road hybrid, or “stroad” designs, which impose overly hazardous conditions for non-drivers onto wide, business-lined arterials. Sadly, this pattern not only intensifies frustration and inefficiencies for all users, but it often proves risky for drivers and lethal for non-drivers. “Vision-Zero” programs to reduce street fatalities have become a politically-popular approach for municipalities to signal an intent to make streets safer; However, when traffic-calming design changes go unimplemented, Vision-Zero programs usually fail to make any meaningful impact on collision, injury, and fatality rates.

Typically when most city residents are asked to articulate what they want from a trail experience, they will quickly describe a Shared Use Path (a 12’ wide, multi-use, concrete-paved trail outside the traveled way and physically



separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent alignment, ideally forming a greenway set in a natural landscape). However, city trail systems rely, in large part, on efficient street networks to provide Safe Routes to Parks. Repairing, completing, and connecting sidewalks is merely the first step to providing access to parks. By necessity, some active transportation routes can only be included within roadways, resulting in low-comfort facilities for cyclists such as Shared Roadways. Additional design elements which prioritize safety over vehicular speed, such as narrower travel lanes, can raise comfort levels enough to prevent discouragement for active transportation users.

Beyond addressing distribution inequity through the creation of new parks to meet the needs of growing or under-served neighborhoods, drafting, adopting, and implementing a Complete Streets Policy is the primary path to achieving universal access to parks in a community.

Additional resources for adopting a Complete Street Policy can be found online at www.smartgrowthamerica.org/program-of-work/complete-streets/steps-to-adopting-a-complete-streets-policy/

Parks & Trails Master Plan Goals

Goals vs. Objectives

The main goal of this section is to clarify the essential elements of the vision of the **Guiding Gainesville Parks & Trails Master Plan**.

GOALS

- ▶ Broad, high-level, and long-term in scope.
- ▶ Strategic, visionary, and perhaps, intangible in nature.
- ▶ May be immeasurable or difficult to measure.
- ▶ Guide the “what” and the “why.”

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Specific, actionable, and short-to-medium-term in scope.
- ▶ Tactical and concrete in nature.
- ▶ Always measurable.
- ▶ Outline the “how” and the “when.”
- ▶ Operate in support of and directly correlate to pre-identified Goals.

The Goals identified for the Guiding Gainesville Parks & Trails Master Plan consist of 3 types:

- **Critical:** a focus on urgent, important repairs and life-cycle replacements within the constraints of the funding available.
- **Sustainable:** important upgrades and renovations to be made strategically whenever additional funding is found.
- **Visionary:** aspirational high-budget upgrades and expansions only to be made if fiscally unconstrained.

GOAL 4.1-2: [MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE]

Critical: Ensure All Parks are Safe, Well-Maintained, and High-Quality

Objective 1: Provide continuous maintenance and replace aging equipment for all existing parks and recreation facilities.

Objective 2: Enhance the safety, accessibility, and function of regional park assets through strategic capital projects.

GOAL 4.3: [PURSUE PARKLAND PROPERTIES IN UNDERSERVED AREAS]

Critical: Provide Equitable Access to Parks and Green Space for All Neighborhoods

Objective 3: Identify underserved or growing neighborhoods and prioritize the acquisition of properties for parks and recreational programming.

GOAL 4.4-8: [INCREASE OUTDOOR COMFORT LEVELS]

Critical/Sustainable: Enhance and Expand the Comfort and Usability of Public Outdoor Spaces

Objective 4: Capitalize on existing shade by relocating and reconfiguring movable amenities to maximize shade comfort benefits, and managing urban forest vitality in public spaces.

Objective 5: Increase available shade canopy with new tree plantings and shade structures in public spaces.

Objective 6: Increase drinking water access in public spaces.

Objective 7: Reduce travel distances to accessible public restrooms for parks, trails, and public space users.

Objective 8: Increase sense of security in outdoor public spaces through inclusive urban design.

GOAL 4.9: [IMPROVE WHAT WE HAVE]

Sustainable: Optimize Underutilized Open Space and Strengthen Accessibility For All Users

Objective 9: Implement targeted incremental improvements at underdeveloped park facilities to increase value, diversify recreation opportunities, and enhance inclusivity, accessibility, and long-term functionality for all.

GOAL 4.10-12: [INTEGRATE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION TO LINK PARKS WITH CORRIDORS AND GREENBELTS]

Sustainable/Visionary: Create a Connected City-wide Network of Trails and Greenways

Objective 10: Through the adoption of a Complete Streets & Trails Policy, unify the user experience across the active transportation network to facilitate everyday practical use.

Objective 11: Identify, acquire, and develop properties for the construction of greenways in floodways and abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

Objective 12: Link, enhance, and unify Parks and Open Space across downtown corridors.



EXISTING PARK / RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORIES

GUIDING GAINESVILLE 2040

EXISTING PARK / RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORIES

EXISTING PARK / RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORIES

A group of people, including men, women, and children, are standing in a hallway, engaged in conversation. The scene is captured in a monochromatic, sepia-toned style. The people are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. The hallway has a polished floor and recessed ceiling lights. The overall atmosphere is one of community and collaboration.

03 PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Methodology

Key stakeholders working with the community at-large have invested in the development of the **Guiding Gainesville Parks & Trails Master Plan** by playing an essential contributing role to the plan development process:

- ▶ Gainesville Mayor & City Council
- ▶ Gainesville City Manager
- ▶ Gainesville Parks and Recreation Department Director and staff
- ▶ Gainesville Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board
- ▶ Guiding Gainesville Advisory Committee

To ensure the final Guiding Gainesville 2040 Comprehensive Plan reflects Gainesville's collective vision, the engagement process was designed to be transparent, inclusive, and continuous. As detailed in **Chapter 1** of the Comprehensive Plan, the project team implemented a five-phase planning process:

- 1. Community Visioning**
Public input gathering across multiple formats
- 2. Data & Analysis**
Consultant assessment of input and existing conditions
- 3. The Plan Draft**
Advisory committee and consultant collaboration
- 4. Plan Adoption**
Final public presentation and City Council acceptance
- 5. A Living Plan**
Ongoing supported annual review and evaluation

The **Guiding Gainesville Parks & Trails Master Plan** was developed concurrently with the Comprehensive Plan, allowing the consultant team to participate in all phases of community engagement and plan development as detailed in the following timeline.



Timeline

In the Autumn of 2024 the Guiding Gainesville 2040 Community Survey was first issued; a series of 10 questions addressing Parks and Trails facilities was included in the survey.

In May 2025, Valley Quest Design’s Parks and Trails consultants led members of the Guiding Gainesville Advisory Committee on a half-day tour of Benchmark Parks & Recreation Facilities in and around Denton County.

Parks and Trails consultants presented the plan developments to the public at the June and September 2025 Guiding Gainesville public workshops.

In August 2025 preliminary findings, goals, and recommendations were presented by Parks and Trails consultants to the Gainesville Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board.

In September 2025 the Parks and Trails portion of the Guiding Gainesville 2040 Community Survey was reissued in order to further diversify prior survey results.

Finally in November 2025, Parks and Trails consultants presented the draft Parks & Trails Master Plan at the final public workshop.





04

AREA AND FACILITY STANDARDS

Setting the Standard

The National Recreation and Park Association (“NRPA”) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to community-building through the advancement of parks, recreation, and environmental conservation. NRPA champions and supports the field of parks and recreation through professional development, advocacy, grants and programs, research, publications and more.

The National Recreation and Parks Association Standards and Guidelines

In 1996 the National Recreation and Park Association first published its Park, Recreation, Open Space, & Greenway Guidelines in order to provide a framework for communities to plan and manage their park systems, focusing on park classification, land needs, and community-based service levels. Since 2008, NRPA has transitioned away from prescribing a set of fixed guidelines for municipalities. In the

place of these former guidelines, NRPA now publishes an annual Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Review which includes a set of national median benchmarks in all categories. For planning purposes, local agencies are encouraged to set their own guidelines within the means of their budgets, while following community-driven standards for facility levels of service.

Parks vs. Non-Park Sites

According to the Trust For Public Land and NRPA’s joint Counting Notes guide, for purposes of reporting on park systems, a park is an outdoor destination that encourages informal public use and, in addition, facilitates any of the following activities:

- ▶ **Socializing**
- ▶ **Exercising and playing**
- ▶ **Enjoying nature**

This includes both traditional city parks and facilities that can provide a park-like experience (e.g. cemeteries). It excludes specialized facilities, such as an athletic complex or private nature preserve, that don’t allow for informal public use. Schoolyards or publicly accessible spaces managed by homeowner associations (“HOAs”) or other entities are also excluded from consideration.

Park Classifications

Parks Classification: Traditional Parks

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ **Size Range:** establishes an appropriate scale for reference comparison of parks and trail types
- ▶ **Access Range (access area):** typical distance users are regularly willing to travel to access the class of facility
- ▶ **Typical Amenities:** installations which are commonly found or typically appropriate to the class
- ▶ **Design & Form:** appropriate placement, location, or adjacencies
- ▶ **Access & Parking:** Necessary placement and relative need for user access and vehicular storage

POCKET PARKS

Size Range: 0.15 to 2 acres

Access Range: 1/4 mile

Typical Amenities: Gazebos, Pavilions, Picnic Tables, Seating Area, Game Area, Performance Area, Playground, Public Art, Community Garden, Shade (Structures and/or Trees)

Design & Form: Small scale urban public spaces intended to provide intensive recreational opportunities where space is limited. Often located as infill between buildings and developments, on vacant lots, or on irregular pieces of land. Lighting is essential to security and nighttime activation.

Access & Parking: Sidewalk connections to and from adjacent neighborhoods or developments are preferred. On-street parking at a minimum, no off-street required, often not recommended.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Size Range: 2 to 20 acres

Access Range: 1/4 to 1/2 mile

Typical Amenities: Playground, Benches, Hard Courts, Passive Play Space, Shade (Structures and/or Trees)

Design & Form: Intended for easy access, this facility is optimized when designed as part of a neighborhood or development project. Balance of 1/2 active to 1/2 passive space. Primarily natural grading or finished flat grading is preferred. May be partially incorporated within a floodplain. Lighting applications are limited to hard courts and security purposes rather than night illumination on active playing fields. Best practice is to site 80% of park boundary adjacent to single-loaded roads and/or creeks and other wooded areas.

Access & Parking: Trail and sidewalk connections to and from adjacent neighborhoods or developments are preferred. Access may be limited to residents as private common space only if it is owned and maintained by a HOA or other private management group. On-street parking at minimum, no parking lot required. Institutional adjacency can provide shared parking solutions.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Size Range: 20 to 100 acres

Access Range: 3/4 to 2+ miles

Typical Amenities: Playground, Benches, Passive Play Space, Shade (Structures and/or Trees), Pavilions, Ballfields, Hard Courts, Restrooms, Aquatics Facilities

Design & Form: Variable to the facilities needed and intended character for each park. Intended to accommodate regular active recreation, sports practice, tournaments, and city special events; Balance of roughly 2/3 active to 1/3 passive space. Primarily natural grading or finished flat grading is preferred. May be partially or wholly incorporated within a floodplain if designed correctly. Field lighting, while appropriate, will require careful design in order to minimize conflicts with all stakeholders. Ideally bordered by single-loaded roads and/or creeks and other wooded areas.

Access & Parking: Trail and sidewalk access from the public roadway network and adjacent neighborhoods whenever feasible. A network of trails within a Community Park integrated into a larger city trail system is essential. This facility class is intended for public use only and not for private common space. Incorporate public parking on-site as well as on-street where available.

Parks Classification: Special-Use Facilities

Outdoor special-use facilities are distinguished by a single primary purpose other than leisure, such as reflection, learning, or organized sports. Due to their singular purpose, these facilities may not feel appealing or accessible to members of the general public who don't (or cannot) participate in the special-use activity; thus, significant demand for the special use should be balanced by the amenity mix at the nearest alternative facility. However special-use facilities can also be intelligently combined into larger Community or Regional Park amenity mixes.

REGIONAL PARKS

Size Range: 100+ acres

Access Range: 3+ miles

Typical Amenities: Campgrounds, Playgrounds, Seating Areas, Gathering Areas, Group Picnic Areas, Passive Play Space, Nature Centers, Shade (Structures and/or Trees), Pavilions, Ballfields, Hard Courts, Disc Golf, Restrooms, Trailheads, Equestrian facilities, Aquatics facilities, and Water Access.

Design & Form: Variable to the facilities needed and intended character for each park; likely to resemble a community park, but with additional lands for sports fields, natural open space, special-use facilities, or a combination mix.

Access & Parking: Regional facilities by their nature attract out-of-town users in addition to local residents; Trail/sidewalk access, on-street parking recommended within an urban setting, but in many cases will require dedicated roads for vehicular access, dedicated public on-site parking lots, and sometimes overflow options.

Noteworthy Outdoor special-use facilities include:

- **Cemeteries**
- **Zoos**
- **Golf Courses**
- **Fairgrounds**
- **Markets**
- **Marinas & Boat Launches**
- **Memorials & Monuments**
- **Historic & Cultural Sites**
- **Community/ Specialty/**
- Botanical Gardens/ Arboreta**
- **Bike Parks (Downhill MTB, BMX Dirt tracks, Pump tracks, etc.)**
- **Equestrian Parks**
- **Campgrounds**
- **Athletic/Sports Complexes**
- **Outdoor Amphitheaters**

Parks Classification: Plazas & Streetscapes

URBAN GREENS & URBAN MEADOWS

Size Range: 0.25 to 3 acres

Access Range: 1/4 to 1/2 mile

Typical Amenities: Paths, Civic art, Fountains, Open Shelters, Amphitheaters, Commercial outdoor seating, Casual seating and furniture, Interactive art, Shade (Structures and/or Trees) along margins to keep center open.

Design & Form: A public urban open space well-suited to adjacency with squares and plazas, available for civic gathering purposes, commercial activity, unstructured recreation and other passive uses. Primarily naturally landscaped with many shaded places to sit. Open lawn areas provide functional overflow to adjacent plaza events by providing ease of movement, line-of-sight, and sufficiently durable surfacing for episodic foot traffic. As a counterpoint to Urban Greens, Urban Meadows replace turfgrass monoculture dominance with drift plantings of native grasses and forbs as a nature-based solution to reduce maintenance, improve stormwater management, and increase plant diversity and animal habitat. The tradeoff of reduced gathering area and passive recreation area for increased sustainability and nature connectivity continues to find more resident supporters than detractors in urban settings.

Access & Parking: Adjacent to a public right of way and spatially defined by buildings. Parking should be located on-street and not within the Green.

SQUARES

Size Range: 0.25 to 3 acres

Access Range: 1/4 to 1/2 mile

Typical Amenities: Fountains, Seating, Civic art, Monuments, Landscaping, Open Shelters, Pergolas, Shade (Structures and/or Trees)

Design & Form: A public open space available for civic gathering purposes, commercial activity, unstructured recreation, and other passive uses. Typically anchored to at least one major institutional building on-site or fronting adjacent. Should have an urban, formal character and be defined by the surrounding building frontages and tree-lined streets. Form may not be strictly square or even limited to 4 sides. Lighting is essential to security and nighttime activation.

Access & Parking: Sidewalk connections to and from adjacent neighborhoods or developments are preferred. Street closures are appropriate for special events. On-street parking is typical, but off-street parking is inadvisable.

PLAZAS

Size Range: 0.10 to 1 acres

Access Range: 1/4 to 1/2 mile

Typical Amenities: Casual and formal seating, Commercial and Civic accessory uses, Tables and chairs for outdoor dining, Retail and food kiosks, Landscaping, Splashpads, Shade (Structures and/or Trees)

Design & Form: A public open space that offers abundant opportunities for civic gathering. Plazas add to the vibrancy of streets within the more urban zones and create formal open spaces available for civic purposes and commercial activity. Lighting is essential to security and nighttime activation.

Access & Parking: Sidewalk connections to and from adjacent neighborhoods or developments are preferred. A minimum of one public street frontage is recommended and should typically be located at the intersection of important streets. Parking not recommended on-site.

POCKET PLAZAS

Size Range: 300 to 4,300 square feet

Access Range: 600 feet to 1/4 mile

Typical Amenities: Outdoor seating and dining, water features, planters, public art and shade elements.

Design & Form: A small scale public urban open space that serves as an impromptu gathering space for civic, social, and commercial purposes. Well suited to infill, the pocket plaza is designed as a well-defined area of refuge separate from the public sidewalk. Lighting is essential to security and nighttime activation.

Access & Parking: Located along a public sidewalk. On-street parking only.

STREETSCAPE PLAZAS

Size Range: within existing right-of-way

Access Range: ~200 to 400 feet

Typical Amenities: Seating, Landscaping, Public Art, Wayfinding and Monument Signage.

Design & Form: Small scale urban open space typically located at the corners of street intersections where there is an expanded right-of-way. This is a well-defined area of refuge that is separate from the public sidewalk. Also can serve as locations for gateway treatments and anchor for intersection daylighting.

Access & Parking: Located along a public sidewalk. Limited to on-street parking (if any).

SHARED STREETS (A.K.A. WOONERFS)

Size Range: Dimensions vary, but 24-30 feet width, and length minimum of 60 feet, maximum of 500 feet are predated. Single, narrow vehicular travel lane ~ 12 feet wide.

Access Range: 260 to 660 feet

Typical Amenities: Street Furnishings, Public Art, Small footprint Play Features, Planters, Bollards, Barriers

Design & Form: Defining feature is the coexistence of people and vehicles by use of low speed limits, traffic calming strategies, and absence of continuous curbs. Textured permeable pavement, raised grade reverse-crowned street profile, centerline stormwater drains, loading zones, bicycle infrastructure are all typical; Can be converted to be car-free as needed using bollards or other barriers.

Access & Parking: Access is consistent with other one-way street types, but with relatively narrow ingress/egress. On-street parallel parking allowed but limited to leave room for other features between stalls.

MID-BLOCK PEDESTRIAN PASSAGEWAYS

Size Range: 20 foot width minimum

Access Range: mid-block

Typical Amenities: Civic art, Interactive art, Benches, Landscaping, Lighting

Design & Form: Linear public open spaces that connect one street to another through blocks. A wide pathway that incorporates seating, lighting, art, and landscaping.

Access & Parking: Trail and sidewalk access from the public roadway network between a

block. This facility is intended for public use only and not for private common space. Incorporate public parking on-site and on-street where available.

Other noteworthy streetscape facilities include:

- ▶ Medians
- ▶ Boulevards
- ▶ Drainage ways
- ▶ Green infrastructure (e.g. bioswales and rain gardens)
- ▶ Streeteries

Parks Classification: Natural Areas

Open Space areas primarily managed for preservation of their ecological value with park development limited to trails, bathrooms, and parking. Open Space nature areas preserve creeks, floodplains, wooded areas, prairies, and other parklands in a natural unprogrammed state completely protected from development.

Parks Classification: Greenways, Linear Parks & Greenbelts

A Greenway is a general term for a strip of land set aside for recreational use or environmental protection, which, in most cases, features a trail for movement through the corridor. Greenway trails can be paved or unpaved, and designed to accommodate a wide range of user types; these trails are high-value/low-cost connecting facilities which enhance existing recreational opportunities, provide routes for alternative transportation, and improve the overall quality of life in the surrounding area. These ribbons of open space are often located within linear corridors that are either natural, such as rivers and streams, or man-made, such as abandoned railroad beds, utility corridors, and rural roads.

Greenways create value in a community on multiple points. Greenways mitigate suburban sprawl. They are critical wildlife buffers which provide habitat and safe migration/movement corridors. Where waterways are involved, greenways preserve vital watershed and stormwater infrastructure. Greenways act as vegetated buffers, protecting natural habitats, improving water quality and reducing

the impacts of flooding in floodplain areas. Greenways greatly enhance connectivity for people by providing non-motorized trails connecting community destinations across a city.

Trail users improve their health by connecting with nature as they engage in physical activities of walking, running and bicycling.

Linear Parks are urban/suburban parks considerably longer than they are wide which follow a design formula of programmed space typical of neighborhood parks favoring trail use, but with reduced amenities.

A Greenbelt is a term for a network of linked Open spaces, greenways, linear parks, and traditional parks (the metaphorical buckles in the belt); this is the highest evolution of a park system (see *Boston's Emerald Necklace as the original greenbelt prototype*). However, the term greenbelt is occasionally used to imply a landscape-enhanced street corridor as an urban analog in microcosm.

Parks Classification: Trails

Common trail types; generally only one trail type can be assigned to any given trail.

- **Foot Path:** A type of trail mainly only for people on foot (hikers, runners, backpackers, walkers, etc.).
- **Bikeways:** A specific type of trail mainly for use by bicyclists.
- **Equestrian Trail (or Bridle Path):** A type of trail specific to equestrians.
- **ADA Trails (or Accessible Trails):** A type of trail that meets the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act for use by people of varying ability levels.
- **Rails to Trails (or Rail Trails):** A more recently developed type of trails that converts old or abandoned railroad easements to trails. These trails are generally aimed at the hiking and bicycling community.
- **Water Trails:** Those trails found in lakes, streams, and waterways for individuals using non-motorized equipment like kayaks, canoes, and rafts.
- **Fire Roads:** Roads that provide vehicular access for land managers and easement holders into natural areas. The public generally does not have access to these roads by vehicle. These roads provide a significant gap in the vegetation allowing fire crews to gain better access to the land and more appropriately fight wildland fires.
- **Motorized Trails (or Off-Highway Trails or Jeep Trails):** A trail type that is not generally found locally, but allows for motorized use of the trail by dirt bikes and ATVs.

The NPS, through its Federal Trail Data Standards have identified a continuum of trail classes with the following characteristics:

- ▶ **Trail Class 1: Minimal/Undeveloped Trail**
- ▶ **Trail Class 2: Simple/Minor Development Trail**
- ▶ **Trail Class 3: Developed/Improved Trail**
- ▶ **Trail Class 4: Highly Developed Trail**
- ▶ **Trail Class 5: Fully Developed Trail**

BIKEWAYS

The United States Department of Transportation has identified a continuum of bikeway classes that have the following characteristics:

- ▶ **Class I Bikeway (Bike Path):** These paths are for exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians with limited vehicular interaction.
- ▶ **Class II Bikeway (Bike Lanes):** These lanes are adjacent to streets or highways and have a solid striped lane designating the one-way bike travel.
- ▶ **Class III Bikeway (Bike Route):** These routes share the travel space with both pedestrians and motor vehicles.

Shared Bikeways

May or May Not Include Pavement Markings & Signage.

2012 AASHTO Definition: "A roadway that is open to both bicycle and motor vehicle travel."
2011 Texas MUTCD Definition: "A roadway that is officially designated and marked as a bicycle route, but which is open to motor vehicle travel and upon which no bicycle lane is designated."
A Signed Shared Roadway shall include posted bike route signs & may include pavement markings.

Shoulders

A Designated Bike Route Includes Route Signage, and May Include Pavement Markings.

2012 AASHTO Definition: "The portion of roadway contiguous with the travel way that accommodates stopped vehicles, emergency use, and lateral support for sub base, base, and surface course. Shoulders where paved are often used by bicyclists." A Signed Shoulder Bike Route shall include posted bike route signs and may include pavement markings.

Designated Bike Lanes

Includes Pavement Markings & Signage.

2012 AASHTO and 2011 Texas MUTCD Definitions are the same: “A portion of a roadway that has been designated for preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists by pavement markings and, if used, signs.” AASHTO added: “It is intended for one-way travel, usually in the same direction as the adjacent traffic lane, unless designated as a contra-flow lane.”

Separated Bike Lanes

Includes Pavement Markings, Signage, & Vertical Elements.

“A separated bike lane is an exclusive facility for bicyclists that is located within or directly adjacent to the roadway and that is physically separated from motor vehicle traffic with a vertical element. Separated bike lanes are differentiated from standard and buffered bike lanes by the vertical element. They

are differentiated from shared use paths (and sidepaths) by their more proximate relationship to the adjacent roadway and the fact that they are bike-only facilities. Separated bike lanes are also sometimes called ‘cycle tracks’ or ‘protected bike lanes.’” (FHWA 2015)

Shared Use Paths

Includes Pavement Markings & Signage.

2012 AASHTO and 2011 Texas MUTCD Definitions are basically the same: “A bikeway outside the traveled way and physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way or within an independent alignment. Shared use paths may also be used by pedestrians (including skaters, users of manual and motorized wheelchairs, joggers) and other authorized motorized and non-motorized users. Most shared use paths are designed for two-way travel.”

Non-Parks Classification

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

These sites prioritize leisure and play for multiple activity types and are generally open to the public for a nominal fee.

FACILITY TRENDS

Increasingly, smaller and medium-sized cities are choosing to develop a single facility that functions on more of a regional scale rather than maintain multiple smaller facilities, in order to increase staff efficiency and diversity of program offerings, at a reduced operational cost. Often these indoor recreational facilities combine services to include indoor aquatics in conjunction with traditional fitness areas, as well as separate senior activity areas within their community centers. Many cities are able to use a higher fee structure to offset operational costs due to the increased value provided by this model. One key driver for these trends is the increasing consumer demand for greater diversity of choice across industries.

More specifically, younger citizens with a university education who have experienced elaborate recreation facilities at their alma mater are looking to their municipality to provide comparable facilities as part of an overall quality of life package.

Noteworthy indoor facilities include:

- ▶ Recreation Centers
- ▶ Community Centers
- ▶ Convention Centers
- ▶ Senior Centers
- ▶ Teen Centers
- ▶ Gyms & Fitness Centers
- ▶ Nature Centers
- ▶ Inclement Weather Centers
- ▶ Warming/Cooling Stations

INDOOR SPECIAL-USE FACILITIES

Indoor facilities with a single primary purpose other than leisure such as reflection, spectating, learning, or organized sports. Due to their singular purpose, these facilities may not feel appealing or accessible to members of the general public who don't (or cannot) participate in the special-use activity.

