

# Parks and Recreation



# City of Plano COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

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## Purpose

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

### PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT



Haggard Park

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to provide a general, visionary document to guide decision makers regarding issues related to Parks and Recreation facilities. The element identifies the key factors, trends and issues affecting parks and recreation and establishes objectives and strategies to address them. It also includes a Master Plan for parks that identifies existing properties and facilities and general locations for future facilities.



## Major Themes

### MAJOR THEMES

#### **Theme I – Livable City**

The City of Plano is nationally recognized for the provision of excellent services and facilities. “Livable City” focuses on the attributes of the parks and recreation system that enhance the quality of life of the city.

#### **Theme II – City of Organized Development**

The Parks and Recreation Department has a wide range of properties and facilities throughout the city. The City of Organized Development section defines the components of Plano's parks and recreation system and establishes a framework for its development.

#### **Theme III – City in Transition**

The City in Transition section is all about change. Most of the land in the city has been developed. The composition of Plano's population is changing. This section of the element will explore how changes in the city's population and development trends will impact service provision, facility requirements, funding, and property acquisition.

## Theme I

### THEME I – LIVABLE CITY

#### *Recreational Opportunities*

The City of Plano provides a wide range of active and passive recreational facilities for its residents. One can enjoy a scenic nature preserve; hike or bike along an extensive trail system; play in an organized athletic league; or work out in a weight room. Plano's parks and recreation facilities are designed to support active healthy lifestyles and enhance the community's visual appearance. The city should continue to explore options to acquire and develop park facilities that are in close proximity to residential areas. These facilities should be consistent with the park hierarchy described in Theme II.

#### *Community Gathering Places*

Social interaction is a critical consideration when developing a city. Parks and recreation facilities near residential areas provide a place for people to gather and interact in formal and informal settings. The recreation centers have rooms that can be used to host formal meetings for organizations. Water features, park benches, picnic areas and pavilions are amenities that can encourage informal social interaction. The city should emphasize the importance of parks and recreation facilities as "community building" tools that bring people together in a variety of settings.

#### *Open Space*

Abundant open space within a city enhances quality of life. Open spaces such as parks and natural areas provide relief from the built environment. Some of Plano's parks and natural areas offer scenic vistas for people traveling along the major travel routes of the city. Landscaped medians and right-of-ways often enhance and extend the feeling of open space in the community. Plano's nature preserves are a source of the city's heritage and a glimpse of how the area may have appeared before human settlement. They also provide an opportunity to connect with and learn about the natural environment and ecologically sensitive areas. Although opportunities are limited, the city should continue its efforts to acquire and utilize properties that preserve natural features and make them available to the community.



Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve

### ***Parks as an Urban Design Component***

The locations of park facilities in Plano have been incorporated into the urban design framework of the city. Linear parks preserve the city's natural areas adjacent to creek corridors and link schools, recreational facilities, and residential neighborhoods. Trails within linear parks connect with on-street bicycle routes and to trails in adjacent cities to serve as an alternative transportation network within the area. Parks located near schools in the heart of Plano's residential neighborhoods serve as community gathering places. Nature preserves protect the wooded areas of the city that are located within the floodplains of major creeks.

#### ***Objectives for Theme I - Livable City***

- **Objective A.1** Encourage healthy lifestyles through the provision of recreation facilities and activities.
- **Objective A.2** Provide places for social interaction and community gatherings.
- **Objective A.3** Provide for relief from the built environment through the acquisition and maintenance of open areas and natural settings.

### ***Strategies for Theme I - Livable City***

- **Strategy A.1** Develop and maintain a comprehensive system of park, recreational, fitness, athletic, and sports facilities, and programs that keeps pace with the city's changing demographics.
- **Strategy A.2** Provide for indoor and outdoor facilities that support formal gatherings and organized events.
- **Strategy A.3** Design and locate park facilities that encourage informal gatherings. Elements such as water features, pavilions, seating areas and courtyards can help bring people together.
- **Strategy A.4** Provide open spaces, trails, and other facilities that support informal activities.
- **Strategy A.5** Provide park areas that create scenic vistas from major routes of travel in the city.

