



San Marcos

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
2018

San Marcos

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Adopted: TBD

Prepared for the City of



Texas

by

Halff Associates, Inc.



Acknowledgments

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Introduction

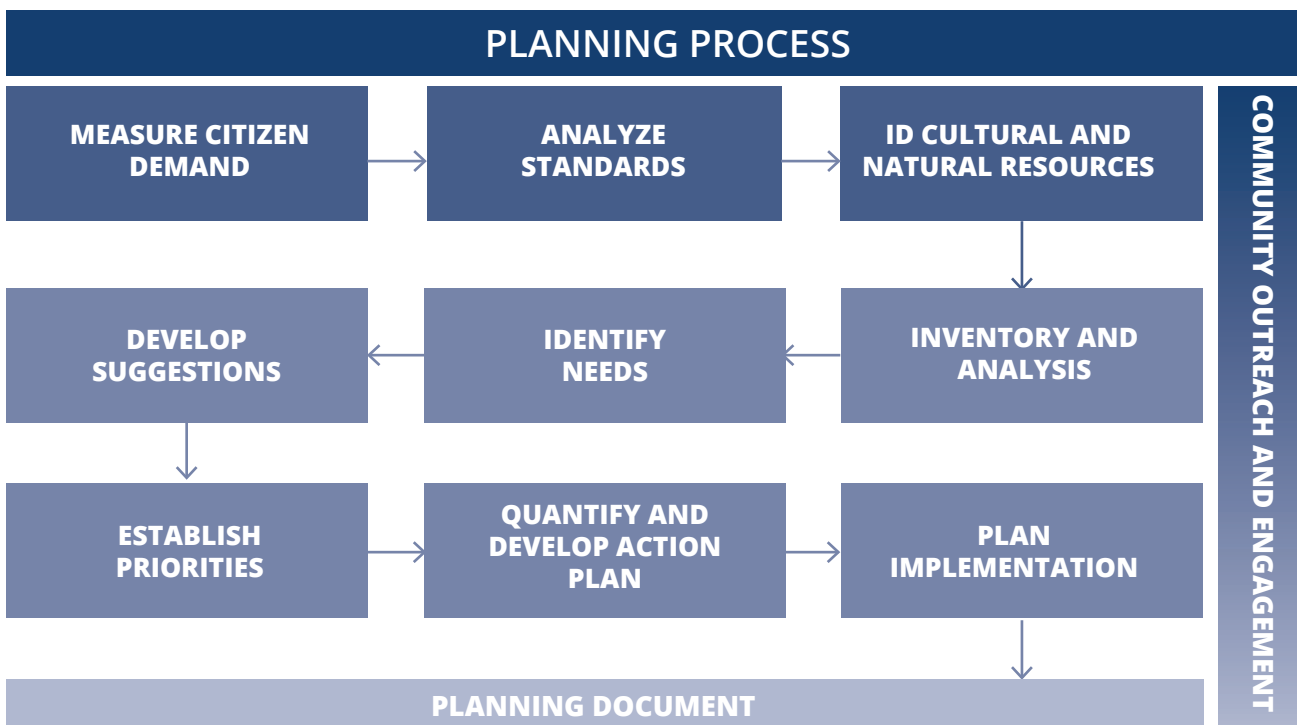
San Marcos
PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Planning Process

In July 2017, San Marcos chose Halff Associates, Inc. to assist the City in preparing an update of this Plan. The resulting vision, goals, and recommended actions were informed by a comprehensive planning process set out in Figure 1.1, *Planning Process*. The process included evaluating and understanding the existing conditions and developing appropriate goals for the parks and recreation system; identifying local resources and opportunities; analyzing needs based on population growth and community input; developing recommendations and priorities; and identifying potential implementation strategies.

Implementation of this Plan will occur over the next 10 years and beyond. Implementation will predominantly utilize existing processes (e.g., annual budgeting and the Capital Improvements Program) to effect change. In some cases, new policy decisions will affect the decision-making process and may result in new resolutions for planning and budgeting.

Figure 1.1, Planning Process



Plan Framework

As part of the preparation of the San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan ("this Plan"), an evaluation of existing conditions was undertaken for the parks, recreation, and open space areas in San Marcos. This analysis was combined with an evaluation of demographic trends, projected population increases, and community wants and needs to determine an appropriate community-wide vision for the future. Based on the results, an implementation strategy was identified which provides near- and longer-term guidance for growing and enhancing the park system over time.

Figure 1.2, Plan Framework

Existing Conditions	Needs Assessment	Recommendations	Implementation
Existing conditions includes collection of data input from community stakeholders and residents to help establish the overall vision and goals for parks, recreation, and open spaces in San Marcos.	A needs assessment identifies current system-wide needs and deficiencies and compares the existing state to an ideal condition based on factors such as community vision, population, and trends.	Recommendations and strategies area proposed to achieve the desired vision for parks, recreation, and open space areas.	Specific implementation strategies, priority setting, and cost estimates are established to implement the plan over time.

Planning Area

The planning area for this Plan includes the City of San Marcos (the City limits), as well as the current extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) (see Map 1.1, *Planning Area*). Today, the incorporated area of the City of San Marcos includes approximately 34.1 square miles; the ETJ adds an additional 145.2 square miles. Interstate 35 bisects SW to NE through the center of the City and provides easy access and connectivity throughout the City and the greater region.

Service Area

San Marcos' overall service area is defined as the area from where regular park users are drawn. It is estimated that a substantial portion of San Marcos park users reside outside of the City limits. Given the proximity of San Marcos to two major metropolitan areas (i.e., Austin and San Antonio), it is likely that a significant amount of park users come from these two urban areas. Consequently, the service area would likely extend beyond the City limits to include portions of these two cities. As such, the potential service area for San Marcos would then have an estimated population of over four million, thus allowing for increased opportunities in economic growth.

[illegible]

Importance of Parks and Recreation Planning

The provision and use of well-maintained parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational areas can enhance the citizen's way of life, as well as positively impact the overall community image while contributing to an enhanced level of aesthetic appeal. San Marcos, located in West-Central Texas, lies within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion which contains many notable natural features such as San Marcos Springs and the Blanco River, all of which are located in the Texas Hill Country. Additionally, the eastern half of the City is located within the Blackland Prairie ecoregion. By maximizing the potential of these amenities, San Marcos could enhance the quality of life of its residents through the expansion of outdoor recreational opportunities.

In 2010, the City of San Marcos put forth a parks, recreation, and open space master plan which was intended to direct municipal decisions and actions from 2010 to 2020, with an update to occur approximately five years from its adoption. In order to remain competitive for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant funding, and to evaluate the current and future needs of the growing community, it is important to undertake a planning endeavor which looks at the next 10 years of parks and recreational opportunities in San Marcos.

Located along the I-35 corridor connecting Austin to San Antonio, the City of San Marcos has undergone significant increases in both population and area in recent years. As the region grows, so does the need for additional parks and recreational open spaces. Currently, all of the City's regional parks are located in the Downtown area. The rest of the City has large greenspaces with trails, as well as many neighborhood parks.

The goal of this planning effort is to design a community vision, as well as recognize goals and strategies that actively maintain high standards for parks, recreation, and open space areas in San Marcos. Information obtained during this process will help to identify potential land for acquisition, and also set forth a projected time frame for critical City decisions. Based on community input and the recommendations of this Plan, the City will be better informed when establishing priorities and making budgetary decisions for the projects identified within.

Benefits of Parks and Recreation Planning

Well-planned parks and open spaces positively impact not only the environment and economy of a city, but also provide social and health benefits as well. By increasing access to natural resources, residents develop a stronger sense of pride in their community, which in turn, boosts their emotional and physical well-being.

Community Benefits



ENVIRONMENTAL

Preserving land for recreational use helps protect and preserve essential green spaces and crucial wildlife habitats and contributes to improved air and water quality. Park and open space systems provide opportunities to educate users on environmental issues and appropriate recreational uses within natural areas. See the section on the Habitat Conservation Plan in Chapter 3 on page 103.



ECONOMIC

Access to natural resources attracts visitors, and therefore economic stimulation within the community. Additionally, research indicates a correlation between park proximity and increased property values. This increased quality of life and standard of living can attract visitors as well as new businesses to the community.



SOCIAL

Recreational activities provide opportunities for social interaction and community connectivity, reducing crime rates and producing more stable neighborhoods. Recreation facilities and public parks can also provide recreational opportunities for at-risk youth.



HEALTH

Access to recreation provided by parks and open spaces has positive impacts on the emotional and physical well-being of a community. These recreational opportunities increase physical activity levels, helping to reduce heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and depression. Play in natural environments can also influence beneficial child development.

Parks and Recreation Trends

Public Recreation

Growing trends in mobile connectivity come with an increased public awareness of the quality of amenities, facilities, and recreational opportunities provided in a community. Frequently, when people see high-quality recreation in neighboring cities, they begin to look for and expect those same options within their own city.

Active Recreation

Recent studies reveal a decrease in participation for several youth league sports such as baseball, basketball, and soccer. Though the exact reasons for this decrease may vary, one explanation is that many traditional league-based athletics now come with higher fees and equipment costs, and increased time and travel commitments. As such, parents may be encouraging their children to choose one or two sports to focus on as they age, rather than several.

Passive Recreation

Passive recreation involves unprogrammed, self-generated activities that require no administration. Communities across the nation are showing increases in picnicking, walking and jogging on trails, sightseeing, and Frisbee.

Water-based Recreation

Over the past decade, water-based recreation has increased in popularity. Activities such as stand up paddle boarding and kayaking provide passive recreation accessible to many age groups. According to a 2016 report by the Outdoor Foundation, participation in stand up paddling was the top growing outdoor activity nationwide, with participation by people over the age of six increasing by 25.7 percent over the past three years.





Trail Systems

Nationwide, improving and extending trails is oftentimes the leading recreational amenity requested. These trail systems increase access to nature, allow for alternative mobility options, and contribute to outdoor educational opportunities. Trail activities such as walking, hiking, running, and biking provide not only fun individual exercise opportunities, but also group ones as well.

Mobile Connectivity

Mobile connectivity throughout people's daily lives has increased exponentially over the last two decades. People are digitally immersed more than ever before and are increasingly gaining their news, stimulation, and knowledge of the world around them from their phone, tablet or computer. By 2020, there are predicted to be over 80 billion connected devices globally.

Some examples of mobile connectivity in parks include the following:

- Geocaching
- Public Wi-Fi in parks
- Interactive websites to obtain information about upcoming events and pay user fees
- On-line registration to sign up for a sports league or to rent a pavilion for a private party





two

Context and Vision

Historical Context

Though San Marcos is known for the San Marcos River, Texas State University, and the San Marcos Outlet Malls, the City also has an extensive history that dates back to pre-European times. Archaeology shows that the area around Spring Lake has been continuously inhabited for over 13,000 years.

1812

In 1812, floods and Native American raids destroyed the civil settlement of San Marcos de Neve near the headwaters of the San Marcos River.

1832

The land that was once part of the Spanish land grant becomes what is known today as San Marcos. Juan Martin de Veramendi becomes colonial governor.

1835

The San Marcos area was first settled in 1835. Settlers used the reliable water flow to power gins and mills.

1848

On March 1, 1848, Hays County was organized by the Texas Legislature. San Marcos was selected as the county seat. At this time, the City already had 387 residents.

1881

In 1881, the population of San Marcos had reached 2,335 and the International-Great Northern Railroad was built through the community.

1965

In 1965, the Gary Job Corps Training Center was established, making education the main employer in San Marcos.

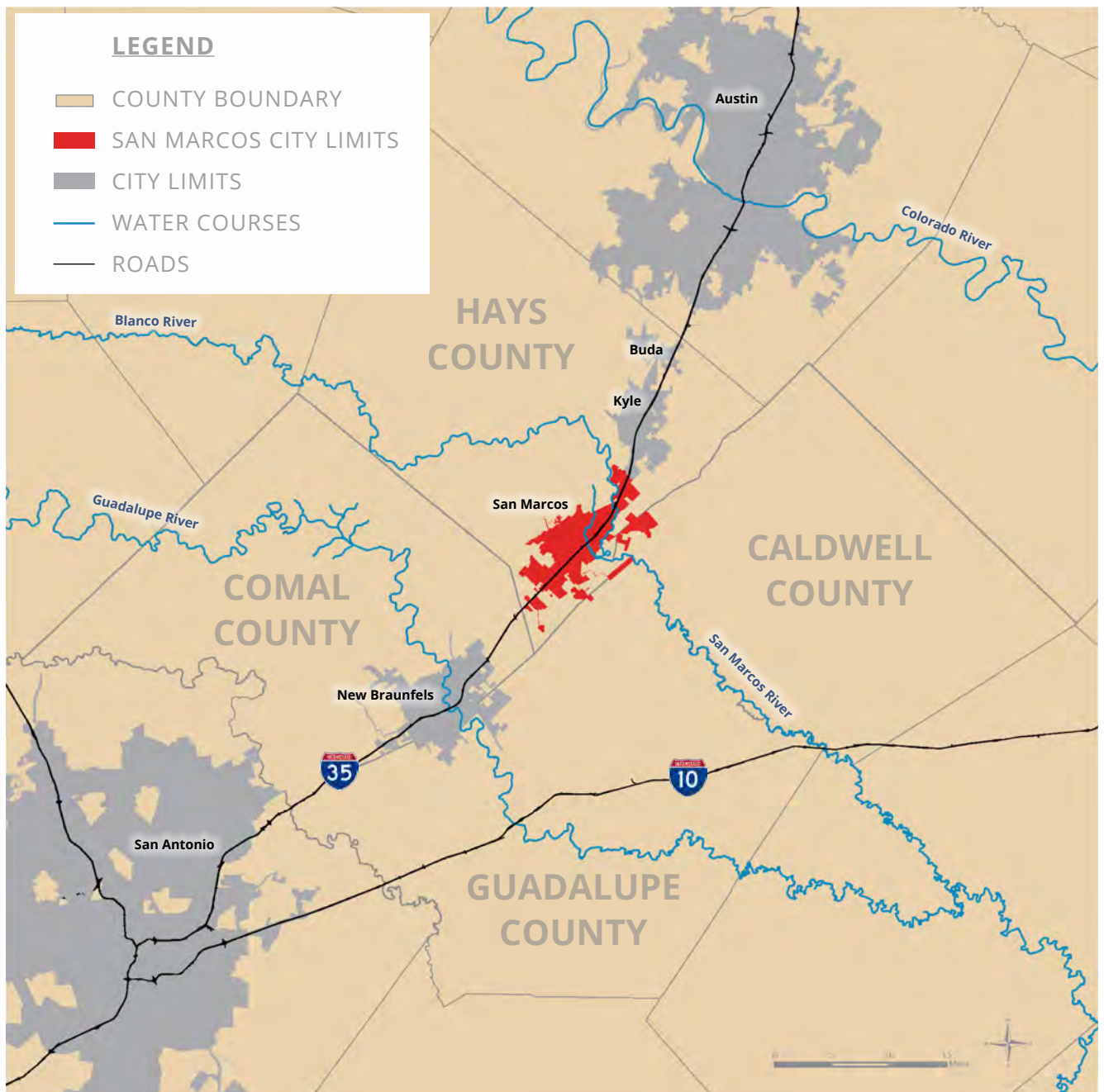
2016

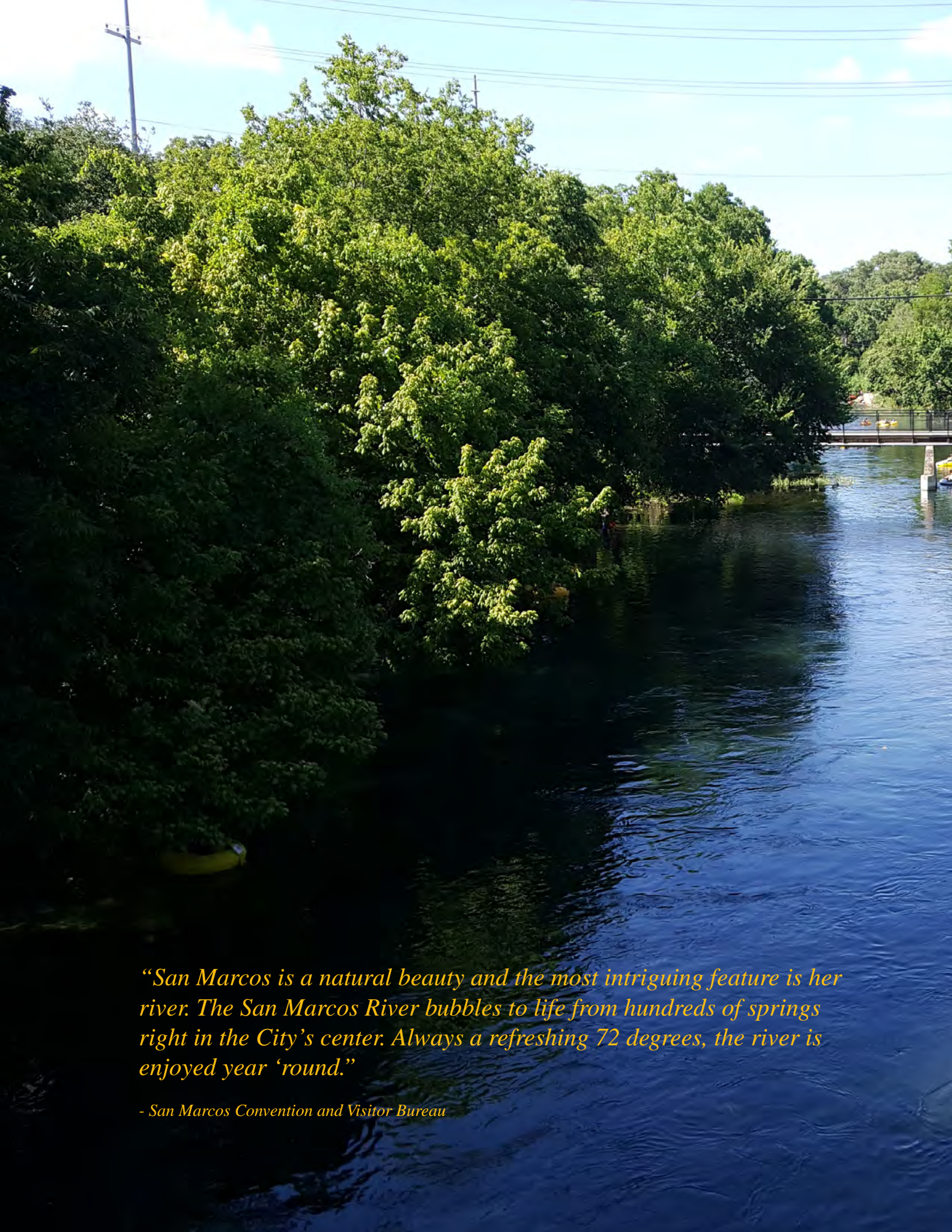
The population of San Marcos reaches 60,684 people and the City has almost 1,800 acres of park land comprised of neighborhood and special use parks, greenspaces, and the regionally-serving riverfront park system.

Regional Context

San Marcos is located in West-Central Texas, 50 minutes north of San Antonio and 30 minutes south of Austin (see Figure 2.1, *Regional Context*, below). The City covers over 30 square miles and is the seat of Hays County. Interstate 35 bisects San Marcos and provides convenient connectivity to area's north (e.g., Austin and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex) and south (e.g., San Antonio and Laredo). Both the San Marcos River and the Blanco River run through the middle of the City, providing numerous parks and recreational opportunities.

Figure 2.1, Regional Context





“San Marcos is a natural beauty and the most intriguing feature is her river. The San Marcos River bubbles to life from hundreds of springs right in the City’s center. Always a refreshing 72 degrees, the river is enjoyed year ‘round.”

- San Marcos Convention and Visitor Bureau



Character of the City

Recreation

The clear, spring-fed waters of the San Marcos River stay at a consistent 72 degrees year around and provide numerous recreational opportunities, such as a one-mile float, kayaking, and stand-up paddle boarding. Fishing, swimming, and snorkeling are some other activities enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, with the various parks along both sides of the river creating a relaxing atmosphere and protecting it from further development.



Downtown

Downtown San Marcos boasts the historic Hays County courthouse, as well as many locally owned gift shops, art galleries, unique restaurants, bistros, and nightspots. The charming historic square is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and hosts numerous events throughout the year, such as the annual Downtown San Marcos Trick or Treat and the weekly Farmers Market.



History

Constructed in 1846 by Dr. Eli T. Merriman, and located in Juan Veramendi Plaza Park, Merriman Cabin is one of many historic sites in San Marcos. The fire station, City Hall, Charles S. Cock House, and Hays County Jail are a few other historic sites—and all on the National Register of Historic Places.