Noteworthy indoor special-use facilities include:

- ▶ Libraries
- ▶ Museums
- ▶ Aquariums
- ▶ Roller Rinks
- ▶ Ice Rinks
- ▶ Indoor Event Spaces
- ▶ Professional Arenas & Stadiums
- ▶ Professional Performance Spaces
- ▶ Maintenance Facilities

AQUATICS FACILITIES

Since the 1990s the traditional municipal pool has been slowly replaced with family aquatic centers and spraygrounds. The family aquatic center concept incorporates some of the family comfort features (pool furniture, shade, concessions) and fun features (water spray, waterslides, lazy rivers) found in commercial water parks along with lesson programming and lap swimming areas. Additionally, aquatic facilities can be fully outdoor, fully indoor (some with large bay doors that can be opened seasonally), or a hybrid design combining elements of both. Outdoor facilities in Texas must operate on a seasonal basis, whereas indoor facilities can operate year-round, a distinction which directly impacts programming and potential revenue generation.

Traditional Municipal Pools

Size Range: 1-3 acres

Access Range: 3-5 miles

Typical Amenities: 4-8 lap lanes, a diving board, a wading pool, and a bathhouse (or sometimes none at all).

Design & Form: rectilinear to support lap swimming

Parking: on-site parking for 50-100 vehicles

Splashpads

Size Range: 20-5000 square feet

Access Range: 1/4-1 mile

Primary Amenity: flush-mounted geysers, built into a cushioned deck surface with a recirculating treatment system; interactive functions and lighting features are engaging options.

Design & Form: Variable, accessible, and flexible; found as an amenity in traditional parks of all sizes, splashpads are an increasingly popular addition to plazas.

Parking: depends on the facility type

Spraygrounds

Size Range: 10,000-150,000 square feet

Access Range: 1-2 miles

Typical Amenities: above-ground interactive play-oriented spray features; small slides, climbing obstacles, fountains, splashpads, water courses, and dump-buckets.

Design & Form: Variable, accessible, and flexible; found as a standalone amenity in Neighborhood and Community parks or as a component of a Family Aquatic Center.

Parking: depends on the facility type

Neighborhood Family Aquatic Centers

Size Range: 2 acres

Access Range: 1 miles

Typical Amenities: a leisure pool, a 2-4 lane lap pool (or sometimes none at all), a kiddie pool, a small slide, spray features, and a bathhouse

Design & Form: rectilinear to support lap swimming

Parking: on-site parking for 20-60 vehicles

Community Family Aquatic Centers

Size Range: 3 acres

Access Range: 1-3 miles

Typical Amenities: a leisure pool, a 4-6 lane lap pool, a kiddie pool, play features, a waterslide, and a bathhouse

Design & Form: variable

Parking: on-site parking for 50-100 vehicles

Regional Family Aquatic Centers

Size Range: 4 acres

Access Range: 3-5 miles

Typical Amenities: a leisure pool, a 6-8 lane competitive pool, a kiddie pool, play features, a current channel (lazy river), waterslides, other water rides, and a bathhouse

Design & Form: variable

Parking: on-site parking for 100+ vehicles.

Natatoriums

Size Range: 30,000-50,000 square feet

Access Range: 3-5 miles

Typical Amenities: a 8-10 lane competitive lap pool, a diving pool with platforms, a water polo pool, other leisure pools, spectator stands, and locker rooms.

Design & Form: variable, but typically an indoor complex of competition-oriented pool facilities

Parking: on-site parking for 150-400 vehicles.





05 **INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES**

Summary Findings

The City's Parks and Recreation Department currently maintains a system of thirteen standalone parks with many special-use facilities as shown in **Figure 5.1**, including:

- ▶ **Leonard Park, which features a zoo, sports complex, and aquatics facility;**
- ▶ **Heritage Park North, which combines a historic train depot and a dog park;**
- ▶ **Pecan Creek Park, which features a skate park and a greenway; and**
- ▶ **Edison Park, which has a sports complex and the adjoining Fairview cemetery.**

Many facilities feature monuments or memorials, with two parks existing solely for that purpose. There is also a downtown farmers market plaza and a municipal golf course on the outskirts of the City. **This represents a comparatively diverse and distinctive park system for a city of 18,000 residents.**

However, this wealth is not evenly distributed. Leonard Park, along with Frank Buck Zoo, is clustered with Moffett Park, but isolated from much of the City by the I-35 freeway. Heritage

Park North, Heritage Park South, Georgia Bass Park, Kiwanis Park, Pecan Creek Park, and Home Grown Hero Walking Trail Greenway all form one central greenbelt cluster. The four remaining parks are the outliers. Many residents do not have convenient access to any park.

While park utilization is strong, and certain facilities are downright beloved, some suffer from impacts of overuse, while others go underused. Connectivity and access are problematic at nearly every facility. Much of the play equipment is outdated, some water fountains are non-functional, and some facilities lack public restrooms.

Eight of these parks are at least partially in floodways, and while contributing to the City's stormwater system, remain vulnerable to the accompanying threats of contamination and damage from flood events.

Parklands

Each of the named facilities is shown separately in the inventory displayed in **Figure 5.2**.

However, for the purposes of calculating park site and non-park site statistics some facilities will be combined or kept separate based on access and function; these sites are grouped for analysis only and not based on ownership or management.

- ▶ **Leonard Park will include Frank Buck Zoo but be kept separate from Moffett Park.**

- ▶ **Forsythe Transportation Skate Park is essentially a feature of Pecan Creek Park, and Kiwanis Park (formerly Jaycee Park) which is mainly a fitness loop, is basically an extension of the same.**
- ▶ **Edison Park would generally be counted separately from Fairview Cemetery due to differences of function, however the cemetery is open to the public for walking.**
- ▶ **The Medal of Honor Blvd streetscape can be viewed as an extension of the Medal of Honor Host City Park.**

Out of the seventeen named facilities managed by the City, **Medal of Honor Host City Park** and Boulevard, **Gainesville Municipal Golf Course**, and **Frank Buck Zoo** are considered to be *Non-Park Sites*. The number of *Park Sites* shall be calculated as eleven.

Trails

Gainesville enjoys 1.47 miles of the Home Grown Hero Walking Trail shared use path along the former M-K-T Railway connecting Pecan Creek and Kiwanis Parks with the southeastern corner of the City. This facility is closely associated with the Medal of Honor Host City program, and benefits from new honorary tree plantings every year during the festivities. This regular practice has cultivated substantial shade along the length of the trail, contributing to its popularity along with the trash receptacles and canopied park benches. Solar-powered path lighting installation is underway at the time of this publication.



Figure 5.1. Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities



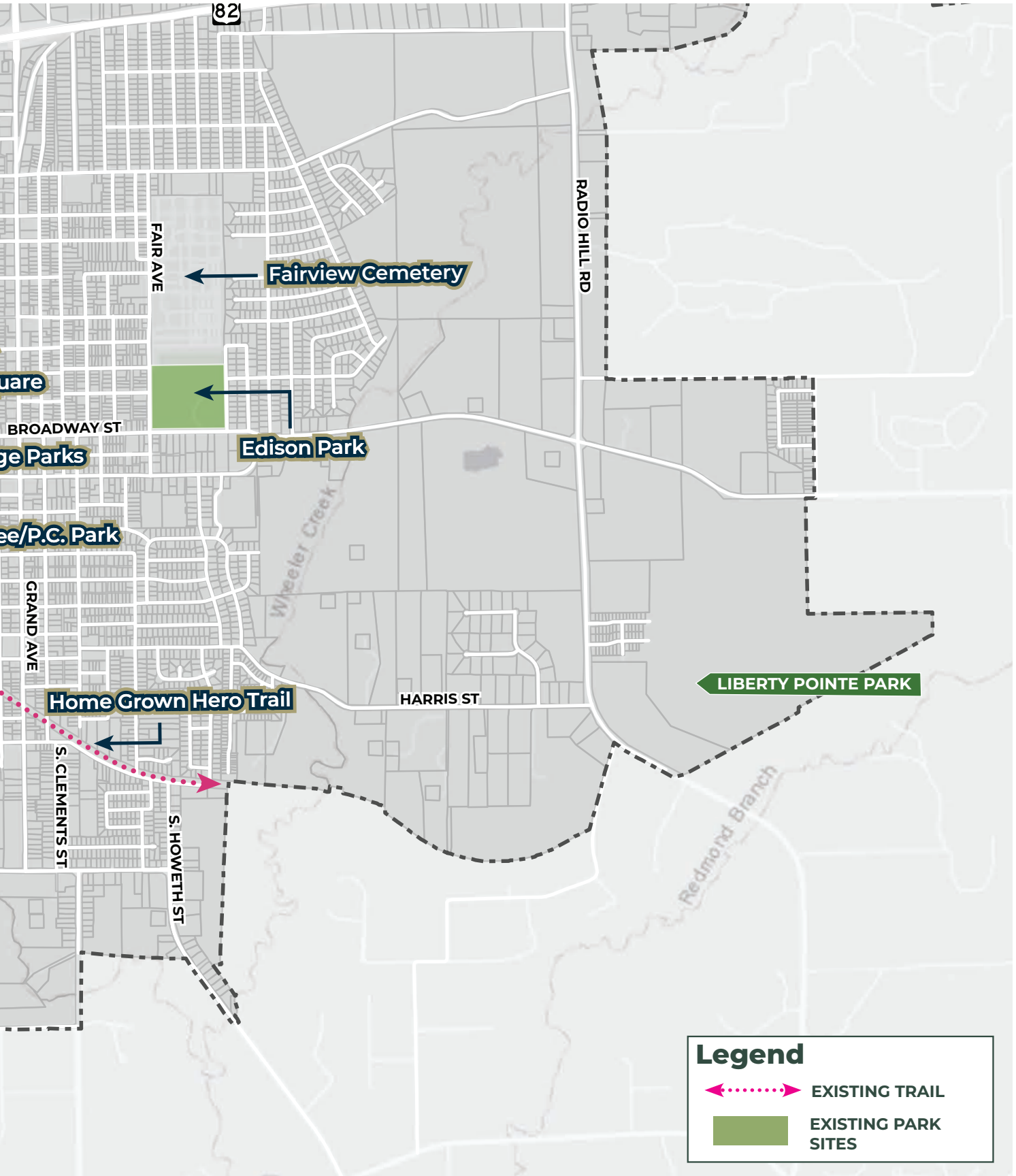


Figure 5.2. Existing Park Inventory Table

Parks & Recreation, Public Open Space Sites	Address	Classification	Acreage (or Distance)	Outdoor Fields & Diamonds			Hard Courts	
				Rectangular	Baseball	Softball	Outdoor	Indoor
Forsythe Transportation Skate Park	710 Truelove St.	Community SUF: Skate	0.17	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Kiwanis Park (Fitness Loop)	600 E Main St.	Pocket Park	0.34	0	0	0	0	n/a
Heritage Park South	601 E California St.	Pocket Park	0.36	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Booker T Washington Park	700 Mill St.	Pocket Park	0.69	0	1 backstop	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medal of Honor Host City Park	101 S Culberson St.	Community SUF: Memorial	0.81	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Georgia Bass Park	729 E Main St.	Community SUF: Memorial	0.84	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Gainesville Farmers Market	215 W Elm St.	Community SUF: Plaza	0.91	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
B.P. Douglas Park	602 Barbara Jordan Ave.	Pocket Park	0.92	0	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
Pecan Creek Park	720 E Pecan St.	Neighborhood Park	2.08	0	0	0	0	n/a
Heritage Park North aka Dog Depot Park	602 E California St.	Community SUF: Dog	2.24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Moffett Park	1083 W California St.	Neighborhood Park	8.08	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Edison Park (& Sports Complex)	1807 E Broadway St.	Community Park	23.36	1	0	3	3	0
Fairview Cemetery	711 Fair Ave.	Community SUF: Cemetery	61.64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leonard Park (& Sports Complex)	1000 W California St.	Community Park	78.19	0	5	3	0	n/a
Frank Buck Zoo (included w/Leonard Park)	1001 W California St.	Regional SUF: Zoo	0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Keneteso Park (& Sports Complex)	1800 S Weaver St.	Regional Park	100.64	7	0	0	0	0
Gainesville Municipal Golf Course	2240 Weber Dr.	Regional SUF: Golf	185.61	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home Grown Hero Walking Trail	Moss St.	Greenway	1.47 Mi.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medal of Honor Blvd.	-	Streetscapes	.33 Mi.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	-	4 Mini/Pocket, 2 Neighborhood, 8 Community, 3 Regional	466.88	8	5	6	4	0

INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES

Parks & Recreation, Public Open Space Sites	Play & Exercise Areas								
	Sport-specific Courts	Ages 6-23 mos	Ages 2-5 years	Ages 6-12 years	Teenagers and up	Total Playgrounds	Water Elements	Outdoor Gyms (Fitness Zones)	Walking Loops
Forsythe Transportation Skate Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	none	0	0
Kiwanis Park (Fitness Loop)	0	0	0	0	0	0	none	1 tri-bar pullup station, 1 double-bar pushup station, 1 balance beam, among others	yes, concrete-paved
Heritage Park South	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	none	0	0
Booker T Washington Park	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	none	0	0
Medal of Honor Host City Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Fountain w/pond	n/a	n/a
Georgia Bass Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	none	0	0
Gainesville Farmers Market	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	none	n/a	n/a
B.P. Douglas Park	basketball	0	0	2 play structures (1 with shade awning), 2 climbing structures, 2 swingsets	0	1	Splashpad	0	0
Pecan Creek Park	0	0	1	0	0	1	none	0	0
Heritage Park North aka Dog Depot Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	none	0	0
Moffett Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	none	0	0
Edison Park (& Sports Complex)	1 basketball, 2 sand volleyball	0	0	2 swingsets, 1 merry-go-round	0	1	none	0	0
Fairview Cemetery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	none	n/a	yes
Leonard Park (& Sports Complex)	0	1	1	1	0	3	Play Pool / Waterpark	0	yes
Frank Buck Zoo (included w/Leonard Park)	n/a	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	none	not counted	not counted
Keneteso Park (& Sports Complex)	0	0	0	1 swingset, 1 climbing structure		1	Fishing Pond	0	0
Gainesville Municipal Golf Course	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	not counted	not counted	not counted
Home Grown Hero Walking Trail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	none	0	0
Medal of Honor Blvd.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	none	n/a	n/a
Totals	2 basketball, 2 sand volleyball	1	2	4	0	7	4	1	3

Parks & Recreation, Public Open Space Sites	Misc.							
Facility Name	Other Facilities	Drinking Fountains	Restrooms	Non-program med fields	Pavilions	Trash Receptacles	Grills	Picnic Tables
Forsythe Transportation Skate Park	1 ramped deck w/extension, 1 transition deck, 1 ramped deck w/stairs/rail/ledge combo, 1 combo rail, 1 angled rail, 1 arched rail, 1 simple ramp, 1 grind picnic table, 1 grind bench	2 ADA accessible	0	yes	1 (metal)	1 trash barrels	0	1 skateable
Kiwanis Park (Fitness Loop)	pedestrian bridge	0	0	yes	0	0	0	1
Heritage Park South	U.S. Bicentennial mosaic w/plinth, stormwater facilities		0	no	0	1	0	3 circular, 1 standard
Booker T Washington Park	none	0	0	yes	0	1	0	0
Medal of Honor Host City Park	8 flagpoles, 6 ornamental planters, cameras	0	0	n/a	0	2	0	0
Georgia Bass Park	none	0	0	yes	0	0	0	0
Gainesville Farmers Market	covered stage, 3 bike racks, bollards, electrical receptacles	0	1	artificial turf area	3 including the stage	3 dumpsters, multiple receptacles	0	11 anchored, 9 unanchored
B.P. Douglas Park	percussion play feature	1	1	yes	1 (wood)	5	1	7
Pecan Creek Park	Forsythe Skate Park, Hometown Heros greenway trail, pedestrian bridge	1 ADA accessible	0	yes	1 (metal)	2 trash barrels	0	4
Heritage Park North aka Dog Depot Park	entry plaza, 168 electrical receptacles	2 dog fountains	0	yes	1 (metal)	3 waste stations/receptacles	0	0
Moffett Park	disc golf (3 holes)	0	0	yes	0	2 trash barrels	1	3
Edison Park (& Sports Complex)	snack shake, storage shed	3	no, temp. portable only	yes	0	trash barrels (uncounted)	1	11
Fairview Cemetery	chapel/office, maintenance bldg.	0	0	no	1 (metal/masonry)	0	n/a	0
Leonard Park (& Sports Complex)	miniature railway, historic jailhouse, diving pool, aluminum bleachers, office building, maintenance buildings	3	1	yes	2	trash barrels (uncounted)	9	multiple
Frank Buck Zoo (included w/Leonard Park)	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted
Keneteso Park (& Sports Complex)	pedestrian bridge, net barriers	4	2	yes	2 w/restrooms/concessions attached	trash barrels (uncounted)	0	multiple
Gainesville Municipal Golf Course	not counted	not counted	not counted	n/a	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted
Home Grown Hero Walking Trail	bollards at street crossings and trailheads	0	0	n/a	0	trash barrels (uncounted)	0	0
Medal of Honor Blvd.	none	0	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Totals	-	16	5	12	12	undetermined	12	51+

INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES

Parks & Recreation, Public Open Space Sites	Amenities							Criticalities		
	Facility Name	Benches	Parking Spaces	Monuments	Lighting	Fencing	Signs	Shade Trees	ADA accessibility	Flood Zone
Forsythe Transportation Skate Park	1 skateable	4 standard	none	1 area flood	none	park sign, rules sign	multiple	mostly	AE	n/a
Kiwanis Park (Fitness Loop)	1	1 ADA, 12 standard	0	yes	none	park sign, exercise station signs, other interpretive signs	multiple	no	AE - Regulatory Floodway	n/a
Heritage Park South	0	1 ADA, 11 standard, additional on-street	2	1	none	2 park signs	10	partly	AE - Regulatory Floodway	n/a
Booker T Washington Park	0	on-street only	0	none	chainlink on north, east, and west sides	park sign	multiple	no	C & X	historically significant
Medal of Honor Host City Park	11	1 ADA, 7 standard	1 central formation, 1 secondary, 1 circus marker outside walls	8 pedestrian streetlamps, 3 monument floods, 6 flagpole spots	brick walls/columns, w/metal panels, 2 arched gateways	1 Most Patriotic Small Town, 2 park identifier placards, 4 interpretive signs, 2 no pets signs	4	yes	C & X	yes
Georgia Bass Park	2	on-street or adjacent business lots only	2	yes	none	none	7	somewhat	AE - Regulatory Floodway	yes
Gainesville Farmers Market	13	1 ADA, 15 standard	none	23 pedestrian streetlights, pavilion lighting, string lights	none	3	14	yes	C & X	n/a
B.P. Douglas Park	2	on-street only	2	yes (hardcourt, pavilion, restroom)	chainlink (hardcourt), wood (splashpad equipment)	2	4	no	C & X	historically significant
Pecan Creek Park	3	unpaved	see Hometown Heros greenway	1 at parking area	none	park sign, no motor vehicles sign, no alcohol consumption sign	multiple	no	AE - Regulatory Floodway	
Heritage Park North aka Dog Depot Park	12 movable	on-street only	1 (at the train station)	1 at drinking fountains	metal entry gates, chainlink enclosures	park sign, 7 information signs, multiple donor signs	multiple	no	AE - Regulatory Floodway	
Moffett Park	0	multiple on gravel driveway, otherwise on-street	4	none	none	no park sign, 1 no parking sign, 1 faded sign	multiple	no	AE - Regulatory Floodway	historically significant
Edison Park (& Sports Complex)	2	multiple	0	sports courts and diamond fields	chainlink at diamond fields and basketball court	2 park signs, basketball court sign, Kiwanis sign, Snack Shack sign, backstop sign	11	no	C & X	n/a
Fairview Cemetery	3	multiple	multiple	none	metal w/masonry columns	1 gated entry arch, 1 monument sign	multiple	partly	C & X	yes
Leonard Park (& Sports Complex)	6	291 (asphalt & gravel)	3	ballfields, overhead in pavilions	wood playground enclosures and railway barrier, chainlink zoo enclosure	1 digital monument sign, 1 war memorial entry arch, 1 zoo monument sign, multiple railway crossing signs	multiple	somewhat	AE - Regulatory Floodway	yes
Frank Buck Zoo (included w/Leonard Park)	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	multiple	n/a	AE - Regulatory Floodway	historically significant
Keneteso Park (& Sports Complex)	0	multiple	0	on pavilions	none	1 park sign, 1 trout derby sign	multiple	no	AE - Regulatory Floodway	n/a
Gainesville Municipal Golf Course	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	not counted	multiple	no	B & X	n/a
Home Grown Hero Walking Trail	4 shelter benches	3 ADA, 10 standard	memorial plaques	none	none	2 trailhead park signs	multiple	mostly	AE - Regulatory Floodway	n/a
Medal of Honor Blvd.	0	0	2 centennial tableaux	none	none	none	multiple	no	C & X	historically significant
Totals	60	7 ADA, 346 standard counted, many more uncounted	19+	unquantified, multiple types	unquantified	unquantified	unquantified	highly limited	11 AE	4



Existing Park Inventory Study: *Leonard Park*

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 6 Park benches, multiple styles, good condition
- ▶ Picnic tables, mixed styles/materials/condition
- ▶ 9 grills, trash barrels in fair condition
- ▶ 3 drinking fountains, varying style, in good condition
- ▶ 2 pavilions, restrooms in good condition

PLAY EQUIPMENT

- ▶ Pee Wee Tot Lot equipment/fence/gate in fair, but aged condition; needs repairs
- ▶ Community Park Playground in fair condition; showing it's age and nearing end of lifespan

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- ▶ 8 ballfields, 2 with clay infields; poor surface conditions
- ▶ Backstops, covered dugouts in good condition
- ▶ Aluminum bleachers in good condition

VEGETATION

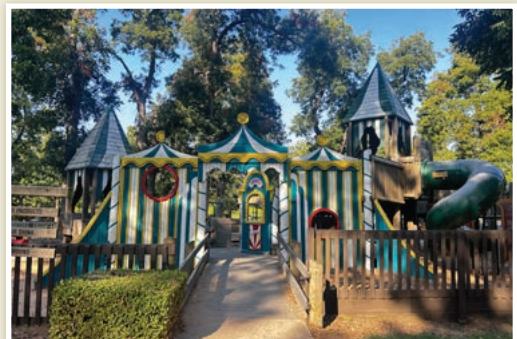
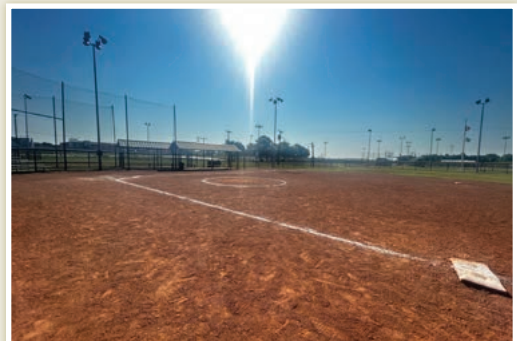
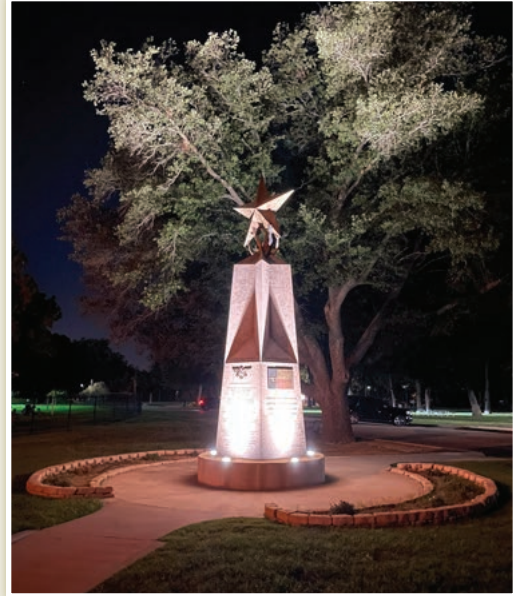
- ▶ Dozens of mature shade trees generally in good condition
- ▶ Planting bed landscaping beds in poor condition, needs refresh

LIGHTING

- ▶ Good overhead lighting in pavilions
- ▶ Aluminum mast pole ballfield lighting in good condition
- ▶ Park interior illumination is a mix of street pole lighting and pedestrian scaled streetlamps, good condition

HERITAGE/ACCESS

- ▶ Multiple monuments, all in good condition
- ▶ ADA/Access issues prevalent across facility
- ▶ Auto-centric design limits non-driver access





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Moffett Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 3 picnic tables in poor condition
- ▶ 2 trash barrels in fair condition
- ▶ 1 grill in fair condition

PLAY/SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- ▶ 6-seat swingset in fair condition
- ▶ 3-hole disc golf baskets in good condition

VEGETATION

- ▶ Canopy of large shade trees in good condition
- ▶ Absence of ornamental landscaping
- ▶ Turfgrass in fair condition

LIGHTING

- ▶ 1 powerline streetlight at SE corner of the park
- ▶ 1 pole streetlight at swingset

HERITAGE

- ▶ 1 monument in good condition
- ▶ 2 memorial plaques in good condition
- ▶ 1 interpretive sign in good condition

ACCESS

- ▶ Wooden bollard-lined single gravel driveway with shoulder parking and turnaround terminus
- ▶ Foot traffic limited to adjacent businesses but not accessible
- ▶ No water access to Elm Fork





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Booker T. Washington Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 1 trash receptacle in good condition
- ▶ 1 park sign in fair condition

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- ▶ Metal frame chain-link ballpark backstop in good condition

FENCING

- ▶ Medium-height chain-link in fair condition

VEGETATION

- ▶ Mature trees in good condition
- ▶ Turfgrass in good condition

LIGHTING

- ▶ 1 pole light each on Mill and Culberson Streets

HERITAGE

- ▶ No clear indications of historic land use

ACCESS

- ▶ Fence openings on the NE, SE, and SW corners
- ▶ Small curb cut at SW corner
- ▶ No sidewalks





Existing Park Inventory Study:
B.P. Douglas Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 1 pavilion in fair condition
- ▶ 7 picnic tables in varying condition
- ▶ 1 grill, 6 trash barrels in good condition
- ▶ 1 drinking fountain in working condition
- ▶ 2 park benches in good condition
- ▶ Men's & Women's restrooms in good condition

PLAY/SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- ▶ 2 play structures and 1 music playset in fair condition
- ▶ 2 climbers and 2 swingsets in fair condition
- ▶ 1 splashpad in good condition
- ▶ 1 basketball court with chain-link backstops in weathered but fair condition
- ▶ Un-removed tree stump in play area

VEGETATION

- ▶ 4 shade trees in good condition
- ▶ Turfgrass in fair condition

LIGHTING

- ▶ 1 aluminum pole field light for basketball court
- ▶ 1 pole street lamp mid block on Muller St.

