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# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2020-2030

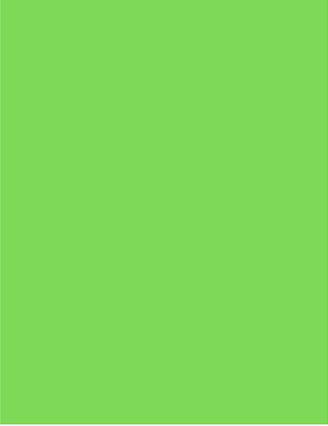


## PARKS AND RECREATION

August 2019

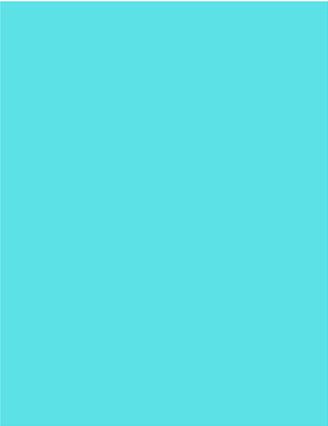


*Building our future, together*



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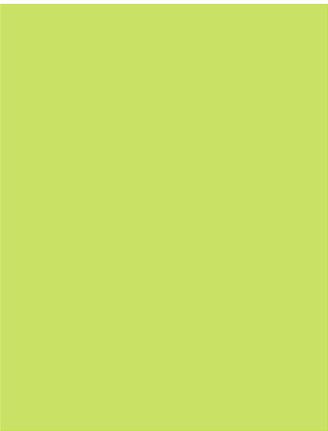
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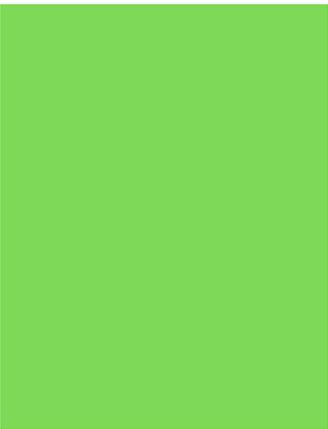


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## INTRODUCTION

The City of Tyler experienced growth and transition in the 10 years since completing the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan in 2009. The 2020 master plan update celebrates the accomplishment of certain goals outlined in the 2009 plan and building a road map for success as the department looks to the future.

The 2020 City of Tyler Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is intended to serve as an informational guide for city staff, advisory committees, and elected officials in their efforts to enhance the community.

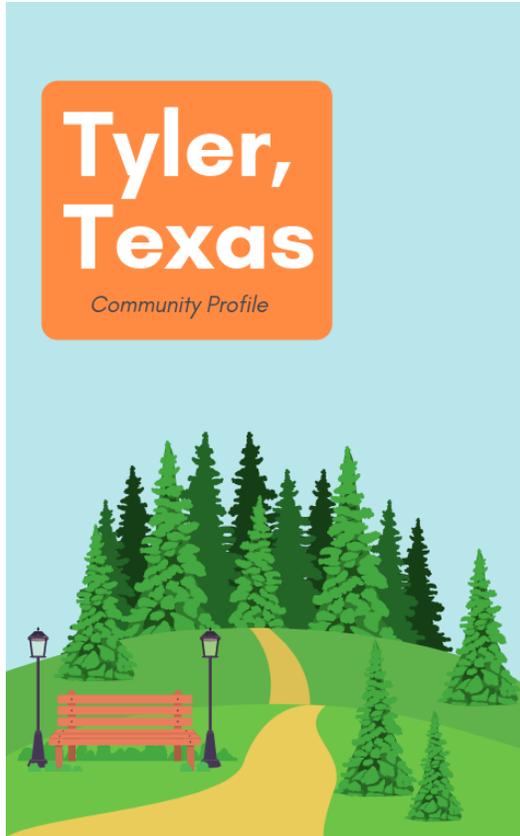
Additionally, this plan serves as a tool to aid in coordination between city departments, non-municipal agencies, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The City of Tyler will have a competitive advantage when applying for parks and trails grant funding from various regional, state and federal resources.

The following pages of the master plan contain:

- Tyler's Community Profile
- Goals and Objectives
- The methodology of Plan Development
- Inventory of existing parks and facilities
- Citizen input
- Local Needs
- Implementation Program
- Potential Funding Sources



## COMMUNITY PROFILE

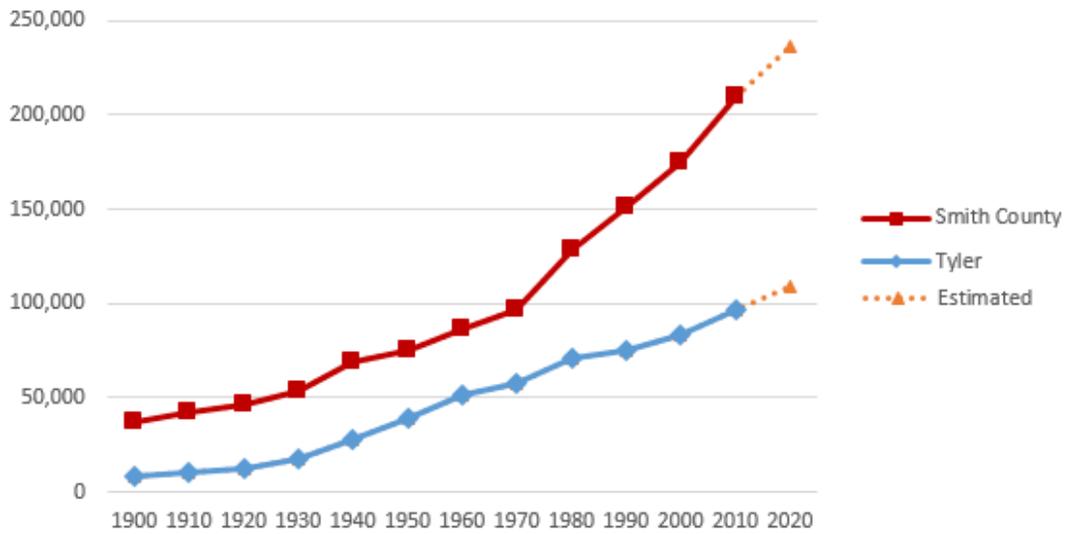


- Located in north east Texas in Smith County
- Approximately 90 miles east of Dallas, 215 miles northeast of Houston and 90 miles west of Shreveport, Louisiana
- Neighbored by Lindale, Jacksonville, Chapel Hill, Flint and Gresham
- A total of 49.4 square miles
- An average elevation of 544 feet about mean sea level
- Accessed by Highways 69, 31, 64 and Loop 323

The City of Tyler's climate is generally mild and extreme changes are short in duration.

- Temperatures range from a mean minimum in January of 34 degrees Fahrenheit to a mean maximum in July of 96 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The average first freeze is mid-November and the average last freeze is mid-March.
- The average rainfall is 45.27 inches per year.
- The basic soil type is sandy loam

## COMMUNITY PROFILE



The City of Tyler is:

- Population estimate: 108,663
- Ethnic breakdown:
  - 50% White Non-Hispanic
  - 24.8% African-American, non-Hispanic
  - 21.2% Hispanic
  - 2.4% Other, non-Hispanic
- Median household income: \$41,607
- Senior citizen population: +/- 20,927 (2017, American Fact Finder)

(Information from Tyler 1st)

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

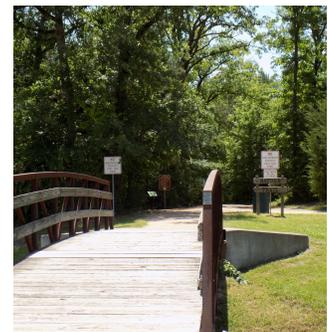
The following goals and objectives are provided to give direction for future community decisions regarding parks, recreation and open space. These goals and objectives were established based on input from the City of Tyler residents and the Tyler 1st Comprehensive Plan.

### **Park and Recreation Goal:**

To ensure the provision of a balanced park and open space system that meets the recreational needs of the citizens of Tyler and helps to create a unique community character.

### **Objectives:**

- To provide new and different recreational opportunities and programming for all ages and abilities throughout the community.
- To provide public parks options throughout the city that are in proximity to all neighborhoods.
- To forge partnerships with public and private organizations for the development, operation and maintenance of future recreational needs.
- To provide a trail system that connects parks, residential areas, commercial areas, schools, and historic downtown Tyler.
- To be proactive in acquiring land for developing parks with recreational facilities.
- To continue to renovate and enhance the existing park system as the city and demographics continue to evolve.
- To continue to partner with the local youth organizations in order to provide athletic facilities for organized youth baseball, softball, football and soccer.