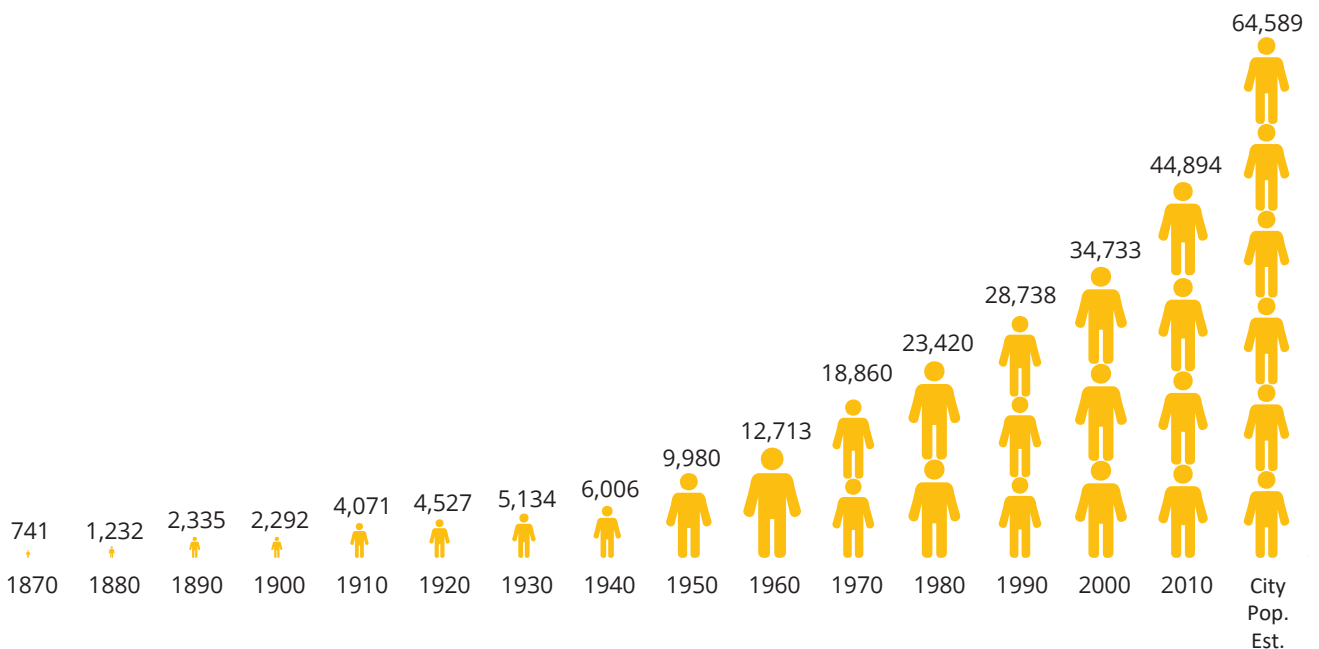
Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cock_house_2013

Demographics

Historical Population Trends

The City of San Marcos experienced a population increase during the 19th and 20th century, due in part to the arrival of the railroad and the growth of the cattle and cotton industries (see Figure 2.2, *Historic Population Growth*, below). San Marcos was also one of the earliest communities to embrace the tourism industry. Wonder World had their first cave tours in 1903 and the Aquarena Springs Hotel opened its doors in 1929. Another steady population increase occurred during WWII, with the establishment of Gary Air Force Base. By 1973, San Marcos and Hays County were classified into the Austin Metropolitan Statistical area with a population of 25,000; and in 2013, the U.S. Census Bureau ranked San Marcos as having the highest growth rate among all urban areas, with at least 50,000 citizens.

Figure 2.2, *Historic Population Growth*



Future Population Projections

Between 2012-2014, the City of San Marcos was ranked as the #1 fastest growing city in the U.S. Along with this rapid growth came an increased interest in residential and commercial property development. It also spurred a renewed focus on improving the character and tourism potential of the San Marcos region.

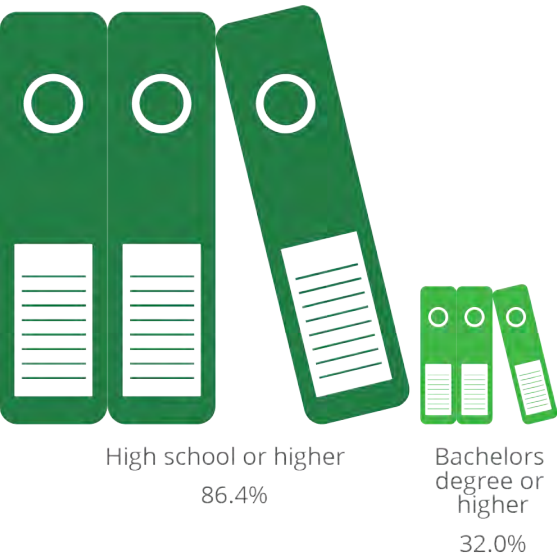
According to projections in the San Marcos Comprehensive Plan, the population of San Marcos will reach 66,909 people by 2020 and 79,819 people by 2030. By 2040, the City should have a population of over 95,221 people.

Based on this potential for such continued rapid growth, it is important that the City continue to monitor the evolving demands of parks, recreation, and open space needs.

Educational Attainment

Approximately 32 percent of San Marcos residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher, which is slightly higher than the national average (30%). The percentage of residents with a high school education or higher is 86.4 percent, just under the national average of 87 percent.

Figure 2.3, San Marcos Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Race and Ethnicity

In San Marcos, 83.8 percent of residents are white, compared with the national average of 73.3 percent. Black/African American comprise 4.8 percent of the population, which is less than the national average of 12.6 percent, and Hispanics make up 42.6 percent of the population, with the national average being 17.3 percent.

Table 2.1, San Marcos Race and Ethnicity

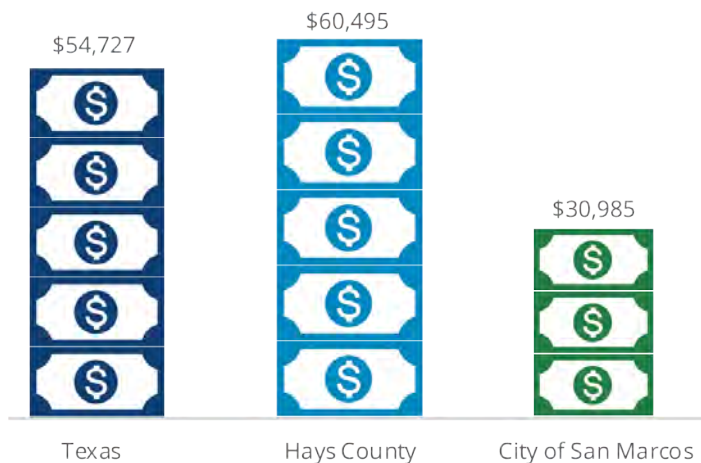
RACE (INCLUDES ALL HISPANIC/LATINO ETHNIC POPULATIONS)	CITY OF SAN MARCOS	HAYS COUNTY
White	83.8%	87.4%
Black or African American	4.8%	3.7%
American Indian or Alaka Native	0.4%	0.3%
Asian	2.1%	1.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%
Some other race	5.3%	4.3%
Two or more races	3.6%	2.9%
ETHNICITY (TOTAL % FROM ALL RACES)	CITY OF SAN MARCOS	HAYS COUNTY
	42.6%	37.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Household Income

The median household income for San Marcos is \$30,985, while Hays County has a median household income of \$60,495. Additionally, the State of Texas has a median household income of \$54,727, which is significantly higher than San Marcos.

Figure 2.4, San Marcos Household Income

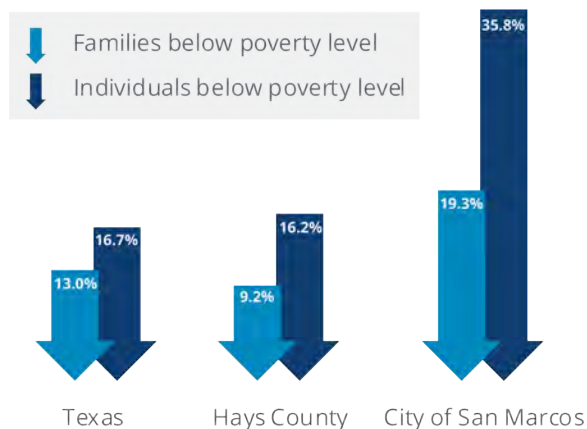


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Poverty Level

Approximately 36 percent of the population of San Marcos is below the poverty level, while the national average is 15.1 percent.

Figure 2.5, Poverty Level



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Past Planning Initiatives

Vision San Marcos: A River Runs Through Us (2016)

In 2016, after a year of development, *Vision San Marcos: A River Runs Through Us* was adopted by the City of San Marcos. This comprehensive planning document was intended to guide the growth and development of the City while maintaining its cherished natural resources and resident quality of life. A unique feature of this planning document is the Preferred Scenario Map.

The document was divided into six plan elements: Economic Development; Environment and Resource Protection; Land Use; Neighborhoods and Housing; Parks; Public Spaces and Facilities; and Transportation.

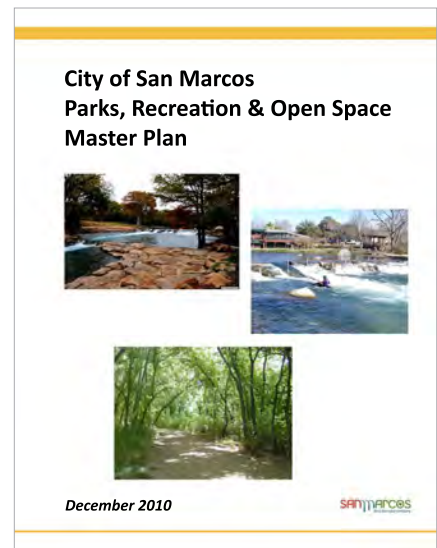
Under each plan element are the Vision, Goals, and Objectives. The Vision Statement defined community values, which resulted from public involvement and was meant to provide direction for the future of San Marcos. The Goals Statement then established general parameters on how to accomplish the vision, and the Objectives Statement, which was more detailed in nature, further explored how to achieve each goal.

San Marcos Parks Master Plan (2010)

The previous version of the San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan was adopted in 2010. It was intended to update the previously completed 2002 plan. The planning horizon covered the period from 2010 until today.

According to the previous plan, five specific needs were identified:

1. Trails (connections to existing trails and rivers/ creeks)
2. Acquisition of park land and development of facilities in the southwest quadrant of the ETJ
3. Acquisition of park land and development of facilities east of I-35
4. Athletic fields west of I-35
5. Community park development west of I-35 and near Downtown





San Marcos Youth Master Plan (2013)

The focus of the San Marcos Youth Master Plan was to create an actionable community plan that leveraged the ideas, resources and commitments of a community to improve conditions and outcomes for children and youth. A core element of this master plan was the engagement of citizens through community conversations. The results identified six priority areas for action, including:

- Increase and improve economic opportunities, conditions and preparation for young people and their families
- Equip and empower parents/families to support child development and success
- Increase and improve availability and access to developmental activities, opportunities and supports
- Increase and improve mental health, resilience, wellness and healthy life choices
- Build engaging and supportive networks and systems throughout the education lifecycle
- Improve communications, coordination and community engagement in support of children and youth

Successes Since 2010

The 2010 City of San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan has been the guiding document for the past nine years. It was created through a citywide, long-range master planning process and was designed to create an action-oriented plan for the future of the City's parks and recreation system. Since its implementation, the City has accomplished many of the items within, including:

- **New Parks and Projects.**
 - » El Camino Real Park, which consists of a new playground, walking trail, basketball court, picnic tables, benches, and lighting.
 - » Eddie Durham Park, which includes new guitar shaped sidewalks, two pavilions, picnic tables, and musical instruments.
 - » New parking and landscaping at Hillside Ranch II Park; a trailhead located in the Spring Lake Preserve.



Eddie Durham Park



Dunbar Park

- **Existing Park Renovations.** Nine neighborhood parks have been updated to include amenities such as, modern playgrounds, skate spots, multi-purpose courts, picnic areas, pavilions, benches, water fountains, connecting sidewalks/ trails, landscaping, and fences. The list of parks renovated include:

- » Conway Park
- » Dunbar Park
- » Franklin Square Park
- » Jaycees Park
- » Mill Street Park
- » Willow Creek Park
- » Paul Pena Park
- » Swift Park
- » Veterans Park

- **Park and Facility Improvements.**

- » Ramon Lucio Park, Dudley Johnson/ Randy Vetter/ Five Mile Dam Park, and Rio Vista Park tennis courts are sports facilities that have been improved with new lighting.
- » Facilities that have been renovated and/or constructed are the Cephass House, Calaboose, City Park Rec Hall, Gary Youth Softball Complex, and the Georgia Street Senior Center.

- **Property Acquisition.**

- » Capes Camp
- » Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area
- » Wildenthal
- » Spring Lake Natural Area



Swift Park



Dudley Johnson/ Randy Vetter/ Five Mile Dam Park

Vision and Plan Goals

Similar to the 2010 planning process, citizen engagement was used to identify necessary modifications to the City's vision and plan goals for moving forward with the parks, recreation, and open space system. This feedback was further discussed and vetted with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to determine needed revisions.

The vision and plan goals guiding the 2019 San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan include:

Vision

Create a unified parks and recreation system that serves the entire San Marcos community, supports tourism efforts, and continues to foster stewardship of the San Marcos River, Blanco River, and surrounding environment.

Plan Goals

1. **Funding** – allocate adequate funding for the long-term benefit of the parks system.
2. **Maintenance** – establish a set of departmental standards of which maintenance practices adhere.
3. **Safety** – maintain parks for the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
4. **Programming** – offer a variety of recreational and cultural City programs.
5. **Sustainability** – plan for the long-term health of the parks and recreation system.
6. **Environmental** – sensitivity to natural areas, waterways, habitat, and the aquifer recharge zone.
7. **Tourism** – promote recreational and cultural tourism through the development of regional facilities.
8. **Connectivity** – develop an interconnected system of parks, trails, and greenbelts throughout the San Marcos ETJ.
9. **University** – create a plan that can be implemented over time with the coordination and cooperation of Texas State University.

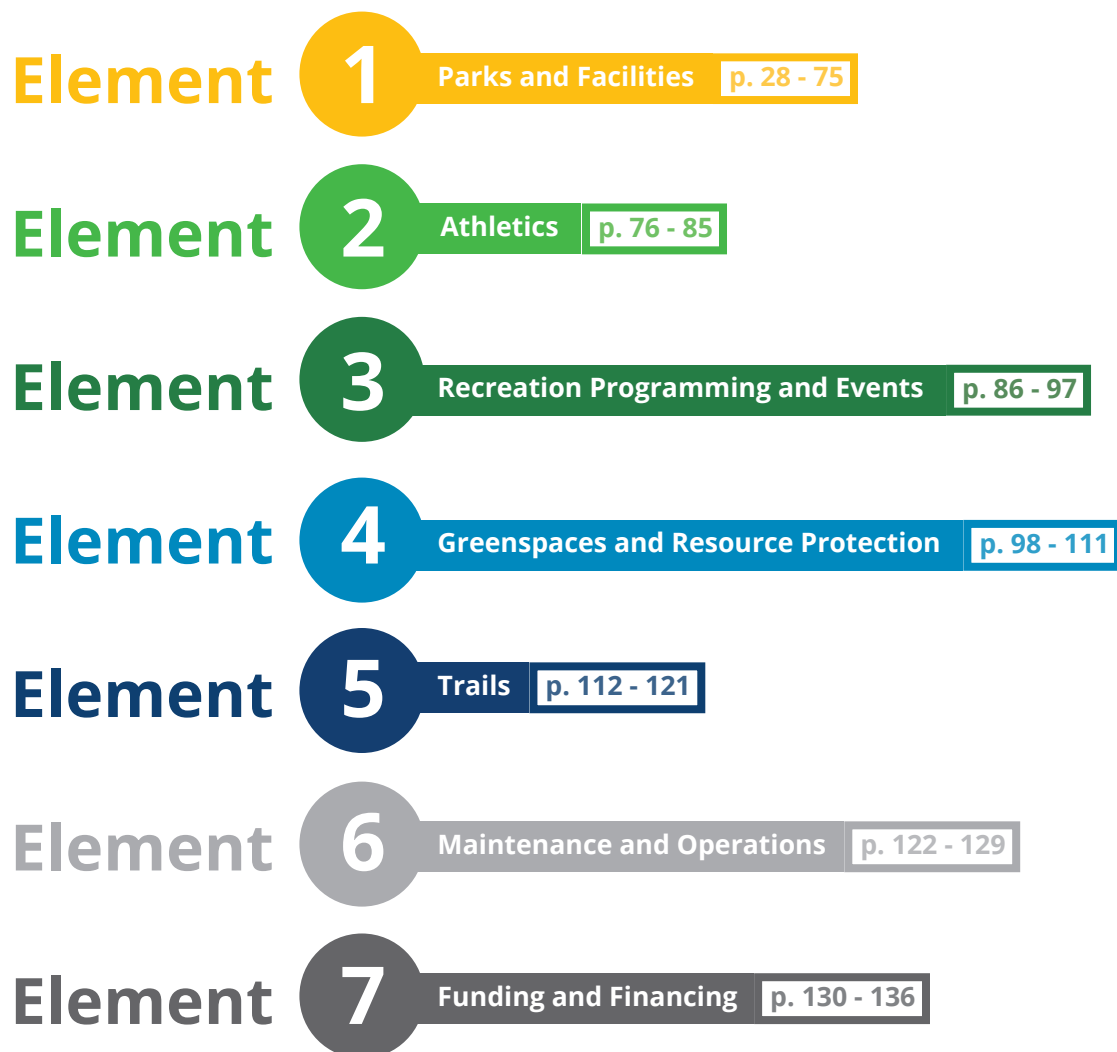
three

System Analysis, Needs, and Recommendations



Organization

This chapter is organized by element and is described below.



Each element is further organized using the following framework:

- Introduction
- Snapshot of Existing Conditions
- Analysis of Key Issues and Needs
- Recommendations

The recommended actions provided in this section are organized by goals based on functional topics. They can be acted upon and can occur at any point during the horizon of this Plan. The order of priority for implementation is set out in Chapter 4, *Implementation*.

Introduction

An analysis of the parks and open spaces in San Marcos forms one of the main parts of this Plan. Without the physical locations that parks and open spaces provide, none of the programs, activities, and events that contribute to a dynamic and connected community can take place. Understanding the existing and target levels of services of parks is important when making decisions involving the acquisition of park land as well as provisions for facilities and events within the City.

The most important part of the parks planning process is the needs assessment. This involves a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the current parks and recreation system, and also a projection as to how those needs may change over time. To determine the areas in the current system that need improvement, this assessment evaluates the demand, variety, distribution, and quality of parks and recreation. The findings help direct the recommendations which address those identified needs.

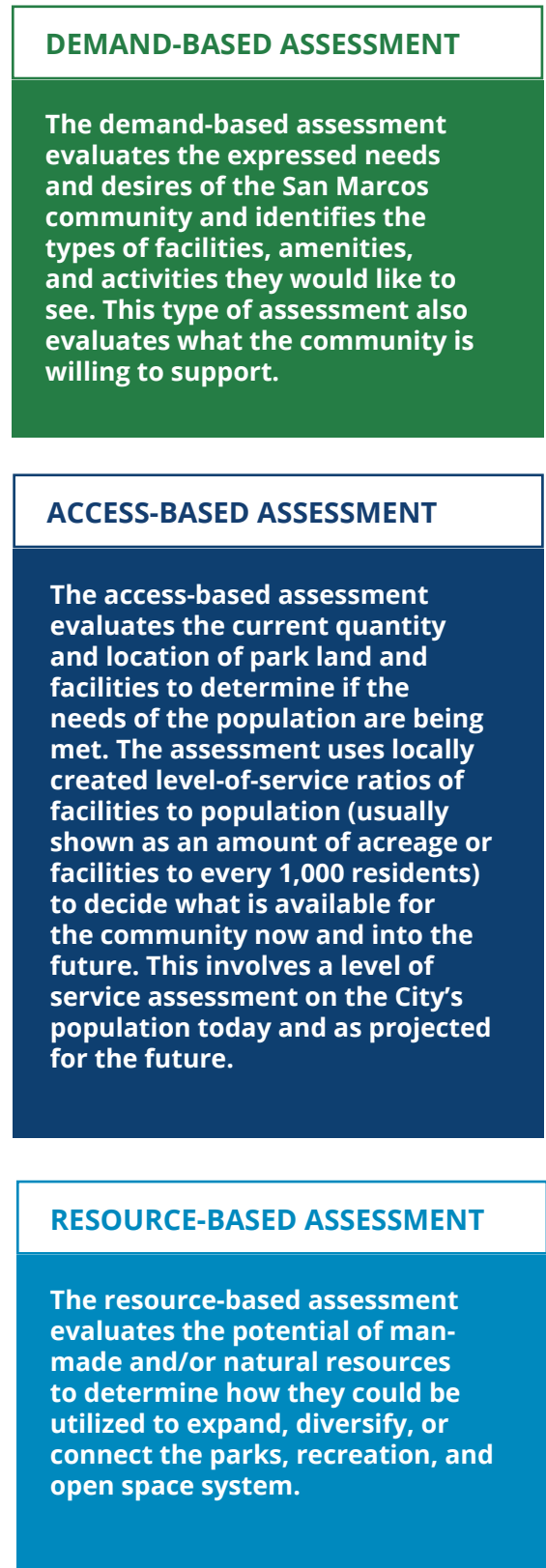
This chapter evaluates the current and future needs of parks and recreation in San Marcos. A three-tiered assessment is included in the various plan elements of the chapter, and are as follows:

- Demand-based assessment
- Access-based assessment
- Resource-based assessment (see Figure 3.1, *Assessment Methods*)

These assessments were developed using the accepted evaluation criteria set out by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for local parks master plans. Separately, each assessment does not represent a comprehensive picture. The resulting recommendations take this into consideration when making suggestions for the future.

It is important to note that the criteria and standards set forth serve only as a starting point and as such, can assist the City in determining if it has an appropriate amount and distribution of parks and facilities. Although they set a target benchmark, these criteria and standards should be adjusted periodically to meet changing conditions in the City.

Figure 3.1, *Assessment Methods*



Element 1

Parks and Facilities



Introduction

There are several types and scales of parks within San Marcos and the surrounding area. These parks serve specific locations and have varying functions, helping to demonstrate where the gaps and overlaps are in the current system and in turn, where there is a need and location for future park facilities. Identifying these gaps and overlaps provides the City with an informed awareness of how to grow and manage a more efficient system of parks and open spaces.

Park Classifications

The parks and recreation system in San Marcos is made up of the types of parks listed below:

- Regional Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Greenspaces and Natural Areas
- Special Use Facilities

Set out in Figure 3.2, *Park Classifications* (on page 30), are the different classifications of parks found, and in some cases, not found, in San Marcos.

Currently, San Marcos is served by a broad range of developed parks and recreational facilities that allow for both active (e.g., sports courts and fields) and passive (e.g., picnic facilities and trails) recreation (see Table 3.1, *Existing City Parks, Greenspace, and Natural Areas*, on page 31 and Map 3.1, *San Marcos Park and Recreation System*, on page 33).

The City also has several undeveloped properties in various phases of planning. In total, San Marcos residents are served by over 1,700 acres of developed and undeveloped park land and greenspace. Pages 34 through 41 contain additional details about the different types of park classifications in San Marcos.



Playgrounds provide both physical and social opportunities for children of all ages.