HERITAGE

- ▶ Monument with enhanced paving in good condition
- ▶ Pedestal memorial plaque in good condition

ACCESS

- ▶ No street sidewalks or crosswalks
- ▶ Only 2 curb cuts, neither at corners
- ▶ Plastic playground barrier is challenging for access





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Heritage Park North / Dog Depot

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 12 movable park benches in good condition
- ▶ Waste stations, trash receptacles, faux fire hydrants in good condition
- ▶ Drinking fountain in poor condition
- ▶ Small shade structure in fair condition
- ▶ Electrical outlets untested

FENCING

- ▶ Entry gates in good condition
- ▶ Wrought metal fencing in good condition
- ▶ Small dog area is conspicuously smaller

VEGETATION

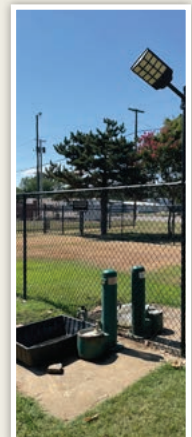
- ▶ Mature shade and ornamental trees in good condition
- ▶ Turfgrass in good condition

LIGHTING

- ▶ 1 solar-powered LED pole light at drinking fountain; operation status untested
- ▶ 3 powerline streetlights on Denison St. (1 on corner of Broadway)
- ▶ 1 powerline streetlight on California St.
- ▶ No lighting at Dog Park entry plaza
- ▶ Pedestrian scale street lampposts at Santa Fe Depot

ACCESS

- ▶ North/South sidewalks good size/condition
- ▶ South sidewalk includes ADA ramps
- ▶ East sidewalk non-existent
- ▶ Railroad crossings in poor condition
- ▶ Broadway St. crosswalks non-existent
- ▶ California St. crosswalks non-existent





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Heritage Park South

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 3 circular picnic tables on circular concrete pads in good condition
- ▶ 1 rectangular (non-accessible) picnic table on a circular concrete pad in good condition
- ▶ Signs and trash receptacle in good condition

VEGETATION

- ▶ 10 mature shade trees in good condition
- ▶ Mature shrubs in mixed condition, some nonviable
- ▶ Turfgrass in either fair condition or absent under mature shade trees

LIGHTING

- ▶ Single, pole lamp floodlight in fair condition
- ▶ Limited lighting design creates shadowy pocket conditions

SURFACING/HERITAGE

- ▶ Concrete sidewalk in fair condition with some limited surface issues and root disruption
- ▶ Bicentennial monument in highly deteriorated condition
- ▶ Small plaques in fair condition

ACCESS

- ▶ ADA ramps limited to California St.
- ▶ California St., Denison St. crosswalks non-existent
- ▶ Main St. crosswalk in fair condition
- ▶ Railroad crossings in poor condition





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Kiwanis Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 1 park bench in good to fair condition
- ▶ 1 picnic table in fair condition
- ▶ 1 trash receptacle in good condition

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- ▶ Fitness stations in fair to poor condition
- ▶ Interpretive signs in fair to poor condition

VEGETATION

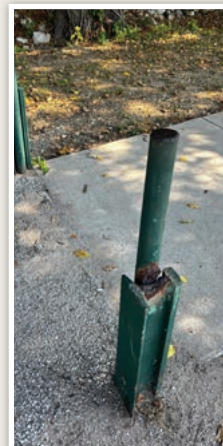
- ▶ Mature shade trees in good condition
- ▶ Turfgrass in good condition
- ▶ Algae build-up in creek

LIGHTING

- ▶ 3 pole lights along loop path

ACCESS

- ▶ Concrete/asphalt paved path
- ▶ Metal posts at path entry in poor condition





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Pecan Creek Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 3 park benches in poor condition
- ▶ 4 picnic tables in fair condition
- ▶ 2 pavilions in fair condition
- ▶ 1 bottle-filling station in good condition
- ▶ 1 drinking fountain non-functional, in poor condition
- ▶ 3 trash barrels in fair condition

PLAY EQUIPMENT

- ▶ All playground equipment in need of replacement due to poor condition

VEGETATION

- ▶ Multiple shade trees in good condition
- ▶ Turfgrass in good condition
- ▶ Algae build-up in creek

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- ▶ Skate park fixtures in good condition
- ▶ Skate park surfacing in fair condition

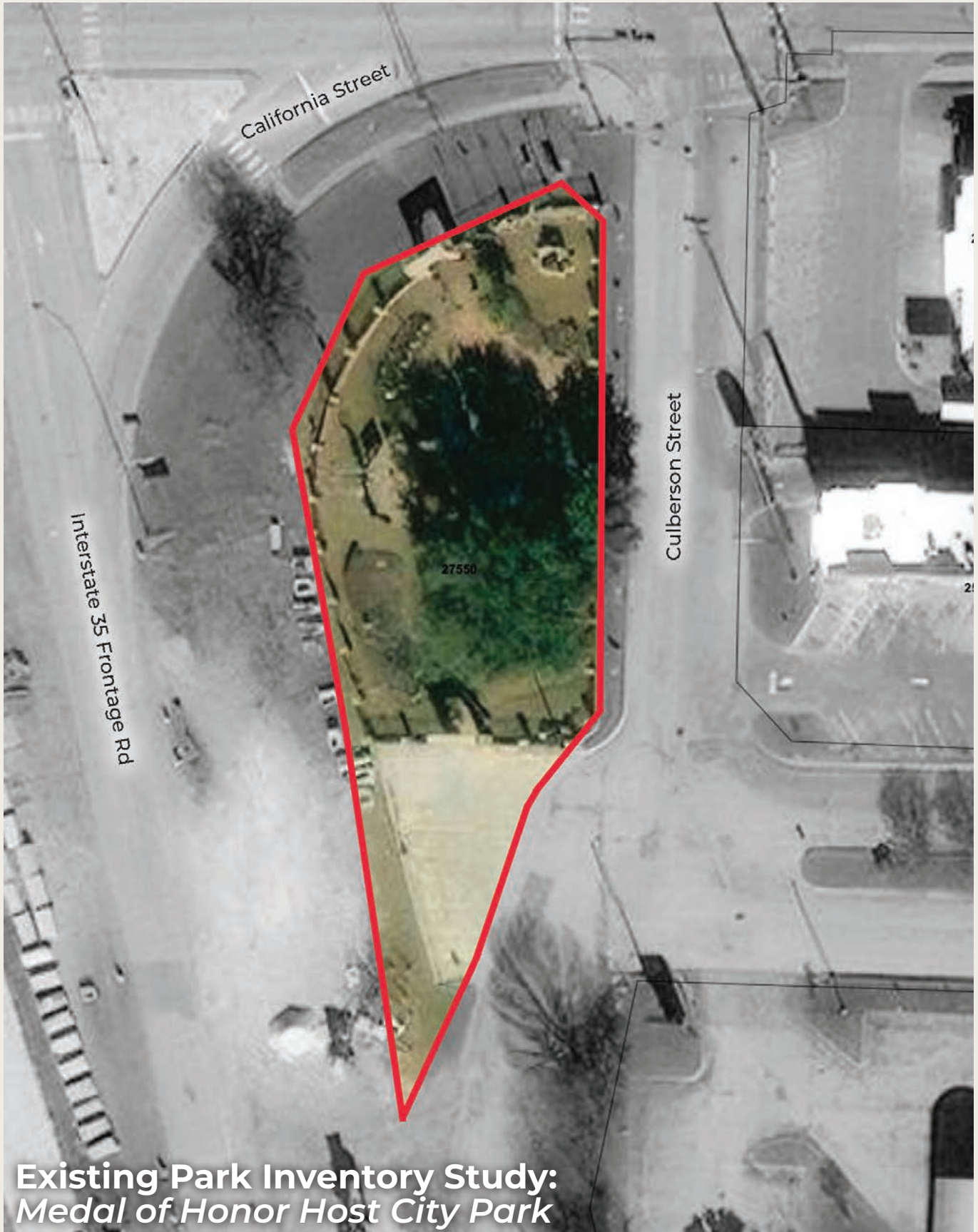
LIGHTING

- ▶ 1 pole light at main parking lot
- ▶ 1 flood light at skate park

ACCESS

- ▶ Playground curbing, lack of paved access path presents challenges to access
- ▶ Concrete/asphalt paved path
- ▶ Main parking area, gravel-paved, bollard-edged; in poor condition
- ▶ Skate park parking area spaces highly limited
- ▶ Pedestrian footbridge in fair condition





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Medal of Honor Host City Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 8 flagpoles in good condition
- ▶ 6 ornamental planters in good condition
- ▶ 11 park benches in good condition
- ▶ 2 trash receptacles in good condition
- ▶ 1 water feature in good to fair condition

VEGETATION

- ▶ 4 shade trees in good condition
- ▶ Ornamental landscaping in good condition

LIGHTING

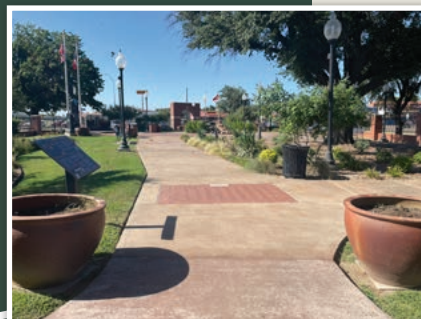
- ▶ 3 monument floodlights
- ▶ 6 flagpole spotlights
- ▶ 8 pedestrian streetlamps

HERITAGE

- ▶ 1 central monument formation in excellent condition
- ▶ 1 secondary monument in good condition
- ▶ 1 memorial plaque in good condition

ACCESS

- ▶ Limited by perimeter brick walls to 2 gated entry arches with security cameras
- ▶ Parking spaces paved but limited to just 8
- ▶ No sidewalk on Culberson St.
- ▶ ADA ramps at California St.
- ▶ No crosswalks at Culberson and Medal of Honor Blvd.





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Georgia Bass Memorial Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 2 park benches in good condition

VEGETATION

- ▶ 7 mature shade trees in good condition
- ▶ Turfgrass in good condition

LIGHTING

- ▶ Flush-mounted spotlights on paired monuments

HERITAGE

- ▶ 1 paired stone tablet monument in good condition
- ▶ 1 single stone tablet monument in good condition
- ▶ 1 bell pedestal monument in good condition

ACCESS

- ▶ No paved paths
- ▶ No dedicated parking spaces





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Keneteso Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 2 lighted combination pavilion/concessions/restrooms buildings in good condition
- ▶ Associated picnic tables in good condition
- ▶ 3 drinking fountains in good condition, 1 in poor condition
- ▶ Multiple trash barrels in good condition
- ▶ 1 pedestrian footbridge in poor condition

PLAY EQUIPMENT

- ▶ 2 swingsets in good condition
- ▶ 1 antiquated climbing structure in fair condition
- ▶ Play structures in good condition
- ▶ 1 challenge course with overhead glider in good condition

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- ▶ 7 soccer fields with goals in good to fair condition
- ▶ 2 net structures in good condition

VEGETATION

- ▶ Abundant mature shade trees in good condition
- ▶ Turfgrass in good to fair condition

LIGHTING

- ▶ Limited to pavilion/concessions/restrooms buildings

ACCESS

- ▶ Limited to road entrance on Weaver St.; heavily impacted when facilities are busy
- ▶ Gravel-paved parking lots pose some challenges





Existing Park Inventory Study:
Edison Park

CURRENT CONDITIONS

AMENITIES

- ▶ 11 picnic tables in varying conditions
- ▶ 2 park benches in good condition
- ▶ 1 grill, multiple trash barrels in good condition
- ▶ 3 water fountains in varying conditions and styles
- ▶ 3 portable toilets
- ▶ 1 highly visible working maintenance yard in (visually) poor condition

PLAY EQUIPMENT

- ▶ 2 aged swingsets in fair condition
- ▶ 1 antiquated metal merry-go-round in fair condition

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- ▶ 3 ballfields in fair to poor condition
- ▶ Backstops, fencing, and dugouts in fair to poor condition
- ▶ Metal bleachers with awnings in good to fair condition
- ▶ Basketball court with chain-link backstop fencing in good condition
- ▶ 2 Sand volleyball courts in good condition
- ▶ 1 basic soccer field in fair condition

VEGETATION

- ▶ 11 shade trees in varying conditions
- ▶ Turfgrass in fair condition

LIGHTING

- ▶ 1 pole floodlight on timer at basketball court
- ▶ 2 pole floodlights on timers at volleyball courts
- ▶ Full field lighting at ballfields

ACCESS

- ▶ No sidewalks or accessible paths



Non-City Recreation Facilities

Gainesville Independent School District (“GISD”) Facilities

The GISD is a 4A Division II school system which serves approximately 3,100 students as of 2025 and is comprised of six campuses):

- ▶ **Gainesville Head Start**
- ▶ **Edison Elementary**
- ▶ **W.E. Chalmers Elementary**
- ▶ **Gainesville Intermediate**
- ▶ **Gainesville Junior High**
- ▶ **Gainesville High**
** Of these facilities, only the Junior High track is open for public use.*

North Central Texas College (“NCTC”) Facilities

North Central Texas College has several recreational facilities at their Gainesville Campus however general public use is limited to the *Chaloupecky Tennis (and Pickleball) Center* and the *Medal of Honor Host City Museum* entry plaza.

Recreation-Oriented Organizations & Businesses

As is the case with any city, some recreation needs are met by private organizations or businesses. These may offer similar experiences to those managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, but many offer enhanced or niche experiences for residents and visitors to select from. The following such organizations are found serving Gainesville and the region:

- ▶ **Boys & Girls Clubs of Cooke County**
Offers recreational programs and facilities for youth at 315 N Denton St.
- ▶ **Cooke County Youth Sports, LLC**
Youth sports program based in Gainesville, serving Cooke County; sports offered include football, cheerleading, basketball, volleyball, and buddy baseball.
- ▶ **Boys Baseball of Cooke County**
Non-profit youth baseball and softball program based in Gainesville, serving Cooke County.
- ▶ **Cooke County Soccer Association**
Non-profit North Texas Soccer member based in Gainesville, serving Cooke County.
- ▶ **North Texas Youth Football**
Regional youth football program serving smaller cities & towns of Denton, Cooke, and Grayson Counties, including Gainesville.
- ▶ **Gainesville Riding Club**
Hosts an annual competitive summer rodeo event and autumn mutton-bustin’ series at its arena located at 3152 N Grand Ave. (FM372)
- ▶ **Arrowheart Ranch**
Hosts a monthly competitive ranch horse show; it is located at 590 CR-131.

▶ **Cooke County Fairgrounds**

Home of The Cooke County Fair Association, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, whose mission is to support youth education and development, continuing education, recreation, and economic expansion for the people of Cooke County and the surrounding areas. Year-round activities at the indoor arena center on supporting 4-H, FFA, Family & Consumer Sciences, agriculture, livestock exhibitions and sales. The County Fair Ground is located at 1901 Justice Center Rd.

▶ **The Range of Gainesville**

Outdoor driving range that features cornhole, food, and beverages; it is located south of US-82 and the Municipal Golf Course on CR-303.

▶ **Nautilus Fitness of Gainesville**

Offers 24-hour access, fitness equipment, massage chairs, tanning, babysitting, and aerobics classes at 1311 N Grand Ave.

▶ **Bosco's Gym**

Offers fitness equipment, personal training, massage/manual therapy, aerobics and yoga classes at 1112 E Main St.

▶ **Anytime Fitness**

Offers 24-hour access, fitness equipment, professional coaching, and private restrooms & showers at 905 Summit Ave.

▶ **Stronger Than Boys**

Private personal training studio for women located at 334 US-82.

▶ **Jazzercise Gainesville Fitness Center**

Dance fitness studio located at 307 N Commerce St.

▶ **Hill House Manor**

Historic residence which is reservable for overnight paranormal investigations; located at 410 Denton St.





06 NEEDS IDENTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT

Assessing Parks and Recreation Facility Needs

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recommends the following techniques to perform a Needs Assessment for a city's Parks and Trails Master Plan:

→ **Demand-based Approach**

Relies on information gathered by public survey and public meetings.

→ **Standards-based Approach**

Uses established NRPA and City standards to determine the type and number of facilities and the amount of park area needed to meet the City's needs.

→ **Resource-based Approach**

Identifies assets and resources that could be used for open space, parks, and recreation facilities.



Demand-Based Approach

City Parks Alliance Recommendations

The RAND Corporation and City Parks Alliance, with help from The Trust for Public Land, led a National Study of Neighborhood Parks to identify to what degree neighborhood parks in America's cities encourage people to be physically active. The study was supported by

the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Over a two-year period (2014–2016) data collectors observed park design and behaviors in 174 neighborhood parks in 25 cities across the country.

Elements Found to Increase Park Usage

Walking Loops increase park use by 80%, including twice as many seniors, and 90% higher levels of moderate-to-vigorous exercise. On-site **Marketing** banners, posters, and signs brought a 62% increase in users and a 63% increase in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity.

The most common reason for going to a park is “bringing children.” **Play Areas** account for 25% of children's park use. Every play element added to a playground increases its use by 50%. **Programming** can help attract more seniors and teen girls—both underrepresented in parks. Each additional supervised activity increased park use by 48% and physical activity by 37%.

2026 NRPA Top Trends

NRPA publishes an annual article showcasing the top trends in Parks and Recreation which are expected to sustain over the next few years.

PICKLEBALL GROWING PAINS

- ▶ The fastest-growing sport in the United States
- ▶ Grew nearly 46 percent between 2023 and 2024
- ▶ 20 million participants and growing
- ▶ Players want courts to be open 12-14 hours daily.
- ▶ Chronic noise issues are creating conflicts with adjacent sites.
- ▶ Park planners have had to contract for acoustic studies costing \$3,000 to \$10,000.
- ▶ Noise abatement treatments may cost in excess of \$250,000.
- ▶ Planners are exploring 350'-800' court setbacks from occupied dwellings.

IMPACTS OF AI

- ▶ The integration of Artificial Intelligence technologies is transforming the way that organizations are run, and how work is performed.
- ▶ Parks and Recreation departments have a selection of agentic AI software applications with workflow solutions and capabilities to enhance the user experience.
- ▶ Parks and Recreation professionals need to adapt to implementing AI tools as part of their ongoing professional development.

PROGRAMS IN DEMAND

- ▶ Non-religious special events and festivals (i.e. pollinator, Halloween, agricultural)
- ▶ Welcoming and experiential activities (i.e. guided fitness rides/hikes), especially with food and drink included
- ▶ Adult fitness programming which opens kids' games, programs, and events to adult participants
- ▶ Multi-generational and intergenerational programming through creative consolidation (i.e. trick-or-treating at nursing homes, sewing/knitting/crocheting groups)

GIRL-CENTERED YOUTH SPORT PROGRAMMING

- ▶ Girl's Flag Football engages the large female fanbase of professional football.
- ▶ The NFL and partner organizations are actively promoting the sport ahead of its scheduled 2028 Olympic debut.
- ▶ The recreational flag football trend builds on the growth of women's soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and other field sports by offering an entry point for young girls.
- ▶ Girl-targeted sport-sampling events have successfully increased girl participation in recreational sports programming.

IMPROVING DOG PARKS

- ▶ Dog ownership has increased since the 2020 pandemic, particularly amongst millennial households.
- ▶ Demand has led to overcrowding and overuse at existing dog parks.
- ▶ Under-designed dog parks are creating more problems than they solve, such as poor socialization, dog bullying, and disengaged owners.
- ▶ Two-thirds of agencies have not created master plans for their dog parks.
- ▶ Emerging design and management trends that better address needs of different dog types and their owners are being applied to new facilities and renovations of existing facilities.
- ▶ Agentic AI monitoring software can notify dog-owners and park managers in real time when fighting is about to break out.
- ▶ Personalized push notifications can notify dog-owners when park areas are closed or hosting a special event
- ▶ Agencies which host fee-based instruction or classes for dogs and their owners can improve outcomes at their facility while creating a revenue stream.

2025 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan Findings

A general population survey was conducted to provide Texas residents with an opportunity to contribute to the development of the current Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan. This information was used to evaluate outdoor recreation across the state, including participation patterns, demand for outdoor recreation opportunities, along with motivations and constraints affecting Texans' decisions to engage in outdoor recreation activities. The data were collected over the period from February to March 2023. A total of 3,399 responses were received.

The general public survey included questions about Texas residents' experiences visiting local and state parks, outdoor recreation activities in which they engaged, frequency of park visitation, perceived availability of facilities, and reasons for participation and non-participation in outdoor recreation. Based on the survey results, 75% of respondents (n=2550) indicated that they participated in outdoor recreation in the past 12 months in Texas. When asked about the frequency of participation, nearly 42% of respondents said that they participated in outdoor recreation on a weekly basis. Further

analysis showed that Texans participated in a variety of outdoor recreation activities, with **walking for pleasure** being the most popular, followed by **picnicking** and **gatherings**, and attendance of **outdoor events**.

Those who had reported that they **did not participate in outdoor recreation** in the past 12 months, were asked to indicate the reasons for non-participation. The most common barriers included **temperature**, preference for **other forms of recreation**, and the **poor condition** of restrooms or shower facilities.

Respondents answered a series of questions about their visits to local parks in Texas. For the purposes of the survey, local parks were defined as county, town, or city parks within 30 minutes of one's home. Of those who participated in outdoor recreation in the past 12 months, 81% indicated that they had visited a local park

in Texas. Most respondents visited a local park approximately 6 times a month, with an average visit lasting slightly more than an hour.

Those respondents who had indicated that they did not visit a local park in Texas in the past 12 months were asked to specify the reasons for not using local parks. The top reasons were related to **weather**, a **lack of information**, and **poor condition** of facilities.

To evaluate the availability of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities in Texas communities, survey participants were asked if they felt that their communities lacked any outdoor recreation opportunities and/or facilities. Nearly 55% answered 'Yes' and were then asked to identify the missing facilities and opportunities. Among the most frequently mentioned features were **restrooms**, **paved trails** and **picnic tables**.

2024 + 2025 Guiding Gainesville Survey Findings

To gather public input from Gainesville citizens, the public was invited to complete identical **citywide online surveys in the Autumns of 2024 and 2025**. The combined number of survey respondents was 879.

In summary, the key survey findings are:

- **Visitation Frequency:** Over ⅓ of respondents identify as visiting Parks & Rec facilities *Somewhat Often*, and ¼ of respondents identify as *Frequent* visitors; 3 in 10 respondents identify as *Infrequent* visitors.
- **Zoo Attendance:** One HALF of respondents identified as *Infrequent* zoo visitors; 3 in 10 identified as going *Somewhat Often*, and 1 out of 10 identified as *Frequent* visitors or *Never* visiting.
- **Desired Amenities:** The top 3 items specified by respondents were *Walk & Bike Paths*, *Picnic Tables*, and *Playground Equipment*.
- **Facility Cleanliness:** 3 in 5 respondents rated facility cleanliness and maintenance as *Fair* to *Very Good*.
- **Connectivity & Access Deficits:** While 3 in 10 respondents were too uncertain to specify, about 4 in 10 respondents identified both the Northwest and Northeast city quadrants as lacking in connectivity and access to the Parks and Trails system.
- **Barriers to Use:** At 44.6% *Lighting & Safety* concerns were identified as the top impediment to more frequent facility use; nearly 3 in 10 respondents cited *Limited Amenities* as their deterrent, while *Distance*, *Maintenance*, *Trail Suitability*, and *Weather/Climate* were other noteworthy mentions.

Benchmark Parks & Recreation Facilities Tour

In May 2025, Valley Quest Design's Parks & Trails consultants led members of the Guiding Gainesville Advisory Committee and Parks Board on a day-long tour of Benchmark Parks & Recreation Facilities in and around Denton County.



The Commons at Agora



Doubletree Ranch Park



Hound Mound Dog Park



Wayne Ferguson Plaza



Wayne Ferguson Plaza



Heritage Park



Heritage Park



COMMONS AT AGORA - CORINTH, TEXAS

1.85 acres

A feature-intensive civic park designed around a large gathering-space stage area.

DOUBLETREE RANCH PARK - HIGHLAND VILLAGE, TEXAS

35.48 acres

A Community Park centered on an indoor event space, splashpad, pavilion, and gathering green space, featuring a soccer complex, fishing pond, and walking trails.

WAYNE FERGUSON PLAZA - LEWISVILLE, TEXAS

1.85 acres

An urban park and community gathering space anchoring the historic downtown Lewisville revival, and featuring a high-level design aesthetic and full-length watercourse.

HOUND MOUND DOG PARK - FLOWER MOUND, TEXAS

5 acres

A spacious, amenity-rich, special-use facility benefiting from ample natural shade and convenient access. Part of the Heritage Park complex.

HERITAGE PARK - FLOWER MOUND, TEXAS

76.79 acres

An award-winning signature Community Park and Sports Complex with a full range of amenities, distinguished by its nature preserve area and Wildlife Encounter Trail.

PARK PLAZA AT GRAPEVINE MAIN STATION - GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

0.87 acres

A dynamic urban plaza which hosts weekly events at a public-private transit-oriented boutique hotel food-and-entertainment development.

OAK GROVE SOFTBALL COMPLEX - GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

40 acres

A Texas Turfgrass Association Field of the Year facility where tournament spectators enjoy full protection from the overhead elements, convenient concessions and restrooms, a playground and nearby lake access.



City Staff Interview Findings

On February 24, 2025 Michael Schmitz and Sean Norton of Antero Group conducted an interview with Parks & Recreation staff members:

- ▶ Kevin Gann, Director
- ▶ Hayley Skinner, Recreation Coordinator
- ▶ Amanda Roberts, Grounds Maintenance Crew Leader

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What are the most significant successes and challenges your department has faced in recent years?

