

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION & LAKES

GOALS AND POLICIES

GOALS	POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS
<p>Preserve open space corridors in Tyler for wildlife habitat, nature-based recreation, an attractive public realm, and a healthy environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect natural corridors along creeks, floodways, utility easements and other appropriate areas for wildlife habitat and nature-based recreation. • Protect drinking water and other important resources. • Enhance canals, drainageways, and road edges and medians to be attractive city amenities. • Support private and nonprofit open space protection and management strategies such as conservation easements and land trusts. • Provide street trees on all city roadways. • Support the new city arborist position.
<p>Provide a balanced park and open space system that allows for access and enjoyment by all citizens of Tyler.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for both passive and active use of parks and recreation areas. • Work towards providing a park within walking distance of every Tyler residence. • Review all excess City-owned property for potential as part of the park and open space network before disposition by sale or other means. • Seek creation of parks and recreation facilities in underserved parts of the city. • Explore the potential for an expanded garden center that would enhance the Rose Garden's role as a regional tourism asset, as well as a local asset. • Explore potential partnerships with nonprofit or for-profit garden and horticulture groups for creation of a major regional center.
<p>Provide recreation programs and opportunities for children, youth, adults and senior citizens throughout the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support regular surveys of park and program users to meet changing needs for recreation services by all segments of the population. • Explore collaboration with school and private facilities for shared use of recreation areas and facilities. • Develop policies and criteria for use of City recreational facilities by private organizations.
<p>Protect and preserve Lake Tyler, Lake Tyler East and Bellwood Lake.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the quality of drinking water while providing opportunities for nature- and water-based recreation on City-owned land. • Ensure access to lake facilities and recreation for all citizens. • Manage development in and around sensitive areas of the lakes in order to minimize adverse effects on drinking water quality and valuable ecosystems.
<p>Be a good steward of parks and public spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain all parks and public spaces to the same high standard. • Provide for meaningful community input on plans for park improvements and new parks. • Encourage and support creation of park “friends” groups or “adopt a park” groups. • Encourage and support creation of a Tyler Parks Foundation or similar nonprofit group to work with the City on park and open space issues. • Promote xeriscaping in landscaped medians.