## Theme II

### THEME II – CITY OF ORGANIZED DEVELOPMENT

#### *Park Hierarchy and System Planning*

Plano's park and open space system consists of five classifications: neighborhood parks, linear parks, community parks, open space preserves, and special use areas. The city also has standards based on population that have been used to determine the amount of parkland, number of park facilities, athletic fields, and recreation facilities required to meet the demand of Plano's projected population.

Appendix A provides a listing of parks by classification. Appendix B is a general list of amenities found within the different classifications of parks.



Blue Ridge Park

#### *Neighborhood Parks*

A total of 31 neighborhood parks serve Plano's residential areas with a variety of passive and active recreational places. These parks are typically seven to ten acres in size and serve residential neighborhoods found throughout the city. This neighborhood setting is characterized by a land area of approximately one square mile bounded by six-lane divided thoroughfares with school and park sites near the center, low-density housing on the interior, medium- and high-density housing along the edges, and office and retail operations at the intersections of the major thoroughfares where they serve other neighborhoods, as well.

Wherever possible, neighborhood parks have been combined with elementary schools to maximize the use of both facilities. Combined neighborhood parks and schools provide for shared parking, ball fields, playgrounds and other facilities. This helps the parks better serve as gathering places for the residential neighborhoods.

Neighborhood parks can play an important role in urban design. They function as activity centers and focal points for neighborhoods (see Urban Design element). One of the issues for neighborhood parks is making these facilities more appealing. The Parks and Recreation Department is addressing this issue by continuing to plant large trees to improve shade throughout the park system and studying other ways to make the neighborhood parks more inviting and amenable to serve group activities.





Big Lake Park

### ***Linear Parks***

The city has 15 linear parks that serve as links between residential areas, schools, libraries and other park facilities. They also provide practical alternatives for land that would otherwise go unused. Linear Parks are located within creek corridors, major utility easements, street right-of-ways and rail corridors. They provide breaks in the urban development pattern, conserve ecologically unique areas, and provide long stretches of open space and recreational trails. Some greenbelts lack land outside of the flood plain. As a result, they are often unusable during rainy periods and their slopes limit recreational activities within them. Additional land, where possible, should be acquired along creek corridors to enhance the usability of linear parks.



Liberty Park Recreation Center

### ***Community Parks***

There are 23 community parks in Plano. They are usually 25 or more acres in size and generally serve a three mile radius or specific community needs. Community parks have active and passive recreational facilities and may also contain large passive open space areas suited to recreational trails and picnic areas beyond what is found in a neighborhood park. They also provide visual breaks in Plano's urban setting, particularly when located along major thoroughfares. Many community parks are contiguous to linear parks that connect them with residential neighborhoods. Community parks frequently contain major lighted athletic facilities used for scheduled leagues and tournaments. Community parks may also contain recreation centers and are usually located adjacent to senior high schools, high schools, and middle schools. As demand continues to grow for features such as dog parks, skate parks, and other emerging recreation activities, community parks will most likely be used to provide these services. New facilities will need to be carefully located and designed

so that they do not conflict with existing uses and facilities at a given park or adjacent development.



Observation Tower at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve

### ***Open Space Preserves***

Open space preserves serve active and passive recreational needs and provide for cultural activities as well. These facilities preserve ecologically sensitive areas and provide opportunities for interaction with the natural environment. Therefore, any improvements at these parks must be carefully integrated into the environment and intensive uses such as athletic facilities should not be included. Arbor Hills Nature Preserve in western Plano, along with Bob Woodruff Park, and Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve in eastern Plano serve as the three open space preserves within the city. In addition to public open spaces, Connemara, a private regional nature preserve, provides permanent open space in north central Plano.



Veteran's Memorial

### ***Special Use Areas***

Special Use Areas are varied and unique in size, use and design. These areas include facilities such as museums, cemeteries, memorials and urban plazas. This classification also includes parks that do not readily fit within the other park categories such as tennis centers and facilities located on school property. There are nine special use areas in Plano.



Pecan Hollow Golf Course

## ***Golf Courses***

The provision of municipal public golf courses is common with cities throughout the United States. The City of Plano has two golf courses: Pecan Hollow and Ridgeview Ranch. Pecan Hollow, an 18 hole course, is owned and operated by the city. Ridgeview Ranch Golf Course was built on city park land by a private developer and is operated under a long term lease agreement. This relationship allowed the city to provide a second 18 hole golf course to the public without incurring the initial expense of constructing the course.