Successes

- ▶ Many well-maintained parks (high parks per capita)
- ▶ Successful dog park
- ▶ B.P. Douglas Park as a successful community effort
- ▶ Currently updating parks signage with City's branding
- ▶ Concrete added at Home Grown Hero Trail
- ▶ Popular additions of cornhole & pickleball
- ▶ Private donations have been helpful

Challenges

- ▶ Outdated or neglected park equipment and features
- ▶ Walking trails need improvement
- ▶ Limited playground equipment at Edison Park
- ▶ Old metal slide at Keneteso Park
- ▶ Lack of venue for cornhole, pickleball, and indoor programming
- ▶ Reliance on the often fully booked Civic Center
- ▶ Low participation in softball programming (approximately four teams)

Given your department's role in the City, what are the most significant challenges you foresee in the next 5-10 years?

- ▶ Relocating baseball/softball fields and addressing parking issues at Leonard Park
- ▶ Lack of adequate facilities.
- ▶ Need for park allocation in the eastern portion of Gainesville.
- ▶ Maintaining adequate staffing as the City grows.

What are the department's top 3-5 priorities for the next 5-10 years?

- ▶ Upgrading existing park equipment.
- ▶ Relocating sports fields from Leonard Park (potentially to South Weaver near Keneteso Park) and alleviating parking issues.
- ▶ Building a new indoor recreation center.

How can these plans (Guiding Gainesville Comprehensive Plan and the Parks & Trails Master Plan) better support your goals?

- ▶ Provide more parks programming and increase park access as the City grows.

What are your department's concerns regarding the future growth and development of Gainesville?

- ▶ Ensuring sufficient parks programming and access to parks.
- ▶ Maintaining adequate staffing levels.

Are there any specific partnerships or collaborations (internal and external) that you believe are crucial for the successful implementation of the plans?

- ▶ Partnering with private entities for funding and donations to offset costs like equipment.
- ▶ Exploring potential shared FTE positions with the zoo and parks department.



DEPARTMENT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Based on community feedback and current trends, what are the department's priorities for expanding and improving park and trail amenities?

- ▶ There may not be enough space for walking trails.
- ▶ Adding new park programming and equipment.

How can the plans address the recreational needs of different age groups and demographics?

- ▶ Provide more activities for younger families where newer development is occurring (including the east side of town).

What are the department's plans for promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging outdoor recreation?

- ▶ Safety is a factor. Prioritize safety and potentially install cameras in some locations. Vandalism has been occurring.
- ▶ Create a workout area similar to Jaycee Park, including pour & play surfaces with workout equipment.
- ▶ Address limitations of the small and aging pool at Leonard Park (e.g. the rock wall was removed).
- ▶ Generate revenue through park amenities and programs.

A Final Note on Demand

Just because demand for particular recreational opportunities has been understudied, underrepresented, or gone undetected doesn't mean that demand is non-existent. Pickleball may be attracting the most buzz, but Disc Golf, Fishing, Mini-Pitch Soccer, Futsal, R/C (Remote Control), Equestrian, and OHV Parks & Trails all would likely be well-used and supported in Gainesville. Parks planners and city officials are encouraged to adopt a broadminded vision in order to diversify attractions that will make Gainesville stand out for its quality of life.

Standards-Based Approach

2025 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The NRPA publishes an annual Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Review which includes a set of national median benchmarks in all categories. This report highlights the characteristics of park and recreation agencies across the country in terms of facilities, programming, budget and more. These results are not standards that agencies should strive to obtain — rather, they represent a snapshot of current national circumstances. For planning purposes, local agencies are encouraged to set their own guidelines within the means of their budgets, while following community-driven standards for facility levels of service. A comparison of these benchmarks with Gainesville is found in **Figure 6.1**.

*Refer to the **Appendix** for additional NRPA Benchmarking Tables.

Not all land managed by local park and recreation agencies are formal parks. Many agencies are responsible for non-park sites, such as the courtyards around government buildings, green spaces used for flood management and numerous other open spaces. For this report, “parkland(s)” refers to both formal parks and non-park sites.

Figure 6.1. NRPA Benchmarking Tables

NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER PARK (Median) by Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Park sites			11
Median	2411	1001	1551
Lower quartile	1317	640	
Upper quartile	4984	1178	

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS OFFERED ANNUALLY (Median) by Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Programs			15
Median	250	45	15
Lower quartile	60	10	
Upper quartile	1401	120	

PERCENT OF ALL PROGRAMS THAT ARE FEE-BASED (Median) by Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Fee-Based Programs			11
Median	82%	83%	73%
Lower quartile	57%	59%	
Upper quartile	95%	93%	

TEXAS HEALTHY PARKS PLAN

With funding from the Texas State Health Services, and in partnership with the Trust for Public Land, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has developed the Texas Healthy Parks Plan and Decision Support Tool. Local governments, park system managers and planners, and health professionals can leverage parks and nature as tools for community resilience and health. For The Texas Healthy Parks Plan, the following actions were considered in order to advance park access and support park use for all Texans:

- ▶ Increase access to close-to-home parks and destination parks for residents.
- ▶ Maintain parks and greenspace, both to retain access and to encourage use.
- ▶ Conduct outreach to support park use in communities that are not currently using parks.
- ▶ Provide consistent programming that reaches people of all ages and abilities.
- ▶ Serve communities, especially those with lower community health outcomes, by providing consistent programming to promote use.
- ▶ Ensure park practitioners have the tools and resources they need to promote park use and health practitioners are aware of the benefits of parks, such as geospatial technology.

Communities across Texas were scored based on community health data, including rates of chronic mental and physical health conditions for which park and open space investments can be expected to provide a benefit. Additional community metrics were evaluated, including rates of socially vulnerable populations, access to parks, and exposure to environmental conditions such as pollution and urban heat.

GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS THEMES SCORING: (10 IS HIGHEST)

- 5/10 Health
- 4/10 Social Vulnerability
- 3/10 Community Park Access
- 5/10 Environment
- 4/10 Overall Combined Community Score

Destination Parks Proximity

Destination Parks are publicly accessible lands that offer opportunities for immersive experiences in the outdoors. These include public lands designated as National Forest, National Grassland, National Monument, National Park, National Preserve, National Recreation Area, National Seashore, National Wildlife Refuge, State Forest, State Natural Area, State Park, State Historic Site and Wilderness Areas. An additional metric for tracking community access to parks accounts for drive time proximity to Destination Parks. This information is generated through a dataset created by the Trust for Public Land and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

DESTINATION PARKS WITHIN A 30-MINUTE DRIVE OF GAINESVILLE

- ▶ Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge
- ▶ Ray Roberts Lake State Park

DESTINATION PARKS WITHIN A 90-MINUTE DRIVE OF GAINESVILLE

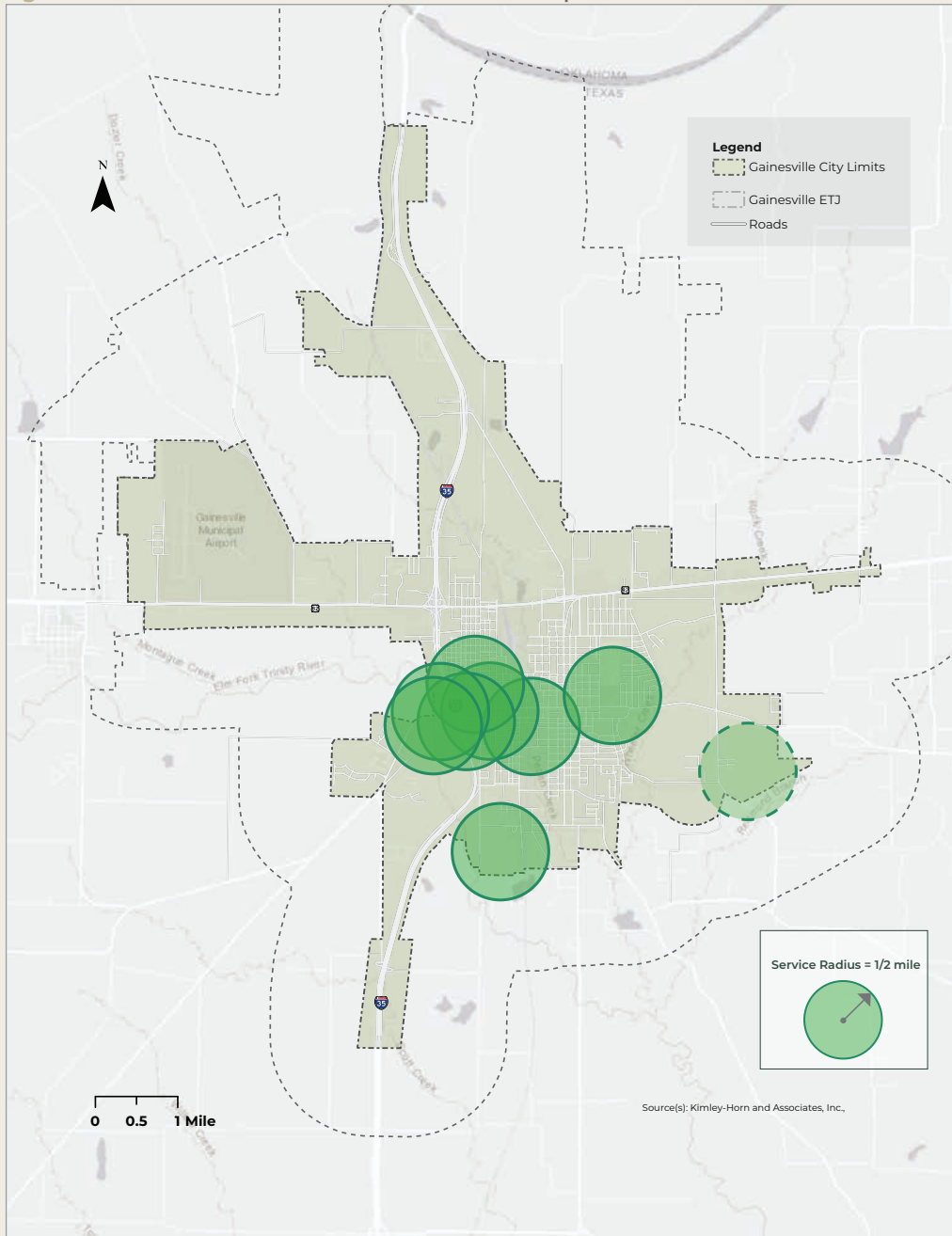
- ▶ Benbrook Recreation Area
- ▶ Bonham State Park
- ▶ Caddo National Grassland
- ▶ Desoto Ranch Park
- ▶ Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site
- ▶ Fort Richardson State Park & State Historic Site
- ▶ Jim Chapman Lake
- ▶ Joe Pool Lake
- ▶ Lake Arrowhead State Park
- ▶ Lake Mineral Wells State Trailway
- ▶ Lake Texoma
- ▶ Lavon Recreation Area
- ▶ Lewisville Recreation Area
- ▶ Little River
- ▶ Lyndon B. Johnson National Grassland
- ▶ Sam Bell Maxey House State Historic Site

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A Ten-Minute (or Half-Mile) Walk

NRPA, The Trust for Public Land (“TPL”), Urban Land Institute, and ChangeLab Solutions all prescribe a qualitative standard of providing a great park within a 10-minute Walk of where people live. Some of Gainesville’s citizens live within a 1/2-mile radius of a city park as indicated in **Figure 6.2**, but there exists multiple physical barriers such as major road crossings, or lack of sidewalks. Many other residents must travel further than a 1/2-mile to reach a city park. The TPL calculation of 10-minute Walk statistics only counts *park sites*, to the exclusion of *non-park sites*.

Figure 6.2. Gainesville 10-minute Walk to a Park Map



Resource-Based Approach

The resource-based assessment shown in **Figure 6.3** identifies City-owned Non-Parklands that could be developed or redeveloped to meet current needs while considering financial feasibility. **Figure 6.4** on the following pages identifies City-owned parklands with the same potential.

Figure 6.3. City-owned Non-Parklands

Parks & Recreation, Public Open Space Sites			
Facility Name	Address	Classification	Acreage (or Distance)
Non-Parklands, City-owned			
Water Tower	1500 N Clements St.	n/a	1.00
Emergency Services	201 Santa Fe St.	n/a	2.67
Noah's Ark S.P.C.A	2501 N. Weaver St.	n/a	2.00
Gainesville Municipal Airport	Hwy 82	n/a	364.20
Gainesville Municipal Airport	Hwy 82	n/a	193.26
Gainesville Municipal Airport	4501 W Hwy 82	n/a	57.39
Transfer Station, Garage, Wash Bay, Parks Dept.	601 N I-35	n/a	19.58

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Figure 6.4. City-owned Parklands

Parks & Recreation, Public Open Space Sites			
Parkland Opportunity Sites	Address	Potential Classification	
City Property - Elm Fork	I-35 (Zoo/Leonard Park)	Regional Park	55.51
City Property - W. Hird St.	315 W Hird St.	Pocket Park	2.11
City Property - Keneteso / GJHS	Hird & Weaver	Regional Park	19.76
City Property - Frasher St. / Lindsay St.	Frazier St.	-	0.24
City Property - Rice Ave / Anthony St.	1519 Rice Ave.	-	0.56
City Property - Lindsay St.	1704 Lindsay St.	-	0.50
City Property - Lindsay St.	1736 Lindsay St.	-	0.32
City Property - Anthony St.	713 Anthony St.	-	0.17
City Property - Anthony St.	724 Anthony St.	-	0.17
City Property - Anthony St.	726 Anthony St.	-	0.08
City Property - Cole St.	729 Cole St.	-	0.34
City Property - Cole St.	731 Cole St.	-	0.17
City Property - Cole St.	735 Cole St.	-	0.17
City Property - Cole St.	737 Cole St.	-	0.17
City Property - Tennie Easement	Taylor & Gordon	-	0.37
City Property - S. Wheeler Creek (planned trail)	CR 2120	Community Park & Greenway	20.75
City Property - N. Wheeler Creek (planned park)	E Broadway St. (FM 678)	Community SUF: Nature Preserve	20.00

Parks & Recreation, Public Open Space Sites			
City Property - S. Radio Hill Rd	300 S Radio Hill Rd	-	1.15
City Property - N. Radio Hill Rd	501 N Radio Hill Rd	-	1.66
City Property - O'Neal St.	O'Neal St.	Community Park	29.17
City Property - Pecan Creek	731 E California St.	Greenway	0.41
City Property - Pecan Creek	207 N Schopmeyer St.	Greenway	0.18
City Property - Pecan Creek	209 N Schopmeyer St.	Greenway	0.20
City Property - Pecan Creek	730 E Broadway St.	Greenway	0.33
City Property - Pecan Creek	727 E Broadway St.	Greenway	0.39
City Property - Pecan Creek	731 E Broadway St.	Greenway	0.24
City Property - Pecan Creek	729 Gossett St.	Greenway	0.15
City Property - Pecan Creek	733 Gossett St.	Greenway	0.85
City Property - Pecan Creek	818 E Scott St.	Greenway	0.36
City Property - Pecan Creek	819 E Scott St.	Greenway	0.70
City Property - Pecan Creek	509 Gladys St.	Greenway	0.18
City Property - Pecan Creek	517* Gladys St.	Greenway	0.44
City Property - Pecan Creek	523* Gladys St.	Greenway	0.06
City Property - Pecan Creek	600* Gladys St. (& Schopmeyer)	Greenway	0.99
City Property - Pecan Creek	624 N Schopmeyer	Greenway	0.25

Parks & Recreation, Public Open Space Sites			
City Property - Pecan Creek	626 N Schopmeyer	Greenway	0.43
City Property - Pecan Creek	721 Belcher St.	Greenway	0.66
City Property - Pecan Creek	611 Belcher St.	Greenway	0.14
City Property - Pecan Creek	700 Riley St.	Greenway	1.10
City Property - Pecan Creek	603 Olive St.	Greenway	0.40
City Property - Pecan Creek	605 Olive St.	Greenway	0.78
City Property - Pecan Creek	715 Olive St.	Greenway	0.21
City Property - Pecan Creek	719 Olive St.	Greenway	0.15
City Property - Pecan Creek	905 Smith St.	Greenway	0.62
City Property - Pecan Creek	702 Myrtle St.	Greenway	0.42
City Property - Pecan Creek	700 Myrtle St.	Greenway	0.60
City Property - Pecan Creek	707 Myrtle St.	Greenway	0.46
City Property - Pecan Creek	703 Myrtle St.	Greenway	0.89
City Property - Pecan Creek	701 Myrtle St.	Greenway	0.93
City Property - Pecan Creek	814 O'Neal St.	Greenway	1.62
City Property - Pecan Creek	Hwy 82	Greenway	18.51
City Property - Pecan Creek	Hwy 82	Greenway	2.21
City Property - Pecan Creek	802 E Hwy 82	Greenway	3.20
City Property - Weaver St / Berend Ave.	1706 N Weaver St.	-	0.34

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07. PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVES



Prioritization Process

The Gainesville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board ratified priorities as identified by the Parks Staff and the Needs Identification Assessment made by consultants.

Priorities are unranked, with main priorities given an A through E designation. Recommended Directive Measures are labeled with a corresponding A-E letter (or 'X' for measures which instead support goals and objectives from **Section 2**). Unit specific measures are labeled with initials from the unit name.

Recommended Directive Measures are grouped in one of three categories:

1. System-wide

PRIORITY A

Upgrading Existing Park Equipment across Parks System.

PRIORITY B

Leonard Park Complex Renovations.

PRIORITY C

Construction of a new Indoor Recreation Center.

2. Existing Facilities

PRIORITY D

Expansion of recreational facility connectivity through new Trails (see **Figure 7.1**).

PRIORITY E

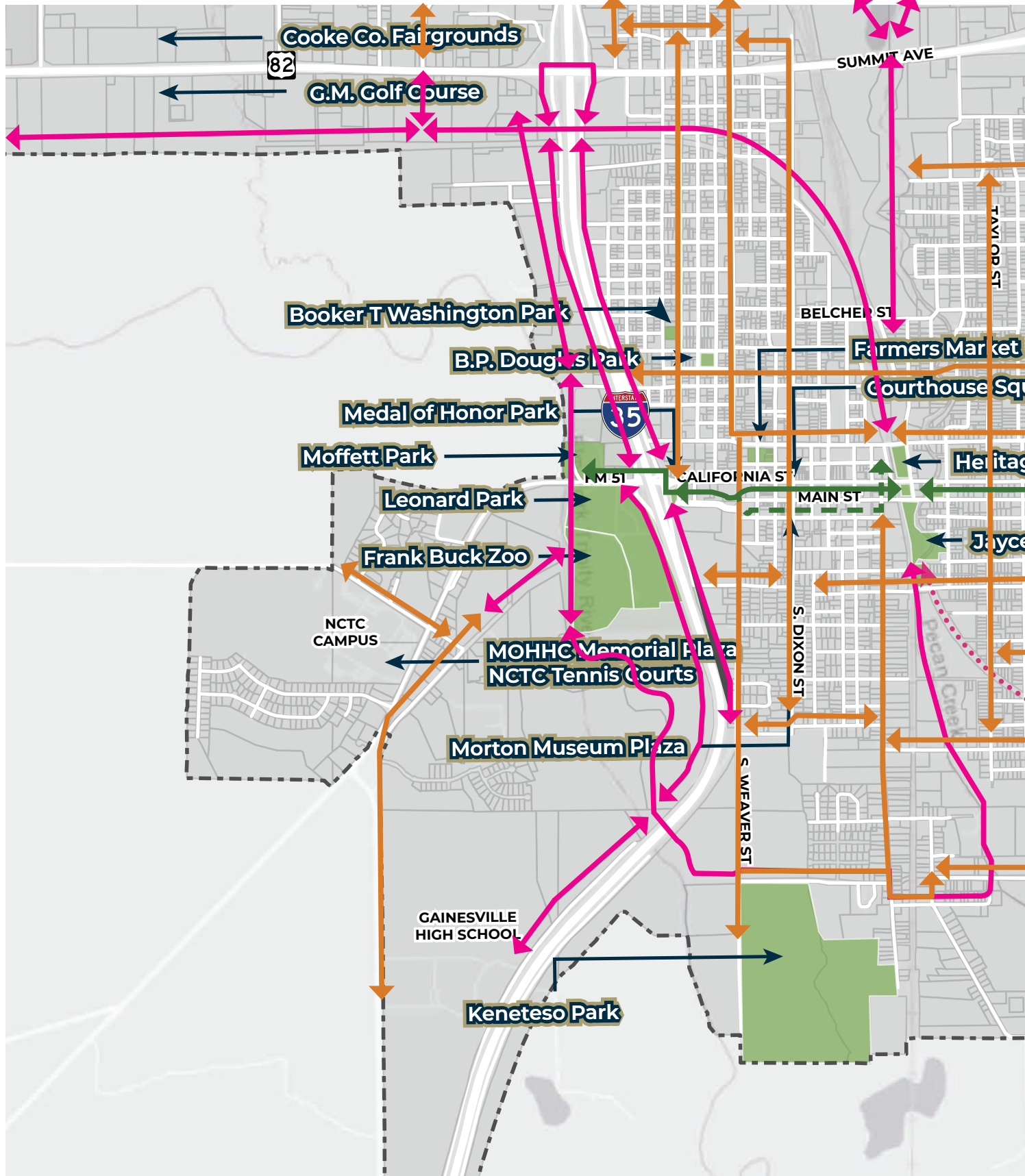
Creation of new Parks in under-served areas.

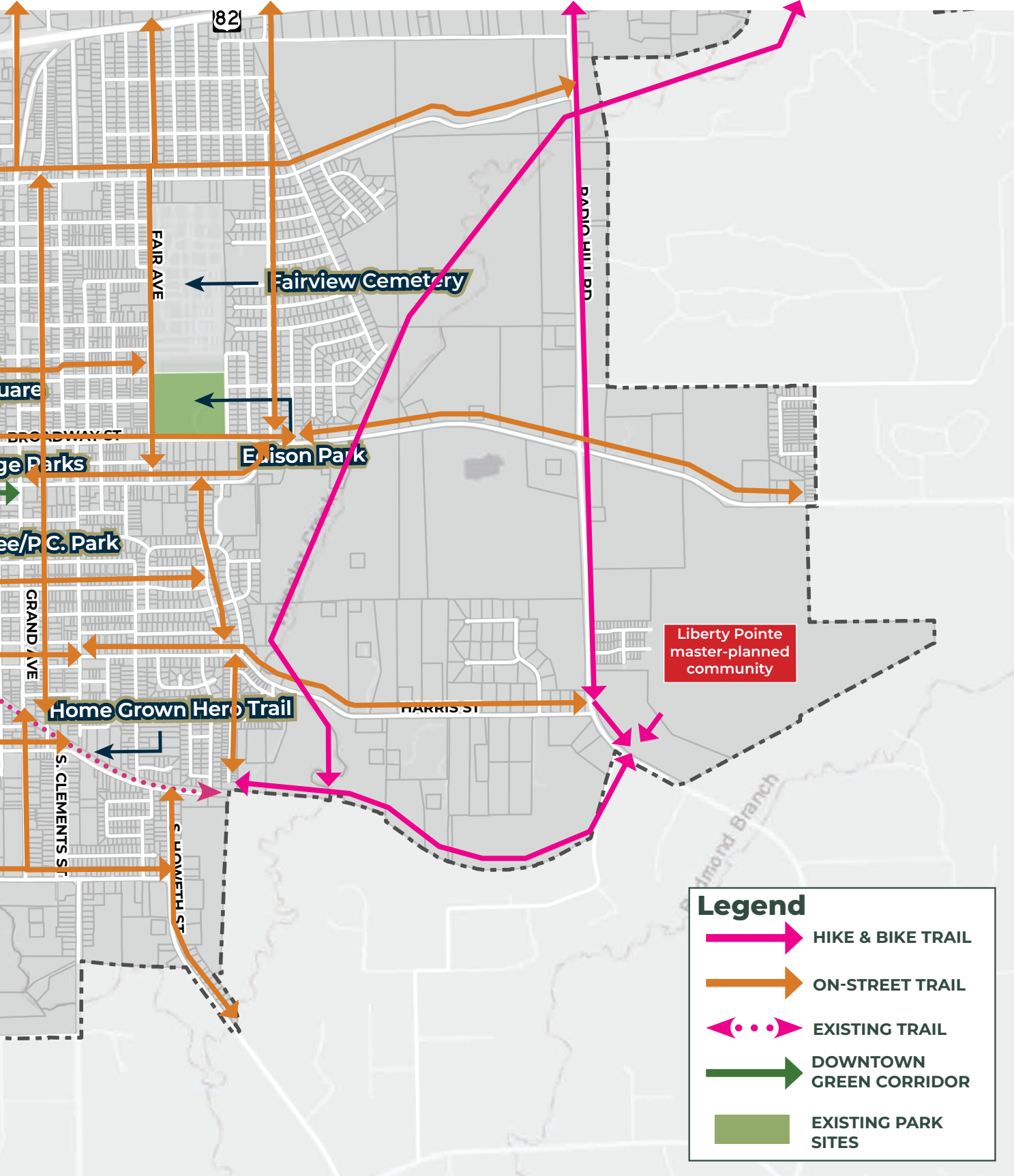
3. New Facilities

System-Wide Recommendations

- ▶ **A1.** Implement the site-specific maintenance recommendations for all existing parks including equipment replacements, amenity repairs, and safety improvements.
- ▶ **A2.** Rearrange existing unshaded tables, benches, grills, and playground equipment to capture existing tree canopy shade and create gathering spaces.
- ▶ **A3.** Shaded seating, drinking fountains, and restrooms should be mandatory amenities for every existing park or park cluster. Walking Loops and picnic tables should also be added if missing and space exists to accommodate them.
- ▶ **X1.** Under the guidance of a city accessibility advisory board, retrofit all existing park facilities to be fully ADA-accessible.
- ▶ **X2.** To activate underused park facilities and engage underrepresented users, develop and fund diversified programming targeted to serve a full range of user groups.
- ▶ **X3.** Invest in and promote Gainesville's urban forest. Using tree-mapping software, incorporate tree maintenance best practices into a planting and maintenance plan for city properties. Schedule planting during optimal growing seasons, giving priority to shade tree replacements in city parks and streets.
- ▶ **X4.** Host Texas Arbor Day community tree-planting events. Implement an ongoing Street Tree Rebate Program, and penalties for damage / destruction of downtown trees.
- ▶ **D1.** To provide safer routes city-wide for citizens, develop/adopt/implement a City Active Transportation Plan, emphasizing improvements to commercial corridors and major thoroughfares;
 - **D1.1.** A trail wayfinding signage and lighting plan should be integral to the active transportation plan.
 - **D1.2.** Adopt a city ordinance for use of eBikes and eScooters in public spaces that supports active transportation user safety (see the City of Albuquerque E-bike Law for reference).
- ▶ **D2.** Adopt a Complete Streets & Trails Policy, including a City Trail Facilities Design Standards conforming to AASHTO's Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.
 - **D2.1.** Include flexible standards and specifications for distribution and design of branding, amenities (such as benches, bicycle racks, signage, lighting, etc.), and trailhead facilities.
 - **D2.2.** Install child/cargo-friendly bike racks and parking corrals at all city and park facilities.
 - **D2.3.** Enhance existing trails and sidewalks to meet adopted design standards.
 - **D2.4.** Connect existing surface street trails and fill in sidewalk gaps throughout the city, while meeting accessibility standards.
 - **D2.5.** Reconfigure downtown streetscapes into pedestrian-centric and cycling-friendly corridors extending west-to-east in order to equally support active transportation user travel between the Elm Fork and Pecan Creek Greenbelts, eventually reaching to a greenbelt at Wheeler Creek.