Figure 3.2, Park Classifications

REGIONAL PARKS

50 TO
1,000+
ACRES

Regional parks serve the whole city or multiple cities. These parks can be comprised of natural areas or urban elements. Festivals, entertainment venues, and special activities are often found in regional parks. Other types of amenities that can be included are boating, fishing, camping, hiking/biking trails, and wildlife viewing. Internal roads and oversized parking lots may be required to meet access demands. At special events and during times of peak park usage, connections to mass transit may also be necessary. Regional parks in San Marcos include Bicentennial Park, City Park, and other river parks.

COMMUNITY PARKS

10 TO
50
ACRES

Community parks are larger parcels of park land that serve several neighborhoods and encourage active and passive recreation. Lighted athletic fields and playgrounds play a large role in an active community park. Picnicking, walking paths, and unprogrammed natural and open spaces are examples of passive recreation at community parks. These types of parks have better vehicular accessibility when compared to neighborhood parks and they can range in size from 10 to 50 acres. Dudley Johnson/ Randy Vetter/ Five Mile Dam Park are examples of parks that don't fit the definition of a community park yet still serve as one. Currently, there are no parks classified as community parks within San Marcos.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

3 TO 10
ACRES

Neighborhood parks are smaller parks, and serve one big or two small neighborhoods. They are designed for residential areas because they are within bicycling or walking distance. Neighborhood parks range in size from three to 10 acres. Dunbar Park and El Camino Real Park are examples of neighborhood parks.

GREENSPACES AND NATURAL AREAS

VARIES

Greenspaces and natural areas vary in size and do not serve a specific geographic area. They are most often used for passive recreation and the conservation of land, but they can also serve as water quality control areas and ecological habitats for wildlife. Fishing, kayaking, hiking, and nature viewing are examples of activities that can be enjoyed in the open spaces of this type of park. Two examples of greenspace and natural areas in San Marcos are Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area and Spring Lake Natural Area.

SPECIAL USE AREAS

VARIES

Special use facilities are designed to accommodate specific recreational activities. Entrance fees can be charged and staff are often needed to manage the operations. Community centers, golf courses, aquatic facilities, and stadiums are all examples of special use areas. These areas can be located next to a regional park or a community park. In San Marcos, Gary Sports Complex and Memorial Park are two examples of special use areas.

Source: This Parks Master Plan includes the guidelines for park classification established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) as included in the 1990 printing of Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines and the 1995 printing of Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines. The NRPA guidelines have generally been the most widely accepted and used guidelines of their type, especially by local governments.

Table 3.1, Existing City Parks, Greenspace, and Natural Areas

					ACTIVE FACILITIES												WATER RECREATION				PASSIVE FACILITIES									OTHER FACILITIES
MAP NUMBER	PARK NAME	LOCATION ADDRESS	TYPE	ACREAGE	BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD (#)	RENTAL FACILITY	SOCCER/CRICKET FIELD (#)	FOOTBALL FIELD (#)	MULTIPURPOSE PRACTICE FIELDS (#)	BASKETBALL COURT (#)	TENNIS COURT (#)	VOLLEYBALL COURT (#)	CONCESSION STAND (#)	SKATE PARK (#)	BMX TRAIL (#)	RECREATION CENTER/ LIBRARY	FISHING PIER (#)	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH (#)	SWIMMING POOL (#)	SPLASH PAD (#)	AMPHITHEATER (#)	STAGE/ PATIO/ GAZEBO	WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES)	DISC GOLF (#)	PLAYGROUND (#)	TABLE/PICNIC TABLE (#)	BBQ GRILL (#)	PICNIC SHELTER/ PAVILION (#)	RESTROOMS (#)	
Regional Parks																														
1	Bicentennial Park	209 S CM Allen Pkwy	Developed	3.9																			0.2			2				
2	Cape's Camp	675 Cape Rd	Undeveloped	20.1																			0.9							
3	Children's Park	213 S CM Allen Pkwy	Developed	6.3		1																	0.4		1	10	6	1	1	
4	City Park	170 Charles Austin Dr	Developed	18.2		1				1			1										0.6		1	10			1	
5	Juan Veramendi Plaza Park	400 E. Hopkins St	Developed	3.8		1																1	0.2							
6	Meeks Property	109 S CM Allen Pkwy	Undeveloped	6.9																										
7	Ramon Lucio Park	601 S CM Allen Pkwy	Developed	18.5	5	1							1										0.7			15		1	1	
8	Rio Vista Park	555 Cheatham St	Developed	16.8		1				2	6		1						1	1			0.5			50		1	1	
9	San Marcos Plaza Park	206 N CM Allen Parkway	Developed	5.4		1																2	0.3							
10	William and Eleanor Crook Park	430 Riverside Dr	Developed	16.2																			0.9			20			1	
Total Regional Parks				116.0	5	6	0	0	0	3	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	4.7	0	2	107	6	3	5	
Community Parks																														
The Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex and Dudley Johnson Park are special use parks, but also serve as community parks.																														
Neighborhood Parks																														
11	Anita Reyes Park	115 Lockwood St	Developed	0.4						1															1	6		1		
12	Conway Park	504 Bliss Ln	Developed	0.4						1				1									0.1		2	1		1		
13	Craddock Avenue Park	612 Craddock Ave / Archie St	Undeveloped	4.5																										
14	Dunbar Park	801 W MLK Dr	Developed	5.8	2	1				1													0.2		2	4		2		
15	Eddie Durham Park	213 W MLK Dr	Developed	0.3																			0.1			4		2		
16	El Camino Real Park	401 Cottonwood Pkwy	Developed	37.6						1													0.5		1	4				
17	Franklin Square Park	1902 N Bishop St	Developed	4.5																					2	3				
18	H.E.B. Park	801 Patton St	Developed	0.9																										
19	Haynes Street Park	1041 Haynes St	Developed	0.3						1																1				
20	Jaycee's Park	1906 Lancaster	Developed	2.7						1															2	3				
21	Mill Street Park	215 Mill St	Developed	0.8						1													0.1		2	4		1		
22	Paul Pena Park	1209 Crystal River Pkwy	Developed	2.9						1													0.2		1	3				
23	Swift Memorial Park	200 Monterey St	Developed	0.3						1															2	1				
24	Victory Gardens Park	300 Roosevelt St	Developed	0.6						1													0.1		2	1		1		
25	Vietnam Veterans Park	320 Mariposa	Developed	6.3										1									0.2		2	6		1		
26	Willow Springs Park	325 Ellis St	Developed	4.8																			0.2		1					
Total Neighborhood Parks				73.0	2	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	0	20	41	0	9	0	

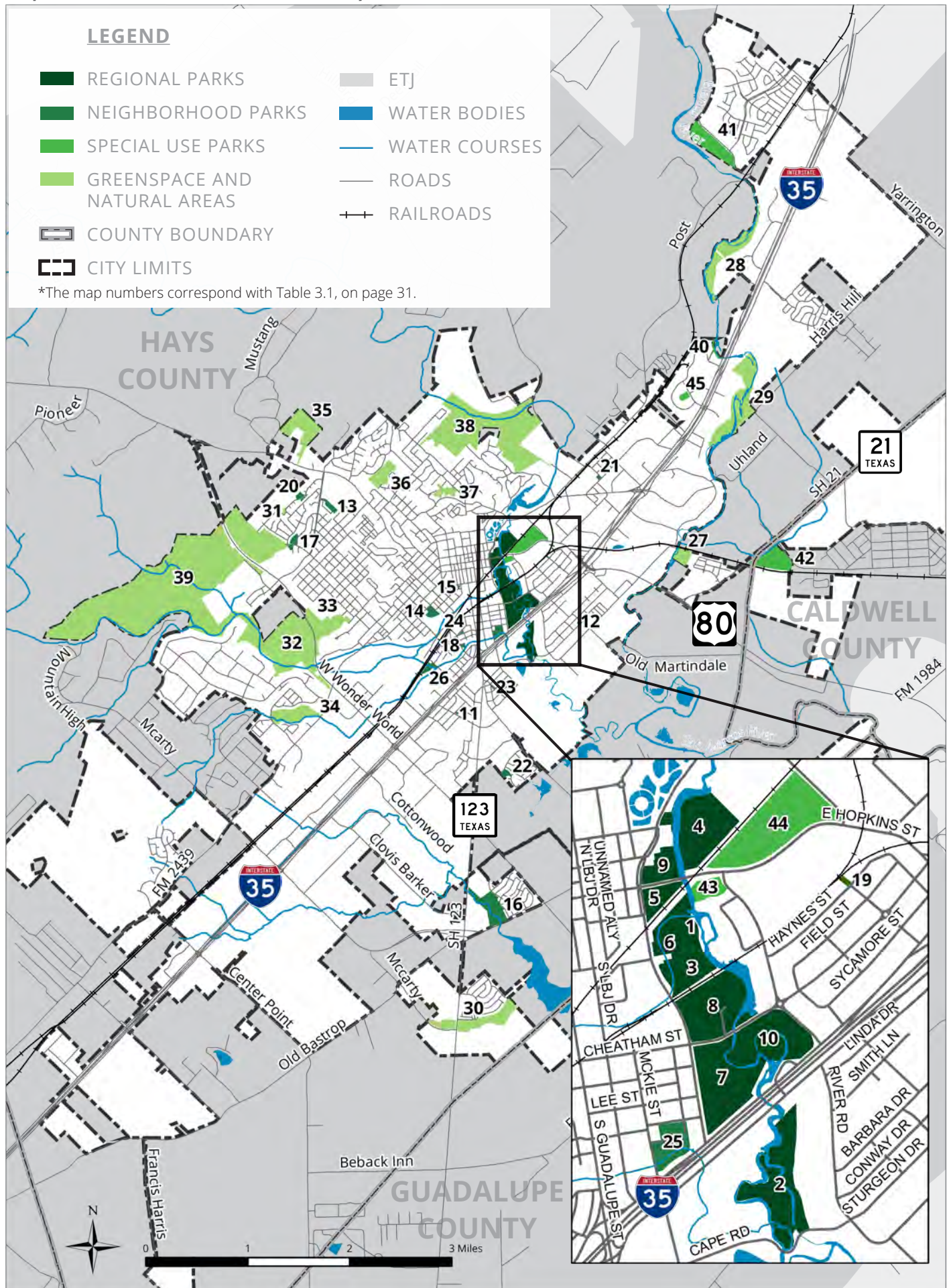
* Acreages reflect property owned and classified as City park property as of November 2017.

Table 3.1, Existing City Parks, Greenspace, and Natural Areas (cont.)

					ACTIVE FACILITIES												WATER RECREATION				PASSIVE FACILITIES									OTHER FACILITIES	
MAP NUMBER	PARK NAME	LOCATION ADDRESS	TYPE	ACREAGE	BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD (#)	RENTAL FACILITY	SOCCER/CRICKET FIELD (#)	FOOTBALL FIELD (#)	MULTIPURPOSE PRACTICE FIELDS (#)	BASKETBALL COURT (#)	TENNIS COURT (#)	VOLLEYBALL COURT (#)	CONCESSION STAND (#)	SKATE PARK (#)	BMX TRAIL (#)	RECREATION CENTER/ LIBRARY	FISHING PIER (#)	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH (#)	SWIMMING POOL (#)	SPLASH PAD (#)	AMPHITHEATER (#)	STAGE/ PATIO/ GAZEBO	WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES)	DISC GOLF (#)	PLAYGROUND (#)	TABLE/PICNIC TABLE (#)	BBQ GRILL (#)	PICNIC SHELTER/ PAVILION (#)	RESTROOMS (#)		
Greenspace and Natural Areas																															
27	Blanco River Village	350 Trestle Tree	Undeveloped	12.8																											
28	Blanco Riverwalk	512 Riverway Ave	Undeveloped	55.9																											
29	Blanco Shoals Natural Area	1201 E River Ridge Pkwy	Undeveloped	91.5																			2								
30	Cottonwood Creek Park	4300 Highway 123	Undeveloped	52.9																											
31	Lancaster Greenbelt	2108 Lancaster St	Undeveloped	0.9																											
32	Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area	2102 Hunter Rd	Developed	142.0																			5.9						1		
33	Prospect Park	1414 Prospect St	Developed	9.0																			2								
34	Retreat on Willow Creek	205 Hunter's Hill Dr	Developed	33.0																											
35	Ringtail Ridge Natural Area	1814 Old Ranch Road 12	Developed	45.1																			2					1			
36	Schulle Canyon Natural Area	100 Ridgewood	Developed	21.1																			1								
37	Sessom Creek Natural Area	915 Chestnut St	Developed	10.4																			0.5								
38	Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area	685 Lime Kiln Rd	Developed	251.5																			6			3			1		
39	Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area	1753 Valencia Way	Developed	760.2																			13						1		
Total Greenspace and Natural Areas				1,486.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32.4	0	0	3	0	1	3		
Special Use Parks																															
40	Alameda Park	101 Hernandez Way	Developed	3.6																											
41	Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex	4440 S Old Stagecoach Rd		42.7			10						1										1		1	7		1	1		
42	Gary Sports Complex	2600 Airport Hwy 21	Developed	42.6	8								2												1	7			2		
43	Hays County Veterans Memorial	450 E Hopkins St	Developed	3.0																											
44	Memorial Park	625 E Hopkins St	Developed	25.2		5				2				1		2			1										4		
45	River Ridge Park	301 River Ridge Pkwy	Developed	3.7																											
Total Special Use Parks				120.6	8	5	10	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1.0	0	2	14	0	1	7		
CITY-OWNED TOTAL				1,795.9	15	12	10	0	0	15	6	0	6	3	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	3	39.6	0	24	165	6	14	15		

* Acreages reflect property owned and classified as City park property as of November 2017.

Map 3.1, San Marcos Parks and Recreation System



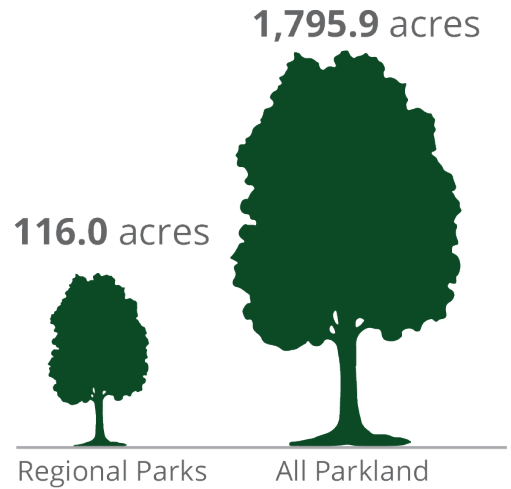
REGIONAL PARKS

Unlike other types of public parks, regional parks are intended to serve an entire city or municipal area. Depending on the location, these parks are typically comprised of land which contains many diversified amenities, making them the ideal staging ground for festivals and other outdoor events. Typically larger in size, regional parks often have natural resources and preserved land and/or urban elements.

There are currently 10 regional parks in San Marcos, totaling 116 acres and making up approximately six percent of the City's park land (see Figure 3.3, *Regional Park Comparison*). These parks are located near the center of the City, primarily along the San Marcos River, and are of particular significance to residents. City Park is an example of one of the City's more prominent regional parks.

Some of the issues in regional parks include over-use, flooding, pollution, and habitat degeneration (see Figure 3.4, *Issues with Regional Parks*).

Figure 3.3, Regional Parks Comparison



San Marcos Regional Parks

- Bicentennial Park*
- Cape's Camp
- Children's Park*
- City Park*
- Juan Veramendi Plaza Park
- Meek's Property
- Ramon Lucio Park*
- Rio Vista Park*
- San Marcos Plaza Park*
- William & Eleanor Crook Park

* Representative examples of these regional parks are highlighted on page 35.

Figure 3.4, Issues with Regional Parks





This public mural featured in Rio Vista Park was made possible as part of the San Marcos Mural Arts Program.



San Marcos Plaza Park features several nice amenities such as recreational trails, benches, a stage and several other urban features.



City Park is located near the campus and features multiple amenities such as a basketball court, a playground, trails and a river access point.



Ramon Lucio Park is a large regional park which features multiple amenities such as a baseball field, benches, picnic facilities and river access.



Located along the banks of the San Marcos River, Children's Park has amenities such as picnic areas, open space, playgrounds and direct river access.



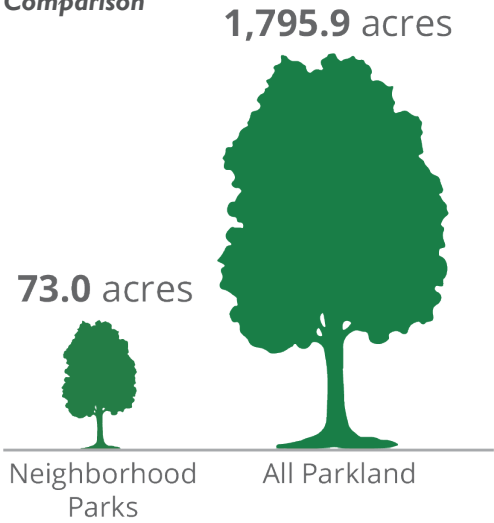
Located directly adjacent to Downtown, Bicentennial Park is a pleasant open space which has river access points and recreational trails.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are typically smaller than other park types and can serve one or two neighborhood communities. Given their location, these types of parks are often within walking or bicycling distance and are highly valued in the neighborhoods they serve.

There are currently 16 neighborhood parks in the City of San Marcos, totaling 73 acres and making up approximately four percent of the park land in the City (see Figure 3.5, *Neighborhood Parks Comparison*). Most of the neighborhood parks are located on the west side of Interstate 35. Some examples are Craddock Avenue Park, Dunbar Park, and Franklin Square Park. Current issues presently found in neighborhood parks are lack of parking, lack of maintenance, vandalism, and lack of accessibility (see Figure 3.6, *Issues with Neighborhood Parks*).

Figure 3.5, Neighborhood Parks Comparison



San Marcos Neighborhood Parks

- Anita Reyes Park*
- Conway Park*
- Craddock Avenue Park
- Dunbar Park
- Eddie Durham Park
- El Camino Real Park
- Franklin Square Park*
- H.E.B. Park
- Haynes Street Park
- Jaycee’s Park
- Mill Street Park*
- Paul Pena Park*
- Swift Memorial Park
- Victory Gardens Park*
- Randy Vetter Park
- Willow Springs Park

* Representative examples of these neighborhood parks are highlighted on page 37.

Figure 3.6, Issues with Neighborhood Parks





Located within a residential community, Conway Park boasts multiple amenities including a basketball court, skate ramps and a playground.



Victory Gardens Park is located in south central San Marcos and features a basketball court, playground and benches.



Franklin Square Park is located within a residential subdivision and features multiple amenities such as seating areas and a playground.



Paul Pena Park is a neighborhood park complete with a basketball court, benches, bike racks, picnic tables, water fountains, and a playground.



Mill Street Park is a large neighborhood park which contains multiple amenities including a basketball court, pet mitt dispenser, picnic shelters, and picnic tables.



Anita Reyes Park is a neighborhood park which features a basketball court, picnic tables, a playground, and plenty of natural shade.

GREENSPACE AND NATURAL AREAS

One common characteristic of greenspace and natural areas is their large size and passive space. These parks are not intended to serve a particular geographic area and feature amenities such as hiking, biking, and nature viewing. Ecologically, these parks are significant, and preservation is a common feature. The size of these parks can vary widely.

Currently, there are 13 greenspace and natural areas in the City of San Marcos, totaling 1,486.3 acres, or 83 percent, a significant portion of the City's park land (see Figure 3.7, *Greenspace and Natural Areas Comparison*). Greenspace and natural areas provide countless recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors alike. Some of the notable greenspace parks in San Marcos include Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area, Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area, Sessom Creek Natural Area, Prospect Park, and Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area.

A few of the issues with the greenspace and natural areas include lack of enforcement, difficulty determining location, illegal vehicular access, and budget for maintenance (see Figure 3.8, *Issues with Greenspace and Natural Areas*).

Figure 3.7, Greenspace and Natural Areas Comparison



San Marcos Greenspace Parks

- Blanco River Village
- Blanco Riverwalk
- Blanco Shoals Natural Area*
- Cottonwood Creek Park
- Lancaster Greenbelt
- Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area*
- Prospect Park
- Retreat on Willow Creek
- Ringtail Ridge Natural Area*
- Schulle Canyon Natural Area*
- Sessom Creek Natural Area*
- Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area*
- Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area

* Representative examples of these greenspace parks are highlighted on page 39.

Figure 3.8, Issues with Greenspace and Natural Areas





Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area is a large greenspace within San Marcos that contains multiple passive recreational amenities.



Purgatory Creek Natural Area is located on the west side of San Marcos and contains a large preserved area with varied topography, trails, and many other natural features.



Schulle Canyon Natural Area is located on the northern section of San Marcos and contains informative signage, benches, bike racks, and other recreational amenities.



Ringtail Ridge has amenities such as benches, information kiosks, and trails.



Blanco Shoals Natural Area is a large open space with trails which provide river access.



Sessom Creek Natural Area is a heavily wooded greenspace in San Marcos that features hiking trails and other amenities.

SPECIAL USE PARKS

Unlike other types of parks, special use parks are typically less flexible spaces that are designed to accommodate specific recreational activities. Sports fields and golf courses are examples of special use parks, as are parks that have been dedicated in some way, like for a war memorial. Special use parks do not often stand alone, and can be located near or adjacent to a community or regional park. They can also be cross-purposed as a community park.

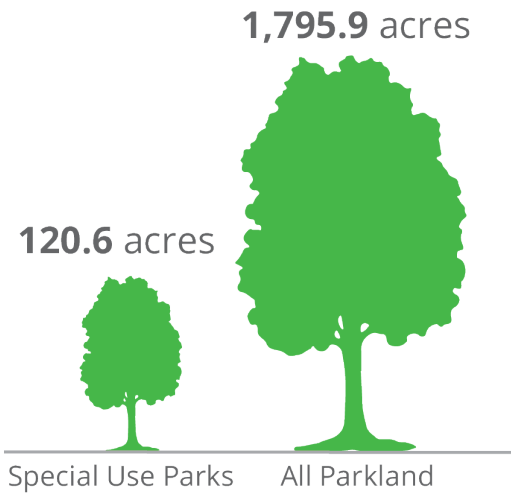
Currently, there are six special use parks which occupy roughly six percent of the total park land in San Marcos (see Figure 3.9, *Special Use Parks Comparison*). While special use parks make up only a small portion of the total park land in the City, they play an integral role in the recreational environment of San Marcos and provide countless opportunities for outdoor enjoyment. Some of the notable special use parks in San Marcos are Alameda Park, Gary Sports Complex, Memorial Park, and River Ridge Park.