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### Open Space Goal:

To identify, protect and preserve quality natural open spaces for unstructured recreational activities, inherent aesthetic value and protection of valuable ecosystems.

### Objectives:

- To continually research the viability of developing trail systems along creeks, flood ways, and utility easements that will link recreational facilities, neighborhoods and schools.
- To be proactive in the protection of unique natural open spaces throughout the City of Tyler.
- To encourage environmentally responsible private development in order to minimize adverse effects on valuable ecosystems.
- To address natural open space needs by providing citizens with well-balanced recreational experiences that include active, passive and primitive opportunities.



## METHODOLOGY

The planning process officially began in 2009 when the City of Tyler began to address the parks and open space opportunities throughout the city. The Parks Board, representing a cross section of the community, was appointed to guide the development of the master plan for future park and recreation opportunities. The Parks Board was involved in each major step of the planning process and provided the local insight needed to produce a successful master plan.

Several steps were taken in order to create a successful and realistic Master Plan.

- The initial step in evaluating the parks and open space system in Tyler was to inventory the existing parks, open space and recreational resources.
- The developed park acreage was compared to the existing population in order to establish the current level of service.
- The existing parks were evaluated against national standards published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to allow for an objective review of the park system.
- Surveys were available online. A total of 985 surveys were received and tabulated.
- Public Input meetings were held in all four quadrants of Tyler in order to receive input from the general public.

Based on the citizen input, existing inventory, available resources and professional opinion, potential park projects were developed that included additional parks and recreational facilities for the City of Tyler. Once the master project list was developed and refined, members of the Parks and Recreation board prioritized projects based on local demand and their perception of needs. Budget estimates were generated for each project and possible funding sources were identified.

It should be noted that the professional staff of the City of Tyler was involved throughout the planning process to insure the plan resulted in a feasible and balanced park program for the City. Therefore, standards for the different types of parks for the Tyler Park System were developed..

## PARK CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY

The following terms provide a brief description of park classifications based on the standards set by the National Park and Recreation Association.

### **Pocket/Ornamental Park**

A pocket or ornamental park is a small (usually less than two acres) park developed for passive recreation.

### **Mini Park**

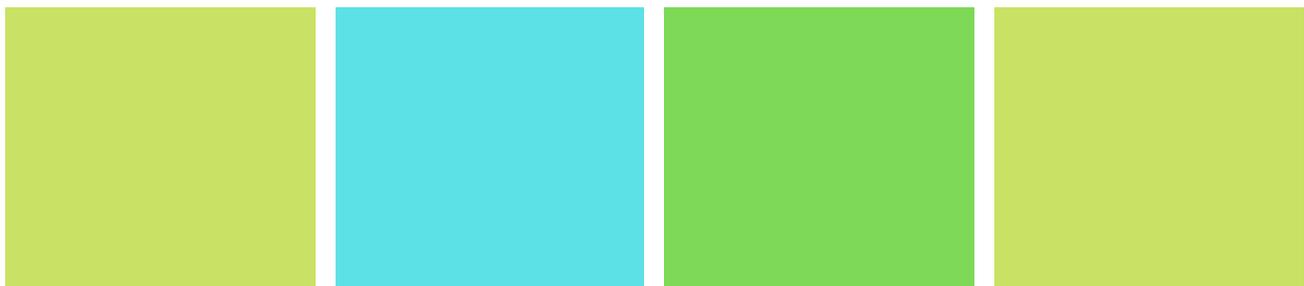
A mini-park is a site of approximately one to four acres located within the city limits and serves the area with a one-quarter mile radius with both active and passive recreational opportunities.

### **Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system serving as a recreational and social focus of their neighborhood. A neighborhood park size ranges from five acres to ten acres, but varies according to circumstance and many are much smaller. An ideal neighborhood park is centrally located with a service area of ¼ to ½ mile. These distances many vary depending on development diversity.

### **School Park**

A school park is when a site used by the school is combined with a park. It is a partnership with the city to allow public use on school property. School sites not open to the public should not count as a school park. A school park can fulfill the space requirements of other classes of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special uses.



## PARK CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY

### **Community Park**

Community parks provide a large variety of outdoor activities, opportunities for environmental education and encourage social community activities. An optimal community park is about 20 to 50 acres, although it's actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses. A community park should serve two or more neighborhoods. The service area for this type of park should be 0.5 to 3.0 miles in radius.

### **Large Urban Park**

Regional parks typically are a minimum of 50 acres and serve a larger area than the community alone. Regional parks typically have the same type of amenities as community parks and focus of community based recreation but are much larger in size. Regional parks typically have land set aside to preserve as unique landscapes or natural open space.

### **Greenways**

Greenways tie park components together to form a cohesive park, recreation, and open space system. They allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community.

### **Sport Complex**

Sports Complex is a classification for heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities. A sports complex should be a minimum of 40 acres, with 80 to 150 acres being optimal.



## PARK CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY

### **Special Use Park**

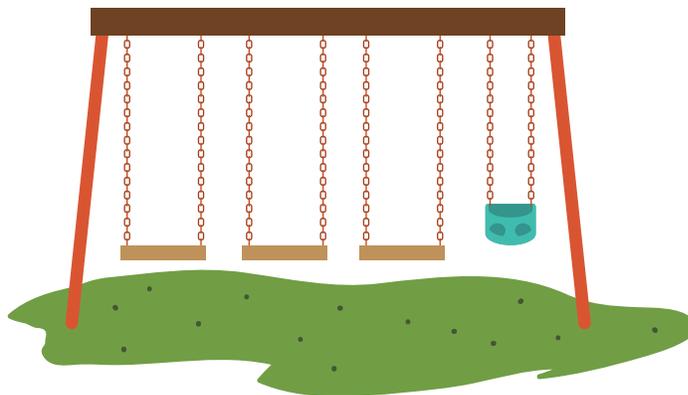
The Special Use Park classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities such as historic/cultural/social sites, recreation facilities and outdoor recreation facilities. Facility space requirements are the primary determinants of site size and location. For example, a golf course may require 150 acres, whereas a community center with parking may only require 10 or 15 acres. Special Use Parks provide areas for specific activities to allow groups with common interests to participate together.

### **Private Park/Recreation Facility**

Private Park/Recreation Facility classification recognizes the contributions of private providers to the community park and recreation system.

### **Do you know any of private park and recreation facilities in Tyler?**

- Cumberland Park
- Caldwell Park
- Head Springs Park
- Bossart Dog Park
- Sun Rise Dog Park



	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION CRITERIA	SIZE CRITERIA	LOS
	<b>POCKET PARK</b>	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size	Yes
	<b>MINI-PARK</b>	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	1 to 5 acres	Yes
	<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARK</b>	Serves as the social and recreational focus	¼ to ½ mile distance uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 to 10 acres is optimal.	Yes
	<b>COMMUNITY PARK</b>	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, preserving unique landscapes.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance	30 and 50 acres	Yes
	<b>SCHOOL PARK</b>	Depending on the circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable, depends on function	Yes-does not count school only uses.
	<b>LARGE URBAN PARK</b>	Serves when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community	Determined by quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	50 and 75 acres	Yes
	<b>GREENWAYS</b>	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable	Yes
	<b>SPORTS COMPLEX</b>	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community	Strategically located community-wide facilities	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.	Yes
	<b>SPECIAL USE</b>	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable-Dependent on specific use.	Variable	Depends on use
	<b>PRIVATE PARK/ RECREATION FACILITY</b>	Privately owned facilities that contribute to the public park system.	Variable	Variable	Depends on use



# EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The existing parks in Tyler are classified by the criteria set by the National Parks and Recreation Association in the following table. In order to illustrate the geographic distribution and areas of the city currently served by the park system, the service area of each existing park has been shown on the Existing Parks and Open Space Map. Aerial photographs of each park in the City of Tyler can be found in Appendix I.