## ***Completion of the Parks System***

Goals for parks and recreation facilities that were established at the beginning of Plano's rapid growth in the 1960's and 70's have been continuously updated and implemented. Accomplishing these goals has required an ongoing commitment from elected officials, appointed boards and commissions, city staff, and residents. Completion of the Plano's park system requires continued commitment of all the city's recreation stakeholders.

Through an ongoing process of community input and benchmarking against other cities around the country, Plano has established a general guideline of providing at least 15 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. Neighboring cities and Collin County have adopted similar goals and this standard is consistent with best practices of cities around the country. As of January 1, 2013, Plano has a population of 264,910 residents and 4,002 acres of parkland, which meets the goal for acres of park land per 1,000 residents. The additional park sites and facilities included in the 2012 Park

Master Plan will be necessary to complete the city's park system and serve a projected population of 280,000 residents.

In the last five years, the city has completed acquisition of the 117 acre Windhaven Meadows Park and the 51 acre South Central Community Park Site. These two sites provide open space in previously underserved areas of the city. One large tract of land is required along Rowlett Creek in order to complete Plano's section of the regional Rowlett Creek Greenbelt. In addition, there are many small parcels of land needed in order to complete the city's trail system. Failure to acquire the land will result in gaps in the trail system and missed opportunities to connect to adjacent cities, in accordance with the Six Cities Trail Plan and the Collin County Regional Trail Plan.

Additional land may also be needed to serve new residential development in areas of the city previously zoned for other uses. Specific details of the proposed development and proximity to existing parks should be studied when the rezoning request is submitted to ensure new residents receive the same quality and availability of facilities as existing residents.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall identify and prioritize projects required to complete the city's park system. Projects receiving the highest priority should be considered for inclusion within the fiscal year budget proposals and future bond elections.

Plano residents approved a bond referendum in 2009, which provides \$48,650,000 in bond authority for park improvements and \$24,100,000 in bond authority for recreation center

improvements. Several of those projects have been delayed due to lack of funding to support the staffing, operation and maintenance of those facilities. In 2013, residents approved an additional bond referendum, which provides \$27,000,000 in bond authority for park improvements and \$12,500,000 in bond authority for recreation center improvements. Both of these programs include funding for new facilities as well as funding for renovation or expansion of existing facilities. The projects included in these bond referendums are listed in Appendix C.

In addition to completing land acquisitions and construction of major facilities, it will be important for Plano to move forward with finalizing the development of individual parks within the park system. Additional trees, shade structures, sidewalks, and other amenities are still needed in many parks throughout the city. Rapid growth in previous decades spread resources thin and many parks received only basic improvements. Tables 1 and 2 contain projections for additional park land and facilities, respectively.

Despite the city's best efforts to plan in advance for the long term recreational needs of the community, unexpected opportunities and challenges will arise. Flexibility will be critical as changing demographics and other trends place unexpected demands on Plano's recreational assets. The city should strongly consider opportunities that may arise to acquire land, buildings, or other facilities that will address new recreation demands or further the preservation of open space.

In contrast, the city may be asked to assume ownership and/or maintenance of private amenities such as swimming pools

and common areas in residential subdivisions. In most cases, these facilities are not appropriately designed, located, and sized to meet the requirements for public facilities. Although such facilities may be a financial burden to a homeowners' association, the city should not accept such donation merely to relieve another entity of a financial burden.

### ***Objectives for Theme II - City of Organized Development***

- **Objective B.1** Provide for a wide range of passive, active, formal and informal recreation activities in appropriate locations across the city.
- **Objective B.2** Use neighborhood parks as a focal point and activity centers for Plano's residential areas.
- **Objective B.3** Use linear parks to link key public and private activity centers with residential areas.



**Strategies for Theme II - City of Organized Development**

- **Strategy B.1** Develop and maintain a comprehensive program of parks and recreation facilities based on the park classification system and master plan that includes current facilities and approximate locations for future facilities.
- **Strategy B.2** Evaluate zoning changes that may affect the location and demand for parks and recreation facilities in areas not previously identified on the Park Master Plan.
- **Strategy B.3** Identify and prioritize projects required to complete the park system for inclusion in the Community Investment Program (CIP) fiscal year budget and future bond elections.
- **Strategy B.4** Prevent unnecessary demands on park and recreation resources by refusing private donations of open space or facilities that do not conform to the objectives and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan or address unanticipated gaps and shortages in the system.
- **Strategy B.5** Acquire remaining properties to complete the trail system within Plano and link with systems in other cities.
- **Strategy B.6** Strongly consider the acquisition of land, buildings, and other facilities not specifically identified in the Parks and Recreation Element, if they can meet changing needs of the city.