Issues involving special use parks include stormwater control, insufficient parking, lack of maintenance, and lighting issues (see Figure 3.10, *Issues with Special Use Parks*).

Figure 3.10, Issues with Special Use Parks



Figure 3.9, Special Use Parks Comparison



San Marcos Special Use Parks

- Alameda Park
- Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex*
- Gary Sports Complex*
- Hays County Veterans Memorial
- Memorial Park*
- River Ridge Park

* Representative examples of these special use parks are highlighted on page 41.



Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex is located along the north side of the Blanco River and includes 10 soccer fields, a playground, a pavilion, and restrooms.



Baseball fields, concession stands, a playground, and restrooms can be found at Gary Sports Complex, which is surrounded by open space.



Memorial Park is near downtown San Marcos and contains a skatepark, dog park, the San Marcos Activity Center and the library.

Other Supporting Parks

STATE PARKS

JJ Stokes Park, located on the east side of Interstate 35, is the only state park within the City limits of San Marcos (see Map 3.2, *Existing Schools and State Park*, on page 44). This park can be accessed by Cape Road, which runs along the north edge of the park. Stokes Park is a developed park that is roughly five acres in size and is maintained by the City.

Surrounding land uses include the following:

- Apartment complexes
- Cape's Camp Park
- Single-family residential
- AE Wood Fish Hatchery
- Open space

The San Marcos River runs through the middle of this park, providing passive recreational opportunities such as hiking and bike trails. The park is currently in fair condition, but will need updates in the future.



The San Marcos River runs through the middle of JJ Stokes Park.

SCHOOL PARKS

There are 10 schools within the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District: one high school, two middle schools, six elementary schools, and one prekindergarten. The majority of these schools are located within the center of the City (see Map 3.2, *Existing Schools and State Park*, on page 44). At the high school, there is one football field and one baseball field. At the middle schools, there are football fields and tennis courts. The elementary schools contain playgrounds and basketball courts as well. The schools within the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District are listed below on Table 3.2, *Existing Schools*. Blanco Vista Elementary is also located in San Marcos but is part of the neighboring school district, Hays CISD.

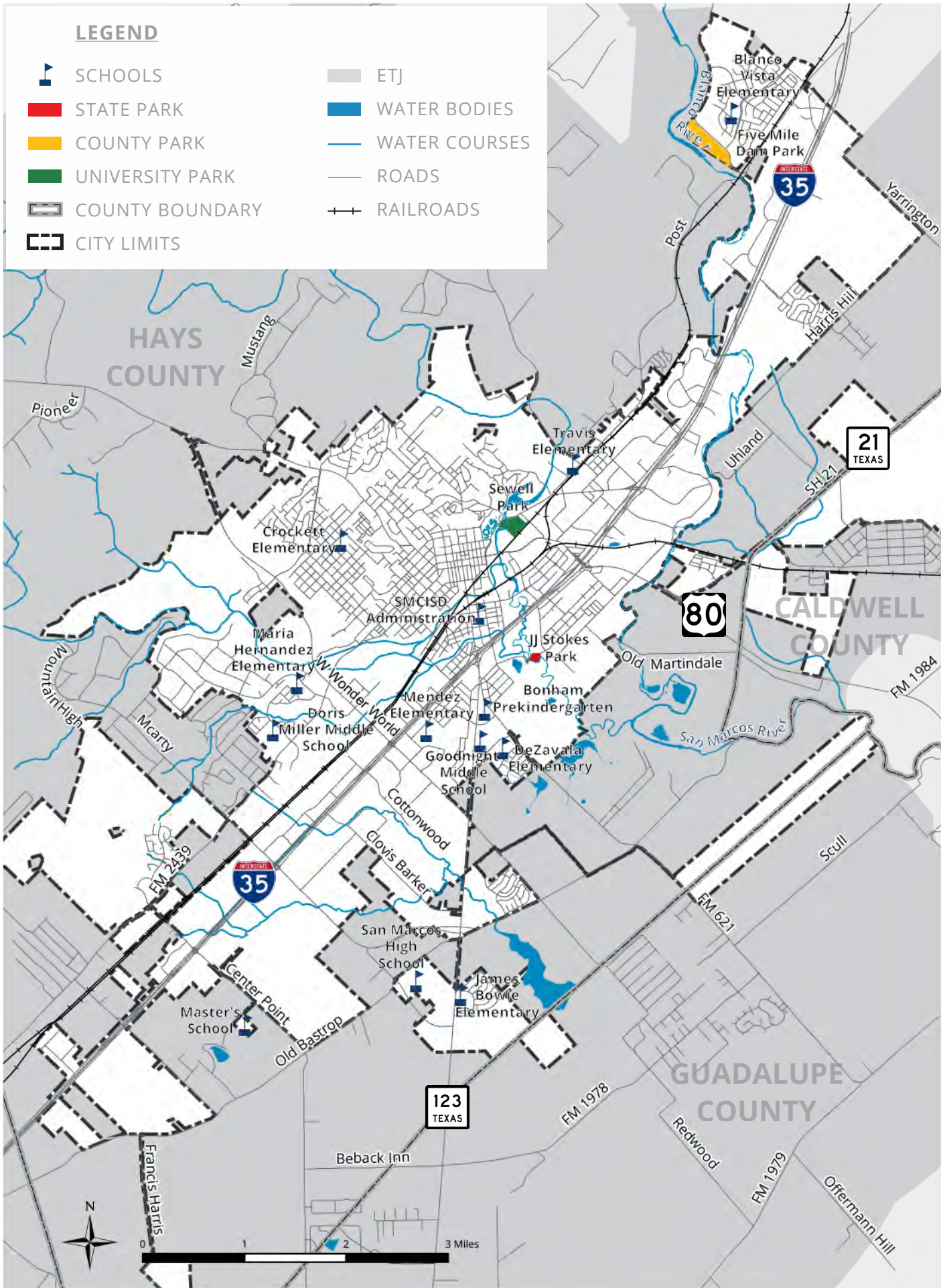
Table 3.2, Existing Schools

SCHOOL NAME	AMENITIES
San Marcos High School	Track, 8 tennis courts
Doris Miller Middle School	Track, 3 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts
Goodnight Middle School	Track, 8 tennis courts
Crockett Elementary	2 playgrounds, basketball court
DeZavala Elementary	Playground
James Bowie Elementary	2 playgrounds
Maria Hernandez Elementary	3 playgrounds
Mendez Elementary	2 playgrounds, 4 basketball courts, 4 tennis courts
Travis Elementary	2 playgrounds
Bonham Prekindergarten	Playground
Blanco Vista Elementary	2 playgrounds



Source: star.txstate.edu/201707summer-program-keeps-san-marcos-children-fed-during-summer-months

Map 3.2, Existing Schools and State Park



HOA PARKS

Although HOA parks are for neighborhood residents only, they help to reduce congestion at other parks in the community. There are currently three HOA parks in San Marcos:

- Blanco River Village HOA Park
- Blanco Vista HOA Park
- Cottonwood Creek HOA Park

Blanco River Village HOA Park is located on the north side of the intersection of Camino Road and Newberry Trail. This park is 3.8 acres and has soccer fields. Blanco Vista HOA Park is a 2.7-acre park located on the north side of Blanco Vista Elementary School. The following amenities are included in this park:

- Approximately 1.6 mile walking trail
- Lap pool
- Pavilion
- Play area
- Zero entry pool

Cottonwood Creek is adjacent to Sozo Church and is 3.5 acres. This park contains a covered play area, walking trails, and a half-court basketball court.



HOA parks provide amenities to residents of specific communities.

Source: austinrealestate.com/buildertexas/san-marcos/68009-blanco-vista-heritage-point

Issues and Needs

A citywide public survey was conducted to obtain information on the community’s thoughts on parks and facilities; trails; athletics; recreation programming and events; greenspaces and resource protection; and riverfront parks maintenance and operations. Around two percent (1,257) of the population of San Marcos responded to the online survey. Approximately 73 percent were residents of San Marcos (see Figure 3.11, *Are You a Resident of the City of San Marcos?*), and of those who lived in San Marcos, around 59 percent did not have children living at home (see Figure 3.12, *If You Have Children Living at Home, What Are Their Ages?*).

The most popular activities were walking for fitness or to get somewhere in the City, visiting a City park or park facility and riding a bicycle for fitness or to get somewhere in the City (see Figure 3.13, *Activity Participation*).

Figure 3.11, Are You a Resident of the City of San Marcos?

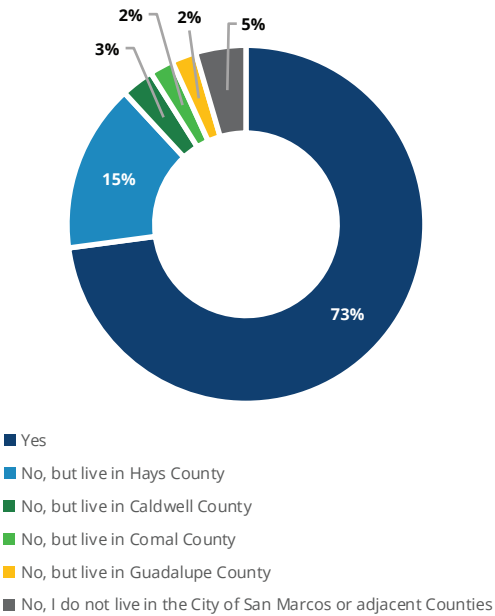


Figure 3.12, If You Have Children Living at Home, What Are Their Ages?

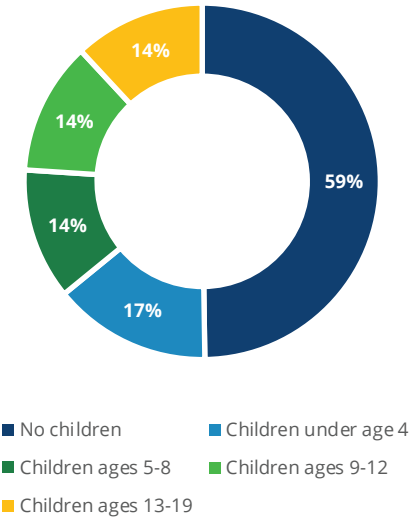
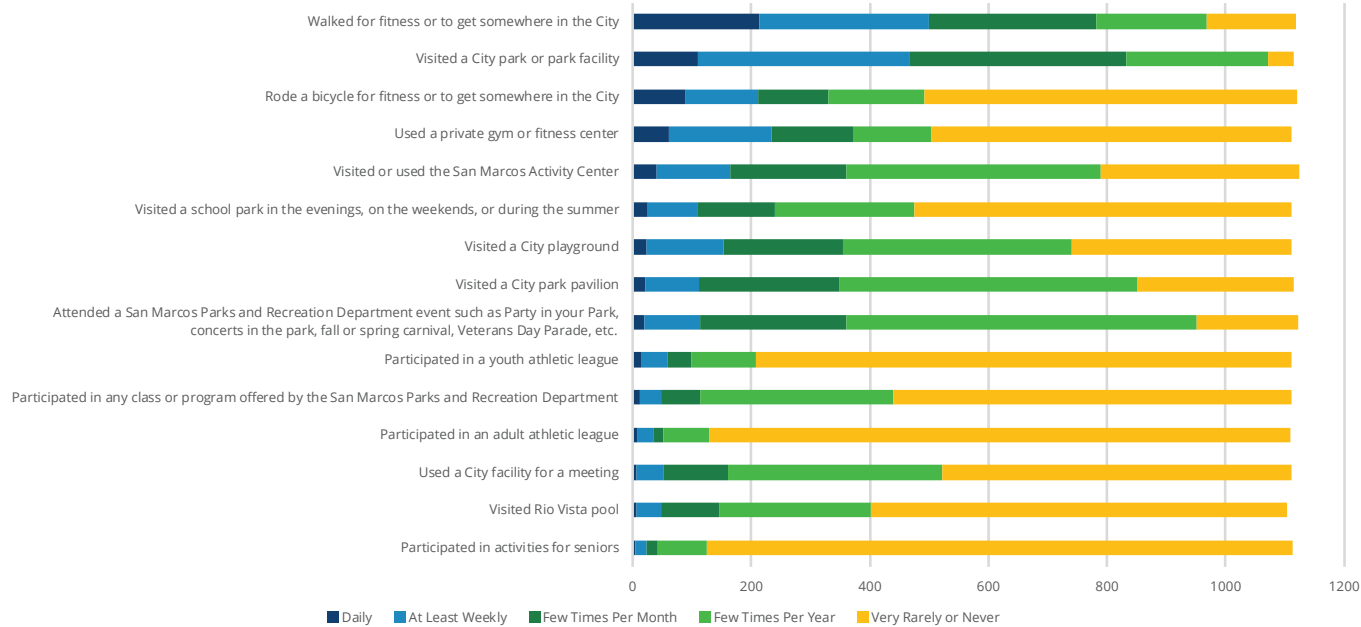


Figure 3.13, Activity Participation



In Figure 3.14, *If You or Your Family DO NOT Use Parks or Recreational Facilities in San Marcos, Why Don't You?*, it indicates that there are a variety of reasons why residents do not use parks and recreational facilities. Some of the top reasons are that the parks and/or recreational facilities do not meet their needs or interests, lack of time, and the parks are too far away. In the “other” category, the top responses were:

- Overcrowding
- Public transportation is needed
- Lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Lack of access to San Marcos River
- Lack of park maintenance
- Lack of fishing locations

Residents were also asked how strongly they agree or disagree with a variety of statements. They felt that better parks would help to improve the overall image of the City, parks help strengthen the economy of the City, and that the City should publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve City parks (see Figure 3.15, *How Strongly Do You Agree or Disagree With the Following Statements*).

Figure 3.14, If You or Your Family DO NOT Use Parks or Recreational Facilities in San Marcos, Why Don't You?

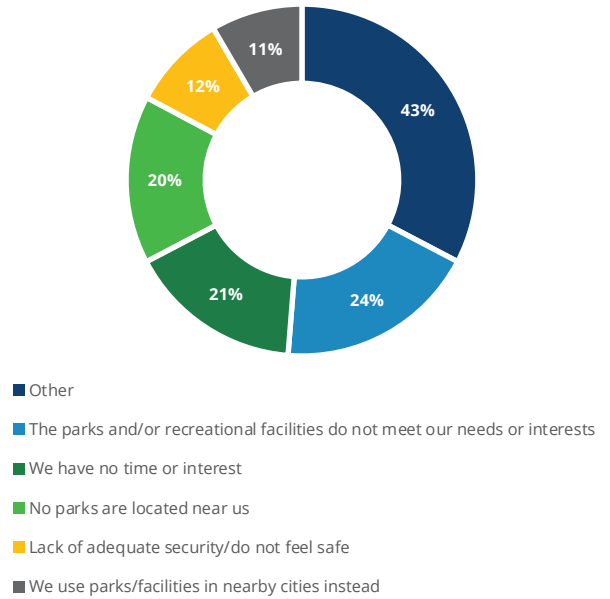
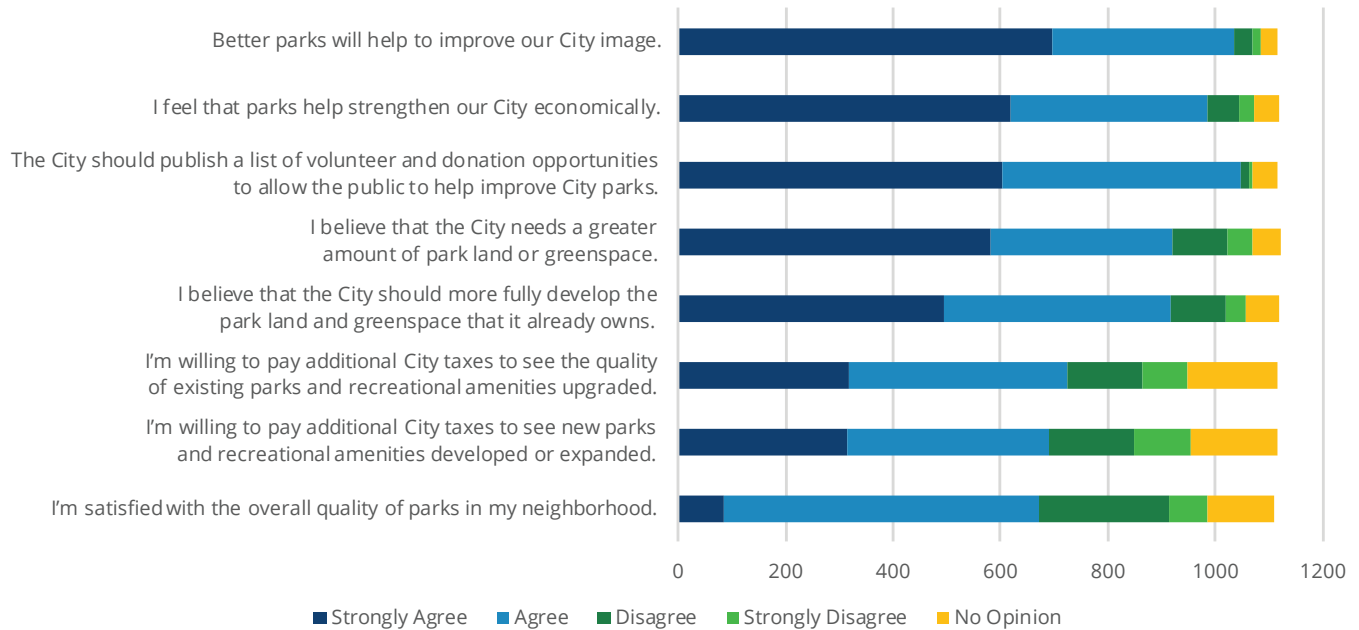


Figure 3.15, How Strongly Do You Agree or Disagree With the Following Statements



Additional park amenities that residents would like to see in San Marcos include places to swim in the river, nature trails, and shade trees (see Figure 3.16, *Importance of Park Facilities to be Provided or Added in San Marcos*). Survey respondents were also asked how frequently they visit the riverfront parks system to do various activities or use facilities. Their top answers included trails, swimming or wading in the river, and the use of athletic fields (see Figure 3.17, *How Often Have You or Your Family Visited the Riverfront Parks System To Do the Following Activities or Use the Following Facilities?*).

Figure 3.16, Importance of Park Facilities to be Provided or Added in San Marcos

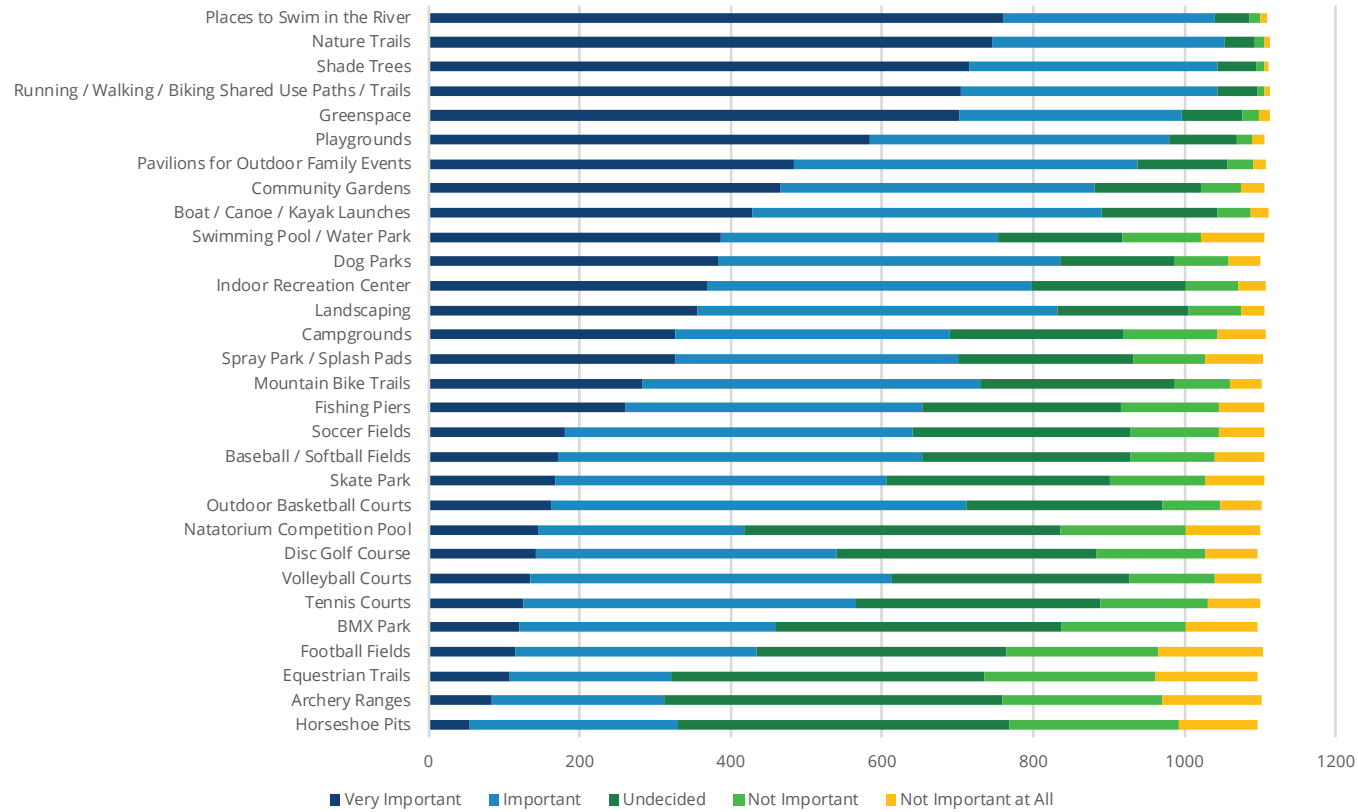


Figure 3.17, How Often Have You or Your Family Visited the Riverfront Parks System To Do the Following Activities or Use the Following Facilities?