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
3RD AND OUTER PARK	POCKET	.50	.50	• Median
9TH AND OLD JACKSONVILLE PARK	POCKET	.50	.50	• Median
ARP ISLAND	POCKET	.50	.50	• Median
BELLWOOD LAKE PARK	SPECIAL USE	92.5	185	• Picnic areas
BERGFELD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	8.3	8.3	• Amphitheater • Splash pad • Tennis courts • Playground • Picnic areas • Restrooms
CHILDREN'S PARK	SPECIAL USE	1	1	• Botanical flower garden • Story amphitheater • Picnic areas • Restrooms
CITY PARK	MINI-PARK	1.85	1.85	• Basketball court • Playground • Picnic areas
CRESCENT PARK	MINI-PARK	1.3	1.3	• Playground • Picnic areas
DOUGLAS PARK	MINI-PARK	2.5	2.5	• Park benches • Picnic areas
EMMETT J. SCOTT PARK	MINI-PARK	2.75	2.75	• Baseball field • Basketball court • Playground • Picnic areas • Restrooms
FAULKNER PARK	LARGE URBAN PARK	180	180	• Baseball fields • Tennis courts • Playgrounds • Sprayground • Skate Park • Hike/Bike trail • Fishing pond • Picnic areas • Restrooms
FUN FOREST PARK	COMMUNITY	31.72	31.72	• Swimming pool • Baseball fields • Tennis courts • Soccer field • Senior center • Playground • Picnic areas • Restrooms
GASSAWAY PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	6.7	6.7	• Playground • Benches



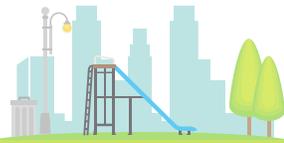
# EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



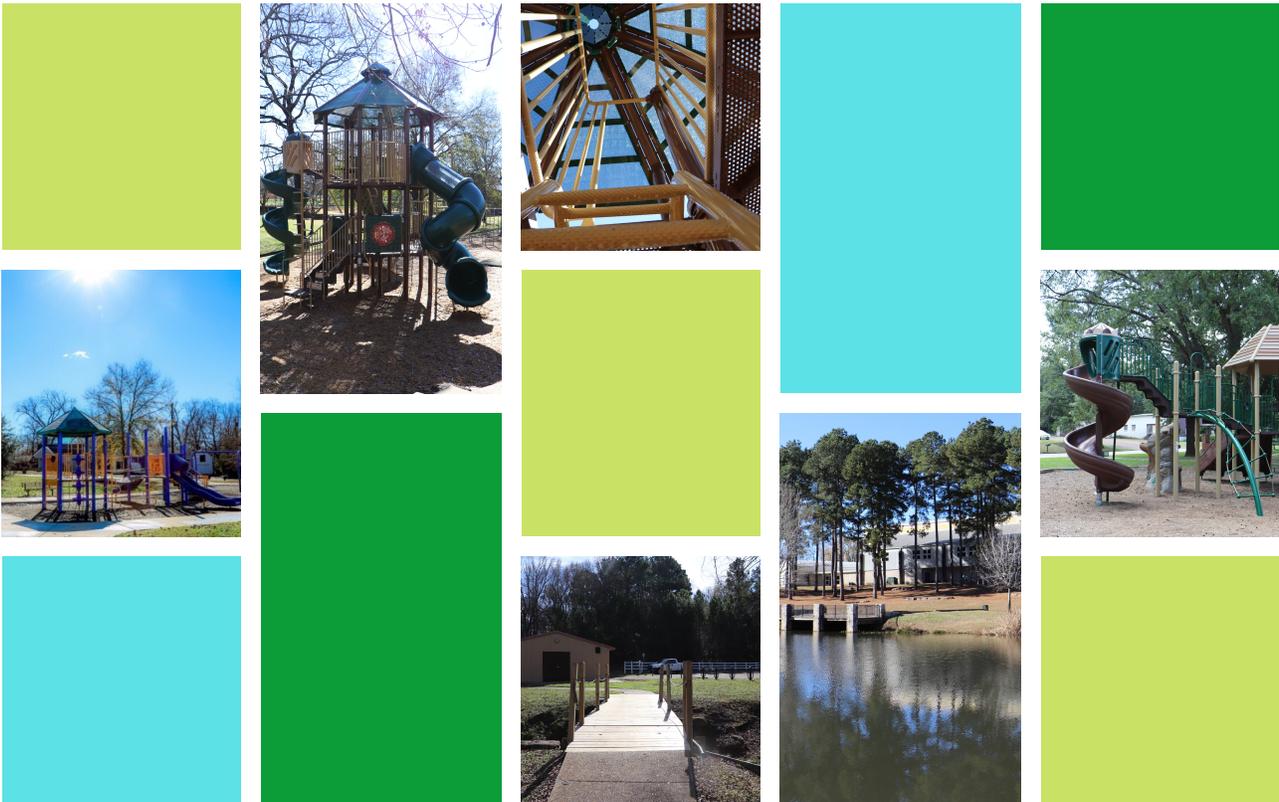
NAME	CLASSIFICATION	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
GLENWOOD AND GENTRY ISLAND	POCKET	.75	7.75	• Median
GOLDEN ROAD PARK	SPORTS COMPLEX	30	30	• Baseball fields • Soccer field • Playground • Picnic areas • Restrooms
GOODMAN/LEGRAND PARK	SPECIAL USE	8.35	8.35	• Goodman Museum • Rose garden • Event venue • Picnic areas • Restrooms
GRANDE BOULEVARD ISLAND	POCKET	2.5	2.5	• Median
HERNDON HILLS PARK	MINI-PARK	2	2	• Basketball court • Playground • Picnic areas
HILLSIDE PARK	MINI-PARK	3.5	3.5	• Soccer field • Basketball court • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Restrooms
LEGACY TRAIL	GREENWAY	20.4	20.4	• Multi-use trail
LINDSEY PARK	LARGE URBAN PARK	204	454	• Soccer fields • Softball fields • Disc golf courses • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Restrooms
NOBLE E. YOUNG PARK	COMMUNITY	25	45	• Skate park • Basketball court • Hike/Bike trail • Playground • Picnic areas • Disc golf course • Restrooms
NORTHSIDE PARK	SPECIAL USE	0	60	• Remote control airplane fly area
OAK GROVE PARK	MINI-PARK	3.83	3.83	• Playground • Multi-purpose trail • Picnic areas
P.T. COLE PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	4.68	4.68	• Basketball court • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Restrooms
POLLARD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	9.17	9.17	• Tennis courts • Multi-use fields • Pavilion • Picnic Areas • Restrooms
ROSE RUDMAN PARK	GREENWAY	30	30	• Picnic areas • Multi-purpose trail • Pavilion
SOUTH TYLER PARK	GREENWAY	14	14	• Multi-use trail
SOUTHSIDE PARK	COMMUNITY	15	42	• Multi-purpose trail • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Restrooms
STEWART PARK	NATURAL AREA	0	9	• Nature area
SUNNY BROOK AND GREEN LANE PARK	POCKET	1	1	• Median



# EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

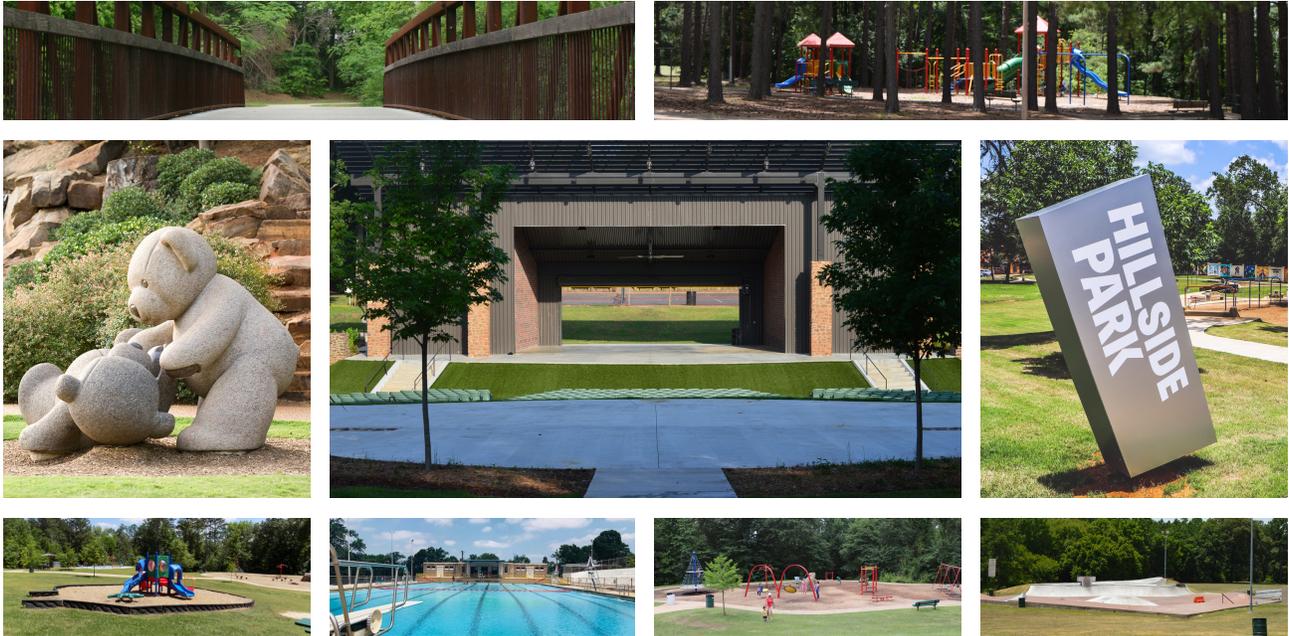


NAME	CLASSIFICATION	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
TATUM PARK	POCKET	.25	.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park bench</li> </ul>
T.R. GRIFFITH PARK	MINI-PARK	2.56	2.56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball court</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Pavilion</li> <li>• Picnic areas</li> </ul>
TYLER ROSE GARDEN	SPECIAL USE	14	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking trails</li> <li>• Picnic areas</li> </ul>
W.E. WINTERS	NEIGHBORHOOD	17.5	17.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball courts</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Walking Trails</li> <li>• Picnic areas</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> </ul>
WINDSOR GROVE NATURE PARK	NATURAL AREA	1.5	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hike/Bike trail</li> <li>• Picnic areas</li> </ul>
WOLDERT PARK	COMMUNITY	52.2	52.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glass Recreation Center</li> <li>• Basketball courts</li> <li>• Tennis court</li> <li>• Baseball field</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Pond</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Pavilion</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>792.61</b>	<b>1251.11</b>	



## LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of service is the term used to describe the importance or the role of a park system in a community expressed in acres of usable park land per 1,000 persons. For the last forty years, the targeted level of service for communities nationwide has been ten acres of park land for every 1,000 residents.

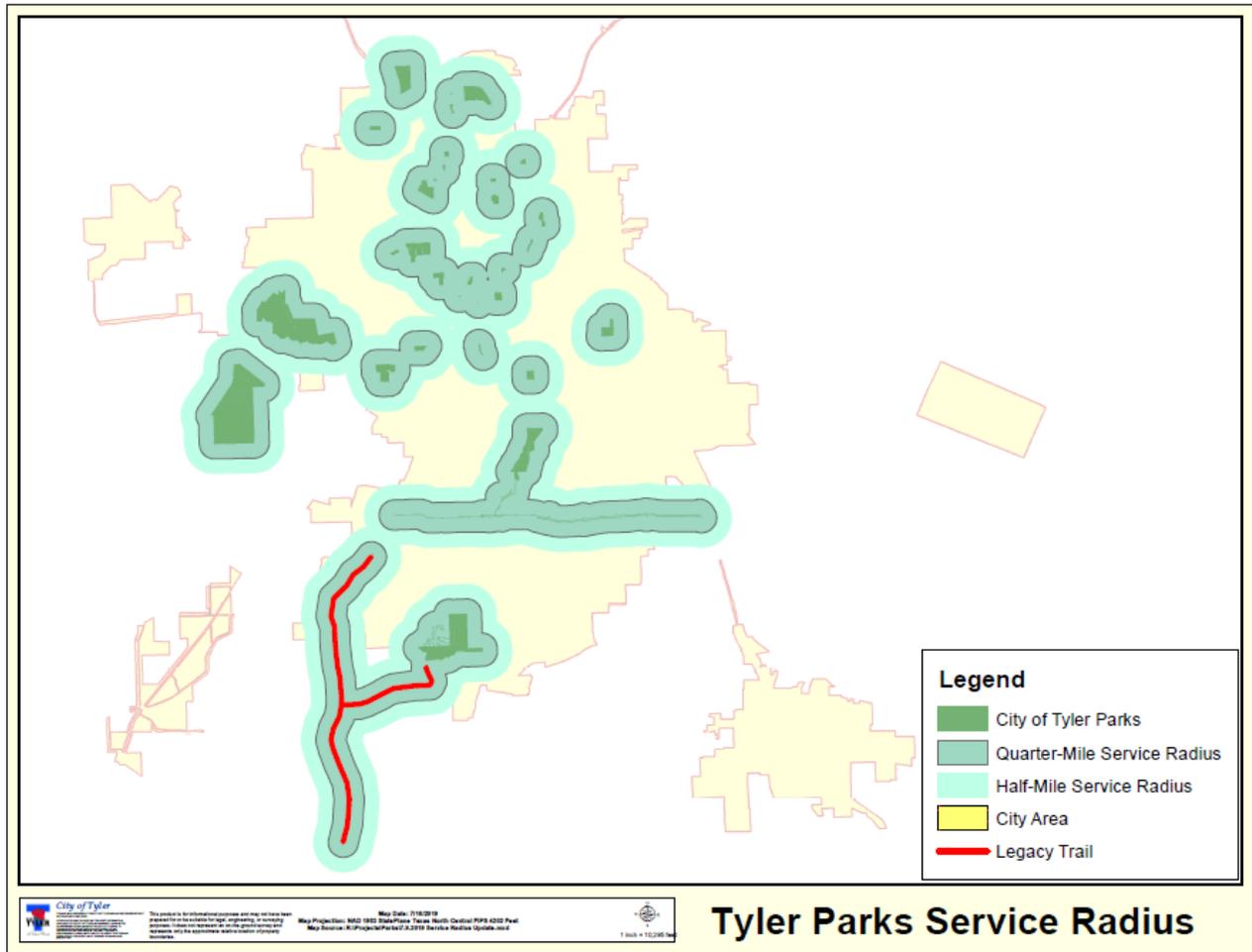


In recent years, the standard changed to specifically reflect the unique characteristics of each community. Based on the specific needs of a community, levels of service ranging from five acres of developed park land per 1,000 people to 15 acres or more of developed park land per 1,000 people are typically targeted. The 2019 NPRA Performance Report indicates for populations between 100,000-200,000 the ideal level of service is 8.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

It is important to note that the level of service for parks and open space is based on usable space and, therefore, undeveloped or unusable park land should not be a factor in the level of service calculation.

The following table shows the total park acres and developed park acres for each different type of park classification in Tyler.

CLASSIFICATION	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES
POCKET PARK	6	6
MINI-PARK	20.29	20.29
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	46.35	46.35
COMMUNITY PARK	124.22	171.22
SCHOOL PARK	0	0
LARGE URBAN PARK	384	634
GREEN WAY	64.4	64.4
SPORTS COMPLEX	30	30
NATURAL AREA	1.5	10.5
SPECIAL USE	115.85	268.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>792.61</b>	<b>1251.11</b>



## ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND CONCLUSIONS

Recreational needs are determined using the following planning approaches:

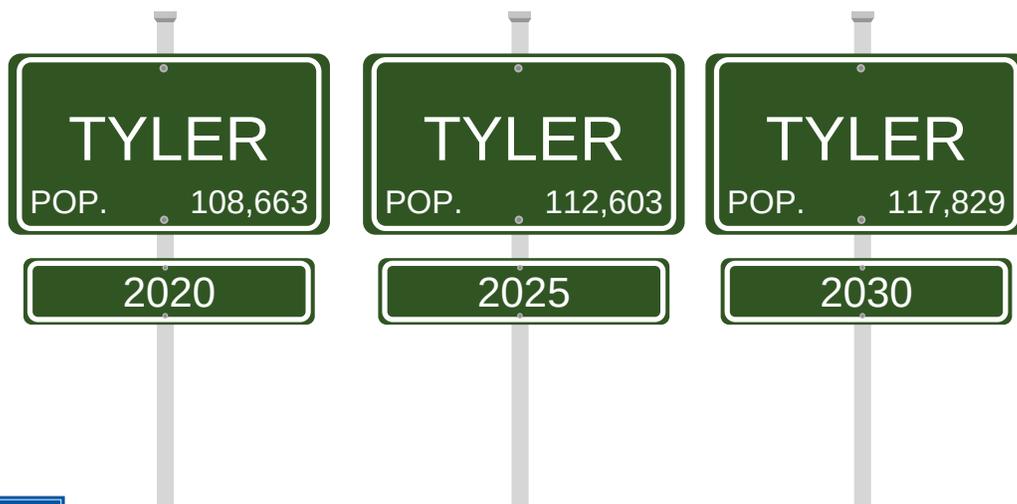
- Demand Based - what the citizens desire**
- Standard Based - what the park standards call for**
- Resource Based - what the local natural resources can offer**
- Capacity Based - what sports facilities can accommodate**

Assessment of needs will allow a chance for citizens to express their desires for recreational activities within their city.

The needs assessment integrates supply and demand. The supply would represent the existing parks, recreation facilities, and the natural resources of the area. The demand is identified through the stated goals, objectives, level of service concept, national standards, and importantly, input from local citizens.

Citizen input obtained through public meetings, focus groups, online survey, elected officials, city staff, and Parks Board result in a balanced analysis which reflects park and recreation needs and desires of Tyler residents through 2030.