## Park Land Projections

**Table 1**

### Park Land Projections

	Current		Projected Needs for Build-out Population of 280,000	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Open Space Preserves	3	1323.87	3	1,350.00
Community Parks	23	1280.05	24	1487.00
Golf Courses	2	461.06	2	461.06
Linear Parks	15	638.58	15	721.00
Neighborhood Parks	31	256.07	32	261.00
(Neighborhood Parks within	*(24)	*(168)	*(24)	*(168)
Special Use Parks	9	42.70	9	42.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>4,002.33</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>4,322.76</b>

Current and projected park land acres exceed 15 acres per 1,000 population.

\* These numbers are already included in totals for other parks.

Source: City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department

## Park and Recreation Facility Projections

**Table 2**

**Park and Recreation Facility Projections**

Facility	Current	Projected Needs for Build-out Population of 280,000
<i>Amphitheaters</i>	1	1
<i>Athletic Fields:</i>		
<i>Ball Fields</i>	71	59
Cricket Pitches	7	12
Turf Sports Fields*	110	112
<i>Championship Youth Ball Parks</i>	1	1
<i>Dog Parks</i>	1	3
<i>Frisbee Golf Holes</i>	9	18
<i>Golf Courses:</i>		
No. of Holes	36	36
<i>Park Centers</i>	0	1
<i>Performance Venues</i>	2	2
<i>Playgrounds</i>	72	76
<i>Recreation Centers:</i>		
School-Based	0	0
Stand-Alone	5	5

<i>Recreational Trail Miles</i>	70	95
<i>Reservation Pavilions</i>	11	14
<i>Sand Volleyball Courts</i>	8	14
<i>Senior Recreation Centers</i>	1	1
<i>Skate Parks</i>	0	2
<i>Outdoor Spray Grounds</i>	0	3
<i>Off-Road Bicycle Trails</i>	1	2
<i>Swimming Facilities:</i>		
Indoor	4	5
Outdoor	4	4
<i>Tennis Facilities:</i>		
Tennis Center Courts	21	21
School Courts Lighted	21	21
School Courts Unlighted	63	63

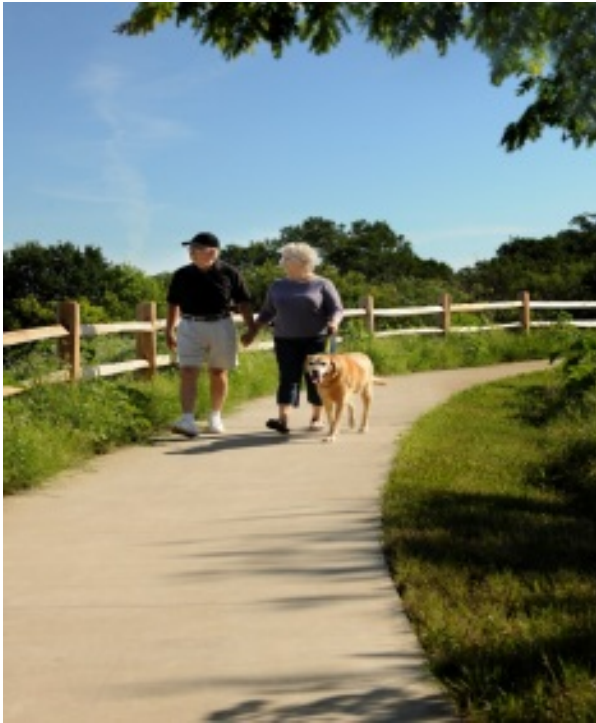
\* Turf Sports fields are used for football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and other similar sports.

Source: City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department



## Theme III

### THEME III – CITY IN TRANSITION



Arbor Hills Nature Preserve

#### ***Changing Demographics***

Demographic data for Plano from the U. S. Census Bureau indicates that the city's population continues to change. The percentage of the population that identified themselves as a member of a minority ethnicity or race has increased from 8.5% in 1980 to 41.6% in 2010. Foreign born populations are increasing in Plano and many American suburbs.