Figure 7.1. Proposed Trail Network





Existing Facilities Recommendations

LEONARD PARK

- ▶ **B1.** Proceed with planned southward zoo expansion and relocate most or all sports facilities to Keneteso Park.
- ▶ **B2.** Address impacted parking infrastructure and pedestrian safety needs at the Frank Buck Zoo by evaluating the zoo's primary entrance plaza design/ location, traffic circulation, and parking design.
- ▶ **B3.** Expand the Aquatics Center to match capacity to demand.
- ▶ **B4.** Identify the end-of-lifecycle mitigation strategy for community-built play equipment.
- ▶ **B5.** Increase mobility route options and connectivity.
 - **B5.1.** Add more shaded walking loops across the property, including one gravel trail loop.
 - **B5.2.** Off-road or mountain biking facilities are well suited to bottomlands along waterways like Elm Fork; Leonard Park might be a promising anchor for the first such facilities in Cooke County.
 - **B5.3.** Leonard Park should anchor a paved shared use greenway along Elm Fork connecting to Keneteso Park; a trail spur to the west through the city access road would provide convenient access to neighborhoods which are currently cut off from the park.

MOFFETT PARK

- ▶ **B5.4.** Connect to Frank Buck Zoo/Leonard Park with California St. undercrossing shared use trail.

- ▶ **B8.** Construct a permanent accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking and any playgrounds).
- ▶ **B9.** Expand north to W Scott St. to add more wooded natural area.
- ▶ **B10.** Support active recreation with a 9-hole disc golf course and a basketball court OR support passive recreation with a looped nature trail, a demonstration native plant garden, interpretive signage on natural/ cultural site heritage, and park benches.

KENETESO PARK

- ▶ **KP1.** Acquire property northwards to increase total acreage.
- ▶ **KP2.** Relocate ballfields from Leonard Park to the expansion area.
- ▶ **KP3.** Continue developing existing facilities into a regional soccer complex with field lighting. Explore the addition of Mini-Pitch Soccer or Futsal.
- ▶ **KP4.** Connect to Leonard Park via an Elm Fork Greenway shared use path, providing fishing and put-in facilities where suitable.
- ▶ **KP5.** Implement planned pond improvements. Add campsites adjacent to ponds.
- ▶ **KP6.** Provide a comprehensive network of walking loops and picnic areas, including soft-surface trails.
- ▶ **KP7.** Integrate a competition-level disc golf course to serve as a regional attraction.
- ▶ **KP8.** Open a vehicular entrance at Lindsay St. to alleviate traffic on Weaver St. during peak use. Connect the new entrance to existing parking areas.

MEDAL OF HONOR HOST CITY PARK & BOULEVARD

- ▶ **MOH1.** Identify/Implement a design intervention to mitigate freeway noise.
- ▶ **MOH2.** Connect to Leonard Park, the Heritage Parks and other recreational and community sites (such as the square) with the creation of a pedestrian promenade along Medal of Honor Blvd. to and along Main Street to Kiwanis Park.
 - **MOH2.1.** Widen the sidewalk with enhanced paving treatments and raised crosswalks.
 - **MOH2.2.** Pedestrian cross-section should include an 8'-10' wide pedestrian zone with adjacent frontage and furnishing zones (2' wide minimum).
 - **MOH2.3.** Fill in street lighting gaps along promenade length.
 - **MOH2.4.** Reduce Medal of Honor Blvd. and Main St. vehicular speed limit to 20mph.
 - **MOH2.5.** Where feasible, provide clearly marked bicycle lanes and ample, evenly distributed bicycle parking.
 - **MOH2.6.** Street trees, landscaping planters, and green stormwater infrastructure should be fully included.

FARMERS MARKET

- ▶ **FM1.** Continue anchoring street fair events at the market and closing adjacent streets to car traffic.
- ▶ **FM2.** Organize/host autumn and spring battle of the bands festivals to promote a local music scene.
- ▶ **FM3.** Add shade-sail awnings over the artificial turf and picnic table areas.
- ▶ **FM4.** Improve pedestrian facilities between Main St. and the Farmers Market along Chestnut St., including widened sidewalks and textured, enhanced crosswalk paving at intersections.

B.P. DOUGLAS PARK

- ▶ **BPD1.** Add an accessible concrete sidewalk walking loop.
- ▶ **BPD2.** Playground improvements should target accessibility improvements and the inclusion of under-served age groups.
- ▶ **BPD3.** Install native plant landscape beds to enhance the existing monument.

BOOKER T WASHINGTON PARK

- ▶ **BTW1.** Engage community stakeholders to acknowledge site heritage appropriately.
- ▶ **BTW2.** Add community garden facilities.
- ▶ **BTW3.** Identify and develop needed play facilities in support of the adjacent childcare facility users and under-served age groups.

KIWANIS PARK

- ▶ **KJ1.** Upgrade loop fitness facilities to an outdoor gym for teens and adults.

PECAN CREEK PARK:

- ▶ **PC1.** Replace existing playground equipment with accessible equipment in order to include all age groups and user abilities.
- ▶ **PC2.** Construct a permanent accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking and playgrounds).
- ▶ **PC3.** Add a sport court as selected by neighboring residents.
- ▶ **PC4.** Rebrand Pecan Creek as a greenbelt with added/updated interpretive learning stations.
- ▶ **PC5.** Consider merging Kiwanis Park and Pecan Creek Park to clarify identity.
- ▶ **PC6.** Upgrade/expand parking areas.

FORSYTHE TRANSPORTATION SKATE PARK

- ▶ **SP1.** Add movable features as voted by users.
- ▶ **SP2.** Add parking capacity.
- ▶ **SP3.** Add a bowl or pipe feature.

GEORGIA BASS PARK

- ▶ **GB1.** Add street parking along Main St.
- ▶ **GB2.** Add paving and landscaping to enhance the existing memorials.
- ▶ **GB3.** Develop heritage and holiday programming to bring events to the park.

HERITAGE PARK NORTH

- ▶ **HN1.** Reconfigure Denison St. as a low-speed one-way shared street (a.k.a. Woonerf) with reduced speed limits, curb elimination, centerline storm drains, increased landscaping, bollards, and raised crosswalks to address access safety for owners and their dogs.
- ▶ **HN2.** Add head-in parking along Broadway St. Repair railway crossing sidewalks.
- ▶ **HN3.** Extend the fencing of the small-dog area northwards to increase capacity.
- ▶ **HN4.** Extend the existing shade structure lengthwise to increase its footprint.
- ▶ **HN5.** Add challenging new dog play equipment (preferably railroad-themed) in the large dog area.
- ▶ **HN6.** Explore the addition of a permanent, small, dog-friendly, accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking).

HERITAGE PARK SOUTH

- ▶ **HS1.** Add a water feature and tree lighting to address safety and activate space.
- ▶ **HS2.** Restore or replace mosaic with new public art (possibly integrated with water element).
- ▶ **HS3.** Implement pedestrian crossing improvements across California St.
- ▶ **HS4.** Extend Denison St. shared street improvements southwards along the east park boundary through the Main St pedestrian crossing.

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

- ▶ **FC1.** Develop a comprehensive cemetery plan, including a paving replacement plan, considering the use of permeable pavers.
- ▶ **FC2.** Landscape enhancements would elevate Fairview to “Garden Cemetery” status, attracting more local users for passive recreation.
- ▶ **FC3.** Priority improvements include infill shade tree plantings along the entry and north-south allees, park benches where shade currently exists, and accessible public restrooms.

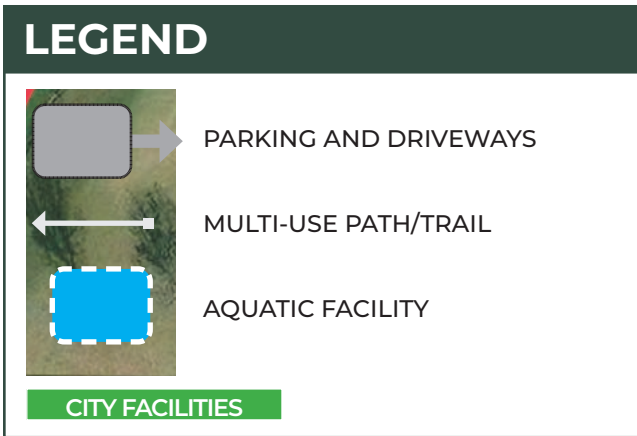
EDISON PARK

- ▶ **EP1.** Rearrange tables, benches, grills, and playground equipment to more shaded locations.
- ▶ **EP2.** Construct a permanent accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking and playgrounds).
- ▶ **EP3.** Identify phase-out of ballfields synchronized to cemetery expansion.
- ▶ **EP4.** Based on cemetery demand projections and ballfield phaseout timeline, renovate remaining park acreage to support active recreation in the southeast corner and passive recreation elsewhere.
- ▶ **EP5.** New trees planted now will benefit the cemetery experience later; follow the existing layout pattern and focus on extension of north-south cemetery alley.
- ▶ **EP6.** Expansion of existing hard courts with the addition of pickleball is advised; landscape design strategies should maximize buffering the cemetery experience from active recreation sounds.
- ▶ **EP7.** Add a landscaped central pond feature with an illuminated aerator fountain to enhance the overall appeal and provide ambient cooling to users.

New Facilities Recommendations

- ▶ **C1.** Perform a Recreation Center Feasibility Study and Master Plan generated by Community Input.
- ▶ **D3.** In partnership with the GEDC, implement maintenance of the former M-K-T Railway property south of QuikTrip and Gunter St. as a greenway open space with tree-trimming and regular mowing.
 - **D3.1.** Add a dirt trail to be improved in the future.
 - **D3.2.** Establish use agreements with property owners and acquire all land parcels necessary for greenway extension along the former railway.
 - **D3.3.** In accordance with the City Trail Facilities Design Standards construct a shared use path with trailheads and amenities.
- ▶ **D4.** Starting with property already owned by the city, extend the Pecan Creek Greenway (and shared use path) north to the Walmart from the Home Grown Hero Walking Trail.
- ▶ **D5.** Starting with Moffett Park and Leonard Park, establish the Elm Fork Greenway and shared use path by passing under the California St bridge to extend southwards and under the I-35, connecting to Keneteso Park.
- ▶ **D6.** Identify prospective alignments and preferred land parcels for a greenway along Wheeler Creek in support of a new Nature Preserve at E. Broadway St.
- ▶ **E1.** Pursue infill pocket park development opportunities in the downtown area.
 - **E1.1.** Explore pocket park potential at the grassy NE corner of City Hall (200 S Rusk St, adjacent to Red River St.)
 - **E1.2.** Convert some of the parking lot at the SE corner of Rusk and Broadway into a pocket park showcasing the “The Gnarly Tree” Bois D’Arc for visitor photo opportunities.
 - **E1.3.** The conversion of Red River St. into a shared street between Church St. and Broadway St. would extend the pleasant qualities of the Church St. streetscape northwards, and provide an appealing linkage between these pocket park locations.
- ▶ **E2.** Evaluate additional prospective new park locations based on equity mapping analysis and public input. Prioritize funding for acquisition and development of land parcels designated for new parks in underserved areas of the city, particularly in the northern half.
- ▶ **E3.** Include at least one pavilion at all new Community Parks.
- ▶ **E4.** Provide at least one shaded combination accessible drinking fountain/filling station/watering station at all new facilities.
- ▶ **E5.** Require at least one permanent accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking and playgrounds) at all new community parks, plazas, trailheads, and water-play facilities; where unfeasible, partner with an adjacent business to provide public access to restrooms. Provide accessible portable toilets to fill gaps with large walking distances.



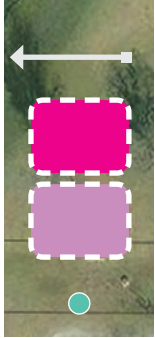


LEONARD PARK ➤

- ▶ Southward expansion is needed to address zoo upgrades
- ▶ Connect to Moffett Park with California St. undercrossing shared use trail
- ▶ Increase parking to address growing zoo, park and aquatic needs
- ▶ Phase out baseball fields to accommodate zoo upgrades, parking and/or community outdoor event venue space
- ▶ Leonard Park should anchor a paved shared use greenway along Elm Fork connecting to Keneteso Park; a trail spur to the west through the city access road would provide convenient access to neighborhoods which are currently cut off from the park
- ▶ Off-road (a.k.a. mountain biking) facilities are well suited to bottomlands along waterways like Elm Fork; Leonard Park would be a promising anchor for the first such facilities in Cooke County



LEGEND



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- MULTI-USE PATH/TRAIL
- PASSIVE RECREATION
- SPORTS FACILITIES
- SIGNAGE / INTERPRETATION

CITY FACILITIES

MOFFETT PARK

- ▶ Connect to Zoo/Leonard Park with California St. undercrossing shared use trail
- ▶ Increase active recreation with a basketball court
- ▶ Support passive recreation with a looped nature trail, interpretive signage on natural/cultural site heritage, and park benches
- ▶ Explore potential of expanding north to W Scott St. to add wooded natural area



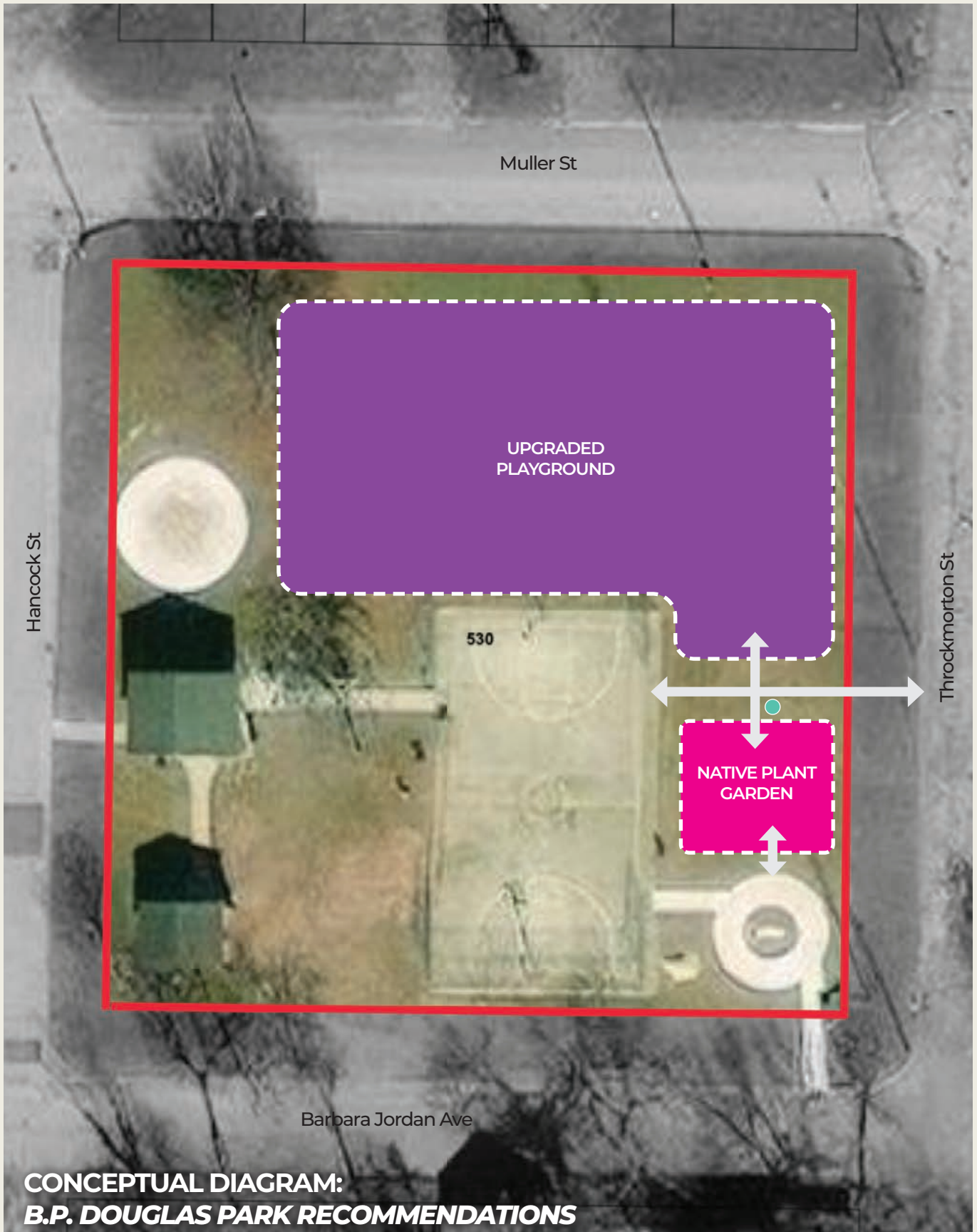
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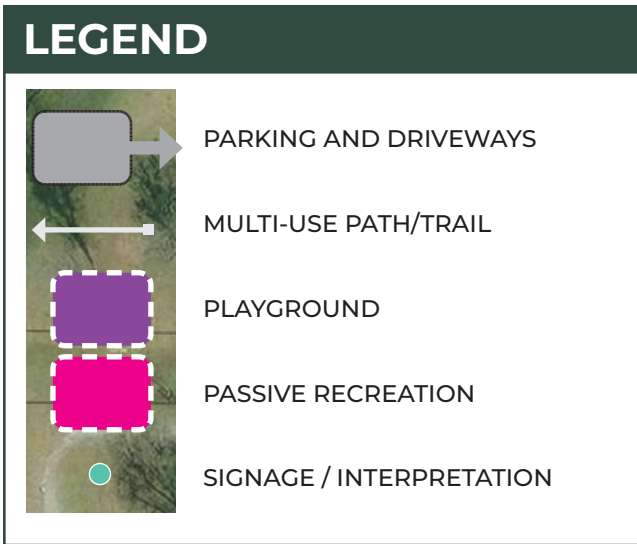


- PARKING AND DRIVEWAYS
- MULTI-USE PATH/TRAIL
- PLAYGROUND
- PASSIVE RECREATION
- PUBLIC ART
- SIGNAGE / INTERPRETATION

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK

- ▶ Engage community to acknowledge site heritage
- ▶ Add community garden facilities
- ▶ Add play facilities in support of the adjacent childcare facility
- ▶ Add parking and access / circulation paths





B.P. DOUGLAS PARK 

- ▶ Playground improvements should target under-served age groups.
- ▶ Add backdrop native plant garden to BP Douglas Monument.

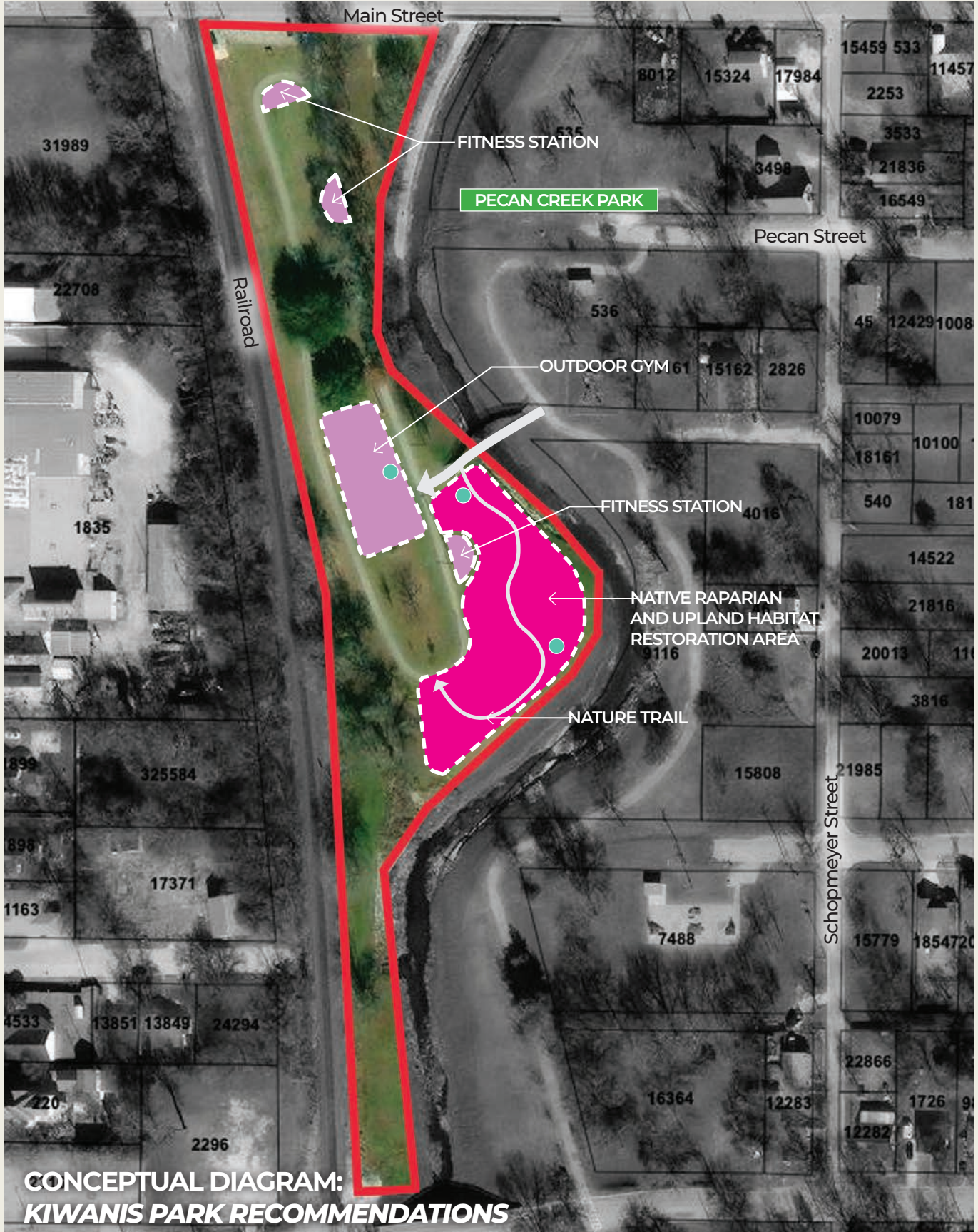


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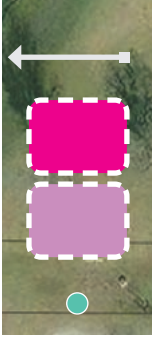
- PARKING AND DRIVEWAYS
- MULTI-USE PATH/TRAIL
- PASSIVE RECREATION
- SIGNAGE / INTERPRETATION

GEORGIA BASS MEMORIAL PARK

- ▶ Add off-street parking
- ▶ Add paths for increased accessibility
- ▶ Add garden plantings to enhance sitting/viewing area