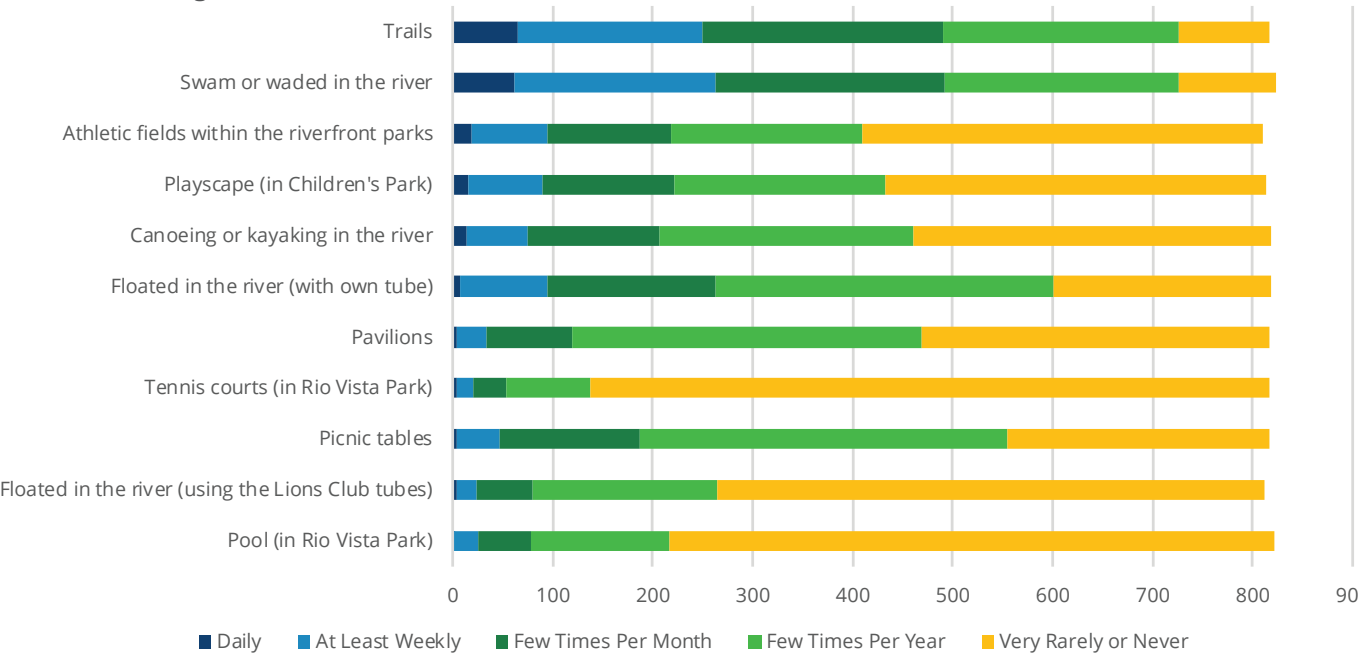


Figure 3.18, *How Important Is It For the City to Address the Following Parks, Recreation, and Trail Issues?*, depicts the top three selections for how to improve parks, recreation, and trail issues. They include: improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the riverfront parks system, improve water access for swimming and wading, and improve water access for people with disabilities. In addition, Figure 3.19, *How Important Do You Think the Following Considerations Are?*, indicates that the top choices are to establish an annual pass at discounted rates for City residents, charging an entrance or parking fee per vehicle for non-residents, and controlling access on weekends during the peak summer season.

Figure 3.18, How Important Is It For the City to Address the Following Parks, Recreation, and Trail Issues?

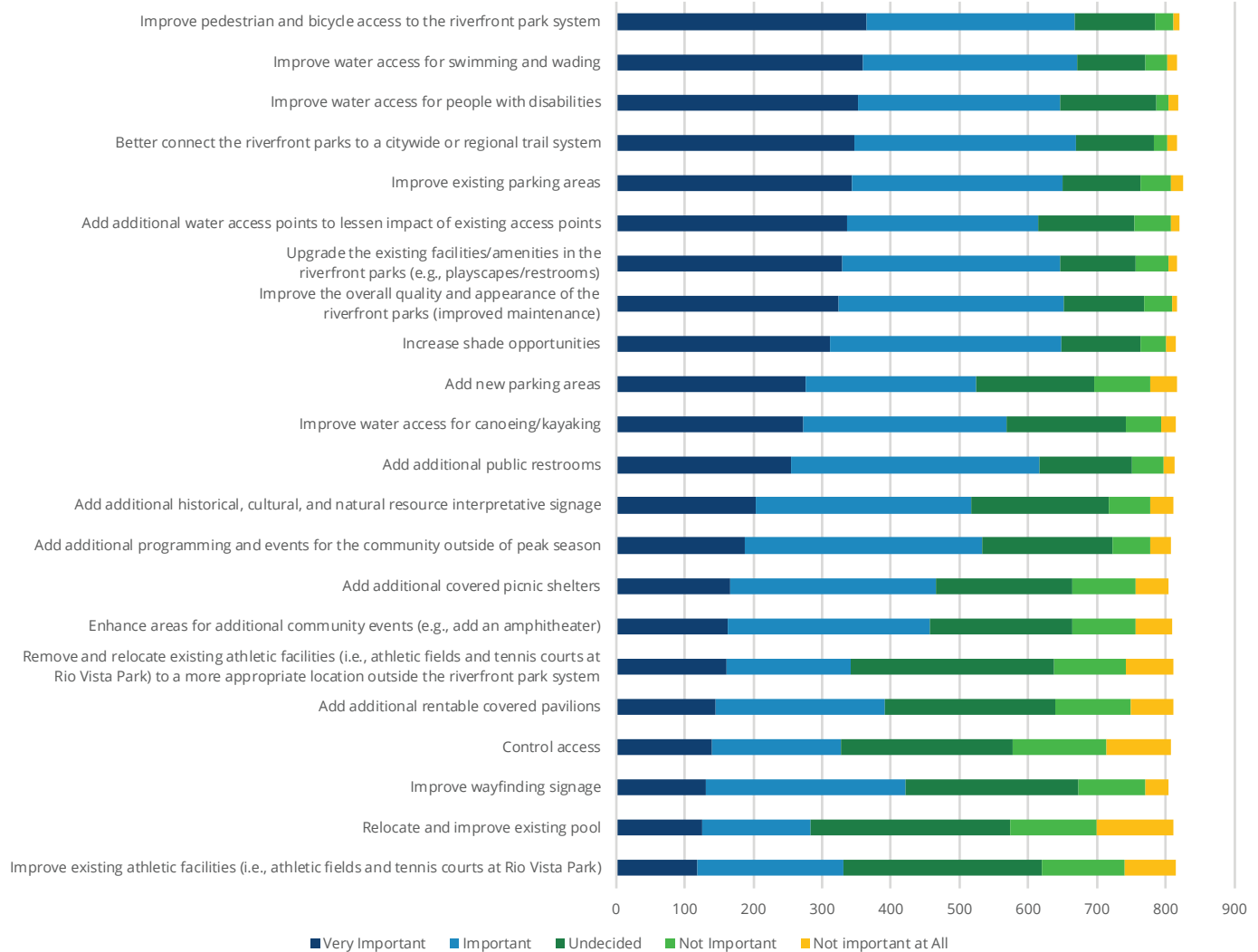
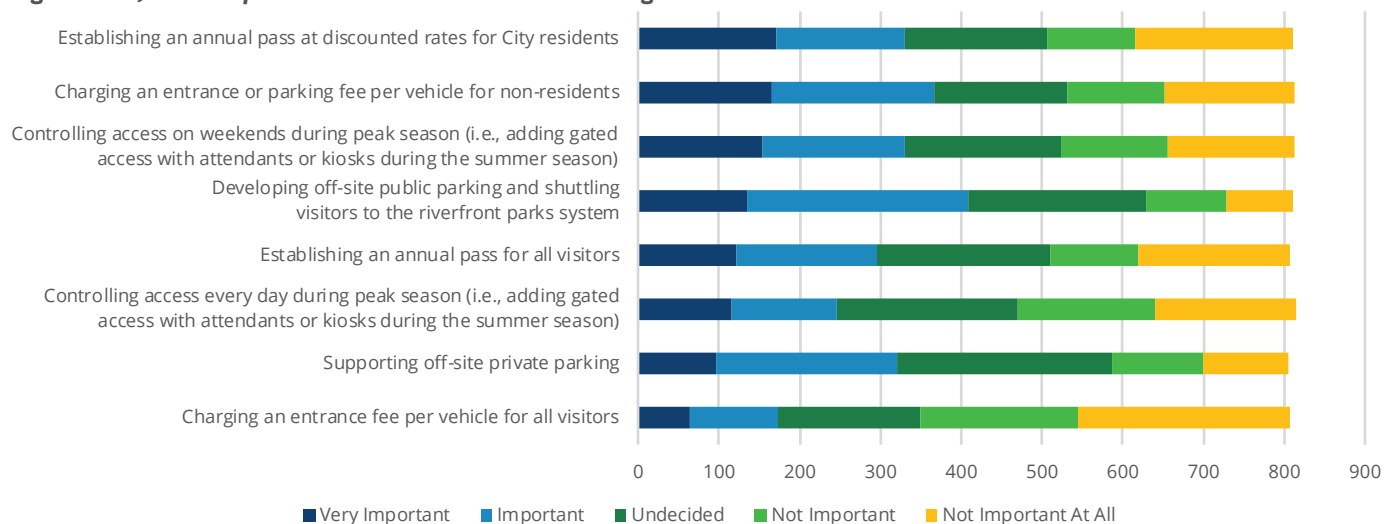


Figure 3.19, How Important Do You Think the Following Considerations Are?



Level of Service

The purpose of a level of service analysis is to ensure that there is an adequate amount of park land acreage and facilities to serve the public as the community grows. A separate, but equally important, acreage level of service analysis evaluates how equitable the distribution of park land is across the City.

Both analyses help plan for the future so that the need for additional park land can be determined (and if needed, acquired) before new areas are developed. “Target” levels of service that are unique to this Plan were created to determine an appropriate level of service for San Marcos that residents feel is the most responsive to the amount of use of park land and also what is most important to the community.

ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City of San Marcos has around 1,796 acres of accessible public park land (see Table 3.1, *Existing City Parks, Greenspace and Natural Areas*, on page 31). Existing and recommended levels of service are shown on Table 3.3, *Park Land Level of Service in San Marcos, 2018*, on page 51. Recommended levels of service for the future are shown in Table 3.4, *Park Land Level of Service in San Marcos, 2030*.

For regional, community, and neighborhood parks recommended target levels of service have been created. These are based off of an analysis of the community and the existing park land. Currently, the City has a deficit in regional, community, and neighborhood park land. In 2030, that deficit will be even greater.

For greenspace and natural areas there is no specific target level of service since these areas are undeveloped. Similarly, there are no specific recommended levels of service for special use parks since they vary by size, type, and from city to city.

What is Level of Service?

An analysis to determine if there is adequate acreage, distribution, and diversity of park land and recreation amenities and facilities. Level of service is frequently described as a quantity of park land or facilities per 1,000 residents.



Table 3.3, Park Land Level of Service in San Marcos, 2018

PARK CLASSIFICATION	EXISTING ACREAGE	CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 64,589 POPULATION)		RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE		RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE	
Regional Parks	116.0	1.8	Ac./1,000 Residents	5.0 to 10.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	323.0 to 645.9	207.0 to 529.9	Ac. Deficit
Community Parks	42.7	0.7	Ac./1,000 Residents	5.0 to 8.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	323.0 to 516.7	208.3 to 474.0	Ac. Deficit
Neighborhood Parks	73.0	1.1	Ac./1,000 Residents	1.0 to 2.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	64.6 to 129.2	8.4 to 56.2	Ac. Deficit Ac. Surplus
Greenspace and Natural Areas	1,486.3	23.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	Varies	Ac./1,000 Residents	N/A	N/A	
Special Use Parks	78.1	1.2	Ac./1,000 Residents	Varies	Ac./1,000 Residents	N/A	N/A	

* Acreages reflect property owned and classified as City park property as of November 2017.

Table 3.4, Park Land Level of Service in San Marcos, 2030

PARK CLASSIFICATION	EXISTING ACREAGE	CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 79,819 POPULATION)		RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE		RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE	
Regional Parks	116.0	1.5	Ac./1,000 Residents	5.0 to 10.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	399.1 to 798.2	283.1 to 682.2	Ac. Deficit
Community Parks	42.7	0.5	Ac./1,000 Residents	5.0 to 8.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	399.1 to 638.6	356.4 to 595.9	Ac. Deficit
Neighborhood Parks	73.0	0.9	Ac./1,000 Residents	1.0 to 2.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	79.8 to 159.6	6.8 to 86.6	Ac. Deficit
Greenspace and Natural Areas	1,486.3	18.6	Ac./1,000 Residents	Varies	Ac./1,000 Residents	N/A	N/A	
Special Use Parks	78.1	1.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	Varies	Ac./1,000 Residents	N/A	N/A	

* Acreages reflect property owned and classified as City park property as of November 2017.



REGIONAL PARK DISTRIBUTION LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City's 10 regional parks total 116 acres and have an approximate service area of four miles. They include:

- Bicentennial Park
- Cape's Camp
- Children's Park
- City Park
- Juan Veramendi Plaza Park
- Meeks Property
- Ramon Lucio Park
- Rio Vista Park
- San Marcos Plaza Park
- William and Eleanor Crook Park

The San Marcos River flows through the middle of these parks and creates a valuable amenity that generates economic benefit for the community and is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The springs that create the river provide recreational opportunities such as tubing, kayaking, and swimming.

Most of the City is located within the regional park service area, excluding the outer City limits on the northeast and southwest parts of the City (see Map 3.3, *Regional Park Accessibility*). The regional parks listed above are located directly east of downtown.

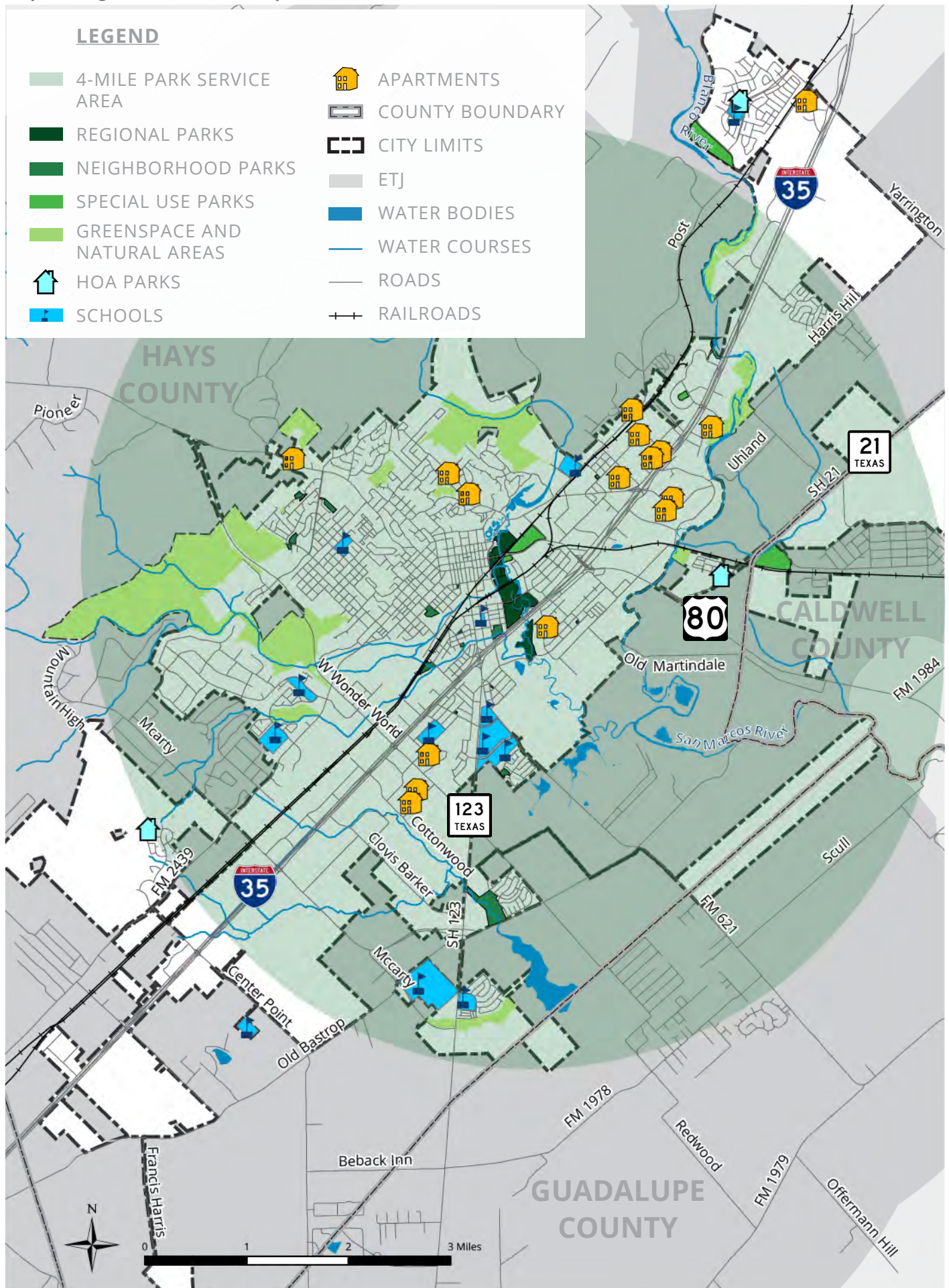
As the City continues to grow, these regional parks will experience even more use during the peak summer season. To address this increased use, more access to the San Marcos river will be needed and implementation of controlled access may be necessary. This can be achieved through various means, such as by charging for parking.

Regional Park Level of Service

Regional parks make up approximately four miles of service area for the City of San Marcos, an adequate amount of coverage for the community.



Map 3.3, Regional Park Accessibility



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DISTRIBUTION LEVEL OF SERVICE

Neighborhood parks are used daily by residents and have a one-quarter-mile ideal service area and a one-half-mile standard service area. This area represents the typical distance park users would be willing to walk to a park. Neighborhood parks should be accessible without users having to cross a major road. As such, the service areas of these parks do not cross arterial roadways.

When evaluating the City's coverage of neighborhood park land, it is evident that there is adequate coverage in the center and west side of downtown, but many gaps throughout the remaining parts of the City (see Map 3.4, *Neighborhood Park Accessibility*).

SEMI-PUBLIC NEIGHBORHOOD SCALE RESOURCES

While not fully dedicated as public park land, neighborhood homeowner associations (HOAs) and public schools do provide some additional recreational resources similar to the types of resources found in neighborhood parks (e.g., playscapes, basketball courts, backstops). Since many of these HOA properties and schools are also located in and among the neighborhoods they serve, they oftentimes provide additional neighborhood-scale coverage in a community. As such, the same one-quarter-mile ideal service area and one-half-mile standard service area is shown on HOA park properties and elementary schools (and sometimes middle schools) across the City (see Map 3.5, *Neighborhood Park and Public and Semipublic Park Accessibility*, on page 56).

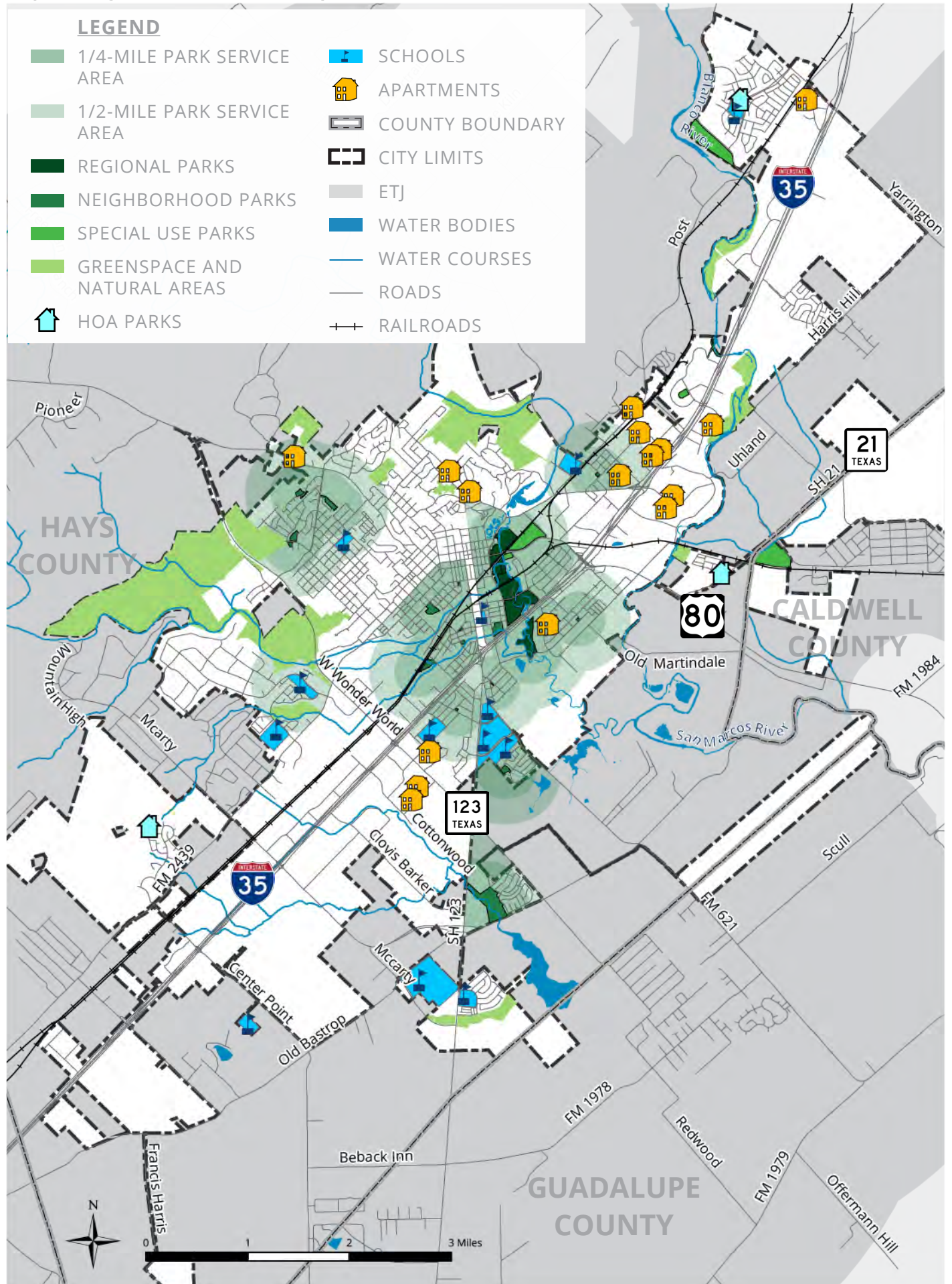
When considering the service areas for both the City park properties and these semi-public park properties, it is clear that there is better coverage of neighborhood-scale park land. Moving forward, the City should explore additional opportunities for improved joint-use agreements with area school districts.