Many immigrants now move directly to the suburbs rather than central cities like Dallas to take advantage of the educational and

economic opportunities found there. Plano residents born outside of the United States increased from 7.5% in 1990 to 24.5% in 2010. Another national trend is an aging population. This trend is also on the rise in Plano where the median age increased from 27.4 years in 1980 to 37.2 years in 2010. It is projected that by 2020, over 45% of the city's residents could be over the age of 45 years.

The city shall continue to monitor demographic and social trends of its residents as they will affect the type of facilities and services the Parks and Recreation Department provides. Demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey is available for Plano on an annual basis, providing updated population characteristics between decennial censuses. It is also important to continue to learn about changing expectations and values of the city's population through local research.

Changing demographics have an impact on Parks and Recreation programming and facilities. Plano is now providing services and facilities that it did not consider in past decades. Cricket pitches have been added to athletic sites and table tennis and badminton have become popular activities at recreation centers. Passive outdoor spaces are often used for tai chi and other similar activities.

The existing Senior Recreation Center is experiencing overcrowding and additional space is needed for a growing number of older senior adults. At the same time, industry trends and research suggest aging baby boomers may not be ready to use the Senior Recreation Center for many years. Their preference to continue using the city's other recreation centers is creating a

demand for changing programming and equipment at these facilities to serve residents of all ages.



Cricket Pitch at Russell Creek Park

Many people who played youth soccer have now reached adulthood and created a demand for adult soccer opportunities. Changing lifestyles and family dynamics have significantly increased parking demands at athletics sites as parents, grandparents, and other family members may all drive in separate vehicles to watch children participate in sporting events.

### ***Changing Recreation Needs***

Demographics are not the only change that can affect recreational demands; local, regional, and national recreation trends continue to have an impact on requested activities and facilities. In the most recent community survey, residents identified outdoor special events and water sports as the activities they would most like to see added to Plano's parks and recreation programming. Participation in running events such as 5k and 10k races has increased

dramatically in recent years. Bicycling for exercise and recreation also continues to grow in popularity despite increased traffic and congestion on the city's roadways.

Many residents now expect high quality facilities for casual pickup games for outdoor sports such as soccer and football in the same way they have in the past for activities such as basketball or volleyball. Expectations for higher quality practice spaces have created additional demands on athletic facilities and practice areas in neighborhood parks. Demand for shade at playgrounds and over spectator seating at athletic facilities continues to grow along with the desire for additional skate parks, dog parks, spray grounds, BMX parks, fitness trails, off road bicycle trails, soft surface jogging trails, and spaces for fitness boot camps. Demands for multiuse trails near employment centers have also increased in recent years.

Another major trend that is affecting Plano's parks is the large number of non-residents using the city's athletic facilities. Over the last several decades, Plano has constructed many high quality athletic facilities to serve a growing number of youth sports participants within the city. In recent years, the percentage of non-resident users has increased dramatically. This may be attributed to rapid growth in neighboring cities and the inability of these communities to provide facilities for their residents along with the regional nature of many sports organizations and leagues.

Technology continues to change the way we live, work and play. Bicycle routes are now identified on Google Maps and community input forums are available on-line. Face Book, Twitter and other social media provide new opportunities for

communications with the public. Signs with Quick Response (QR) codes provide interactive data that can be accessed by cell phones and other mobile devices while meetings and classes can be attended without leaving the home or office. Parks and recreation facilities, programming and equipment will need to continuously adapt to technological innovations.

Parks and recreation facilities also contribute to quality of life through preservation of health. People of all ages tend to lead a more sedentary lifestyle than in past years. The provision of recreation facilities, parklands, and trails provides Plano residents an opportunity to embrace a healthier lifestyle through engaging in physical activities and exercise.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall research trends and participate in a variety of public feedback exercises to determine services and programs desired by city residents. These activities will be ongoing for the department to plan and fund modifications to services and facilities as customer demand changes. Alterations to facilities and programs should be assessed and prioritized to respond to the highest recreation demand.

### ***Expansion versus Renovation and Maintenance***

Plano has transitioned from rapid growth to a more established city. Although private development within the city has slowed, the parks system is still not complete. Slower growth and decreased revenues have made it difficult to fund the operating cost of new facilities. Major improvements still needed to meet the community's recreational demand include: development of two new community parks, an indoor pool, expansion

of the Senior Recreation Center, skate parks, additional dog parks, athletic facilities, recreational trails, and facilities at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve.