LEGEND



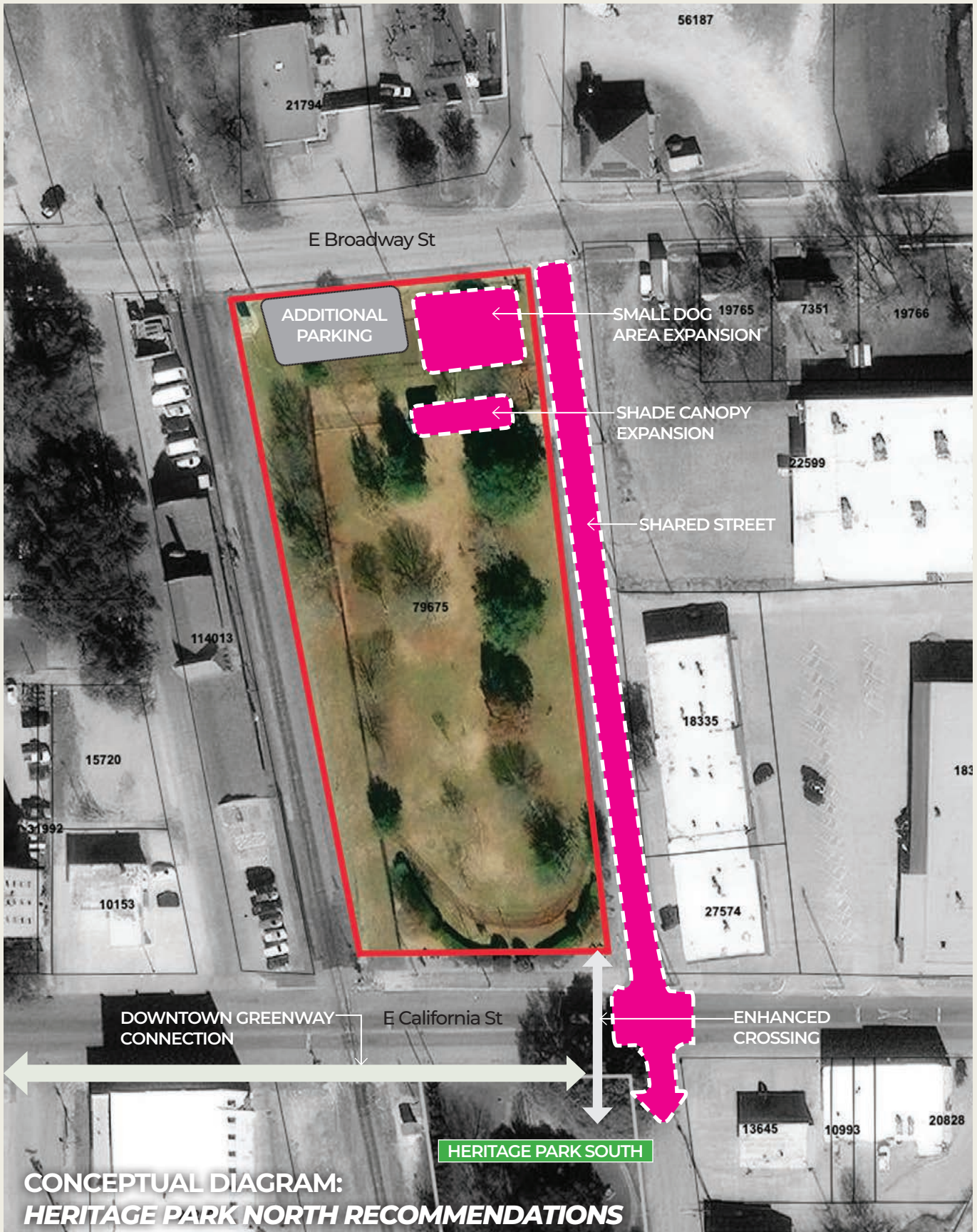
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- MULTI-USE PATH/TRAIL
- PASSIVE RECREATION
- SPORTS FACILITIES
- SIGNAGE / INTERPRETATION

CITY FACILITIES

KIWANIS PARK

- ▶ Upgrade loop fitness facilities to an outdoor gym for teens and adults
- ▶ Develop native habitat restoration area and interpretive nature trail



LEGEND

PARKING AND DRIVEWAYS

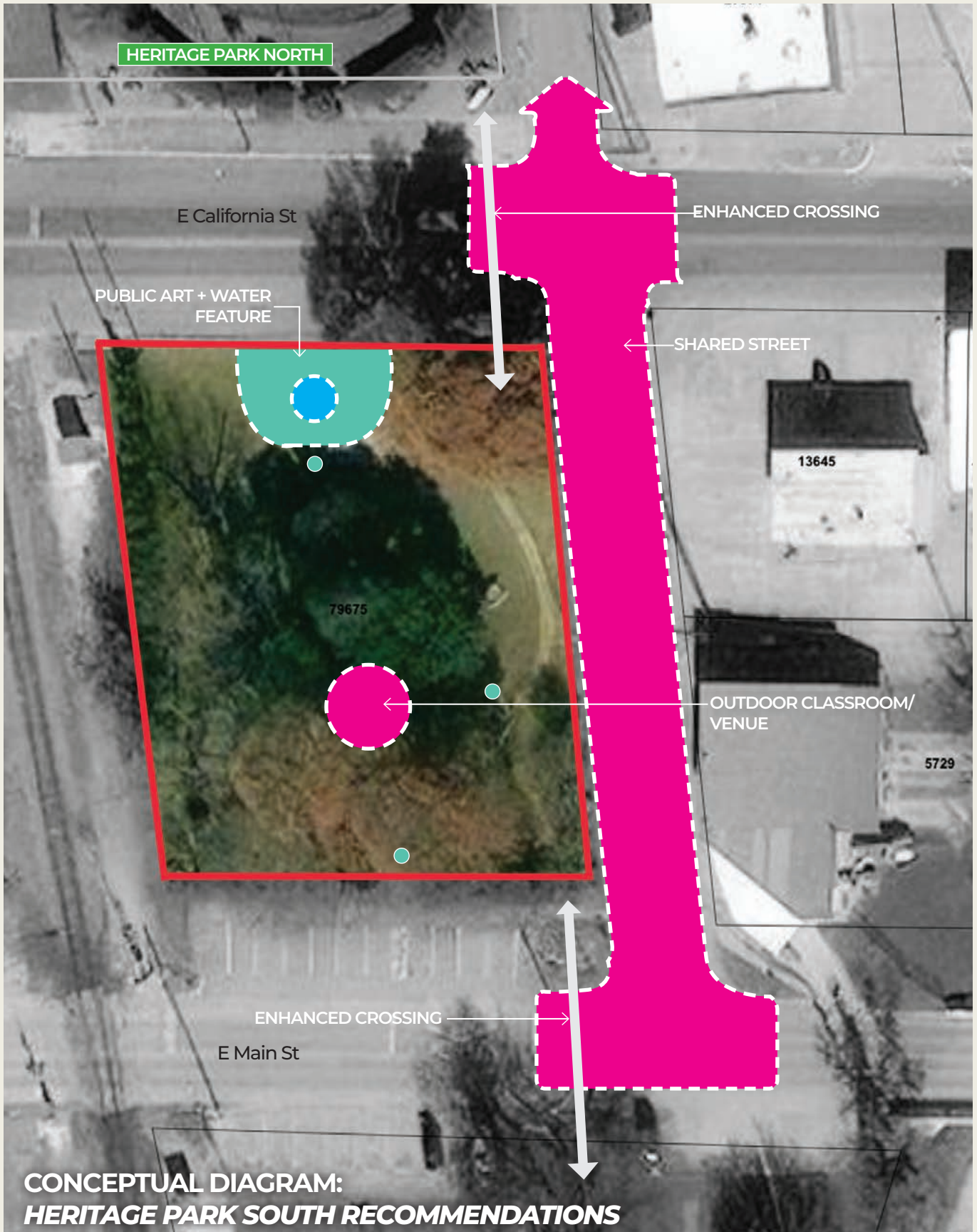
MULTI-USE PATH/TRAIL

PASSIVE RECREATION

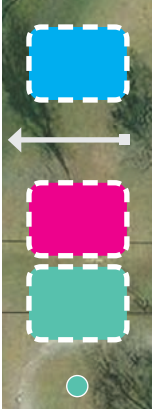
CITY FACILITIES

HERITAGE PARK NORTH

- ▶ Reconfigure Denison St. as a low-speed one-way pedestrianized Shared Street (“woonerf”) to address access safety issues along the dog park
- ▶ Provide additional paved parking accessible from Broadway Street
- ▶ Extend fencing of small-dog area northwards to increase capacity
- ▶ Extend existing shade structure
- ▶ Add new dog play equipment (preferably railroad-themed)



LEGEND



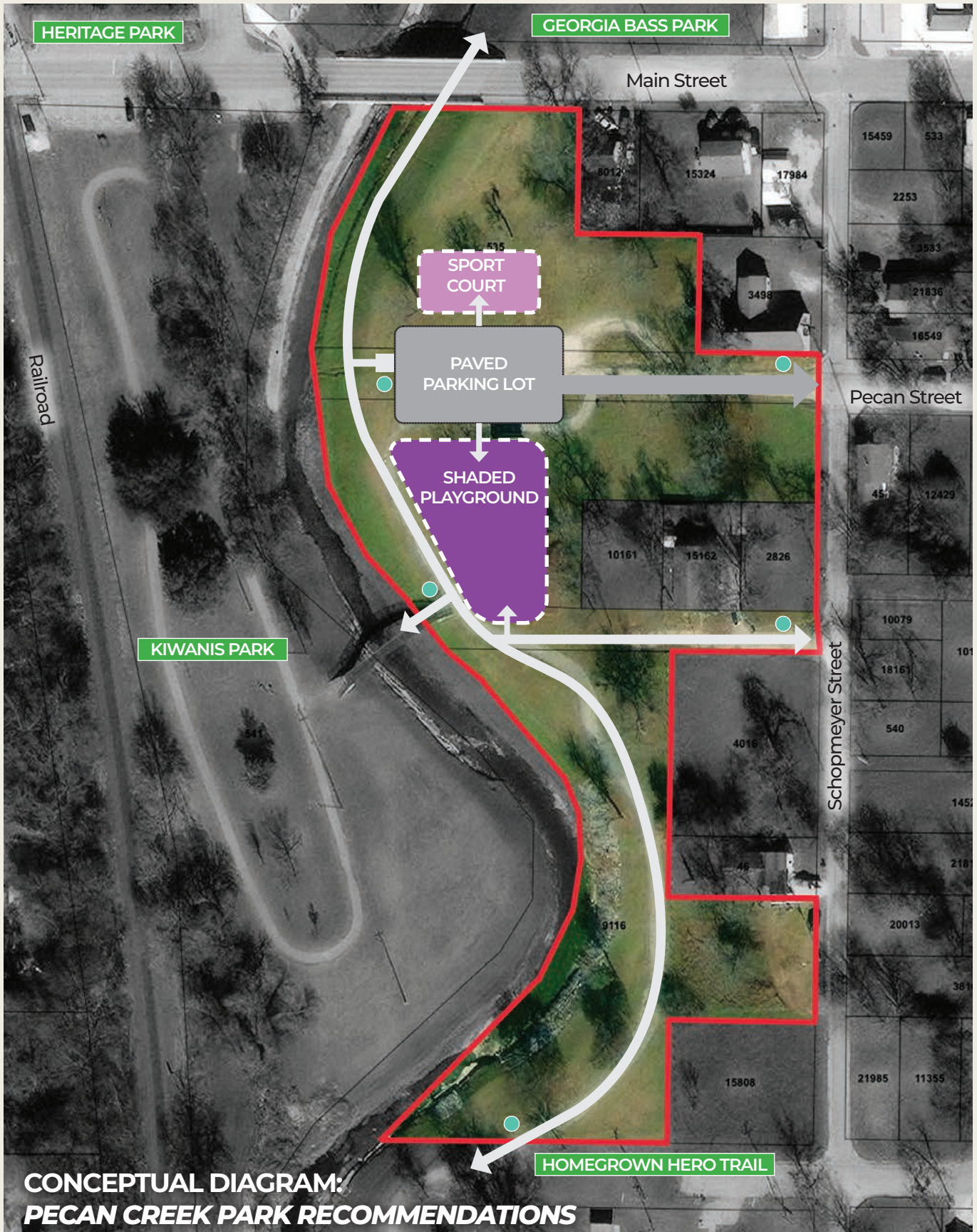
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- WATER FEATURE
- MULTI-USE PATH/TRAIL
- PASSIVE RECREATION
- PUBLIC ART
- SIGNAGE / INTERPRETATION

CITY FACILITIES

HERITAGE PARK SOUTH

- ▶ Add public art, plaza, water feature and tree lighting to address safety and activate space
- ▶ Restore or replace mosaic with new public art (possibly integrate a water element)
- ▶ Create a small outdoor classroom or staging venue for educational, artistic and other community events
- ▶ Implement pedestrian crossing improvements on California St.



LEGEND



- PARKING AND DRIVEWAYS
- MULTI-USE PATH/TRAIL
- PLAYGROUND
- SPORTS FACILITIES
- SIGNAGE / INTERPRETATION

CITY FACILITIES

PECAN CREEK PARK

- ▶ Replace playground equipment to include all age groups
- ▶ Rebrand as a greenbelt with interpretive learning stations
- ▶ Add paved, accessible parking, pedestrian access and circulation paths



LEGEND

The legend is set against a background image of a park with a path and trees. It includes the following items:

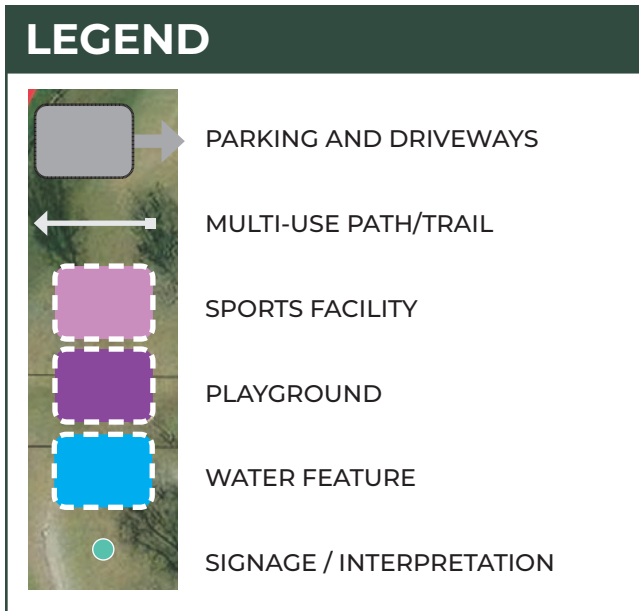
- PARKING AND DRIVEWAYS:** Represented by a grey rounded rectangle with a right-pointing arrow.
- MULTI-USE PATH/TRAIL:** Represented by a white double-headed arrow.
- SPORTS FACILITY:** Represented by a light purple rounded square with a dashed border.
- PLAYGROUND:** Represented by a medium purple rounded square with a dashed border.
- PASSIVE RECREATION:** Represented by a bright pink rounded square with a dashed border.

KENETESO PARK

- ▶ Develop regional sports complex by adding softball and baseball fields as existing fields are phased out in other parks
- ▶ Continue developing regional soccer uses (create permanent fields and spectator accommodations)
- ▶ Connect to Leonard Park via an Elm Fork Greenway with shared use path, providing fishing and put-in facilities where suitable
- ▶ Provide a network of walking loops, trails, water access amenities and picnic areas
- ▶ Develop full-scale disc golf course
- ▶ Add camping/RV and picnic amenities

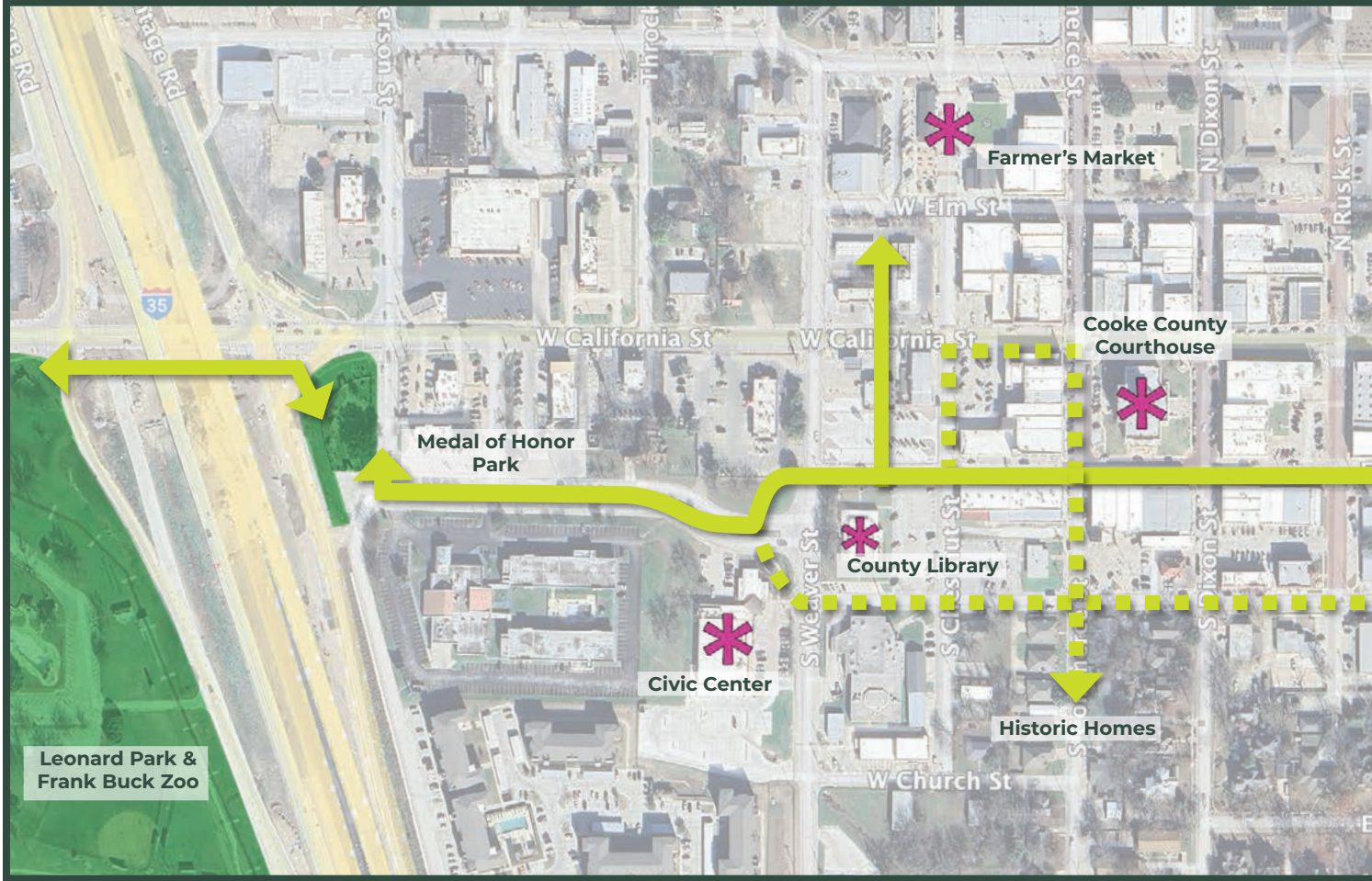


**CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM:
EDISON PARK RECOMMENDATIONS**



EDISON PARK ➤

- ▶ Create new playground facility and rearrange tables, benches, grills, playground equipment to shaded areas
- ▶ Increase active recreation by expanding the basketball courts, adding pickleball courts, outdoor fitness stations and walking/jogging paths
- ▶ Add a restroom to serve the playground and active/sports facilities
- ▶ Increase parking capacity
- ▶ Identify phase-out of ballfields synchronized to cemetery expansion
- ▶ Based on cemetery demand projections and ballfield phaseout timeline, overhaul any remaining acreage as a primarily passive recreation facility in support of the cemetery experience
- ▶ New trees planted now will benefit the cemetery experience later; follow existing pattern and focus on extension of north-south cemetery alley



DOWNTOWN GREEN CORRIDOR





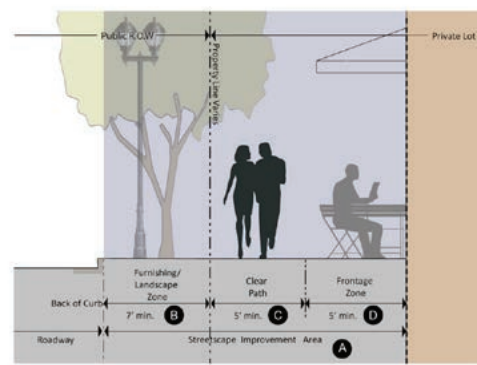
Legend

-  ENHANCED STREETScape, PRIMARY
-  ENHANCED STREETScape, SECONDARY
-  PUBLIC PARK
-  COMMUNITY / CULTURAL LANDMARK

Downtown Gainesville is blessed with a number of parks in close proximity to the central business core- it is anchored on the west by *Leonard Park* (including the Frank Buck Zoo and the swimming pool) and the *Medal of Honor Host City Park*. A cluster of open spaces, including the *Heritage Parks* and *Pecan Creek Park* anchor the eastern edge.

A *green corridor* is envisioned connecting the two ends with enhanced streetscape design and thoughtful plantings, paving, lighting and site furnishings. This would serve as a pedestrian-friendly link between these important recreation opportunities- a *pedestrian promenade*. Additionally, this corridor would provide direct access to other important community functions and cultural landmarks such as the *Community Center* and the historic *courthouse square*.

There are many other opportunities to branch off to other important locations and the many businesses, services and historic homes in the downtown area.



Key

-  Property Line
-  Setback Line
-  Building Area
-  Streetscape Improvement Area

08 IMPLEMENTATION



Implementation Strategies

The ***Guiding Gainesville Parks & Trails Master Plan*** has developed a broad vision of the future of parks and recreation in a growing city. The prioritization of needs found in the previous section sets forth a list of key action items designed to move this vision forward. This section translates those items into Action Plans while including some cost opinions, suggested funding sources, and specific recommendations for advancing the Master Plan.

Ultimately, the responsibility for implementing this plan rests with community leaders. This plan should help leaders make predictable decisions. Implementing the plan in a deliberate, stepwise process will help to align public and private sector activity.

Planning Commissioners, City Council, and staff should refer to the plan when reviewing development applications, conceptualizing new

infrastructure, or creating annual programs. In addition to the municipality, implementation of the plan will be more successful if the civic sector and the public are invited to play meaningful roles. Civic institutions can help to drive the pace of implementation by coordinating stakeholder engagement. New policies and programs will be viewed as more legitimate if the public is regularly involved in their design.

Indoor Recreation Considerations

Broad-minded communities recognize that community recreation centers matter. This is evidenced through contemporary recreation centers which create a sense of identity and community, thus branding the community as a special place to live and work. Through this brand, these communities attract long term residents and economic development investors, while protecting land values due to the quality of life found in their community. Every good Parks and Trails Master Plan recognizes indoor recreation, but not all Master Plans go far enough in long term planning for indoor recreation. Proper early planning can help shape decisions for a balanced approach to right size a future facility with a project

budget, including a proforma, which in the end are designed to maximize participation and manage expectations.

1. The data collected through the public input process on the Guiding Gainesville 2040 Parks & Trails Master Plan indicates a high priority on a future recreation center.
2. Recreation centers can be the costliest part of a parks and recreation system both in development costs and operational costs. Long range planning of a recreation center is important to the outcome of the facility to balance the size of the facility and operations proforma.

3. If Parks & Recreation planning “best practices” are applied based on the Gainesville community’s need for a recreation center, then it is plausible that a future multi-generational recreation center could be located within the City of Gainesville. However, this would require a great amount of thought and further study based on more public input. The result of such a study being a balanced project approach master plan with an architectural program, a project budget with facility proforma, and a schedule based on available land and funding.
4. The City of Gainesville would need to properly master plan a recreation center to find the right size and scope of the project prior to moving forward with the project. It is important to emphasize that the master plan process be customized to the Gainesville community to insure the project is a good fit for the City, as one size does not fit all in recreation center planning.
5. Without proper planning and support from the public it is likely the project will fail at the ballot box due to lack of support, however with proper planning many communities have found success to move a recreation center forward.
6. Across the United States, communities are conducting Feasibility Studies or Recreation Center Master Plans to provide communities with the tools necessary for success in planning large capital projects such as a recreation center.

Indoor Recreation Next Steps

When the time is best for the leaders of Gainesville the following sequence is recommended:

1. Perform a Recreation Center Feasibility Study based on Community Input.
 - Recreation Center Proforma plan based on market analysis to include operational costs and revenue potential; Proforma to also identify fees and charges for memberships and participation in programs, also any subsidies necessary to balance the recreation center operations
2. Development of a Gainesville Recreation Center Master Plan should include:
 - ▶ **Community input via:**
 - Town Hall meetings
 - Focus Groups
 - Stakeholder meetings
 - City Council meetings
 - Parks Board meetings
 - Allied Partner meetings (i.e. School District)
 - ▶ Architectural program development based on community input
 - ▶ Project Budget based on architectural program
 - Budget includes hard costs, soft costs, and cost escalation into the future
 - ▶ Recreation Center project schedule based on many factors such as population which support the proforma of the facility.
 - ▶ Graphics to explain the scope and size of the facility as well as the proforma of the operations.
 - ▶ Identify Funding strategies recommendations through bond fund possibilities and partnerships such as school districts and colleges, health care agencies, and nearby communities with similar community service goals.

Potential Funding Sources

City-Generated Funding Opportunities

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Primarily used for improvements or repairs to existing parks and facilities. Typical expenditures are for smaller repair and replacement efforts.

PARK REVOLVING FUND

This is a dedicated fund replenished on an ongoing basis from various funding sources such as grants, sponsorships, advertising, program-user fees, and rental fees within one or more parks. The agency could establish a revolving fund to support maintenance at multiple parks.

MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT FUND

This is a fund dedicated exclusively for a park's maintenance and is funded by a percentage of user fees from programs, events, and rentals. The fee is paid by users and is added to a dedicated fund for facility and equipment replacement, such as fitness equipment, water slides, lights, artificial turf, and park-maintenance equipment.

MUNICIPAL BONDS

Debt financing through the issuance of municipal bonds is the most common way to finance new parks and open space projects and facilities. This type of funding is a strategy wherein a city issues a bond, receives an immediate cash payment to finance projects, and must repay the bond with interest over a set period of time ranging from a few years to several decades. General obligation bonds are the most common form of municipal bond and the primary bond type for park and open space projects: they are backed by the creditworthiness of the issuer with taxing power, and voter approval is a prerequisite for issuance.

CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION (“CO”)

COs are an instrument of public debt made available to the governing bodies of cities, counties, and certain special districts. COs can be issued without voter approval (unless a referendum is petitioned) and are backed by tax revenue, fee revenues or a combination of the two. Current state law (LGC §271.045) specifies that COs must be issued for: 1) the construction of any public work; 2) the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, machinery, buildings, land, and rights-of-way for authorized needs and purposes; and 3) the payment of contractual obligations for professional services, including those provided by tax appraisers, engineers, architects, attorneys, map makers, auditors, financial advisors, and fiscal agents. While COs were originally created to give local governments a tool for emergency spending, there's a growing body of evidence suggesting that nonvoter approved debt is being issued for capital improvement projects that are either controversial or discretionary, such as public art projects, swimming pools, and parks.