The following table depicts projected populations for the City of Tyler today and throughout the planning period.

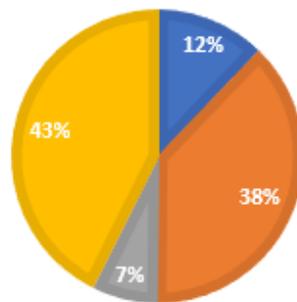


## CITIZEN ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

In March of 2019, a survey was released online for citizens to have the opportunity to express their needs for the future of the city park system. Over 985 people responded to the survey which was available online and in paper form at several of our facilities including Glass Recreation Center and the Tyler Senior Center. The results provided valuable insight into the citizens' opinions on existing conditions of the parks and facilities. The following paragraphs will provide an explanation of the total results. The online survey provided where each resident resides in the City of Tyler. Ten percent (10%) of surveys were submitted by senior citizens (65+) from all regions of the city.

### IN WHAT AREA OF TYLER DO YOU RESIDE?

■ Northwest ■ Southwest ■ Northeast ■ Southeast



Listed below are highlights obtained from the collected survey data:

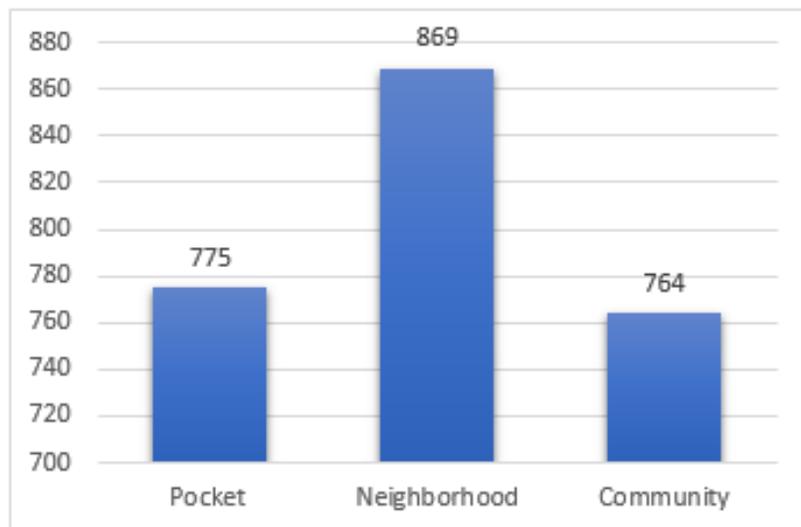
- **Fifty-one percent (51%)** of respondents were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” when asked how they felt about existing parks and facilities in Tyler.
- **Ninety-two percent (92%)** of respondents were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” when asked how they feel existing parks should be upgraded and improved to include additional facilities.
- **Ninety-six percent (96%)** of respondents were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” when asked if they feel that parks and recreation are well worth the cost to tax payers.
- **Eighty-nine percent (89%)** of respondents were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” when asked if they feel that residential neighborhoods, schools and parks should be connected with linear parks such as trails along creeks and other corridors.
- **Sixty-eight percent (68%)** of respondents reported they were unable to reasonably and safely walk to a park from their home.

In the table below, the results for the following question are shown.

The acquisition of parkland, maintenance and development of park facilities is expensive. In addition to state grants, where should future park funding come from? Each respondent could choose their top three choices with the number one choice worth three points, number two choice worth two points and the third selection worth one point.

RANK	
1	Donations
2	Park Bond Program
3	Sales Tax
4	Property Tax
5	Park User Fees

The following chart represents the percentage of residents who “strongly agree” or “agree” that more pocket, neighborhood and community parks are needed. The online survey indicated citizens believe the city needs more parks.



The survey had a question asking citizens what facilities they wanted added to the Tyler park system. Twenty-seven suggestions were listed and each person was to choose their top five choices and rank them with one being the highest and five being the lowest. Each number was then awarded points to create a weighted score. If a one was chosen, it was worth five points, if a two was chosen, it was worth four points, if a three was chosen, it was worth three points...etc. The following table represents the rank and weighted scores of the facility priorities wanted by residents.

Rank	Facilities	Weighted Score
1	Nature trails	1,163
2	Playgrounds	1,139
3	Swimming pools	1,094
4	Multi-Use Paved trails	1,031
5	Sprayground/Small water park	1,003
6	Indoor recreation center	948
7	Dog park	753
8	Botanical/Flower Garden	752
9	Nature Areas	604
10	Water Features (Creeks, Small Lakes, etc.)	604
11	Soccer fields	593
12	picnic shelters/pavilions	578
13	Sport practice fields	505
14	Playgrounds for handicap use	438
15	Picnicking areas	428
16	Basketball courts	369
17	Band stand/amphitheater	360
18	Sand volleyball court	343
19	Lawn areas for general play	322
20	Disc golf course	285
21	Skate park	277
22	Adult softball fields	264
23	Tennis courts	184
24	Baseball fields	162
25	Horseshoe/washer courts	133
26	Football fields	98
27	Youth Softball fields	61

## FOCUS GROUPS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

To better understand the needs of citizens, focus group meetings, and public meetings were held in Tyler. Throughout all the meetings, participants had the opportunity to walk around the room and answer five different general questions about the City of Tyler's Park System. The following lists are the questions and most common answers to the responses.

### **What makes Tyler a unique community?**

- Community involvement
- Diversity and growth
- Park system, trees and outdoor areas

### **What is your highest priority for the park system by the year 2030?**

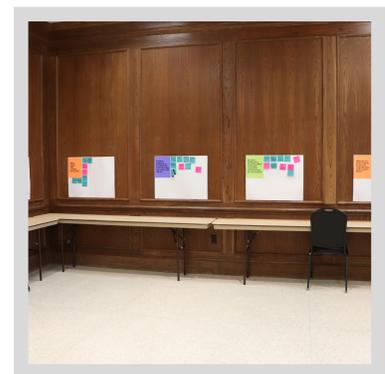
- Awareness of parks in Tyler
- Maintain the beauty of the parks
- Renovate soccer field at Hillside Park
- Upgrades of park conditions and playgrounds
- Update/Renovate parks on the north side of Tyler

### **Are there programs that should be provided in the park system that are not currently offered?**

- Conservation educational programs
- Music and/or food events
- Activity programs to bring the community together
- Activity programs for families and youth

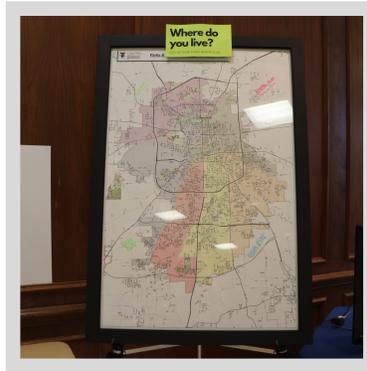
### **Are there facilities that should be added to the park system that would increase the use of parks?**

- Renovate playgrounds, trails and bathrooms
- Multi-purpose trails
- Better access to parks
- Water features



### **What do you think needs to be done to make the Tyler Parks System better?**

- Renovate park facilities
- Sports practice fields
- New senior center
- Improve on existing parks-increase maintenance



### **New Parks-Needs**

Based on the responses from the citizen survey, the City of Tyler desires new parks. Parks are essential to the physical, social, environmental, and economic health of a community. In the citizen survey, a question asked if residents could reasonably walk to a city park and a total of 68% of the respondents said they could NOT walk to a city park. According to a tool called Park Serve on The Trust for Public Land website, 41% of Tyler residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. The national average is 54% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

If the City of Tyler wishes to attract more people to their community and grow in the future, the City must focus on future residential growth patterns throughout the community. Planning will enable the City to utilize a proactive approach for future park development, ensuring the parks contain the desired natural open space and physical attributes defined earlier in the plan.

## Existing Parks-Needs

The City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 30 public properties. These properties include parks, cemeteries, and medians. It is imperative to continue to upgrade, maintain existing parks and facilities within the park system. Since the majority of the parks in Tyler are located in the northern region, most park upgrades will be in the north part of town. Each neighborhood has individual characteristics and needs, and therefore, each park should reflect those needs.

Ninety-two percent (92%) of the survey respondents expressed a need for existing parks to be upgraded and/or improved to include additional facilities. The survey and focus group meetings revealed requirements for upgraded playgrounds, picnic areas and facilities, trails, and enhanced landscaping. Also, each park playground needs to have regular inspections to make sure the property complies with the current safety guidelines established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Also, all existing park facilities need to meet the accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The citizens of Tyler desire a high-quality park system highly maintained rather than a large number of facilities. The city needs to focus on upgrading and enhancing existing parks.