A number of existing parks and recreation facilities have been in use for over 30 years and need maintenance and renovation. A few examples of some sites in need of updating in the near future include Carpenter Park, Jack Carter Pool, and High Point Tennis Center. The demand for new facilities and the need for renovation of existing facilities create a tension in funding priorities. It will be important for the city to continue to plan for the maintenance and renovation of existing assets while at the same time completing development of new facilities.

Maintenance and improvements of existing facilities shall be reviewed and prioritized for inclusion in the city's budget and future bond elections. Resident feedback should be a factor to identify facilities in need of updating and amenities necessary to improve existing facilities. Proposed improvements must be examined to determine if funding is available for staffing, operations, and future maintenance costs before projects are selected and recommended for fiscal year budgeting, future bond elections, and implementation.

### ***Sharing/Privatization/Innovation***

As Plano continues to mature, revenues may not be available to support new facilities and programs. It will be important to continue to look for opportunities to share facilities with other government agencies, non-profit organizations and private businesses. The city has shared facilities and land with Plano Independent School District (PISD) and Collin County has

provided funding for a number of park improvements within the City. Plano has also partnered with other recreation service vendors such as Plano Sports Authority (PSA) to construct two large indoor recreation facilities on public park land and the Boys and Girls Clubs, which now operates the Douglass Community Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall maintain an inventory of current services and compare the list with programs and activities offered by other public entities and private businesses in the city. The department will place emphasis on items that are deemed a part of its core business when determining what services should be added. This review will include: analysis of current market conditions, other providers or competition, and financial viability. From this assessment, a decision can be made as to investment in service provision, partnership with another agency to provide the service, or divesting of a service to ensure the most efficient use of limited resources in the future.

### ***Parks and Recreation Tourism***

Parks and recreation facilities have been recognized for many years for their potential to generate tourism, which provides significant economic benefits. There continues to be an interest in finding ways to use Plano's parks and recreation facilities to attract visitors to the city. The city currently hosts many regional and national athletic tournaments.

The Plano Balloon Festival at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve attracts thousands of visitors each year. A large music festival is also being considered for Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. Large running events such as half and full

marathons are also being discussed. These types of events have the potential to generate customers for local businesses and additional tax revenues for the city, create an identity for Plano as a destination place, contribute to its image as a good place to live, and attract new residents to the city.



Amphitheater at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve

However, there are challenges in using park facilities for tourism such as major special events, national athletic tournaments and other potential revenue generating activities. First, the facility may require renovation to host a major event. More seating and parking to accommodate people may be required along with other facility improvements. Second, these facilities may not be available to taxpaying residents during some of these events.

The department shall evaluate the use of parks and recreation facilities for regional and national events and identify sites appropriate for particular activities. Potential revenues for the city shall be compared with the cost associated for upgrading the site and hosting the event. During the assessment process, the expenditures



required to provide the facilities and the potential loss of service for other citizens shall be considered.

### ***Water Conservation and Sustainability***

Recent droughts and disruptions to the public water supply have increased awareness of the need to conserve limited water resources. Continued growth in North Texas will intensify this issue in the future. The Parks and Recreation Department has begun to upgrade irrigation controls and systems to improve their efficiency.

Pecan Hollow Golf Course is using recycled water from the adjacent sewage treatment plant for irrigation, thereby eliminating the need to use the City's potable water supply. Alternative sources of water should be considered whenever possible and financially feasible. Collection of storm water runoff and the use of deep water wells have been considered and may provide some limited possibilities in this area.

Other alternatives, such as on-site recycling of black water, should be explored as population growth in the area will increase the amount of this resource available for reuse. More efficient use of the existing water sources is the most practical step available at this time. Continued rethinking of the types of plants, trees, and ground covers used in many parks also provides opportunities to reduce water consumption as new sites are developed or renovation occurs.

Significant improvements in energy efficiency have been made in the past five years at recreation centers, swimming pools, park structures, and with security and athletic field lighting. More sustainable

landscapes are being planned at parks, medians, and at public buildings. A program is being developed to begin recycling of the large volumes of litter that is generated at athletic fields and other park facilities.