Neighborhood Park and Public/Semi-Public Level of Service

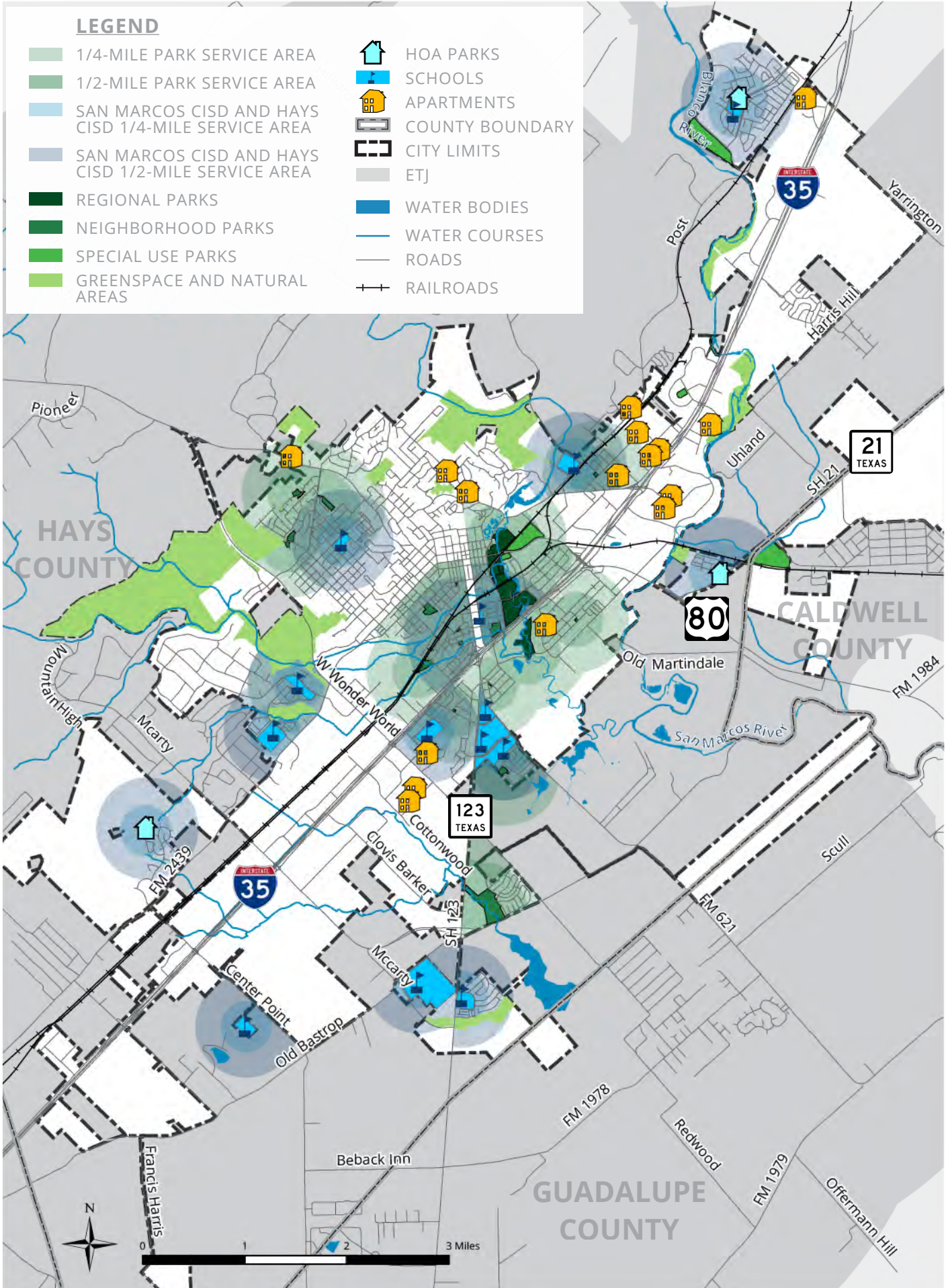
With one-quarter-mile being the ideal service area and one-half-mile being the standard service area for neighborhood parks and other public/semi-public neighborhood park properties, there is room for improved coverage across the San Marcos community.



Map 3.4, Neighborhood Park Accessibility



Map 3.5, Neighborhood Park and Public and Semipublic Park Accessibility



PARK FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

Comparing the existing and target levels of service for recreational facilities serves to evaluate not only the need for enhancements to the parks system, but also the number and location of park land in the City. This evaluation ensures that as the population increases, sufficient recreational opportunities are provided.

Summary of Park Facility Needs

Current deficiencies in the park system include picnic pavilions, picnic facilities, and splash pads (see Table 3.5, *Target Level of Service for Park Facilities*). Due to extended high temperatures in Texas, water amenities are an important asset in parks. Splash pads are growing in popularity across the country and currently, there is only one splash pad in San Marcos. Based on the high demand from the public to add more water-based recreation, the target number of splash pads for the City is four.

If the current amount of facilities does not change, in 2030 all of the facility needs will remain the same, excluding playgrounds. Currently, San Marcos offers many recreational opportunities, even if the amount of facilities may not meet the suggested level of service.

Table 3.5, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities

	FACILITY	CURRENT AVAIL.	CURRENT LOS (1 FACILITY PER # RESIDENTS)	TARGET LOS (PER RESIDENTS)	2018 NEED BASED ON 64,589 POP.	2018 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS	2030 NEED BASED ON 79,819 POP.	2030 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS
ACTIVE REC.	Dog Park	1	61,980	1 per 20,000	4	Deficit of 3	4	Deficit of 3
	Skate Park	2	30,990	2 per city	2	No deficit	2	No deficit
PASSIVE REC.	Picnic Pavilions	12	5,165	1 per 4,000	17	Deficit of 5	20	Deficit of 8
	Picnic Facilities (Tables, BBQ Grills)	21 parks	2,951	In all parks	In all parks	Deficit in 24 parks	In all parks	Deficit in 24 parks
	Playgrounds	24	2,583	1 area per 3,000	22	Surplus	27	Deficit of 3
WATER REC.	Splash Pad	1	61,980	1 per 20,000	4	Deficit of 3	4	Deficit of 3
MISC.	Restrooms	10	6,198	Where feasible	Where feasible	Feasible	Where feasible	Feasible

OTHER ISSUES

Cape's Dam is located near Stokes Park on the San Marcos River. In 2014, the City acquired Capes Dam as part of the Woods Apartment Project through park land dedication. In March 2016, City Council voted to have the dam removed. Several organizations including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) have expressed concerns about the safety of the dam, sound ecological environment, aquatic connectivity, the passage of organisms and sediments, and it's continuing impact on natural resources. Since the dam is in poor condition, it either needs to be repaired or removed. A large number of citizens, members of the scientific community, and organizations such as the San Marcos River Foundation and TPWD support removal of the dam. Many paddlers have argued that the dam is a hazard to navigation and the river should be restored to a natural condition. Although, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has stated that the dam is eligible for listing as an historic landmark.

Moving forward, the City will need to work with area partners to determine the future of this important resource along the San Marcos River. Recommendations have been made by state and federal agencies, as well as by conservation groups, to remove Cape's Dam based on environmental and ecological grounds. Further discussions are warranted to determine the opinion of the community.



Cape's Dam is a historic dam located along the San Marcos River.

Another issue is the peak summer season along the San Marcos River. The popularity of the river has increased dramatically in recent years, and has the positive effect of providing economic benefits to the City. On the contrary though, are concerns that the increased use is causing irreparable damage to the landscape of the riverfront properties.

As such, groups like the San Marcos River Foundation have begun to express concerns about the overall health of the riverfront parks system on the San Marcos River ecosystem. According to their website, “the impact of heavy recreational use, what constitutes responsible development in the flood plains and sensitive areas around aquifer recharge zones, non-source point pollution, sewage and septic tank discharges, storm water run-off, [and] the spread of invasive species and bank erosion” are of their top concerns (see <http://sanmarcosriver.org/our-river/>).

In the future, access to the River will need to be reassessed to determine the appropriate balance between providing such access, and the protection of, the riverfront. Currently, from City Park to Interstate 35, there are 16 access points to the river (see Map 3.6, *San Marcos River Access Locations*, on page 61).



During peak season, the San Marcos River is highly used by both visitors and residents.

Additional issues along the San Marcos River include:

- Soil compaction
- Drainage
- Trash collection
- Dog waste

Eighteen miles southwest along Interstate 35 is the neighboring city of New Braunfels. In 2016, the population of New Braunfels was just under 74,000, as compared to San Marcos, which was just under 62,000. Both the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers run through the center of the city. The Comal River is fed from the Edwards Aquifer and remains at a constant 70 to 72 degrees year around. Along the Guadalupe River, visitors can spend the night at a campsite or cabin. Similar to San Marcos, water recreation, such as tubing and fishing can be enjoyed on both of these rivers.

Another nearby community is the City of Austin, which is 32 miles northwest of San Marcos. Austin is a much larger city, with a population of just under 948,000 (2016). Barton Creek is located in the southwest part of Austin and flows into the Colorado River. The Barton Creek Greenbelt, Barton Creek Wilderness Park, and Zilker Metropolitan Park are all located along Barton Creek. Hiking, rock climbing, swimming, and biking are some of the activities enjoyed in these areas.

One significant difference between these three riverfront communities is that both New Braunfels and Austin are more proactive in controlling access to their riverfront parks system. As such, in 2017, the City of San Marcos approved several ordinance modifications to better protect the San Marcos River from over-crowding. The improvements included:

- Moving picnic sites further away from the river in all riverfront parks
- Removing on-street parking on Cheatham Street at Rio Vista during weekends and holidays
- Removing various picnic tables and all grills in Rio Vista Park
- Prohibiting tents and other forms of shelter in areas not designated for picnic facilities
- Prohibiting charcoal and wood burning grills in the riverfront parks from City Park to Ramon Lucio Park

Early reports from residents indicate that these preliminary improvements have indeed helped to reduce the overcrowding of the San Marcos riverfront parks system. Additional improvements may be warranted, though, as the popularity of the San Marcos River continues to grow.

San Marcos River Access Locations



Recommendations

This element provides a series of goals and recommended actions which could be undertaken during the horizon of this Plan. Recommendations range from system-wide, all-encompassing policies, to more detailed, park-specific actions that address identified issues and needs for the future.

GOAL PF-1. CONTINUE TO PURSE ADDITIONAL PARK LAND ACQUISITION IN THE CITY.

Action PF-1.1. Pursue the acquisition and development of neighborhood-scale park resources in areas of need.

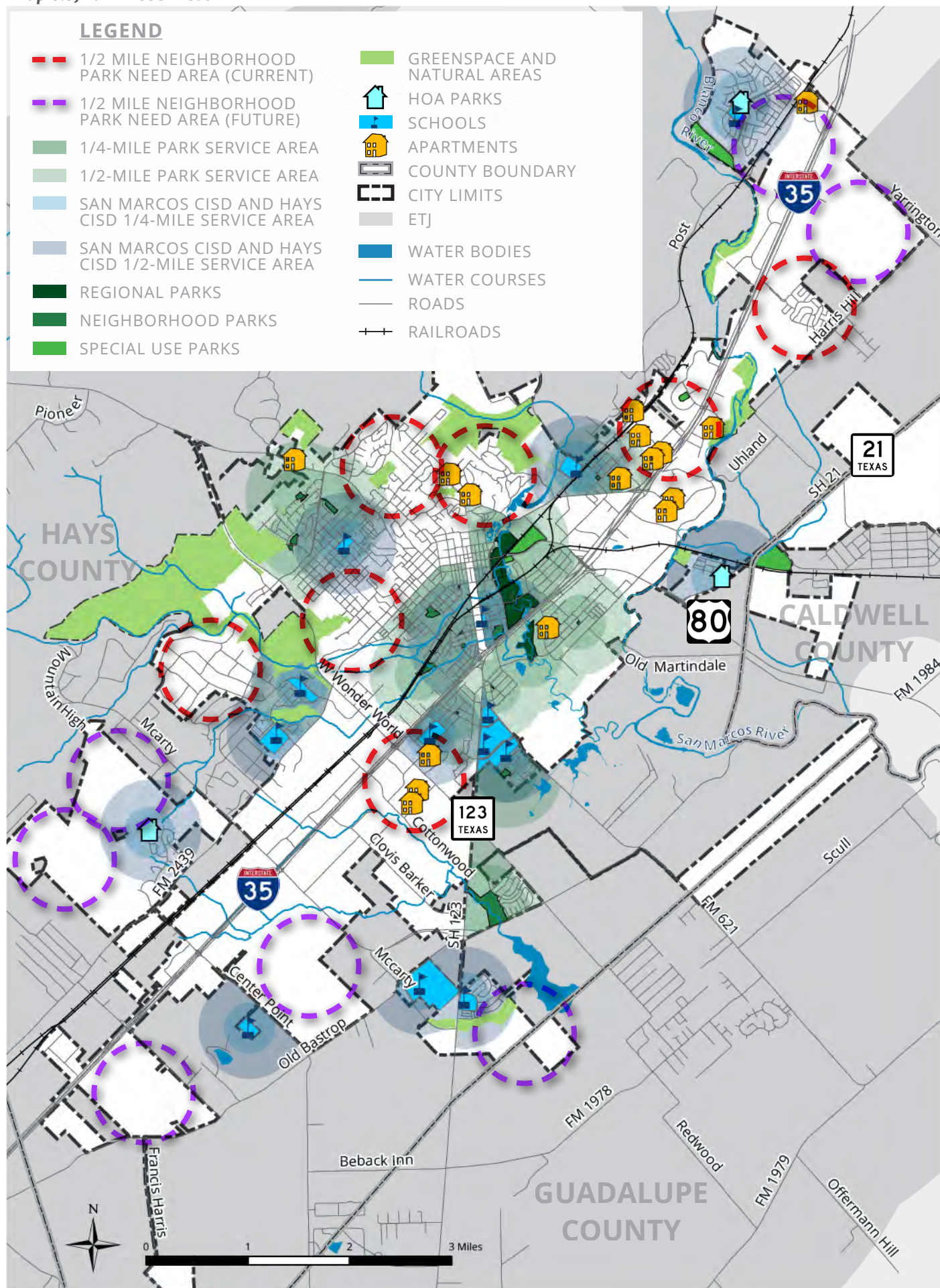
As set out in the level of service analysis on page 51, the City currently has a deficiency in the distribution of its neighborhood-scale park resources. Moving forward, this problem will increase as the City's population and developed areas increase. Therefore, the City should continue to pursue neighborhood-scale park land in areas of need. As set out in Map 3.7, *Park Need Areas*, currently, there are developed areas in need of neighborhood park access (the red-marked circles). As the City continues to grow, additional, newly developed areas will be in need of neighborhood-scale parks as well (the purple-marked circles). Most of the park land need areas are located on the east side of the City. As a result, park land should be added in this area.

Action PF-1.2. Establish criteria for determining appropriate properties to acquire as part of new park properties in the City.

As the City continues to expand its park related resources, the acquisition of new park property will be needed. Some of this acquisition will occur through the strategic purchasing of available properties. Additional properties may be acquired through the park land dedication process, considering that some of the more recent properties obtained did not provide the functionality needed for recreational amenities. Moving forward, the City should consider establishing a minimum set of criteria for evaluating potential properties, including criteria for determining appropriate locations, connectivity, financial feasibility, and site conditions/accessibility. New neighborhood parks should be located within reasonable proximity to existing and future neighborhoods (see Map 3.7, *Park Need Areas*).



Map 3.7, Park Need Areas



Action PF-1.3. Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex from Hays County.

Currently, Hays County owns the Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex, which is largely used by leagues located within the City of San Marcos. Acquiring this property from the county would provide the City with the flexibility to increase its parks and recreational facilities and programing through new community-scale facilities and amenities, a park classification of the city that is not currently offered. In the interim, the City could pursue an agreement where Hays County would provide funds to cover security and maintenance costs while the City would cover all other costs.

Action PF-1.4. PF-1.4 Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Randy Vetter and Dudley Johnson Park from Hays County.

Hays County also manages Randay Vetter Park, located along Yarrington Road. This park was named in November 2003 for the Texas Department of Public Safety trooper who lost his life in the line of duty on Aug. 7, 2000. In addition to BBQ grills and picnic facilities, the park also includes almost a quarter mile of Blanco River access. The acquisition of this property would be beneficial to the City as it furthers its progress in developing a community-wide trail system.

Action PF-1.5. Evaluate opportunities to create new parks on properties that may be bought out due to past flood events.

As part of previous flood events, the City has undertaken buyout assessments for properties subject to repetitive flood damage claims. Some of these are areas adjacent to the Blanco River and existing park land. In these cases, HUD funds and hazard mitigation resources can be utilized to assist in acquisition. Since these areas are also located along the City's water courses, they make smart choices for creating a connected system of trails.

Action PF-1.6. Evaluate the effectiveness of the City's new park land dedication provisions of the Land Development Code.

The City's park land dedication provisions were recently updated as part of the SMTX code re-write process. As these new regulations begin implementation, the City should evaluate its effectiveness in acquiring and developing appropriate park land in terms of both quantity and location. In addition, it would be prudent to periodically evaluate existing metrics included in the regulations, such as existing level of service (i.e., 33 acres of park land/open space per every 1,000 people); calculation of population; calculation of acreage; exemptions for downtown and the midtown intensity zones; and the park development cost factor. Further, while the current park land dedication regulations detail park types, they do not provide guidance as to which park types may be appropriate in each area, nor do they mention a service area for community park land.

GOAL PF-2. EVALUATE OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARK LAND.

Action PF-2.1. Evaluate opportunities to improve security and protection against vandalism at Conway Park and other parks with similar issues.

Currently, Conway Park has a skate feature, a one-quarter basketball court, a playscape for two-year-olds, and picnic facilities. Since frequent vandalism has been an issue over the past several years, the City should explore additional opportunities to improve surveillance and security at this park as well as other parks in the parks system. This could include additional or more frequent police presence, the installation of security cameras, or other solutions which improve actual or perceived impressions of safety.

Action PF-2.2. Consider upgrading the existing sport fields at Gary Park.

The City recently added four new baseball/softball fields, bringing the total number of fields to eight. This addition has been beneficial in accommodating the increased demand for this recreational opportunity. However, the previously existing four fields are in need of renovation. For the next Capital Improvements Program (CIP) update, the quality and usability of the existing four fields should be reviewed. Items that should be taken into consideration include the renovation of the other four fields so that they match the design and quality of the four new fields, adding lighting, improving the appearance of the entrance to the park, adding a box culvert (to facilitate improved access during rain events), and adding additional parking for tournaments.



Action PF-2.3. Considering adding community-scale park amenities at Dudley Johnson/ Randy Vetter/ Five Mile Dam Park, and Gary Park.

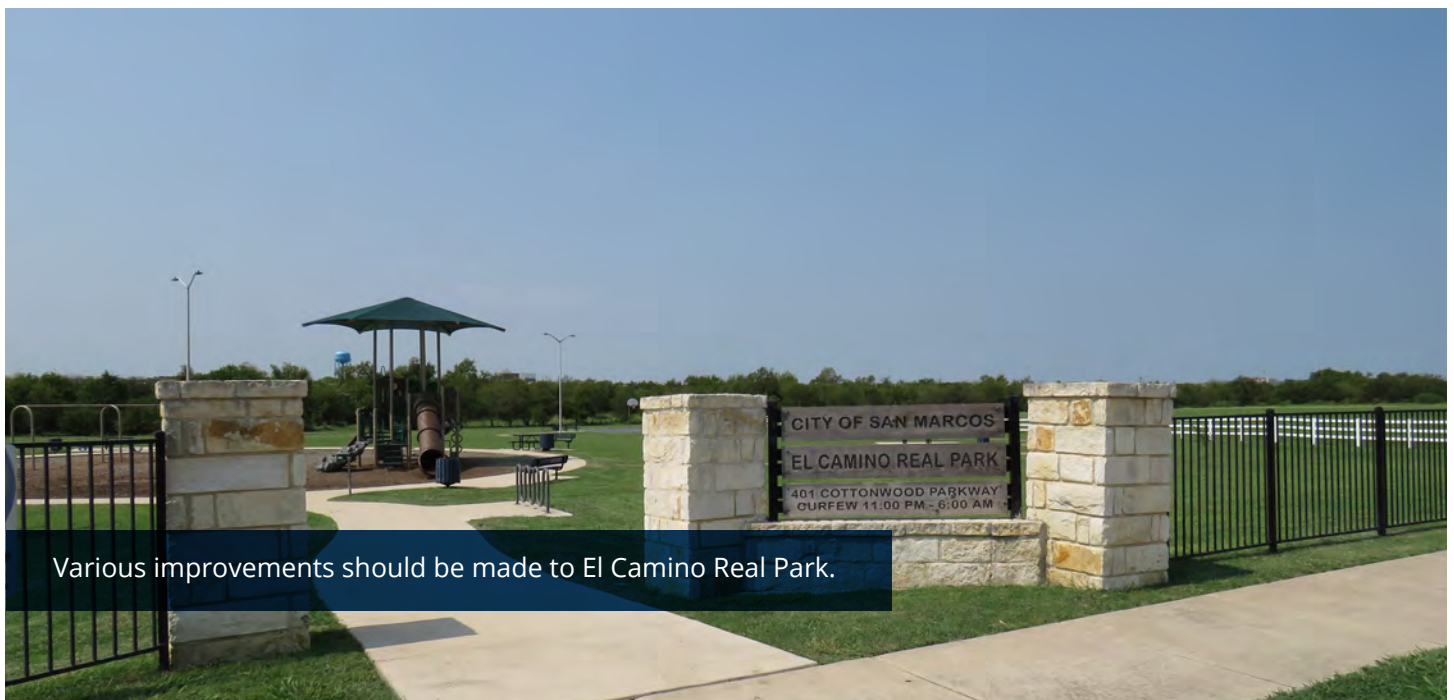
Currently, these City (and in some cases, non-City) park properties are predominantly used as special use parks for sporting events. Gary Park, for example, does not hold regular operating hours outside of these scheduled events. Due to the size and location of these properties, these parks provide numerous opportunities for community-scaled park land to be open to residents year around. As such, the City could consider opening these parks on a daily basis and, over time, adding new amenities, such as playscapes (if not currently available), splash pads, picnic areas and pavilions, internal loop trails, and lighted, general-access, open play fields.