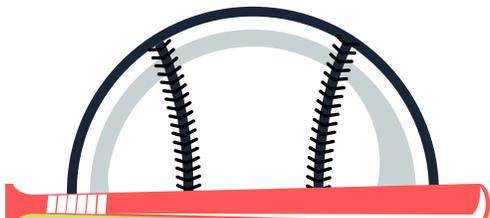


## Athletic Fields-Needs

Since athletic organizations have different recreational needs than the general public, a carrying capacity analysis was used to determine the actual needs of the various sports associations. The carrying capacity is the number of games one athletic field can accommodate each week. All current leagues were given a survey to fill out to project their future needs. Also, it's important to note some of the leagues use additional privately owned athletic fields to meet the needs of their association.

*Youth Baseball* - Rose Capital West Little League and Rose Capital East Little League are the two youth baseball programs in the City of Tyler. They offer children ages 4 through 16 an opportunity to play baseball. Below is the age chart used by the little league association.

*Rose Capital West Little League*-Rose Capital West Little League plays on seven fields at Faulkner Park on weekdays. All seven fields have lights and allow a total of three games per field per night. At this rate, a total of fifteen games per week can play on a single field. **Rose Capital West Little League listed restroom renovation as their main priority on the athletic survey sent out to athletic associations.**



AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF EXISTING GAME FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2019	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2030	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2030
<b>T-BALL/5-PITCH</b> (4 - 7 YEARS OLD)	2	23	2	25	2
<b>MINORS</b> (5-11 YEARS OLD)	1	7	1	8	1
<b>MAJORS</b> (9-12 YEARS OLD)	2	6	1	7	1
<b>JUNIORS</b> (12-14 YEARS OLD)	2	4	1	4	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>5</b>

\*Team growth from 2019-2030 is projected to be 1% a year

Rose Capital East Little League-Rose Capital East Little League plays on six fields at Golden Road Park on weekdays. All six fields have lights and allow at a total of three games per field per night. At this rate, a total of 15 games can take place a week per field.



AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF EXISTING GAME FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2019	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2030	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2030
<b>T-BALL/5-PITCH</b> (4 - 7 YEARS OLD)	2	14	1	15	1
<b>MINORS</b> (5-11 YEARS OLD)	2	6	1	7	1
<b>MAJORS</b> (9-12 YEARS OLD)	1	5	1	6	1
<b>JUNIORS</b> (12-14 YEARS OLD)	1	4	1	4	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>

\*Team growth from 2019-2030 is projected to be 1% a year

According to the Rose Capital East Little League, Golden Road Park needs electrical fixes in the concession stand, plumbing fixes in all restrooms and restrooms near the fields used for younger children.

*Adult Softball-*

USA Softball District 25 is an adult league that uses the five adult softball fields at Lindsey Park. A total of 90 teams are participating in the spring season. Adult softball games are currently played Monday -Thursday with Friday left available for a rain-out game day. If four games are played on each of the five fields each night on four nights a week, the fields can accommodate a total of 80 games per week.

The following table represents the carrying capacity of the adult softball league fields at Lindsey Park based on the number of teams.

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF EXISTING GAME FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2019	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2030	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2030
18+	5	90	5	100	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>

*\*Team growth from 2019-2030 is projected to be 1% a year*

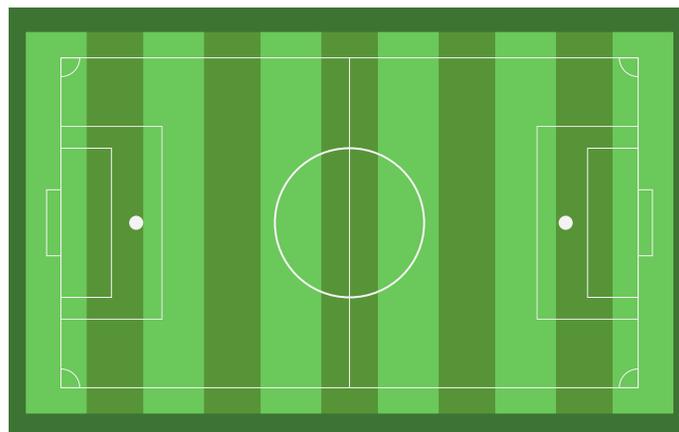


Youth Soccer-There are 12 large fields at Lindsey Park for youth soccer use. The fields are primarily used on weekends by the Tyler Soccer Association for seasonal games and tournaments. FC Dallas uses the fields for practice purposes on Tuesday and Thursdays throughout the week during spring and fall seasons.

Tyler Soccer Association- The youth soccer program in Tyler currently plays seasonal games on 12 large fields at Lindsey Park on weekends. Two of the large fields are broken down into smaller fields for the younger participants. One large field is divided into five soccer fields for U5 - U6 players and another large field is divided into two fields for U7 participants. After dividing the larger fields into multiple fields, Lindsey Park can support a total of 17 fields. The following table represents the carrying capacity of youth soccer fields at Lindsey Park based on the number of teams provided by the Tyler Soccer Association:

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF EXISTING GAME FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2019	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2030	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2030
U4-U8	9	119	9	131	9
U9-U10	3	45	3	50	3
U11-U12	2	49	2	54	2
U13-U19	3	58	3	64	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>17</b>

*\*Team growth from 2019-2030 is projected to be 1% a year*



FC Dallas-FC Dallas uses five fields for practice purposes during spring and fall soccer seasons on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The following table represents the carrying capacity of youth soccer fields at Lindsey Park based on the number of teams provided by the Tyler Soccer Association:

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF EXISTING GAME FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2019	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2030	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2030
U11-U12	3	10	3	11	3
U13-U19	2	15	2	17	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>

*\*Team growth from 2019-2030 is projected to be 1% a year*

Adult Soccer- Adult soccer is a popular sport in the City of Tyler. The city provides three fields for adult soccer use located at Hillside Park, Golden Road Park, and Fun Forest Park. Liga Latina, the adult soccer league, utilizes the fields for regular season games. The City of Tyler needs additional fields for practice use and games over the next ten years. The following table represents the carrying capacity of the adult soccer fields used by Liga Latina.

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF EXISTING GAME FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2019	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2019	NUMBER OF TEAMS 2030	NUMBER OF REQUIRED FIELDS 2030
18+	3	25	2	28	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>

*\*Team growth from 2019-2030 is projected to be 1% a year*



## Swimming Pool-Needs

The City of Tyler has one public swimming pool at Fun Forest Park. The pool was constructed in 1938. Swimming pools have a lifespan of approximately 30-40 years, the Fun Forest Park pool is 81 years old. The pool is well past it's life expectancy. The City of Tyler needs a functional pool. Therefore, the parks department has decided to renovate the current pool at Fun Forest to meet the needs of the community.

"According to the World Waterpark Association, the development of aquatic centers and municipal water parks is one of the fastest growing segments in the water leisure industry within the United States."



## Indoor Recreation Center-Needs

The City of Tyler currently has an indoor recreation center - The Glass Recreation Center - located in Woldert Park. The Glass Recreation Center is relatively small and located in far north Tyler. The need for a new, more extensive, and centrally located indoor recreation center is evident.

Indoor recreation center ranked number six on the citizen survey. To construct an indoor facility, the City of Tyler would first need to choose a location, whether it is on existing or acquired parkland. The city also has an option to purchase existing facilities to convert into a recreation center. The key to a successful recreation facility is the flexibility built into the design of the center, which allows for the same space to be used for multiple activities. The need for an additional recreation center in Tyler is supported by the citizen survey and public input meetings. It is essential, when planning and constructing a recreation center, to fulfill many different needs of the residents.

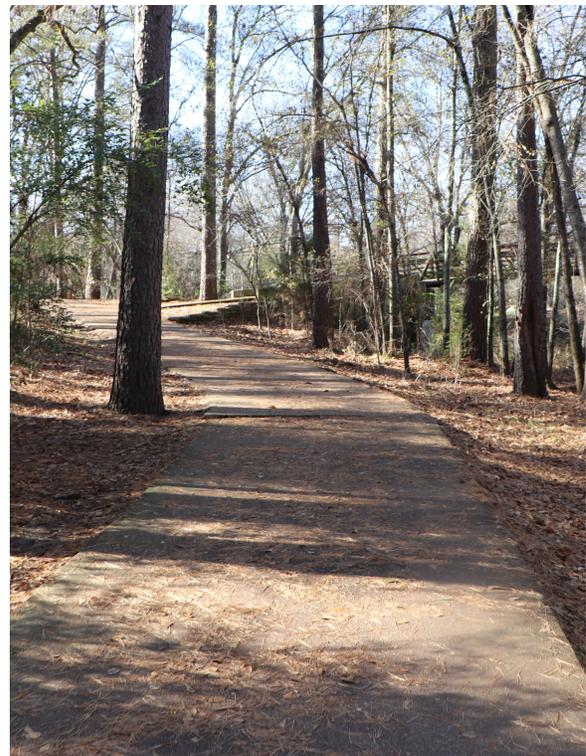
## Trails-Needs

The city of Tyler requires additional multi-purpose and nature trails. This need will continue to grow as the population increases over time. Nature trails ranked as number one on the citizen survey, and multi-purpose trails ranked as number four.