Maintenance practices using Conservation Buffer Zone (CBZ) concepts in floodways and natural areas have been implemented to help reduce erosion and encourage native plant growth. The Parks and Recreation Department must continue to capitalize on evolving industry knowledge and sustainable practices in a fiscally responsible manner.

### ***Objectives for Theme III - City in Transition***

- **Objective C.1** Provide for park and recreation opportunities that reflect the diverse needs of the community.
- **Objective C.2** Ensure that a balance exists between the maintenance of existing facilities and system expansion.
- **Objective C.3** Ensure long term financial stability of the city's parks and recreation facilities.

### ***Strategies for Theme III - City in Transition***

- **Strategy C.1** Examine the impact of changing demographics and recreation needs on parks and recreation facilities and programming through research of trends and gathering public feedback.
- **Strategy C.2** Identify and prioritize the needs of existing facilities versus those of proposed facilities through the annual Community Investment Program (CIP) budget process. Long term operations and maintenance costs should be factored into both.
- **Strategy C.3** Improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of providing certain programs and facilities through privatization, public/private partnerships and joint operations with other public entities. Opportunities to combine resources and create regional facilities should be explored.
- **Strategy C.4** Evaluate current facilities in terms of hosting regional and national events which could attract visitors to the city and determine the costs required to complete the necessary improvements. Analyze the benefits derived from the proposed improvements and develop an operations plan to mitigate disruption of service during events.
- **Strategy C.5** Explore alternative water sources and more efficient use of existing water resources. Identify sustainable practices that can be

applied to the development, maintenance, and operation of parks and recreation facilities.

## Appendix A

### Appendix A – Park Facilities and Classification System

Neighborhood Parks	Acres	Community Parks	Acres
Arrowhead Park	6.84	Archgate Park (8)	49.26
Blue Ridge Park	5.02	Carpenter Park* (8)	106.73
Buckhorn Park	8.00	Cheyenne Park* (5)	24.78
Caddo Park	7.72	Enfield Park* (8)	50.00
Capstone Park	8.85	Harrington Park	16.08
Clearview Park	7.50	Heritage Yards at Plano* (8)	63.90
Copper Creek Park	4.00	High Point (North)	23.78
Coyote Creek Park	13.34	High Point (South)	31.63
Douglass Park Site	0.38	Hoblitzelle Park* (6)	147.66
Eldorado Park	6.87	Jack Carter Park* (8)	72.61
Evans Park	11.00	Liberty Park* (10)	17.00
Frank W. Beverly Park	10.34	Moore Park	119.50
Glen Meadows Park	2.91	Oak Point Center	23.92
Hackberry Park	5.00	Old Shepard Place Park	20.67
Hidden Meadow Park	6.78	Preston Meadow Park *(7)	22.85
Indian Creek Park	5.31	Russell Creek Park* (10)	192.19
Lt. Russell A. Steindam Park	8.29	Schell Park* (5)	31.37
Lone Star Park	8.27	Sgt. Mike McCreary Sports Field	4.77
Longhorn Park	7.00	Shawnee Park* (8)	43.87
Parkwood Green Park	4.13	South Central Community Park Site	51.10
Prairie Meadow Park	8.14	White Rock Community Park Site	117.30
W.H. "Buzz" Razor Park	6.28	Willowcreek Park* (8)	21.74
Ridgeview Park	7.56	Windhaven Park* (10)	27.34
Shoshoni Park	3.11	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,280.05</b>
Steeplechase Park	18.75		
Stoney Hollow Park	31.02	<b>City-Wide Open Space Preserves</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Sunset Park	15.18	Arbor Hills Nature Preserve* (8)	201.12
Tejas Park	10.97	Bob Woodruff Park* (8) (8)	321.45
Timber Brook Park	8.57	Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve* (8)	801.30
Wagon Wheel Park	4.94	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,323.87</b>
Westwood Park	4.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256.07</b>	<b>Special Use Facilities</b>	<b>Acres</b>
		Bowman Cemetery	3.61
<b>Linear Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>	Douglass Community Center (leased)	1.50
Big Lake Park* (3)	13.04	Haggard Park* (2)	6.43
Bluebonnet Trail	98.83	Heritage Farmstead Site	3.91