USER FEES

User fees are fees paid by a user of recreational facilities or programs to offset the costs of services in operating a park or a recreation facility, or in delivering programs. Future fees could be charged by the agency based on cost-recovery goals for the parks and core recreation services, based on the level of exclusivity the user receives compared to the general taxpayer. The consultant highly recommends that user fees for programs and facilities continue to be charged in order to create value and provide operational revenues.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEES

Many park-and-recreation systems add a capital-improvement fee onto an existing user fee when they develop or enhance major recreation facilities. This is usually applied to golf courses, aquatic facilities, recreation centers, ice rinks, amphitheaters, and special-use facilities like sports complexes. The dollars gained either offset the cost of the capital improvement or the revenue bond that was used to develop or enhance the special-use facility. Once the capital improvement is paid off, the fee typically expires and is discontinued.

RECREATION SERVICE FEES

This is a dedicated user fee, which can be established by local ordinance for the purpose of constructing and maintaining recreation facilities. The fee can apply to all activities that require a reservation. Examples of such activities include adult basketball, volleyball, tennis, and softball leagues, youth baseball, soccer, football and softball leagues, and special-interest classes. The fee allows participants an opportunity to contribute toward the upkeep of the facilities being used.

DEVELOPER REQUIREMENTS

Park Improvement Fee Funds are dollars collected as assessments from new developments. This method is currently written into the city ordinance. Cash in Lieu of Conveyance Land must also be written into city ordinance. Under specific conditions, a cash amount may be accepted in lieu of the conveyance of land. The object of this ordinance is to give the city the option to purchase land elsewhere in the city.

CORPORATE AND PERSONAL LEAD GIVING

Corporate and personal giving involves the department seeking corporate lead funds or personal lead gifts via a foundation partner or through personal contacts that are used to catalyze wider giving in support of a specific project or operation. The lead donations set the precedent for additional giving over a period of one year up to five years. Often those who

have given or pledged contributions are invited to a recognition event, which may include additional opportunities for contribution through auctions, for example.

PRIVATE DONATIONS

Private donations are a popular form of fundraising by public agencies, particularly for facilities and services that are highly visible and valued by the public. Donations can be channeled through a foundation or conservancy aligned with the parks and recreation system's priorities. Donations can be made through one or more of the following methods:

- ▶ Donations of cash to a specific park or trail segment by community members and businesses.
- ▶ Donations of services by large corporations to reduce the cost of park or trail implementation, including equipment and labor to construct and install elements of a specific park or trail.
- ▶ Reductions in the cost of materials purchased from local businesses that support parks and trails implementation, and can supply essential products for facilities.
- ▶ Donations of land for park or trail sites. It is recommended that the city develop policy to educate the public regarding the benefits of private donation of land to be used for parks, greenbelts, and natural areas.

PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION

A Parks and Recreation Foundation is a joint-development funding source or operational funding source between a foundation and a government agency. The foundation operates as a non-profit organization, working on behalf of the public agency to raise needed dollars to support its vision and operational needs. The dollars raised by the foundation are tax-exempt. Foundations promote specific causes, activities, or issues that a park-and-recreation system needs to address. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects, including capital campaigns, gifts catalogs, fundraisers,

endowments, sales of park-related memorabilia, etc. Private donations may be received in the form of cash, securities, land, facilities, recreation equipment, art, or in-kind services. Donations from local and regional businesses as sponsors of events or facilities should be pursued.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATIONS

Friends associations are foundations that typically are formed to raise money for a single purpose, such as a park facility or program that will better the community as a whole and, at the same time, meet special interests.

IRREVOCABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

These trusts are established for individuals who typically have more than \$1 million in wealth. They agree to leave a portion of their wealth to a park-and-recreation system in a trust fund that grows over time. The system is able to use a portion of the interest to support specific facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.

FORFEITURE OF LAND FOR FAILURE TO PAY TAXES

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING/PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

These related tools allow a development district to divert a portion of its property taxes to fund infrastructure improvements within its area. This can include plazas, mini-parks, linear parks, and other types of facilities.

SALES TAX FUNDS

One potential funding source for the parks and recreation system is an additional percentage sales tax that is committed to maintaining park sites, infrastructure, recreational fields, and trails. The advantage of a sales tax is that it collects revenues from both residents and nonresidents who do business in Gainesville.

DEDICATED MILLAGE

This source provides the opportunity for the park-and-recreation system to demonstrate how well it is meeting the community's needs through a voter-approved millage tax.

Municipalities can levy a dedicated millage below which elected officials cannot cut budgets. These monies remain dedicated to the sole purpose or department for which the millage was originally approved.

TREE MITIGATION/RESTORATION FUNDS

Cities can levy mitigation fees and/or fines against developers for removing quality trees to generate revenue used to plant new trees and irrigate city properties.

FRANCHISE FEE FOR UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Many agencies have sold the development rights below the ground to utility companies for fiber optic lines, water, sewer, electricity lines, and cable conduits on a linear ft. basis.

ELECTRIC UTILITY PARTNERSHIPS

These partnerships typically do not involve monetary contributions, however, they include use agreements for easements held by utility companies. These are ideal for establishing utility easement trails.

UTILITY BILL CONTRIBUTIONS

Residents can be allowed to electively add a small amount to their utility collection bills to fund park improvements.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS & PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

Annual private partnership programs, special event sponsorships, and facility-specific advertising sales can provide flexibility to smaller entities looking to align themselves with Parks & Recreation users and increase local awareness of their brand. Health & Wellness organizations are particularly synergistic to Parks & Recreation.

For larger development projects a strong funding partner can potentially expand budget parameters. Partnerships are joint-development funding sources or operational funding sources formed from two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a public agency, or a private business and a public agency. Two partners

jointly develop revenue-producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths of each partner.

Obtaining private sponsorship, often through naming rights, can provide an additional funding channel. Long-term success of this method requires a commitment by the city to an excellent maintenance program and prominent marketing efforts for the sponsored facility.

State and Federal Funding and Resources

RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (“RTCA”)

This federal program, administered by the NPS, supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation. RTCA does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants. Through an application process, local communities can tap into a national network of conservation and recreation planning professionals which partners with community groups, nonprofits, tribes, and state and local governments, providing technical assistance professional services to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (“LWCF”)

The State Side of the LWCF, which is administered by the NPS State and Local Assistance Programs Division, provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Over its first 49 years (1965 - 2014), LWCF has provided more than \$16.7 billion to acquire new Federal recreation lands as grants to State and local governments. The fund has provided 40,400 grants to state and local governments for acquisition, development and planning of outdoor recreation opportunities

LEASE BACKS

This is another source of capital funding wherein banks or private placement-fund companies develop a park or recreation attraction, by buying the land, developing a recreational attraction, and then leasing it back to the agency to pay off the land or capital costs over a 30- to 40-year period. Agencies may find this source attractive because typically they can increase operational budgets more easily than finding capital dollars to pay off the lease over a set period of time.

in the United States. Seventy-five percent of the total funds obligated have gone to locally sponsored projects to provide close-to-home recreation opportunities that are readily accessible to America’s youth, adults, senior citizens and the physically or mentally challenged.

OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP (“ORLP”) GRANTS

The ORLP program is a competitive grant initiative under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, aimed at enhancing parks, recreational opportunities, and conservation areas in underserved, urban areas. These investments enable urban communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors.

Managed by the NPS and funded through the LWCF, the nationally competitive ORLP program provides matching grants (up to 50% of total project costs) to assist communities with little to no access to outdoor recreation opportunities in urban areas. Funds can be used for the acquisition and/or development of, or substantial renovation of public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces. Development should encompass essential public outdoor recreation activities and the necessary support facilities for public use. Projects could involve a combination of land acquisition and site development.

These projects can cater to a diverse range of public outdoor recreation activities and facilities required to enhance the use and enjoyment for the public. These include, and are not limited to community parks, campgrounds, playgrounds, sport fields and courts, picnic facilities, trails, etc. While facilities that support the use of the recreating public, such as restrooms, visitor contact infrastructure, and maintenance facilities can be eligible, most indoor recreation and other buildings such as nature centers, community centers, or education centers are ineligible for funding.

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS (“NRTS”)

National Recreation Trails are land-based and water-based trails that provide close to home recreation opportunities on federal, state and local lands. National Recreation Trail designation promotes some of our country’s highest-caliber trails with the intention of providing recreation access to rural and urban communities, economic development through tourism, and healthy recreation opportunities. NRT designation does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants. NRTs are recognized by federal government agencies (NPS, USFS, USDA), with the consent of any Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, or private entity having jurisdiction over these lands.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS (“NHLs”)

Designation of NHLs helps recognize, preserve, and protect important locations in American history. Designating a property as an NHL may provide it with additional protections from development, and may also make the property eligible for preservation grants, tax incentives, and technical preservation assistance. Most NHLs are privately-owned and are governed by local preservation laws.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (“NRHL”)

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. The National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is

part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archaeological resources. Qualified historic properties may receive preservation benefits, access to grant programs, and tax incentives.

RECREATIONAL ECONOMY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (“RERC”)

This EPA Smart Growth program offers planning assistance to communities to help identify strategies to grow their outdoor recreation economy and revitalize their Main Streets. The RERC planning assistance process involves developing a local steering committee in each partner community and pairing them with a team of federal agency partners and consultants, who then work with the community over several months. The team supports the steering committee to identify the community’s vision, goals, and actions they wish to take to boost outdoor recreation, revitalize their main streets and promote equitable access to the outdoors for residents and visitors alike. The process involves several planning calls, a community workshop and several follow-up implementation calls. Through the planning process, all partner communities develop a Community Action Plan, which identifies specific actions and next steps. While not presently accepting applications at the time of publication, the program has previously selected partners for the years 2019, 2022, and 2025.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (“USDA”) RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Conservation Reserve Program (“CRP”) is a land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA); in exchange for a yearly rental payment, enrolled farmers agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production in order to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality during 10-15 year contracts.

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (“GLCI”) is a nationwide collaborative process of

individuals and organizations working together to maintain and improve the management, productivity, and health of the Nation's privately-owned grazing land. GLCI was developed to provide for a coordinated effort to identify priority issues, find solutions, and effect change on private grazing land.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program ("EQIP") is a guided conservation best practice program for farmers that helps cover the cost of implementation.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ("ACEP") (formerly the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program) provides technical and financial assistance for Agricultural Land and Wetland Reserve Easements. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is for working farm/rangelands to optimize operations.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program ("EWP") is the recommended option to landowners and others where acquiring an easement is the best approach (more economical and prudent) to reduce threat to life and/or property; alternatively, Recovery Assistance is also offered.

Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D): Provides technical assistance to local communities through designated USDA areas led by RC&D Councils; activities address land conservation, water management, community development, and land management issues, including improving opportunities for recreation and tourism.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS OUR TOWN GRANTS PROGRAM

Our Town is the National Endowment for the Arts' creative placemaking grants program. These grants support projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. Successful Our Town projects ultimately lay the groundwork for

systemic changes that sustain the integration of arts, culture, and design into strategies for strengthening communities. Through arts engagement, cultural planning, design, and/or artist/creative industry support, the Place-based Projects contribute to improved quality of life in local communities. These projects require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000, with a minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount. NEA funding is currently threatened, so the future of this program is uncertain.

BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT ("BUILD") TRANSPORTATION DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM

US Department of Transportation ("USDOT") BUILD grants replace the pre-existing TIGER and RAISE Discretionary Grant Programs. BUILD grants are for investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES ("TA") SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

Authorized by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act ("MAP-21"), the Transportation Alternatives Program ("TAP") has been administered by TxDOT, distributed locally through the Texoma Council of Governments ("TCOG"), and replaced the funding for the Transportation Enhancement Program, Recreational Trails Program, and Safe Routes to School Program ("SRTS"). While MAP-21 did not provide for specific funding for SRTS, SRTS projects were eligible for TAP funds. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation ("FAST") Act replaced the former Transportation Alternatives Program ("TAP") with a set-aside of

funds under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (“STBG”). For administrative purposes, the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”) refers to these funds as the TA Set-Aside. The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trail projects; Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways.

MAP-21 Section 1524 requires USDOT to encourage States and regional transportation planning agencies to use qualified youth service and conservation corps to perform appropriate transportation-related projects.

A FINAL NOTE ON FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Since early 2025, decisions made by the White House and USDOT regarding active transportation have resulted in grant cancellations, and ongoing uncertainties about frozen federal transportation grants. Congress rescinded \$750 million in active transportation Neighborhood Access and Equity grants in July 2025 and the USDOT has canceled numerous trail, walking, and biking grants as part of its ongoing review that has left thousands of additional grants in limbo and potentially forced applicants to remove active transportation elements. Some localities have sued over cancellations, and many are still in the dark at the time of this writing regarding the future of their active transportation grants.

Transportation projects are not the only type that have been targeted for clawbacks. All federal programs should be double-checked

prior to application to determine if the program remains open or has been paused or archived. To this end, primary reliance on federal funding sources for the duration of the Trump administration is not recommended.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Administered by TPWD under approval of FHWA, Recreational Trails Program 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. 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 (OHV or off-highway vehicle) trail grants.

Also administered by TPWD, the Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual grants that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas: the City of Gainesville is eligible for 3 of these programs; Small Community Recreation, Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation, and Non-Urban Indoor Recreation. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Development projects may consist of recreation facilities and related support facilities to serve the general public, provided that the funding of the project is in the best public interest in accordance with local plans. Facilities may be developed, renovated, or redeveloped on lands or waters owned or adequately controlled by the project applicant. Plans for recreational development should be based on public needs, expected use, and the type and character of the project areas.

Facilities should be attractive to the public and consistent with the natural setting and

topographic limitations of the site. Recreational improvements should be designed to be harmonious with the natural environment. Emphasis should be given to public health, safety, the natural environment, barrier-free access, and the protection of recreational and community values of the area. These considerations should be part of the planning, design, and maintenance criteria for all grant-assisted areas. Development projects may consist of the complete or partial development of a public recreation area. All projects must be logical units of work to be accomplished within three years.

All grant applications must receive at least one public hearing prior to submission in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings

Nonprofit Funding

PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES COMMUNITY PLACEMAKING GRANTS

In many American cities, not only are public spaces inequitably distributed and poorly maintained—but the people in the communities with the least access also rarely have the opportunity to shape public spaces themselves. Project for Public Spaces' Community Placemaking Grants enable US-based nonprofits and government agencies to address this inequality of access by working directly with local stakeholders to transform public spaces or co-create new ones. We do this by providing direct funding, technical assistance, and capacity building facilitated by Project for Public Spaces.

T-MOBILE HOMETOWN GRANTS

T-Mobile Hometown Grants is a \$25 million, five-year initiative to support the people and organizations who help small towns across America thrive and grow. In partnership with Main Street America, Hometown Grants are given every quarter to up to 25 small towns (population 50,000 or less). Apply for funding to support a community project of your choice, like revitalizing or repurposing a historic structure,

Act. The hearing may be a separate public meeting, or it may occur at the time the governing body regularly meets. At this public hearing, the governing body must pass the resolution authorizing application submission. The public hearing must be properly posted and advertised in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, and there must be an opportunity for public comment. Development projects may be individual or multi-site projects and may include new construction, renovation and/or redevelopment. General repair and maintenance projects are not eligible.

Other TPWD programs of interest include the Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) and the Habitat and Angler Access Program.

creating a downtown asset or destination, or improving a space where friends and neighbors gather. Projects that add to a sense of place or could lead to further investment are of particular interest. This grant program is specifically open to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations and local government entities. Grant recipients will each receive an award of up to \$50,000 to implement their ideas and will have 12 months to complete their projects.

AMERICA WALKS COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT PROGRAM

In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity this program awards 6 grantees \$2,000 in community grants for projects related to creating healthy, active, and engaged places to live, work, and play. This program supports the CDC's Active People, Healthy Nation initiative which aims to help 27 million people become more physically active.

Funded projects will demonstrate increased physical activity and active transportation in a specific community, work to engage people and organizations new to the efforts of walking

and walkability, and demonstrate a culture of health and design. Projects will create healthy, active, and engaged communities that support walking as transportation, health, and recreation. Projects must show a strong and intentional foundation of engagement of the whole community. The application period is a narrow 16-day window in late January and early February. Funds must be used in the following calendar year.

KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL (“KTB”)

KTB provides resources for community improvement projects (such as tree-plantings and giveaways), recycling, clean-ups, and youth engagement efforts in communities across the state. KTB affiliates are local organizations that develop local events and programs based on their community’s needs. They also participate in KTB-sponsored programs such as Greatest American Cleanup, Keep Texas Waterways Clean, and Fall Sweep. Although the City of Gainesville currently has no such local affiliate, neighboring Lindsay does have a local affiliate.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS (“NAR”) PLACEMAKING GRANT PROGRAM

NAR’s Placemaking Initiative encourages REALTOR® associations and their members, to engage in Placemaking in their communities. Placemaking Grants fund state and local REALTOR® association-led projects that create new, outdoor public gathering spaces and destinations in a community on unused or underused sites. The goal of the program is to enable REALTORS® to strengthen ties with their community, to develop relationships with public officials, and to spur economic growth and development through the creation of new public gathering places. The Placemaking Grant is available for \$3,000 or \$7,500. An association, and its members, need to be involved in the planning, designing, funding and/or building of the project. Maximum grant amount is awarded to reflect projects that are association-led or projects where the REALTOR® Association is a main partner.

Types of projects funded are parks, pocket parks, plazas, parklets, alley activations, trails, pedestrian paths, alley activations, dog parks, playgrounds, fitness areas, and community gardens. Support for improvements to existing places (for example: benches, playground equipment, and signs within existing public spaces) are permitted.

MY DARLING THEO DOG PARK FUND GRANTS

The DOG PARK FUND is a developing resource opened to establish and maintain not for profit neighborhood dog parks in communities across America. The DPF is supported by donations from the general public, benefiting dogs, people, business and property owners; it was created to help increase green public spaces in urban areas, and offer resources for rural communities. Grants will be eligible to US based, organized non-profit Dog Park Groups.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY (“AAD”)

The AAD’s Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants of up to \$8,000 to public schools and non-profit organizations for installing permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools, or recreation spaces. In addition to the grant, the AAD also provides a permanent sign for display near the shade structure.

THE KIWANIS CHILDREN’S FUND

This fund provides grants to Kiwanis family clubs and districts for projects with a strong Kiwanis identity—and the Kiwanis club’s significant hands-on involvement. Projects must also support activities addressing at least one of the following Children’s Fund cause areas: health, education and youth leadership development.

KABOOM!

KABOOM! offers grants for playground equipment money to qualifying organizations. Grants from KABOOM! even come with the support of a Grants Manager and community-

build installation support. Applications are limited to select geographical metro areas, but DFW is among them.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS (“NPSOT”)-TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER

NPSOT awards several annual grants including the Bring Back Monarchs to Texas Grant. These grants focus on developing demonstration gardens and waystations using native plants essential for Monarch conservation.

KIDSGARDENING.ORG

Since 1982, the Youth Garden Grant has supported school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for youth and their communities.

In early 2026, up to 50 organizations have been awarded \$750-\$1675 in funding for their youth garden program. Any organization in the United States or US Territories planning a new or improving an existing garden program that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 0 and 18 is eligible to apply. Organizations affected by multiple socioeconomic and sociodemographic factors, for which pre-existing resources (financial or otherwise) are limited, and are given priority.

NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION (“NHTSA”) GROMOREGOOD GRANTS

The National Head Start Association will award grants in variable amounts depending on demonstrated need and proposal in the application. Grants will supplement needs of existing garden projects, help launch new garden projects, or supplement/launch outdoor green space projects (land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation and an option for children and the community to learn).

As part of the grant award, Head Start programs will be expected to host a Community Build Day, bringing together Head Start students and families, community partners, and ScottsMiracle-Gro associates (if available) in a day of community service to build

and celebrate the garden. Community Build Days should be held during the March through June timeframe.

NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU THERAPEUTIC GARDEN GRANTS

The National Garden Bureau launched a philanthropic program in 2014 that supports the building and growth of therapeutic gardens across North America. Schools, nonprofits, hospitals, retirement centers, rehabilitative facilities, veteran facilities, community centers, inter-generational groups, job-training centers, food pantries, and public gardens throughout the United States and Canada are eligible.

FRUIT TREE PLANTING FOUNDATION (“FTPF”)

FTPF is an award-winning international nonprofit charity dedicated to planting fruitful trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the surrounding air, soil, and water. FTPF programs strategically donate orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, international hunger relief sites, and animal sanctuaries.

Our orchard donations are available for nonprofits, NGOs, public schools, or government entities serving a charitable purpose who pledge to care for their trees and utilize them for a charitable purpose. If selected for an orchard donation, FTPF provides high-quality fruit trees and shrubs, equipment, on-site orchard design expertise and oversight, horticultural workshops, and aftercare training and manuals. Deer fencing and drip irrigation are subsidized as needed, and installations are incorporated into the event day. FTPF also helps coordinate all aspects of the planting, and offers an inspirational, educational experience for volunteers interested in learning more about trees. Free arboricultural workshops are available throughout the day of the planting and, for schools, a fun, age-appropriate

curriculum, with our educators, emphasizing the importance of trees for the environment and fruit in the diet is available. Applications on a rolling basis with no deadlines.

SPORT-SPECIFIC FUNDING ASSISTANCE

Professional sport organizations actively give back to communities where opportunities exist to build up youth participation by developing facilities. USA Pickleball Serves Grant, MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation (“YDF”) Grant, Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation Grant, US Soccer Foundation’s Soccer Fund, and FC Dallas Foundation’s Community Action Grant are relevant examples.

WALMART SPARK GOOD LOCAL GRANTS

Each year, Walmart U.S. stores, Sam’s Clubs and Distribution Centers award local cash grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. Grants are awarded through an open application process to eligible organizations serving the same service area that the facility they are requesting funding from serves.

Organizations must have a Spark Good account on walmart.com/nonprofits. Eligible organizations are limited to Government entities (non-501(c)(3)), 501(c)(3) public charities, schools, and Churches or other faith-based organizations with a proposed project that benefits the community at large. Past awarded projects have included beautification, greening, and nature preservation efforts.

BNSF RAILWAY FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the communities we serve and in which our employees live, work, and volunteer. Your organization must be physically located in or serve a community in close proximity to one

of BNSF’s rail lines to be considered for grants. Requests will be considered for funding that clearly falls within civic services including organizations which are concerned with the environment and conservation, as well as local community issues such as crime prevention, parks and recreation, diversity and community development.

OTHER LOCAL MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Major employers are motivated to give back to the communities they serve, and often have foundations established and funded for just that purpose. For example, Safran Seats USA’s parent company has established the Safran Corporate Foundation for Integration, which offers associations whose mission is to promote and support the integration of disabled or underprivileged young people, the opportunity to receive financial support for one of their projects. Other potential local partners include Redi-mix Concrete, MFG Companies, Dura-line, Petroflex North America, Advanced Pedestals Inc., Vanec, IFS Coatings, PPG Foundation, Fastenal, Shur-Tite Products, Gainesville Sheet Metal, and First State Bank.

BUYBOARD PURCHASING COOPERATIVE

The Texas BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative streamlines the purchasing process for schools, municipalities, and other public entities in Texas. BuyBoard’s rebate program puts money back into Texas member budgets. Funded by excess revenue from vendor service fees, rebates allow members to reinvest in staff, classrooms, and their local communities, including park playground equipment. The Cooperative has given nearly \$125 million back to members since 2006.

Conservation Opportunities

PURCHASE AND TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT (“PDR”) RIGHTS

PDR conservation programs involve municipal payment to landowners relative to the development potential of their land

in agreement that the land will not be developed. PDR programs are an effective, incentive-based means to protect farmland and natural resources while guiding new urban development. To implement this program,

rural preservation zones and urban growth zones must be designated while demand exists for development rights, and then procedures and a transfer ratio must be established. Rural landowners voluntarily sell their development rights and are compensated for them while a conservation easement is placed on their land. Developers get density bonuses for purchasing development rights, so costs are not handed down to home buyers.

TEXAS LAND TRUST COUNCIL

Typically land trusts not only assist in funding land acquisition for natural areas, open space, and other land for public use, but also help manage the transaction and financing. Usually specific types of land are targeted by land trusts for specific land uses.

TEXAS LAND CONSERVANCY

A Conservation Easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or a public agency, where the landowner agrees to restrict the type and amount of development that may

take place on their property, in exchange for an annual charitable tax deduction.

CONSERVATION ALLIANCE GRANTS

The Conservation Alliance has given millions in grants to protect and preserve wild areas across North America, both for their habitat and for recreational purposes. These grants are for registered 501(c)(3) organizations that meet their criteria. While these funds are often for protecting land, they have been utilized for providing pedestrian access to wild lands, which includes trail development.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (“NRWF”)

The NFWF awards competitive grants across multiple initiatives through programs to protect and conserve our nation’s fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. The Foundation works with major public and private partners in all 50 states and U.S. territories to solve the most challenging conservation problems. While most programs focus largely on conservation and restoration, some also assist with providing access for people to conservation lands.

Development Implementation

The following tables (**Figure 8.1** and **Figure 8.2**) set forth a framework for the possible development of Gainesville Parks & Recreation facilities, policies, and strategies over the next decade, organized according to priorities identified in **Chapter 7**. Cost opinions are provided wherever possible, as well as suggested funding sources.