According to a supporting survey question, eighty-nine percent (89%) of the respondents “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that residential neighborhoods, schools, and parks should connect with linear parks such as trails along creeks and other corridors. The city has worked on meeting this need by the development and completion of the Legacy Trails System. The trails system connects neighborhoods, parks, commercial properties, and communities. The citizens of Tyler need additional multi-purpose and nature trails.

## Nature Open Space-Needs

The City of Tyler needs to preserve natural open spaces for primitive recreation. Water features - such as creeks, small lakes, etc. - ranked as number ten on the citizen survey and nature areas as number nine. Natural areas and water features are essential to the citizens of Tyler and need to be preserved - especially along Mud Creek, Blackfork Creek, Stoneleigh Creek, and their tributaries. Future recreational development should maintain valuable environmental assets, such as water features and natural open space.



## Senior-Needs

The majority of the senior citizens expressed the need to expand the existing senior center for more space, the opportunity for more programming and multi-use walking trails for exercise. Many expressed other needs for benches, picnic areas, picnic shelters, enhanced landscaping, athletic fields, and playgrounds for their grandchildren to have safe places to play.

Senior citizens have specific needs in different areas throughout the City of Tyler. However, it is essential to notice the top priorities of senior citizens all closely match the city's overall priorities. This is important because by providing specific needs for senior citizens, the City of Tyler is also creating areas that are appealing and available to the entire community. Senior citizens are a growing population and use the park system in Tyler. Their needs should be considered when upgrading and/or constructing parks and outdoor spaces.

## Maintenance-Needs

It is vital to keep parks and public facilities well maintained and safe. According to the citizen survey, Fifty-seven percent (57%) responded, "excellent" or "good" on how they would rate the current maintenance level of parks, and recreational facilities in Tyler. As Tyler's population and park system continue to grow, it is necessary for maintenance crews and budget to increase proportionally so outdoor public spaces are safe and aesthetically pleasing to all residents and park visitors.



## Other-Needs

The City of Tyler and the Tyler Independent School District need to coordinate in an effort to share multi-use facilities. Many T.I.S.D sports fields and playgrounds should be available to the general public during no school hours and the City of Tyler and the school district need to work together in order for that to happen. These types of partnerships could help increase the level of service for the community.

There are currently partnerships in place with Tyler Independent School District such as using the T.I.S.D Aquatic Center for the summer due to the Fun Forest Pool closed for repair.



## PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table represents the top 15 projected recreational facility priorities for the Tyler Park System. These priorities are based on the need analysis, citizen survey, public input meetings, focus group input meetings, city staff, Parks Board members and professional opinion.

	<p><b>PRIORITIES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Trails</li> <li>2 Swimming pools</li> <li>3 Playgrounds</li> <li>4 Sprayground</li> <li>5 Nature areas</li> <li>6 Playgrounds for Handicap use</li> <li>7 Picnicking areas</li> <li>8 Botanical/flower gardens</li> <li>9 Sport practice fields</li> <li>10 Indoor recreation center</li> <li>11 Soccer fields</li> <li>12 Dog parks</li> <li>13 Water features</li> <li>14 Lawn areas for general play</li> <li>15 Senior center</li> <li>* <b>Existing park improvements</b></li> </ol>	
		
		

### Recommendations

Although the City of Tyler has a good park system, more park acreage is needed to increase the level of service and many of the older parks need to be upgraded to better provide for the citizens. The following recommendations are to be implemented within the next ten years to ensure that the parks and open space system continues to meet the recreational needs of Tyler’s residents. Projects recommended for 2020 - 2030 are shown in the implementation schedule on page 41.

### **New Parks**

- Partner with private/public entities to develop additional parks as funding allows.
- Partner with Tyler Independent School District to open their playgrounds to public use.
- Develop new park acquisition plan

### **Existing Parks**

- **Update and Renovate Lindsey Park**
  - Prepare Master Plan
  - Construct nature trails
  - Construct multi-purpose trails
  - Preserve natural areas
  - Renovate pavilion
  - Construct additional soccer field for adult use
  - Renovate concession building
  - Renovate restrooms
- **Re-purpose Fun Forest Park**
  - Construct splash pad
  - Rehabilitate swimming pool
  - Construct multi-purpose lawn area
  - Construct pavilion
  - Analyze configuration and demand of sports fields
- **Renovate Bergfeld Park**
  - Re-purpose/rebuild tennis courts
  - Enhance landscaping and unify site amenities
- **Renovate Gassaway Park**
  - Construct playground
  - Expand parking lot
- **Update Rose Rudman Park**
  - Creek stabilization and trail improvements
- **Improvements for Golden Road Park**
  - Construct restrooms by playground
  - Renovate existing structures: concession building and restrooms

### Existing Parks

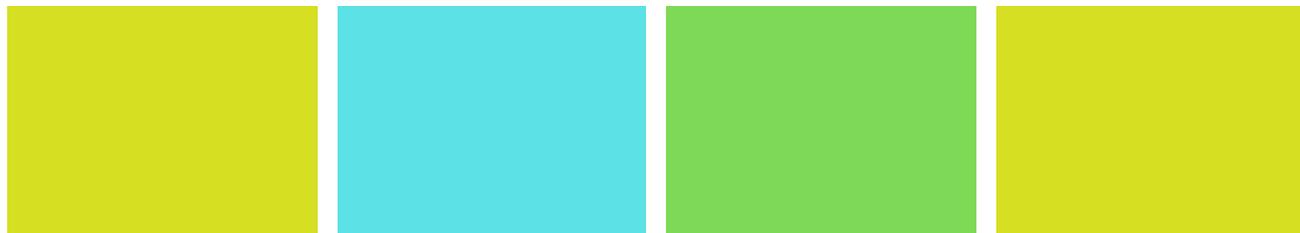
- **Improvements to Southside Park**
  - Complete accessible playground
  - Trail improvements
- **Enhance landscaping and unify amenities throughout park system in accordance with park design standards**
- **Improvements to Pollard Park**
  - Re-purpose/rebuild tennis courts
  - Enhance landscaping and unify site amenities
- **Renovate W.E. Winters Park**
  - Trail improvements
  - Replace playgrounds
- **Replace playground at Oak Grove Park**
- **Develop Rose Garden Complex in accordance with the Master Plan**
  - Develop multi-purpose trail
  - Improve Windsor Grove Nature Park trail

### Trails

- Connect trail system from Rose Complex to downtown.
  - This project is supported by Active Tyler Plan and Midtown Plan
- Connect trail system from midtown to downtown
  - This project is supported by the Active Tyler Plan and Midtown Plan
- Construct multi-purpose trails at Lindsey Park and Faulkner Park
- Construct nature trails at Lindsey Park and Faulkner Park

### Open Space

- Preserve the most valuable and aesthetically pleasing natural open spaces - especially along Mud Creek, Black Fork Creek, Stoneleigh Creek and their tributaries.
- Reforestation of various parks as it fits in future plans



### **Senior Citizens**

- Conduct in-depth study for potential construction or expansion of center

### **Indoor Recreation Center**

- Conduct in-depth study for potential construction of center

### **Maintenance**

- Adopt a maintenance plan that will increase the maintenance staff and budget as the park system continues to grow
- Develop park amenities design standards
  - Standards would focus on benches, lighting, signage, trash cans, and colors
- Update parks priority capital improvement plan

### **Swimming Pool**

- Rehabilitate Fun Forest Pool
- Construct splash pad at Woldert Park

**Actively pursue public/private partnerships to enhance Level Of Service and maintenance such as TISD, churches, First Tee and colleges.**



# IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of needs related to parks, recreation and open space, a list of were created to meet the needs of the community. This following list includes the ten-year project priorities.