Action PF-2.4. Make improvements to El Camino Real Park.

El Camino Real Park is another park to be considered for improvements, the first of which would involve the replacement and stabilization of the crushed granite trail that connects this park to the adjacent neighborhood park, as the current composition of the trail is maintenance intensive. Additionally, the City should consider better lighting and the development of a three-tiered maintenance plan that identifies the different levels of maintenance in each area.

Action PF-2.5. Establish a routine playscape inspection and replacement program.

Creating a playscape risk management inspection and replacement program is another item the City should consider. This could be accomplished through a formalized process for pinpointing and planning repairs, addressing safety concerns, and determining appropriate periods of replacement. All new or replacement playground equipment needs to meet the standards of the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) and/or the National



Various improvements should be made to El Camino Real Park.

Program and Playground Safety Guidelines. In the near-term, the three highest priority playscape replacements are:

- City Park (which is the oldest)
- Paul Pena Park
- Anita Reyes Park

Action PF-2.6. Add pervious parking lot surfacing, where feasible or adequate water treatment for parking lots in parks.

Best practices need to be utilized when treating the runoff from parking lots through the use of pervious cover or proper water treatment for water quality. Examples of best practices include the use of permeable pavers as a parking lot surface material and low impact development detention ponds as a means to capture parking lot runoff.

GOAL PF-3. CONTINUE TO DEVELOP EXISTING PARK LAND.

Action PF-3.1. Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.

As identified in the needs analysis (see page 57), the City has a current and future deficit in splash pads. Splash pads complement parks and provide an appealing amenity in the summer. Strategically placing these throughout the parks system enhances the outdoor experience for users. Fischer Park in New Braunfels is an example of a neighboring city with a splash pad. This splash pad is eco-friendly, as it conserves water through the use of a button. As the City of San Marcos considers adding more parks and open space resources, it is important to also consider the support of amenities that improve overall use and experience, such as additional picnic sites, pavilions, and splash pads.



Splash pads provide opportunities for community members to cool off during the summer.

Source: http://www.nbparksfoundation.org/images/galleries/fischer-park/Fischer_Sprayground.jpg

Action PF-3.2. Consider development of a new dog park on the east side of the City using available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

The use of dog parks has steadily increased in recent years, and is something San Marcos residents have deemed important. Dog parks allow pets and their owners a place to exercise, play, and socialize with other residents. As such, additional dog parks should be added throughout the city, such as on the east side of town. CDBG funds can be utilized for these projects.

Action PF-3.3. Evaluate potential options to remove or relocate the pool at Rio Vista Park.

One of the recommendations for improving the riverfront parks system is to remove and relocate the pool at Rio Vista Park to another location within the City. Most municipalities, are moving away from these more traditional pools, instead favoring interactive water recreation amenities, such as splash pads and water parks. As depicted in Figure 3.16, *Importance of Park Facilities to be Provided or Added in San Marcos*, on page 48, over 75 percent of survey respondents feel that swimming pools and water parks should be provided in the City.

Action PF-3.4. Commission a parks master plan for the 40-acre property owned by the City along River Road.

The City of San Marcos owns a 40-acre, relatively undeveloped property along River Road, northeast of the wastewater treatment plant and east of the southern tip of the riverfront parks system. Due



This splash pad at Rio Vista Park allows children of all ages an opportunity to enjoy the water.

to its proximity to residential properties east of I-35, such as the Woods of San Marcos apartment complex, there have been a number of proposed uses for this property. Suggestions include a five-to-six-acre dog park with an additional five acres for expansion, and a new animal shelter. Additionally, this property could provide access to the riverfront parks system, a connection to the citywide trail system, a park maintenance building, and a weekend location for brush drop-off.

Action PF-3.5. Commission a parks master plan for the new 18-acre property associated with the Blanco River Village development.

The City also owns an 18-acre property along the Blanco River near the Blanco River Village development. When deciding the appropriate uses for this future neighborhood-scale park, the City should commission a parks master plan that explores the possibility of a citywide trail along the Blanco River that eventually connects to the rest of the trail system.

Action PF-3.6. Consider development of new dog parks in areas of need.

One of the more pressing park facility priorities identified by the community was the need for additional dog parks. Nationwide, dog parks are becoming a highly coveted “third place.” Currently, there is a deficit of three dog parks to meet today’s needs. Moving forward, the projected deficit of dog parks will remain at three. As the City of San Marcos grows, potential dog park locations need to be identified to better serve the surrounding community. This should be done in concert with area neighborhoods to ensure accessibility where there is a higher demand, like at apartment complexes (see also action PF-3.2).

*What is a
“third place?”*

The third place (also known as third space) is a term used in the concept of community building to refer to social surroundings separate from the two usual social environments of home and the workplace.

Action PF-3.7. Add additional park pavilions that can be rented throughout the parks system.

Rentable pavilions provide low cost options for various public and private events. In San Marcos, many of these pavilions are located just within the riverfront parks system. Moving forward, the City should identify additional areas where larger pavilions can be established for park users and/or city events. These pavilions would help to further activate the space, enhance the park environment, and facilitate cost recovery.

Action PF-3.8. Add shade in the parks and along trails.

As set out in Figure 3.16, *Importance of Park Facilities to be Provided or Added in San Marcos*, on page 48, the third highest priority of the San Marcos community is to increase the amount of shade available in parks and on the trails. With such extended Texas heat, the City needs to increase user comfort in the parks and trails system. One way to facilitate this is to provide additional shade through tree plantings, added picnic pavilions, the covering of playscapes, and the covering of select athletic facilities. Funds for shade improvements should be allocated annually based on a prioritized list.

Action PF-3.9. Add an all abilities playground to a park that is outside of the riverfront parks system.

Based on the feedback received in the public survey, a number of respondents would like to see more park facilities available to those with disabilities. Therefore, it is suggested that the City provide at least one “all abilities” playground in the community. An all abilities playground provides equipment and experiences which can be enjoyed by kids of all abilities, including those with physical disabilities, autism, sensory disorders, vision impairments, etc.

Action PF-3.10. Add more open play areas.

Open play areas can be used for passive recreation opportunities. A variety of different activities can take place in this type of space including pick-up games, ultimate Frisbee, or soccer.

Action PF-3.11. Add a community center on the east side of the City.

Currently, the east side of San Marcos does not contain any community centers. To serve this area of the City, a community center should be added to the east side for events and as a space that can be rented out. Evaluate opportunities to add three open play areas in the existing parks system and as part of new park properties.

GOAL PF-4. CONTINUE TO DIVERSIFY THE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM BY PROVIDING OUTSTANDING CULTURE AND ART OPPORTUNITIES.

Action PF-4.1. Continue to identify opportunities to integrate art and culture in the parks and recreation system.

In 2012, the City commissioned an Arts Master Plan to direct future growth, execution of guidelines, infrastructure, sponsorship, and funding for arts and cultural opportunities in the City of San Marcos. The goals of the plan were to:

- Increase community awareness
- Teach the public about art
- Conservation

Moving forward, the City should continue to identify opportunities to increase the amount of art and culture in the parks and recreation system, including along the trails in the riverfront parks.

Action PF-4.2. Undertake an evaluation of the Memorial Tree Program.

As identified during the planning process, space for the City’s Memorial Tree Program is diminishing. One way to address this is for the City to partner with the Heritage Association on a comprehensive evaluation of the program which identifies the most beneficial and sustainable path for the planting and maintenance of memorial trees. Another recommendation is to create consolidated plaques rather than individual plaques on every tree.

GOAL PF-5. CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE RIVERFRONT PARKS SYSTEM.

Action PF-5.1. Consider consolidating the City's disparate riverfront parks into a single system.

As the City moves forward with its proactive plan for redevelopment and enhancement of the riverfront parks (additional information in Action PF-5.3, below), they should consider consolidating the names of each park into one unified system. Not only would this help to regionally market the parks as a destination location (e.g., Zilker Park in Austin, The Riverwalk in San Antonio, or the Trinity River in Dallas), but it would also create a stronger sense of pride and ownership within the community. Individual parks could retain their names as a way to further clarify location. Additional benefits of a consolidated name include increased connectivity and continuity of services.

See Appendix C, page C - 2 through C - 12 for a detailed description of the San Marcos Riverfront Schematic Plan.

Action PF-5.2. Consider creating consolidated design standards for development and/or enhancement of new facilities (e.g., buildings, structures, landscaping, and signage) in the riverfront parks system.

The San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail System is a citywide trail system that will connect all riverfront parks and seamlessly blend the user experience. To capitalize on economies of scale for purchasing, it is recommended that a series of design standards be developed to guide the City from concept through construction. This could include things such as standard building and site palette of materials and consolidated signage and wayfinding. When feasible, design standards should consider locally available resources.

Action PF-5.3. Increase the number of publicly available restrooms in the City's riverfront parks system.

The demand for public restrooms in parks is significant in bigger parks, high traffic areas, and at extended-use amenities (e.g., picnic pavilions, athletic events, food trucks). Inadequate restroom facilities can not only decrease the amount of time visitors enjoy the park, but can also create unsanitary conditions. As set out in Figure 3.18, *How Important Is It For the City to Address the Following Parks, Recreation, and Trail Issues?*, roughly 65 percent of survey respondents feel that it is important for the City to increase the amount of public restrooms provided in the riverfront parks system.

Action PF-5.4. Increase the number of available parking spaces for the City's riverfront parks system.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum of five spaces per programmed acre, plus additional parking for specific facilities within the park, such as pools or ballfields. The facilities in each park determine the number of parking spaces and "shared parking" should always be taken into consideration. Enhanced parking areas to provide the City the opportunity to create controlled access points and paid parking during the peak summer season.





Stunning river running through the heart of town!

This is a beautiful clear river that runs through the heart of town. I have tubed it long ago with friends. The park also offers great seating to just enjoy the splendors. It is very quiet when it's not summer and you can enjoy the peace and tranquility that the river itself offers.

- Lacie C., Granbury, Texas

Action PF-5.5. Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of Park Rangers during the summer.

Ensuring the safety of visitors to the parks is an essential element of operating a parks and recreation system. Currently, the City has two full-time and 20 part-time Park Rangers. In contrast, the City of New Braunfels has 70 Park Rangers during the summer. These rangers are funded by entrance and gate fees. While the public survey did not identify park safety as an overarching concern, there was an expressed need for additional staff resources to monitor park properties during weekends and special events. Accordingly, the City should conduct a study to evaluate and expand the Park Ranger program. This study would need to include solutions for improving parking, for improving weekend and special event park monitoring during the peak summer season, park safety, and citizen communication.

Action PF-5.6. Evaluate opportunities to establish purple pipe (reclaimed water) irrigation in the riverfront parks system.

Parks are one of the highest consumers of water in a water distribution system. Athletic fields (e.g., football, baseball, softball, soccer) require large quantities of water to keep the grass green and healthy. Using recycled water to irrigate riverfront parks would mitigate costs as well as provide potential educational opportunities.

Action PF-5.7. Work with the Urban Forester and other stakeholders to clear the invasive trees and plants from the Meeks property as well as other park properties to improve the quality of wildlife and habitat and decrease erosion.

The canopy of the Meeks property primarily consists of invasive tree species. As such, the protection value is relatively low. Moving forward, the City should work with the Urban Forester to clear the invasive trees, leaving the remaining, higher quality hardwoods. The removal of invasive trees and plants can extend to the greenspaces and public park properties as well, creating a unified system of park management beyond the river's edge.

Action PF-5.8. Evaluate opportunities to limit the number of vehicles and pedestrians queuing off of Cheatham Street.

Park safety is important to the long-term, sustainable operations of a park system. As such, the City should continue pursuing opportunities to limit the number of vehicles and pedestrians queuing off of Cheatham Street. This could be achieved by developing a bus drop-off/pick-up area outside of the current right-of-way or by closing off Cheatham Street for through-traffic during the peak summer season.

Action PF-5.9. Evaluate opportunities to respond to soil compaction, drainage issues, and trash removal in existing City parks.

Similar to providing appropriate amounts of irrigated water, it is also important for the City to properly address long-term soil compaction issues in the riverfront parks system.

Action PF-5.10. Expand the City's efforts in river clean up to include tributaries.

As an economic driver of the City, the San Marcos River brings in a high volume of visitors to the riverfront parks system. Oftentimes, this results in excessive trash being left behind. To maintain the river for the long-term, the City should identify additional efforts for cleanup, making sure to include tributaries as well.

Action PF-5.11. Improve the maintenance of the grass in the riverfront parks system.

The appearance of the riverfront parks system is very important since visitors from all over the region visit San Marcos to enjoy the river. Since the riverfront parks are highly used, other alternatives that could be used in place of the grass include high performance turfgrass, area closure and rotation, etc.

Action PF-5.12. Add an ambassador program to the Riverfront Parks.

Implement an ambassador program in the riverfront parks system that is similar to the program in New Braunfels and to the Habitat Conservation Plan Conservation Corp. In addition, this ambassador program can extend into the greenspace areas. This would allow for uniformed, unarmed park patrol volunteers (such as teachers) to help educate and identify problems for law enforcement.

Action PF-5.13. Evaluate opportunities to increase overnight stays through programming that will bring events to parks in the riverfront parks system.

Similar to the Austin City Limits Music Festival in Austin, which has 450,000 attendees, San Marcos could hold events in the riverfront parks system that last over a weekend or multiple days. This would bring additional revenue to San Marcos through the hotel occupancy tax.

Action PF-5.14. Add the San Marcos logo and street names to the bridges in the riverfront parks system.

This would create a placemaking and branding opportunity to showcase the City to visitors. As visitors float the river, they will know exactly where they are in the City since the bridges will be labeled.

Element 2

Athletics





Introduction

Athletic programs offer many benefits to the City, including promoting the growth of businesses and attracting new citizens. As the population continues to rise, the City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) will have to keep up with the increased demand on park assets, such as the need for additional athletic programming and the maintenance of current athletic facilities. Upgrading facilities (e.g., the original baseball/softball fields at Gary Park), acquiring land for the development of new facilities, and the relocation of facilities (e.g., the existing fields at Ramon Lucio Park) are a few more ways PARD will need to continue to meet demands.

Existing Conditions

Set out on Map 3.8, *Existing Athletic Fields*, on page 78, and Table 3.6, *Existing Athletic Fields*, below, are the athletic fields currently located in San Marcos. These athletic fields include baseball and softball fields and soccer fields. One of the athletic fields is located in Ramon Lucio Park and is currently in good condition. This park has undergone several upgrades in the last 10 years, including:

- Removal of picnic tables
- Installation of access point along the river
- Installation of riparian restoration zones (fenced areas)
- In 2017, new light installations at the baseball fields

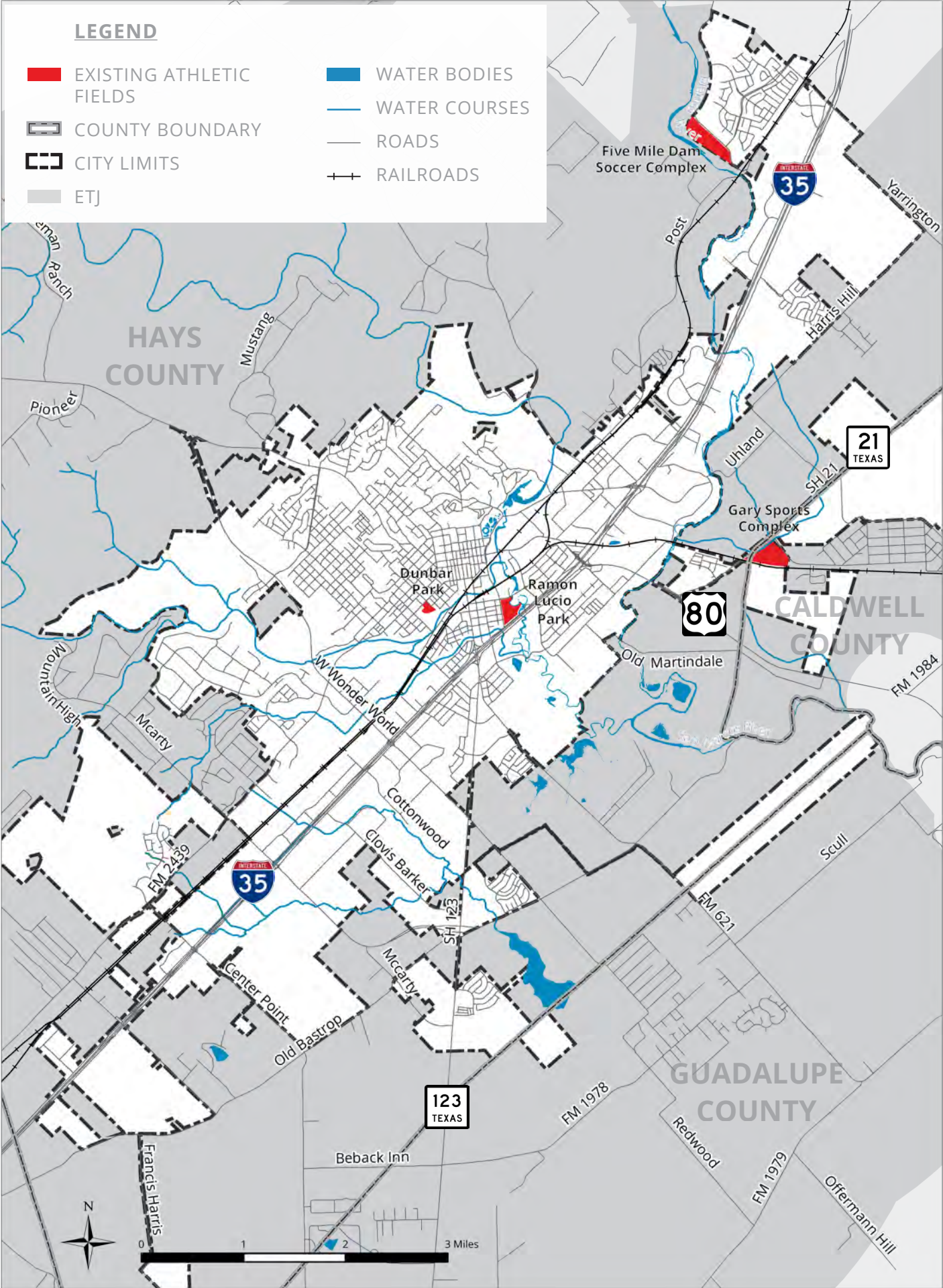
The Gary Softball Complex is located next to the entrance of Gary Job Corps and across the highway from what used to be the Quail Creek Country Club. The complex contains eight fields total, with four fields making up the adult complex and four fields making up the Youth Fast Pitch Complex, which was added in 2013. The adult complex has skinned infields and 300-foot fences; the Youth Fast Pitch Complex has skinned infields and 225 foot fences. On weeknights from March to December, the adult complex hosts adult sports leagues. The facility can also be rented on weekends for practices. In the spring, summer, and fall, the Youth Fast Pitch Complex hosts youth softball leagues and on the weekends, the facility can be rented for tournaments. When comparing the two complexes, it is obvious that the adult complex is in need of upgrades.

Additionally, Dunbar Park installed a new playground and added lights to its basketball court. Because of these upgrades, this park is considered in good condition. Similarly, the increase in fields, concession stands, security cameras, and the 2016 solar installation have all kept the Dudley Johnson/ Randy Vetter/ Five Mile Dam Park in good condition as well.

Table 3.6, Existing Athletic Fields

PARK NAME	LOCATION ADDRESS	BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD (#)	SOCCER/ CRICKET FIELD (#)
Ramon Lucio Park	601 S CM Allen Pkwy	5	
Dunbar Park	801 W MLK Dr	1	
Dudley Johnson/ Randy Vetter/ Five Mile Dam Park	4440 S Old Stagecoach Rd		10
Gary Sports Complex	2600 Airport Hwy 21	8	
TOTAL		14	10

Map 3.8, Existing Athletic Fields



INDEPENDENT LEAGUE ASSOCIATIONS

Across the country, involvement in organized sports is shifting. In youth baseball and softball, participation is decreasing, but in other sports such as soccer, lacrosse, and cricket, it is increasing. Many of the organized youth and adult sport programs in San Marcos are offered by the City of San Marcos; however, there are two sports (youth baseball and youth soccer) that are offered by independent leagues. In these cases, the City's main job is to provide fields. Table 3.7, *Independent League Associations/ Sports*, shows the various athletic leagues, both adult and youth, that are offered in San Marcos. Adult leagues include flag football, softball, fall and winter volleyball, and pickleball for seniors. Youth leagues include Jr. NBA/WNBA basketball, fall slam volleyball, soccer, Jr. NFL flag football, USA fall development softball league.