Chisholm Trail* (5)	84.09	High Point Tennis Center	6.75
Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt* (4)	84.53	Horseshoe Park* (7)	9.00
FM 544/Rowlett Creek Site	20.66	Memorial Park	8.50
Legacy Trail*	94.11	Plano Aquatic Center (leased site)	2.00
Overland Trail	7.00	Rowlinson Natatorium (leased site)	1.00
Preston Ridge Trail	87.58	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.70</b>
Russell Creek Greenbelt Site	24.16		
Rustic Park	1.84	<b>Golf Courses</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Santa Fe Trail* (6)	19.02	Pecan Hollow Golf Course	258.98
Shady Brook Trail	43.79	Ridgeview Ranch Golf Club	202.08
Southeast Trail Site	5.91	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>461.06</b>
Suncreek Park Site	13.64		
White Rock Trail Park	40.38		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>638.58</b>	<b>TOTAL PARK ACRES</b>	<b>4,002.33</b>

\*Indicates that a neighborhood park is contained within the facility. The number of acres devoted to the neighborhood park(s) is indicated in parenthesis.



## Appendix B

### Appendix B Typical Park Features by Classification

#### Neighborhood Parks

- Service area – 1 square mile
- 7.5 to 10.0 acres in size
- Playground
- Picnic tables and shelters
- Unlighted athletic practice fields
- Multi-use courts
- Walking/jogging trails
- Park benches
- Adjacent to elementary schools where possible

#### Linear Parks

- No designated service area
- No standard size
- Recreational trails – 10 to 12 feet wide concrete
- Benches, picnic tables and drinking fountains
- Security lighting in selected locations
- May contain playgrounds and picnic shelters
- Link other parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, libraries and other facilities
- Connect to adjacent cities and to on-street bicycle routes
- Developed along creek corridors, utility easements, street right-of-ways, rail right-of-ways and other available land corridors

#### Community Parks

- Service area – varies, address specific community needs
- Over 25 acres in size
- Athletic facilities
- Swimming pools
- Recreation centers
- May contain dog parks, skate parks, spray grounds, disc golf courses, and other unique recreation facilities
- Passive open spaces areas
- Recreational trails
- Picnic areas with additional amenities
- May be adjacent to senior high schools, high schools and middle schools

## Appendix B (continued)

### Typical Park Features by Classification – Community Parks

- Connected to linear parks whenever possible
- Typically located on major thoroughfares

### Open Space Preserves

- Serves the entire City
- Over 50 acres
- Located on major thoroughfares
- Focused on open space and natural resources
- May provide both indoor and outdoor facilities
- May support large community gatherings and outdoor festivals
- Uses and facilities that are not compatible with the environment are prohibited

### Special Use Parks

- No specific size or service area
- Historic sites
- Cemeteries
- Memorials
- Facilities not located within parks
- Unique parks that do not readily fit within other park classifications

### Golf Courses

- Public golf courses and associated facilities

## Appendix C

### Appendix C – Parks and Recreation Bond Authority Approved in 2009 and 2013

#### 2009 Bond Program

##### ***Park Improvements \$48,650,000***

- White Rock Creek Community Park Development- \$5,000,000
- Oak Point Park Development - \$5,000,000
- Trail Connections - \$4,000,000
- Athletic Field Renovations - \$5,000,000
- Park Improvements - \$3,000,000
- Land Acquisitions - \$15,250,000
- Athletic Field Improvements - \$3,000,000
- Arbor Hills Nature Preserve - \$400,000
- Pecan Hollow Golf Course - \$7,000,000
- Maintenance Facility Expansion - \$1,000,000

##### ***Recreation Centers \$24,100,000***

- Aquatic Center Renovation - \$3,500,000
- Carpenter Park Recreation Center Expansion - \$6,000,000
- Senior Center/Wellness Center Expansion - \$7,500,000
- Oak Point Recreation Center Expansion - \$6,600,000
- Douglass Community Center - \$500,000

#### 2013 Bond Program

##### ***Park Improvements \$27,000,000***

- Recreation trails - \$8,000,000
- Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve - \$6,000,000
- Park improvements - \$7,000,000
- Carpenter Park renovation - \$6,000,000

**Recreation Center Improvements: \$12,500,000**

- Jack Carter Pool renovations - \$7,500,000
- High Point Tennis Center renovations - \$2,500,000
- Liberty Park Recreation Center expansion and renovations - \$2,500,000