	Projects 2020-2025	Priorities Met	Funding	
	<b>Re-Purpose Fun Forest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct spray ground</li> <li>Construct pavilion</li> <li>Construct multi-use lawn area</li> <li>Rehabilitate swimming pool</li> <li>Analyze demand for sport fields</li> </ul>	2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14*	<b>General fund</b> <b>Grants</b> <b>Donations</b> <b>KTB fund</b>	
	<b>Upgrade Lindsey Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare Master Plan</li> <li>Renovate pavilion</li> <li>Repave and stripe parking lot by lower softball fields</li> <li>Construct multi-purpose trails</li> <li>Preserve nature areas</li> <li>Construct adult soccer field</li> <li>Renovate concession facility</li> <li>Renovate restrooms</li> </ul>	1, 5, 7, 11, 14 *	<b>General fund</b> <b>Grants</b> <b>Donations</b> <b>KTB fund</b>	
	<b>Renovate Bergfeld Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-purpose tennis courts</li> <li>Enhance landscaping</li> <li>Unify site amenities</li> </ul>	5, 7, 15 *	<b>General fund</b> <b>Grants</b> <b>Donations</b> <b>KTB fund</b>	
	<b>Renovate Gassaway Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct playground</li> <li>Expand parking lot</li> <li>Construct benches</li> </ul>	2, 7 *	<b>General fund</b> <b>Kaboom Grant</b> <b>Donations</b> <b>KTB fund</b>	
	<b>Renovate Woldert Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct splash pad</li> <li>Construct baseball field</li> <li>Add shade over basketball courts</li> </ul>	4, 9 *	<b>General fund</b> <b>Grants</b> <b>Donations</b> <b>KTB fund</b>	
	<b>Extend Legacy Trail</b>	1, 5	<b>General fund</b> <b>Grants</b> <b>Donations</b> <b>KTB fund</b>	

\* means improving quality of existing park, see page 33 for reference

Projects 2020-2025	Priorities Met	Funding
<b>Maintenance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update parks priority capital improvement plan</li> <li>Develop park amenities design standards</li> </ul>	<b>This project is a key piece to meet the listed priorities.</b>	<b>General fund Grants Donations KTB fund</b>
<b>Renovate and construct restrooms at Golden Road Park</b>	<b>*Improving existing parks</b>	<b>General fund Grants Donations KTB fund</b>
<b>Construct trail connecting the Rose Garden Complex to down town and improve Windsor Grove Nature Park trail</b>	<b>1, 5, possible 7*</b>	<b>General fund Grants Donations KTB fund</b>
<b>Construct trail connecting midtown to downtown</b>	<b>1, 5, possible 7</b>	<b>General fund Kaboom Grant Donations KTB fund</b>
<b>Construct accessible playground and improve trail at Southside Park</b>	<b>1, 3, 6*</b>	<b>General fund Grants Donations KTB fund</b>
<b>Develop athletic field analysis for location and type of field to construct</b>	<b>9, 11, 14</b>	<b>General fund Grants Donations KTB fund</b>
<b>Renovate Rose Rudman Park with trail improvements and creek stabilization</b>	<b>1, 5, 13</b>	<b>General fund Grants Donations KTB fund</b>
<b>Actively pursue public/private partnerships to enhance Level Of Service and maintenance.</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>General Fund Grants Donations KTB fund</b>

\* means improving quality of existing park, see page 33 for reference

Projects 2025-2030	Priorities Met	Funding
<b>Renovate W.E. Winters Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace playgrounds</li> <li>• Improve trail pathways</li> </ul>	1, 3, 5, 7 *	General fund Grants Donations KTB fund
<b>Enhance landscaping and unify site amenities at all parks in accordance with park design standards</b>	7*	General fund Grants Donations KTB fund
<b>Preserve valuable and aesthetically pleasing natural open spaces.</b>	5, 13	General fund Grants Donations KTB fund
<b>Re-purpose or rebuild tennis courts at Pollard Park</b>	*Improving quality of existing park	General fund Kaboom Grant Donations KTB fund
<b>Conduct in-depth study on potential construction or expansion of senior center</b>	15	General fund Grants Donations KTB fund
<b>Conduct in-depth study on potential construction of indoor recreation center</b>	10	General fund Grants Donations KTB fund
<b>Continue to develop Rose Garden Complex in accordance with Master Plan</b>	1, 7, 8	General fund Grants Donations KTB fund
<b>Develop analysis focused on reforestation of park properties to preserve open space</b>	5, 14	General fund Grants Donations KTB fund
<b>Replace playground at Oak Grove Park</b>	3 *	General fund Grants Donations KTB fund

\* means improving quality of existing park, see page 33 for reference

## EXISTING AND AVAILABLE MECHANISMS

In order to implement this park and open space plan update, there are a variety of funding mechanisms and tools available for use by the City of Tyler. These include:

**SENATE BILL 376-4B - SALES TAX REVENUES** - Funds generated by this special sales tax can be used for developing and maintaining public recreational facilities.

**TEXAS RECREATION & PARKS ACCOUNT PROGRAM** - This program, administered by Texas Parks and Wildlife, is a matching grant program which may be used to aid communities in acquisition and development of parks and open space. This grant program includes the Outdoor Recreation Acquisition and Development Program and the Texas Recreation & Parks Account Indoor Recreation Program. The Texas Recreation & Parks Account Small Grants Program is a matching grant program which may be used to aid communities with a population less than 20,000 in the development of parks and open space.

**TEXAS RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUND** - The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department administers the National Recreational Trail Fund through a provision in the Federal Highway Bill. The National Recreational Trail Grants provides 80% matching funds (maximum \$200,000) for both motorized and non-motorized trail projects in local communities for hikers, cyclists, horseback riders, off-road motor vehicles, and nature enthusiasts. Funds can be utilized to construct new recreational trails, improve/maintain existing trails, develop/improve trail heads or trail side facilities, and acquire trail corridors. Eligible sponsors include city and county governments, state agencies, river authorities, water districts, MUDs, school districts, federal land managers, non-profit organizations, and other private organizations.

**NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION** - The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation promotes healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and plants by generating new commerce for conservation. The foundation leverages public dollars with corporate, private, and other non-profit funds. Funds are available on an as-need basis.

**KEEP TYLER BEAUTIFUL**-Keep Tyler Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful, has the mission of encouraging beautification, waste reduction, and recycling activities in the community by planning, initiating, and coordinating programs for litter control, environmental sustainability and beautification. Activities include: litter clean-ups; recycling events; graffiti removal; building restoration; park renovation/construction; community improvement & beautification; park and roadway clean-up & beautification (Adopt-a-Spot); litter-free events; and special promotions.

**PAY AS YOU GO** - This method of financing park improvements involves budgeting for land acquisition, development, and maintenance of park facilities through the city's annual budget process. Allocations for park improvements are made and spent annually through the standard budget process.

**GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS** - These bonds are issued by the city following an election in which the voters authorize their issuance for specific stated purposes, as well as the necessary tax increases to support them. These bonds pledge the property or ad valorem taxing power of the city.

**CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION** - These certificates have basically the same effect as general obligation bonds except they do not require an election to authorize them. An election can be petitioned by five percent of the registered voters of the city. These certificates are issued on the authorization of the City Council. Repayment is based on the property taxing power of the city, utility system revenues, or a combination of the two.

**USER FEES** - This method of financing requires the eventual user of each park to pay a fee for the use of each facility. Fees to be charged users can be established to pay for debt service, maintenance, and operation of the park system.

**PRIVATE OR CORPORATE DONATIONS** - Donations from foundations, corporations, and/or private individuals are often used to acquire and develop parks. The city should constantly identify and pursue opportunities to receive such funding for parks. One avenue for receiving donations is through the use of the Texas Parks & Recreation Foundation. This foundation has been developed to help all communities in the State of Texas to maximize the benefits of donations of land, property, and money

## SUMMARY

The City of Tyler owns a total of 1251.11 total park acres, and 792.61 of those acres are developed. When compared to Tyler's existing population of 108,663 residents, the resultant level of service of developed parkland is 8.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

This Parks and Open Space Master Plan provides different projects set for implementation over the next ten years. This plan is to serve as a flexible tool which requires review annually as well as a five-year update with input from citizens, city staff and City Council to continue to reflect the unique recreational needs of the area.

The city should take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities not identified in the plan that may arise, such as donations of land and/or facilities as long as the actions meet the intent of the goals and recommendations of this plan.

With the proposed improvements to the park system outlined in this plan will come additional maintenance and operational needs to utilize, manage, and care for both the new and existing facilities. The proposed improvements contained in this plan will enhance the quality of life in the region and help ensure that the City of Tyler can keep pace with the growing recreational needs of its citizens and the residents of Smith County. The resulting benefits of this plan include increased quality of life, tourism potential, economic value, increasing property values, and pride in the residents of the area.

## APPENDIX

The appendix includes aerial maps of park inventory, citizen survey results and athletic survey results.