Figure 8.1. Implementation Matrix: System-wide & New Facilities

Priority	Implementation Items	Timeframe	Opinion	Potential Resources	Cost Opinion
A1	Implement the site-specific maintenance recommendations for all existing parks including equipment replacements, amenity repairs, and safety improvements	Near-term (1-3 Years)		KABOOM!, Peaceful Playgrounds Grant Listing	\$\$
A2	Rearrange existing unshaded tables, benches, grills, and playground equipment to capture existing tree canopy shade and create gathering spaces.	Near-term (1-3 Years)			\$
A3	Provide shaded seating, drinking fountains, and restrooms for every existing park or park cluster where they are missing. Add walking loops and picnic tables where space exists to accommodate them.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		AAD's Shade Structure Grant Program	\$\$
B1.0	Proceed with planned southward zoo expansion.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)			\$\$\$
B1.1	Acquire land needed for Kenetso Park expansion.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$\$
B1.2, (KP2)	Relocate most or all ballpark facilities to Kenetso Park.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation (YDF) Grant, Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation Grant	\$\$
B2	Address impacted parking infrastructure and pedestrian safety needs at the Frank Buck Zoo by optimizing the zoo's primary entrance plaza design/location, traffic circulation, and parking design.	Long-term (5-10 Years)			\$\$\$
B3	Expand the Aquatics Center to match capacity to demand.	Long-term (5-10 Years)			\$\$\$\$
B4	Identify the end-of-lifecycle mitigation strategy for community-built play equipment.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		KABOOM! Playstructure Community Build Program	\$\$
B5.0	Utilize the renovation opportunity to increase mobility route options and connectivity. Add more shaded walking loops across the property, including one gravel trail loop.	Long-term (5-10 Years)			\$
B5.1	Bring off-road (a.k.a. mountain) biking facilities to Gainesville. Form a steering committee to guide development at or in the vicinity of Elm Fork and Leonard Park. Use volunteers for construction as extensively as possible.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		IMBA's Mountain Bike Trail Development: Guidelines for Successfully Managing the Process; IMBA Trail Labs Foundations; IMBA Trail Accelerator Grants; IMBA Trail Solutions, Outride Grant, Santa Cruz PayDirt Fund	\$
B5.2	Design and construct a paved shared use greenway along Elm Fork connecting the Leonard Park complex to Kenetso Park; add a trail spur to the west through the city access road.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		TA Set-Aside Program	\$\$\$
B5.3	Connect Moffett Park to Frank Buck Zoo/Leonard Park with a California St. undercrossing shared use trail. Provide security lighting.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		TA Set-Aside Program	\$
B6	Construct a permanent accessible public restroom at Moffett Park (convenient to accessible parking and any playgrounds) OR establish a restroom use agreement with the adjacent Dairy Queen.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)			\$\$-\$
B7	Expand Moffett Park north to W Scott St. to add more wooded natural acreage.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$\$
B8	Choose a vision for Moffett Park: Support active recreation with development of a 9-hole disc golf course, upgraded play equipment, and a basketball court OR support passive recreation with nature play facilities, a looped nature trail, interpretive signage on natural/cultural site heritage, a native plant demonstration garden, and park benches. Implement improvements in advance of Leonard Park renovations to divert user demand.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		Houck Design, NPSOT Monarch Garden Grants	\$\$
C1	Perform a Recreation Center Feasibility Study.	Near-term (1-3 Years)			\$\$
C2	Develop a Recreation Center Master Plan generated by Community Input.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)			\$\$
C3	Secure Recreation Center project funding and services.	Extended-term (10-15 Years)		TPWD Local Park Indoor Recreation Grant	\$\$\$\$
D1.0	Develop and adopt an Active Transportation Plan.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		Active Transportation Resource Center, Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals, TxDOT	\$\$-\$
D1.1	Create a trail wayfinding signage and lighting plan as part of the active transportation plan.	Near-term (1-3 Years)			\$\$-\$

IMPLEMENTATION

Priority	Implementation Items	Timeframe Opinion	Potential Resources	Cost Opinion
D1.2	Develop and adopt a city ordinance for use of eBikes and eScooters in public spaces that supports active transportation user safety (see the City of Albuquerque E-bike Law for reference).	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$
D2.0	Develop and adopt a Complete Streets & Trails Policy, including a City Trail Facilities Design Standards conforming to AASHTO's Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	Smart Growth America	\$\$-\$
D2.1	Include flexible standards and specifications for distribution and design of branding, amenities (such as park benches, drinking fountains, bicycle repair stands, wayfinding signage, and lighting) and trailhead facilities.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$\$-\$
D2.2	Install child/cargo-friendly bike racks and parking corrals at all city and park facilities.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	League of American Bicyclists' Community Spark Grant	\$
D2.3	Enhance existing trails and sidewalks to meet adopted design standards.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$\$
D2.4	Connect existing surface street trails and fill in sidewalk gaps throughout the city, while meeting accessibility standards.	Extended-term (10-15 Years)	TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Economy for Rural Communities	\$\$\$
D2.5	Reconfigure downtown streetscapes into pedestrian-centric and cycling-friendly corridors, extending west-to-east to link greenbelts.	Extended-term (10-15 Years)	TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Economy for Rural Communities, FHWA's Active Transportation Funding and Financing Toolkit	\$\$\$\$
D3.0	Implement maintenance of the GEDC property south of QuikTrip and Gunter St. as a greenway open space with tree-trimming and regular mowing.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$
D3.1	Add a dirt trail to be improved in the future.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$
D3.2	Establish use agreements with property owners and acquire all land parcels necessary for greenway extension along the former railway.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		\$
D3.3	In accordance with the City Trail Facilities Design Standards construct a shared use path along the old M-K-T Railway with trailheads and amenities.	Long-term (5-10 Years)	FHWA's Active Transportation Funding and Financing Toolkit, TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$\$\$
D4	Extend the Pecan Creek Greenway (and shared use path) north to the Wal-Mart	Long-term (5-10 Years)	FHWA's Active Transportation Funding and Financing Toolkit, TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Walmart Spark Good Local Grant	\$\$\$
D5, (B5.2, B5.3)	Establish the Elm Fork Greenway (and shared use path) by passing under the California St bridge to extend southwards and under the I-35, connecting to Keneteso Park.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	FHWA's Active Transportation Funding and Financing Toolkit, TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$\$\$
D6.0	Establish a greenway along Wheeler Creek reaching south to the Homegrown Hero Trail, anchored by a new Nature Preserve at E. Broadway St.	Extended-term (10-15 Years)	FHWA's Active Transportation Funding and Financing Toolkit, TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$\$
D6.1	Identify prospective greenway alignments, then select preferred easements and land parcels .	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$\$
E1.0	Pursue infill pocket park development opportunities in the downtown area.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	TPWD Local Park Grant Program, NAR Placemaking Grants	\$\$
E1.1	Explore pocket park potential at the grassy NE corner of 200 S Rusk St, adjacent to Red River St.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	NAR Placemaking Grants	\$\$-\$
E1.2	Convert some of the parking lot at the SE corner of Rusk and Broadway into a pocket park showcasing the "The Gnarly Tree" Bois D'Arc for visitor photo opportunities.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	NAR Placemaking Grants	\$\$-\$
E1.3, (D2.5)	Explore conversion of Red River St. into a shared street between Church St. and Broadway St.	Long-term (5-10 Years)	TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Economy for Rural Communities, NAR Placemaking Grants	\$\$\$

Priority	Implementation Items	Timeframe Opinion	Potential Resources	Cost Opinion
E2	Evaluate additional prospective new park locations based on equity mapping analysis and public input. Prioritize funding for acquisition and development of land parcels designated for new parks in underserved areas of the city, particularly in the northern half.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$\$
E3.0	Establish standard amenities for new park development, to be included at initial completion or added in a later phase if necessary.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$
E3.1	Require at least one pavilion and one walking loop at all new Community Parks.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$\$
E3.2	Require at least one shaded combination accessible drinking fountain/filling station/watering station at all new facilities.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	Safran Corporate Foundation for Integration	\$
E3.3	Require at least one permanent accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking and playgrounds) at all new Community Parks, Plazas, Trailheads, and Water-Play Facilities; Where unfeasible, partner with an adjacent business to provide public access to restrooms. Provide accessible portable toilets to fill gaps with large walking distances.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	Safran Corporate Foundation for Integration	\$\$
E4	Select a site and design program for Gainesville's next new city park at an underserved location in the northern half of the city.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	TPWD Local Park Grant Program	\$\$
E5	Secure project development funding and services.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	TPWD Local Park Grant Program	\$\$\$
X1	Under the guidance of a city accessibility advisory board, retrofit all existing park facilities to be fully ADA-accessible.	Long-term (5-10 Years)	Safran Corporate Foundation for Integration	\$\$
X2	Develop and fund diversified programming targeted to serve a full range of user groups. Increase staffing accordingly	Extended-term (10-15 Years)		\$\$
X3	Invest in Gainesville's urban forest health. Using tree-mapping software, incorporate all tree maintenance best practices into a comprehensive tree planting and maintenance plan, tracking all trees on city properties. Set scheduled prioritized planting during optimal planting seasons, giving first priority to expired shade tree replacements in city parks and street tree planters.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$
X4	Promote the value of Gainesville's urban forest. Host Texas Arbor Day community tree-planting events. Implement an ongoing Street Tree Rebate Program for native trees, and a Schedule of Fines for negligent damage and destruction of downtown street trees. Reduce new development tree preservation exemptions, and charge tree mitigation fees.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	H-E-B Trees for Texans, Texas A&M Forest Service Community Forestry Grants, APAC: Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program, Vibrant Cities Lab, City Forest Credits	\$

Figure 8.2. Implementation Matrix: System-wide & New Facilities

Priority	Implementation Items	Timeframe Opinion	Potential Resources	Cost Opinion	Unit Improvements
KP1, (B1.1)	Acquire property north of Kenetso Park to increase total acreage.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$	\$19M - \$26M
KP2, (B1.2)	Relocate ballfields from Leonard Park to the expansion area.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation (YDF) Grant, Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation Grant	\$	
KP3	Continue developing existing facilities into a regional soccer complex with field lighting. Explore the addition of Mini-Pitch Soccer or Futsal.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	Musco Sports Lighting/US Soccer Foundation's Soccer Fund, FC Dallas Foundation's Community Action Grant	\$	
KP4, (B5.2)	Connect to Leonard Park via an Elm Fork Greenway shared use path, providing fishing and put-in facilities where suitable.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)	\$\$\$	
KP5	Implement planned pond improvements.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
KP6	Provide a full-scale network of walking loops and picnic areas, including gravel trails.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$	
KP7	Add fee-based use campsites adjacent to ponds.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$	
KP8	Integrate a competition-level disc golf course to serve as a regional attraction.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	Houck Design	\$\$	
KP9	Open a vehicular entrance at Lindsay St. to alleviate traffic on Weaver St. during peak use. Connect the new entrance to existing parking areas.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
MOH1	Identify/Implement a design intervention to mitigate freeway noise, such as buffer plantings and acoustic paneling.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	Vanec	\$	\$25K - \$50K* (does not include MOH Blvd.)
MOH20, (D2.5)	Connect to the downtown square with the creation of a pedestrian promenade along the south side of Main St. from Chestnut St. to Schopmeyer St.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		\$	
MOH21	Widen the north side Medal of Honor Boulevard and south side Main Street sidewalks with enhanced paving treatments and raised crosswalks. Sidewalk cross-section should include an 8'-10' wide pedestrian zone with adjacent frontage and furnishing zones (2' wide minimum).	Long-term (5-10 Years)	Shur-tite Products	\$\$\$	
MOH22	Fill in street lighting gaps along promenade length.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$	
MOH23	Reduce the vehicular speed limit to 20mph.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
MOH24	Where feasible, provide clearly marked bicycle lanes and ample, evenly distributed bicycle parking.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	League of American Bicyclists' Community Spark Grant, Shur-tite Products	\$	
MOH25	Include street trees, landscaping planters, and green stormwater infrastructure.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$	
FM1	Anchor street fair events at the market, closing adjacent streets to car traffic.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	(Not included)
FM2	Organize/Host autumn and spring battle of the bands festivals to promote a local music scene.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
FM3	Add shade-sail awnings over the artificial turf and picnic table areas.	Long-term (5-10 Years)	AAD's Shade Structure Grant Program	\$	
FM4	Improve pedestrian facilities between Main St. and the Farmers Market along Chestnut St., including widened sidewalks and textured, enhanced crosswalk paving at intersections.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$\$-\$\$\$	
BPD1	Add an accessible concrete sidewalk walking loop.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	\$32K - \$40K
BPD2	Playground improvements should target full accessibility and the inclusion of underserved age groups.	Long-term (5-10 Years)	KABOOM!	\$	
BPD3	Install native plant landscape beds to enhance the existing monument.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
BTW1	Engage community stakeholders to acknowledge site heritage appropriately, possibly through a public art project.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	\$325K - \$400K
BTW2	Add community garden facilities.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	Kidsgardening.org Youth Garden Grant	\$	
BTW3	Identify and develop needed play facilities in support of the adjacent childcare facility users and underserved age groups.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	KABOOM!	\$	
KJ1	Upgrade loop fitness facilities to an outdoor gym for teens and adults.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	The Kiwanis Children's Fund, BNSF Railway Foundation Grants	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$200K - \$250K
PC1	Replace existing playground equipment with accessible equipment in order to include all age groups and user abilities.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	KABOOM!, Safran Corporate Foundation for Integration, BNSF Railway Foundation Grants, GameTime Community Champions Playground Grant	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$425K - \$500K
PC2	Construct a permanent accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking and playgrounds)	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		\$	
PC3	Add a sport court as selected by neighboring residents	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$\$	
PC4	Rebrand Pecan Creek as a greenbelt with added/updated interpretive learning stations.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
PC5	Consider merging Kiwanis Park and Pecan Creek Park as a single unit under the Kiwanis Pecan Creek Greenway name (or something simpler) to clarify identity.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	

Priority	Implementation Items	Timeframe Opinion	Potential Resources	Cost Opinion	Unit Improvements
PC6	Upgrade/Expand parking areas.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$-\$	
SP1	Add new movable features as voted by users.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
SP2	Add parking capacity.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$-\$	\$50K - \$80K
SP3	Add a bowl or pipe feature.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$-\$	
GB1	Add street parking along Main St.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
GB2	Add sidewalk paving and landscape plantings to enhance the existing memorials.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	\$125K - \$175K
GB3	Develop heritage and holiday programming to bring events to the park.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
HN1	Reconfigure Denison St. as a low-speed one-way shared street (a.k.a. Woonef with reduced speed limits, curb elimination, centerline storm drains, increased landscaping, bollards, and raised crosswalks)	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		\$-\$-\$-\$	
HN2	Add angled head-in parking along Broadway St. and repair railway crossing sidewalks.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	BNSF Railway Foundation Grants	\$-\$	\$250K - \$300K* (Doesn't include street upgrades)
HN3	Extend the fencing of the small-dog area northwards to increase capacity	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
HN4	Extend the existing shade structure lengthwise to increase its footprint.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
HN5	Add challenging new dog play equipment (preferably railroad-themed) in the large dog area.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	BNSF Railway Foundation Grants	\$	
HN6	Explore the addition of a permanent, small, dog-friendly, accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking).	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$-\$	
HS1	Add a water feature and tree lighting to address safety and activate space	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		\$-\$	
HS2	Restore or replace the existing mosaic with new public art (possibly integrated with water element)	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$-\$-\$	\$175K - \$250K
HS3	Implement pedestrian crossing improvements across California St. at Denison St., such as textured, raised crosswalks and/or rapid flash beacons.	Extended-term (10-15 Years)	Shur-tite Products	\$-\$	
HS4	Extend Denison St. shared street improvements southwards along the east park boundary through the Main St pedestrian crossing.	Extended-term (10-15 Years)		\$-\$-\$-\$	
FC1	Develop a comprehensive cemetery reinvestment master plan, including a paving replacement plan which considers the use of permeable pavers.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	(Not included)
FC2	Enhance entries, seating areas, the chapel, and pavilion area with perennial plantings.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
FC3.0	Implement user comfort improvements.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
FC3.1	Plant infill shade trees along the entry and north-south allees.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
FC3.2	Add park benches where shade currently exists.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
FC3.3	Construct accessible public restrooms near the pavilion and chapel.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$-\$	
EP1.0	Rearrange existing tables, benches, grills, and playground equipment to more shaded locations.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	\$1.2M - \$1.5M
EP1.1	Replace and upgrade play equipment as soon as feasible.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	KABOOM!	\$-\$-\$-\$	
EP2	Construct a permanent accessible public restroom (convenient to accessible parking and playgrounds).	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		\$-\$	
EP3	Phase-out ballfields as demand diminishes to make way for cemetery expansion.	Long-term (5-10 Years)		\$	
EP4	Based on cemetery demand projections and ballfield phaseout timeline, renovate remaining park acreage to support active recreation in the southeast corner and passive recreation elsewhere.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		\$-\$-\$-\$	
EP5	Plant new shade trees as an extension of the north-south cemetery allee, as well as enhancements surrounding the hard courts.	Near-term (1-3 Years)	H-E-B Trees for Texans, Texas A&M Forest Service Community Forestry Grants, APAC: Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program, Vibrant Cities Lab, City Forest Credits	\$	
EP6.0	Expand the existing hard court offering to increase basketball and volleyball capacity, as well as introduce pickleball.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$-\$	
EP6.1	Buffer the cemetery experience from active recreation sounds with landscape design strategies.	Near-term (1-3 Years)		\$	
EP7	Add a landscaped central pond feature with an illuminated aerator fountain as a terminus for the north-south cemetery allee. Include public art elements.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)		\$-\$	
HH1	In accordance with the City Trail Facilities Design Standards, extend the Homegrown Hero Trail eastwards to Radio Hill Rd, and the Liberty Pointe Park & Trail.	Mid-term (3-5 Years)	TA Set-Aside Program, Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$-\$-\$-\$	(Not included)

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Appendix

NRPA Benchmarking Tables

MILES OF TRAILS (Median) by Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies		Gainesville, TX
Population		Less Than 20,000	17,066
Trails			1
Median	17	4	1.47
Lower quartile	6	2	
Upper quartile	50	10	

OUTDOOR PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES
by Prevalence and Population per Facility.

Facility Types	Median Number of Residents per Facility (RpF)			RpF	Facility Count	Meets or Exceed Median RpF for pop. 20,000?
	Percent of Agencies	Population of Jurisdiction		17,066		
		All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX		
Playgrounds	94%	3737	2000	2,438	7	unmet
Basketball courts*	85%	8500	4479	8,533	2	unmet
Diamond fields	80%	4749	1958	1,551	11	meets/exceeds
Rectangular fields	77%	5946	2578	2,133	8	meets/exceeds
Tennis courts*	74%	6794	3500	0	0	unmet
Dog parks	70%	47247	10188	17,066	1	unmet
Community garden plots	54%	35065	8800	0	0	unmet
Swimming pools	49%	46800	9745	0	0	unmet
Skate parks	47%	55772	10776	17,066	1	unmet
Pickleball courts*	45%	10419	3483	4,267	4	unmet
Volleyball courts*	41%	26904	7057	8,533	2	unmet
Fitness zones+	39%	32044	8274	17,066	1	unmet
Multiuse courts^	38%	23739	3900	0	0	unmet
Splash pads+	38%	49392	13391	17,066	1	unmet
Multiuse racquet courts^	38%	16776	4659	0	0	unmet
Walking/Running tracks+	36%	17724	6129	17,066	1	unmet
Disc golf courses	35%	66923	9402	17,066	1	unmet
Driving range stations	31%	25284	3548	0	0	unmet
18-hole golf courses	31%	97892	11904	17,066	1	unmet
Synthetic fields+	17%	46833	11028	17,066	1	unmet
Ice rinks	17%	19533	8338	0	0	unmet
Nine-hole golf courses	16%	119000	17500	0	0	unmet
Overlay fields	14%	18598	7932	0	0	unmet
Waterparks	12%	82108	17125	17,066	1	meets/exceeds
Racquetball / Handball / Squash courts	9%	48668	14000	0	0	unmet

INDOOR PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES
by Prevalence and Population per Facility.

Facility Types	Median Number of Residents per Facility (RpF)			RpF	Facility Count	Meets or Exceed Median RpF for pop. 20,000?
	Percent of Agencies	Population of Jurisdiction		17,066		
		All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX		
Multiuse courts^	29%	23273	5250	0	0	unmet
Competitive swimming pool	23%	67376	10224	0	0	unmet
Basketball courts*	21%	26534	5188	8,533	2	unmet
Leisure pools	20%	75073	11625	17,066	1	unmet
Walking/Running tracks+	18%	54237	11625	0	0	unmet
Pickleball courts*	17%	18439	4625	4,267	4	meets/exceeds
Multiuse racquet courts^	15%	15220	5000	0	0	unmet
Therapeutic pools	13%	92833	13000	0	0	unmet
Racquetball / Handball / Squ	10%	41017	10776	0	0	unmet
Tennis courts*	5%	19286	n/a	0	0	unmet

PROGRAMMING OFFERED BY AGENCIES

(Percent of Agencies)

	All Agencies	Gainesville, TX
Themed special events	91	Yes
Social recreation events	88	Yes
Team sports	86	Yes
Health and wellness education	82	
Fitness enhancement classes	82	
Individual sports	76	Yes
Racquet sports	76	Yes
Safety training	71	
Natural and cultural history activities	70	
Aquatics	68	Yes
Cultural crafts	67	
Visual arts	65	
Performing arts	64	
Trips and tours	63	
Martial arts	57	
Running/Cycling races	55	Yes
Golf	50	Yes
Esports/Egaming	27	

PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON CHILDREN, OLDER ADULTS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Program Type	Percent of Agencies	Population	17,066
		Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Summer Camp	83%	93%	unmet
Specific older adult programs	77%	85%	Yes
Specific teen programs	68%	82%	unmet
Programs for people with disabilities	67%	85%	unmet
STEM programs	60%	77%	unmet
After-school programs	54%	74%	unmet
Preschool	33%	41%	unmet
Before-school programs	18%	23%	unmet
Full-day care	8%	12%	unmet

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES (Percent of Agencies)		
	All Agencies	Gainesville, TX
Park sites	98%	Yes
Recreation programming and services	93%	Yes
Indoor facilities	93%	Yes
Trails, greenways, and/or blueways	88%	Yes
Jurisdiction-wide special events	82%	Yes
Racquet sport activities/courts/facilities	80%	Yes
Special purpose parks and open spaces	76%	Yes
Non-park sites	70%	Yes
Outdoor swim facilities/water parks	67%	Yes
Tournament/Event-quality outdoor sports complexes	56%	Yes
Community gardens	50%	
Tourism attractions	40%	Yes
Golf courses	38%	Yes
Large performance outdoor amphitheaters	35%	
Indoor swim facilities/water parks	32%	
Beaches (all waterbody types)	27%	
Farmers markets	22%	Yes
Campgrounds	22%	
Tournament/Event-quality indoor sports complexes	21%	
Indoor performing arts centers	19%	
Marinas	13%	
Professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack	10%	
Fairgrounds	6%	

AGENCY STAFFING: FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTE)
(Median) by Jurisdiction Population

	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Median	59.2	13.8	10
Lower quartile	20.5	6	
Upper quartile	161.4	32.1	

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTE) PER 10,000 RESIDENTS
(Median) by Jurisdiction Population

	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Median	8.6	13.7	5.86
Lower quartile	5	7	
Upper quartile	15.9	26.6	

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES
(Rounded Median) by Jurisdiction Population

	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Median	\$7,225,000	\$1,452,000	\$1,300,000
Lower quartile	\$2,376,000	\$665,000	
Upper quartile	\$18,753,000	\$3,028,000	

OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER CAPITA
(Median) by Jurisdiction Population

	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Median	\$103.13	\$139.87	\$76.17
Lower quartile	\$58.50	\$76.04	
Upper quartile	\$187.80	\$284.49	

OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER ACRE (Median) by Jurisdiction Population					
			Gainesville, TX		
Budget	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	\$1,300,000		
Acres			466.88		
Median	\$8,577	\$9,512	\$2,784		
Lower quartile	\$4,294	\$3,446			
Upper quartile	\$19,970	\$27,711			
OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) (Median) by Jurisdiction Population					
			Gainesville, TX		
Budget	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	\$1,300,000	<\$1 million	
FTEs			59.2	13.8	10
Median	\$118,150	\$107,982	\$130,000	\$90,065	
Lower quartile	\$91,125	\$69,889			
Upper quartile	\$150,595	\$150,036			

DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES
 (Average) Percentage Distribution of Operating Expenditures

	All Agencies	Budget less than \$500,000	Gainesville, TX \$1,300,000
Budget			
Personnel services	55%	38%	60%
Operating expenses	38%	52%	30%
Capital expense not in	6%	6%	10%
Other	2%	2%	0%

DEDICATED OPERATING EXPENDITURES
 (Average) Percentage Distribution of Operating Expenditures

	All Agencies		Gainesville, TX
Population		1+ million	17,066
Parks	38%	53%	50%
Recreation	35%	26%	30%
Administration	19%	19%	20%
Other	8%	2%	0%

SOURCES OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES (Percent Distribution of Operating Expenditures)		
	All Agencies	Gainesville, TX
General fund / Appropriations	63%	Yes
Earned revenue	20%	No
Special taxes / Levies (voter approved)	8%	No
Special taxes / Levies (non-voter approved)	4%	No
Other	3%	No
Operating grants from public agency	2%	No
Sponsorships, in-kind donations or private operating grants/donations	1%	No

PARK AND RECREATION REVENUE PER CAPITA (Median) by Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Annual Revenue	-	-	\$700,000
Median	\$28.63	\$49.67	\$41.02
Lower quartile	\$10.86	\$15.45	
Upper quartile	\$70.20	\$104.13	
REVENUE AS A PERCENTAGE OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES Percentage of Operating Expenditures by Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Median	27.2%	31.1%	\$0
Lower quartile	15.8%	16.3%	
Upper quartile	47.4%	58.7%	

ESTIMATED VALUE OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PER AGENCY (Rounded Median) by Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Median	\$1,000,000	\$125,000	\$1,200,000
Lower quartile	\$0	\$0	
Upper quartile	\$10,000,000	\$1,500,000	

FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET SPENDING (Rounded Median) by Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Gainesville, TX
Population			17,066
Median	\$12,650,000	\$2,212,000	\$1,000,000
Lower quartile	\$3,000,000	\$808,000	
Upper quartile	\$40,000,000	\$7,612,000	
TARGETS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (Average) Percentage Distribution of Capital Expenditures			
	All Agencies	Gainesville, TX	
Improvements	88%	70%	
Acquisitions	9%	30%	
Other	3%	0%	

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES IMPROVEMENT DOLLARS (Average) Percentage Distribution of Improvement Dollars			
	All Agencies	Gainesville, TX	
Renovation	65%	70%	
New Development	35%	30%	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES IMPROVEMENT DOLLARS (Average) Percentage Distribution of Improvement Dollars			
	All Agencies	Gainesville, TX	
Parks	70%	60%	
Buildings	30%	40%	