Table 3.7, Independent League Associations/ Sports

SPORT	ORGANIZATION	AGES
Adult		
Flag Football	COSM	18 years old and up
Softball League	COSM	16 years old and up
Fall Volleyball	COSM	16 years old and up
Winter Volleyball	COSM	16 years old and up
50+ Pickleball	COSM	50 years old and up
Youth		
Jr. NBA/WNBA Basketball League	COSM	3 to 12
Fall Slam Youth Volleyball	COSM	11 to 14
Snake League Soccer	COSM	3 to 12
Jr NFL Flag Football	COSM	5 to 12
USA Fall Youth Developmental League	SMYBSA	6 to 14
San Marcos Area Youth Soccer Association - SMAYSO	SMYBSO	6 to 14
San Marcos Area Youth Softball Association - SMYBSA	SMYBSA	5 to 14
Youth Rugby	SMYRA	6 to 17



GOLF COURSES

With the recent closure of the Quail Creek Golf Course, there is now only one private golf course in the greater San Marcos area. Located in the City of Kyle off of I-35, Plum Creek Golf Course is an 18-hole championship golf course surrounded by 200 acres of live oaks, limestone, rolling hills, and Texas wildflowers. Many improvements, including a state-of-the-art practice facility, have recently been made and tournaments are often held here. One other golf course in San Marcos is Kissing Tree Golf Club which is an 18-hole semi-private golf course.



Plum Creek Golf Course in Kyle is an 18-hole championship golf course surrounded by 200 acres of live oaks, limestone, rolling hills, and Texas wildflowers.

Source: <https://courses.swingbyswing.com/courses/United-States/TX/Kyle/Plum-Creek-Golf-Course/32659>

Issues and Needs

Overall, most survey respondents did not have an opinion regarding their level of satisfaction with athletic or recreational programming in San Marcos. Of those that did, more were very satisfied or satisfied (see Figure 3.20, *Satisfaction with Athletic or Recreational Programming in San Marcos*, below). As set out in Figure 3.21, *Which Age Group has the Greatest Need for Athletic or Other Recreational Programming?*, the top age groups with the highest needs are children under the age of five, adults between the ages of 20-55, and seniors over the age of 55.

Figure 3.20, Satisfaction with Athletic or Recreational Programming in San Marcos

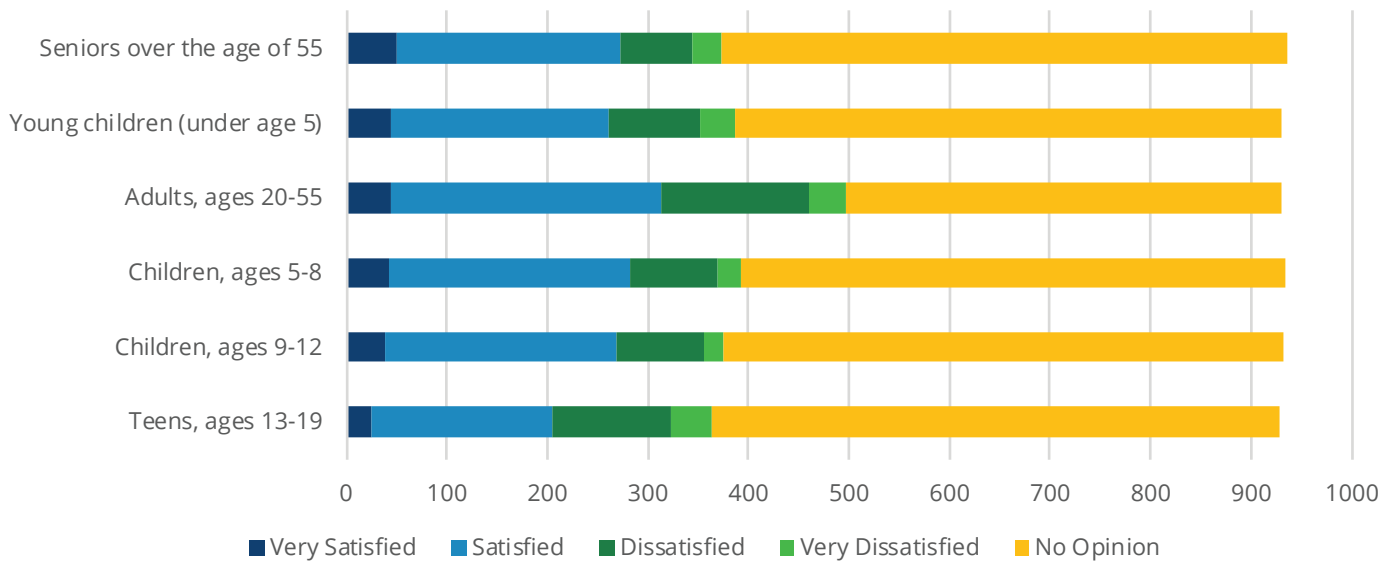
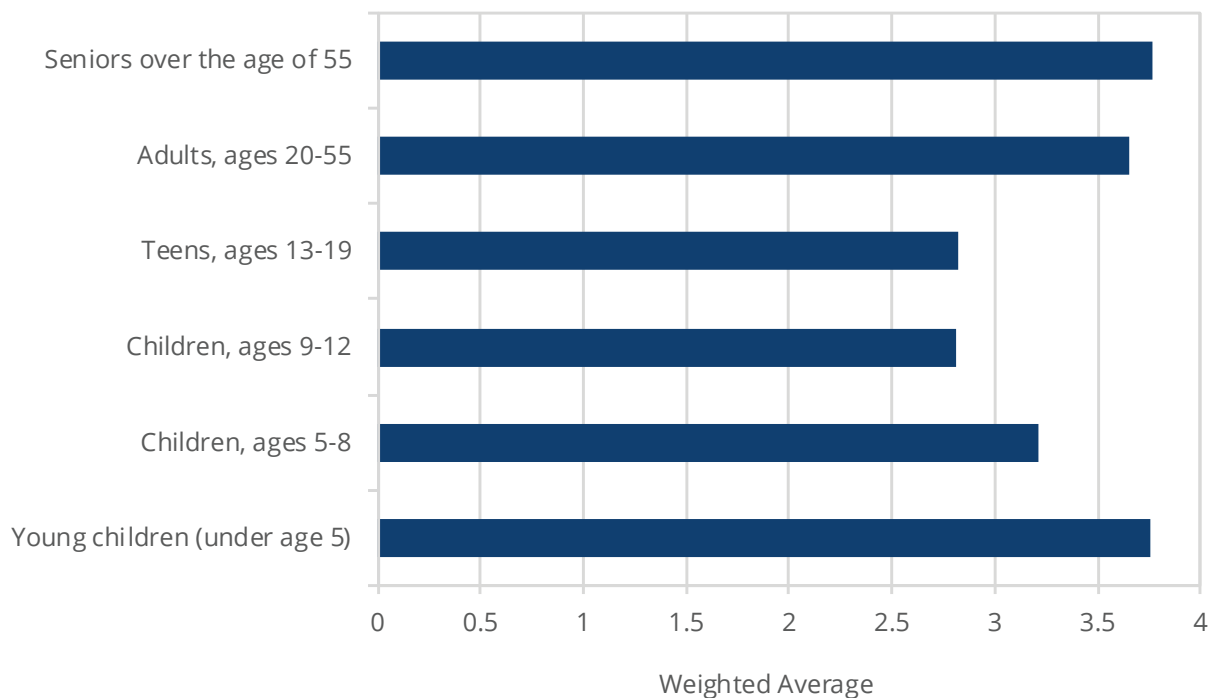


Figure 3.21, Which Age Group has the Greatest Need for Athletic or Other Recreational Programming?



Survey respondents were also asked about their level of satisfaction with the current athletic or other recreational programming in San Marcos for people with special needs. Most respondents did not have an opinion; those that did were mostly split between being very satisfied or satisfied and being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied (see Figure 3.22, *Satisfaction with Current Athletic or Other Recreational Programming Provided in San Marcos for People With Special Needs*).

Approximately 79 percent of respondents participate in an athletic association or recreation league in the City (see Figure 3.23, *Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*). Of that, 65 percent participate in leagues such as pickleball, San Marcos Youth Baseball Softball Association, and the adult softball league (see Figure 3.24, *Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*).

Figure 3.22, Satisfaction with Current Athletic or Other Recreational Programming Provided in San Marcos for People With Special Needs

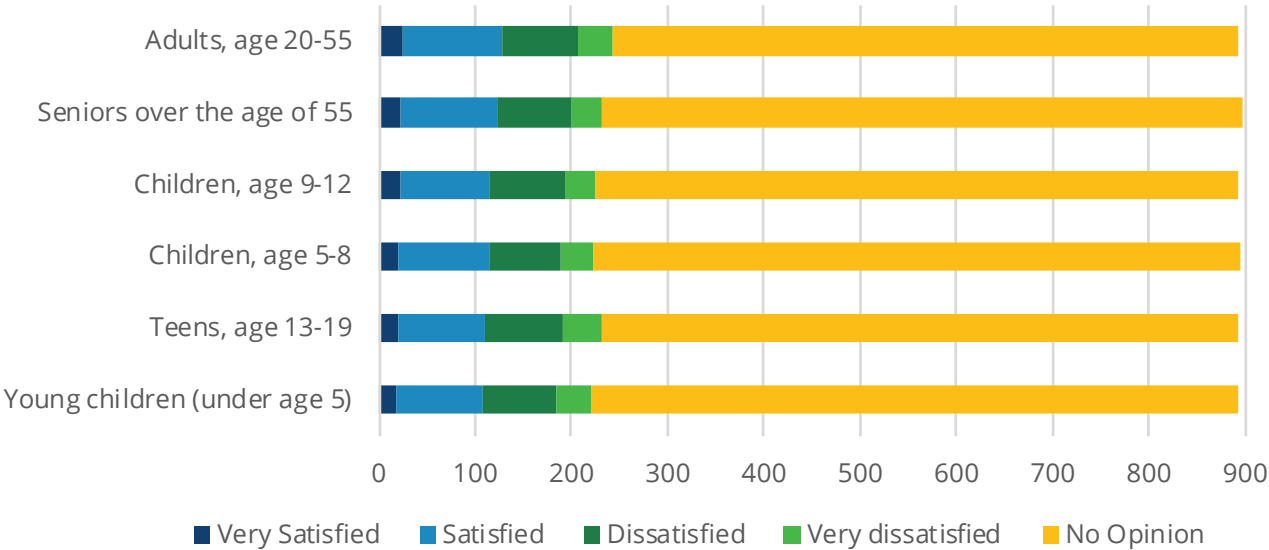


Figure 3.23, Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League

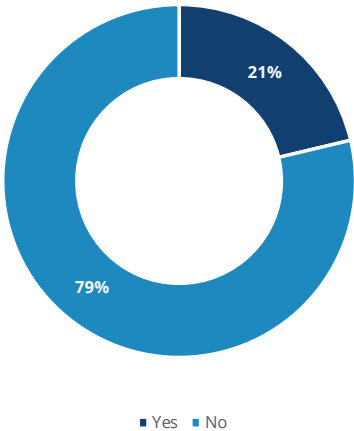
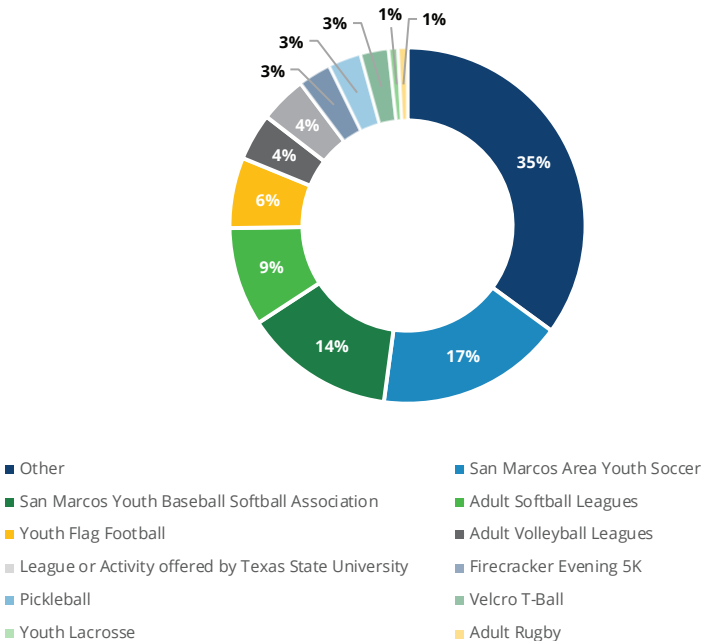
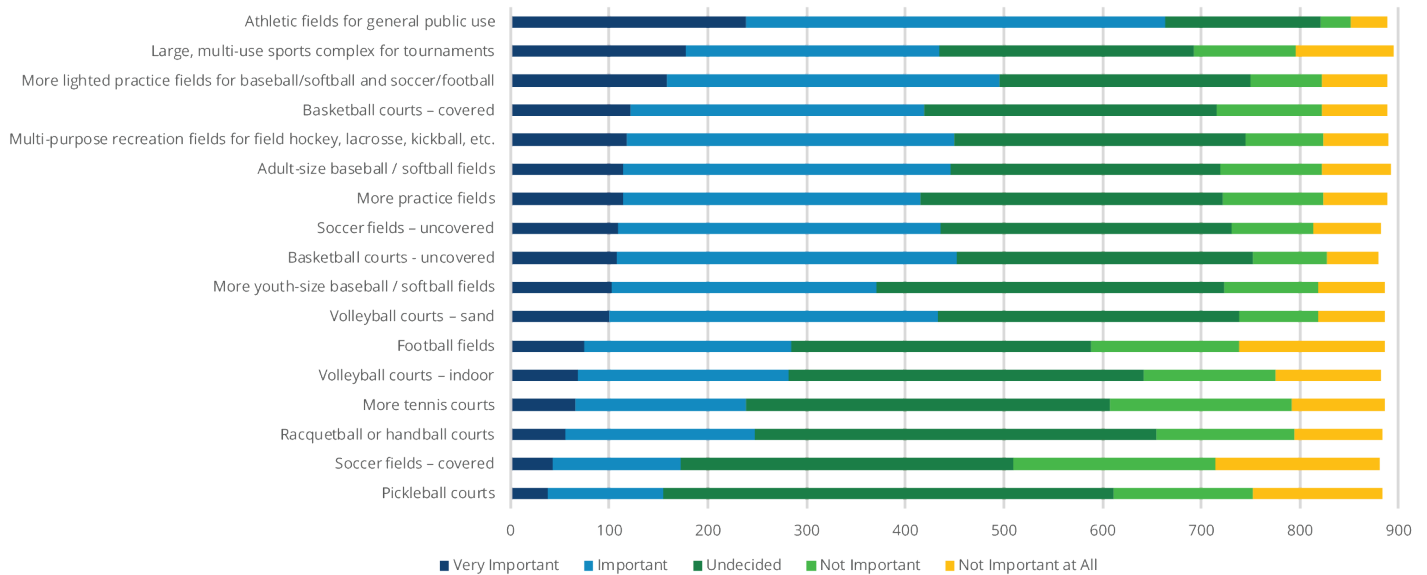


Figure 3.24, Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League



As set out in Figure 3.25, *Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks*, the top selections are athletic fields for general public use; large, multi-use sports complex for tournaments; and adding more lighted practice fields for baseball, softball, soccer and football.

Figure 3.25, Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks



ATHLETIC FIELDS NEEDS

At present, there is a deficiency in San Marcos for lighted practice space for adult recreation. The number of athletic fields in San Marcos is sufficient, though, regardless of field type. By 2030, an additional adult softball and baseball field will be needed (see Table 3.8, *Future Athletic Field Needs*).

Table 3.8, Future Athletic Field Needs

FACILITIES BASED ON SIZE AND USER GROUPS	EXISTING NUMBER OF FIELDS	CURRENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FIELDS (2018)	ADDITIONAL DEMAND BY 2030 (POP. OF 79,819)	TOTAL FIELDS NEEDED INCLUDING EXISTING	ROUGH ESTIMATE OF AVERAGE ACREAGE NEEDED PER FIELD	NEED FOR FIELDS AND AMENITIES TRANSLATED IN ACREAGE	HIGHER ACRES PER FIELD
Baseball/Softball							
Adult Softball/ Baseball	6	2	4	12	5 acres/diamond	40 acres	7 acres
Youth Softball/ Baseball	9	0	0	9	5 acres/diamond	45 acres	7 acres
Softball/ Baseball Subtotal	15	0	3	17	5 acres/diamond	85 acres	7 acres
Rectangular Fields - Soccer							
Regulation Fields	10	0	0	10	5 acres	50 acres	7 acres
TOTAL ACREAGE (DIAMONDS AND RECTANGULAR FIELDS INCLUDING ASSOCIATED AMENITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS)						220 ACRES	

Recommendations

GOAL A-1. CONTINUE TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE ATHLETIC FACILITIES IN THE CITY.

Action A-1.1. Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of athletic fields in the City.

Through an expanded partnership with San Marcos CISD, the City can develop a joint-use agreement which allows PARD and other area youth associations to use school grounds in the evenings for practices and games. The potential increase in insurance costs would be less than the cost of acquiring new land and building additional facilities.

Action A-1.2. Explore the possibility of relocating the baseball fields out of the riverfront parks system.

One thing the City should consider in regards to the expansion of its baseball program, is to increase the number of fields from four to eight, and then eventually, to 12 (see Table 3.8, *Future Athletic Field Needs*, on page 83). At present, there is not enough space at Ramon Lucio Park to accommodate this expansion, nor is it an ideal location, as it is best used to serve those visiting the San Marcos River. Based on the current distribution of athletic fields in San Marcos, the City should consider new fields west, east, or south of downtown.



Consider relocating the baseball fields in the riverfront parks system to another location in San Marcos.

Action A-1.3. Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of rugby and lacrosse fields.

As set out in Figure 3.24, *Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*, on page 82, there is a demand for both rugby and lacrosse fields in San Marcos, with roughly two percent of survey respondents currently participating in these sports. Moreover, Figure 3.25, *Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks*, shows that almost half of respondents would like to see multi-purpose recreation fields for field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, and other similar activities.

Action A-1.4. Identify additional opportunities for increasing recreation practice space in the City's park system.

Around 14 percent of survey respondents participate in adult softball leagues, adult volleyball leagues, and adult rugby leagues (see Figure 3.24, *Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*). Additionally, almost half of respondents stated that adult baseball and softball fields are needed in the City (see Figure 3.25, *Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks*).

Action A-1.5. Initiate discussions with local youth sports leagues to reexamine partnership responsibilities.

Discussions between the City and local youth sports leagues are needed to reexamine partnership obligations, particularly to ensure adequate City funds are available to perform tasks that serve the needs of the San Marcos community. Items to discuss include who is responsible for maintaining the in-fields and end of season cleaning. Leagues should be encouraged to increase their supplemental assistance for tournaments (i.e., restrooms, trash pickup, and supplies).

Action A-1.6. Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of tournaments in the City.

By increasing the number of baseball and softball tournaments in the City, visitors will need to stay over night in hotels for these events. As a result, the City would benefit from this partnership between the San Marcos CISD and the PARD through the hotel occupancy tax.

Action A-1.7. Evaluate opportunities to locate and create a consolidated activities district.

The proposed activity district would contain adult sports such as unicycle football, basketball, volleyball, roller derby, and bicycle polo. The district would also contain a music venue, skating rink, and space for farmers markets. The consolidated district would be a unique destination amenity for tournaments and regional league play.

Element 3

Recreation Programming and Events





Introduction

The San Marcos community has access to multiple recreational facilities. These types of amenities contribute to a higher quality of life and, in some cases, can help attract new businesses and families to the city. A summary of the existing recreation programs and events are provided in this section. Activities include multiple youth camps, enrichment classes, fitness classes, and special events throughout the year.

Existing Conditions

The San Marcos Activity Center is located east of downtown, near the San Marcos River. Some of the amenities offered include:

- Basketball courts
- Racquetball courts
- Stationary bicycle studio
- 1,800 sq. ft. aerobics studio
- Athletic program registration
- Natatorium
- Meeting rooms
- 2,000 sq. ft. weight training room with 26 resistance machines
- Childcare room
- Small activity classroom (multipurpose room)
- Commercial kitchen
- Dance floor
- Fitness classes
- Walking corridor
- Cardio equipment

Daily use fees are charged for both San Marcos residents and visitors, with a higher rate assessed to the latter. Youth under the age of 17 can use the facilities at a reduced rate. Yearly memberships are also offered and include family memberships, individual memberships, senior memberships, and youth memberships.

The facility also consists of three assembly rooms that can be rented either individually or together as one large, 6,000 sf. ballroom. Other rooms that can be rented are the multipurpose room and the commercial kitchen. For extra fees, a podium, dance floor, platform stage, and a projector screen are also available.

Recreation Programs

50+ PROGRAMS

The goal of the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department's 50+ Program is to improve the quality of life of older adults through the encouragement of healthy, active lifestyles and by providing informational, instructive, physical, and social enhancement opportunities.

- **Adult Pickleball Open Play.** Pickleball is offered at the San Marcos Activity Center and is a cross between badminton, tennis, and ping-pong. In the past 10 years, the growth of Pickleball has increased in senior communities across the country.
- **Bingo.** Bingo offers great prizes and light snacks each month at the San Marcos Activity Center.
- **Blood Pressure Clinic.** Residents can have their blood pressure and pulse checked free of charge at the San Marcos Activity Center.
- **San Marcos Active Senior Hotspot Social Club.** The San Marcos Active Senior Hotspot (SMASH) program offers a meeting location for active senior adults to create a social network where they can meet others who have the same interests.
- **Bowling Socials.** Each month at Sunset Bowling lanes, bowling is offered as part of the (SMASH) Social Club.
- **Game Day.** Game day occurs weekly in the afternoons at the San Marcos Activity Center. Light refreshments are provided as well as game materials for Bridge, Mexican Train Dominoes, 42, and Hand and Foot.
- **Life Long Learning Classes.** Intellectually stimulating, non-credit courses offered at the San Marcos Activity Center. These classes are designed to provoke involvement through communication and enjoyable education.
- **Sack Lunch Socials.** For the luncheon program, (SMASH) sack Lunch Social and bingo participants provide their own sack lunch while socializing with friends. Sack Lunch Socials take place at the San Marcos Activity Center.
- **Social Spins.** The Social Spin is provided by Central Texas Medical Center (CTMC), in partnership with the City of San Marcos. This event is a free, CREATION Health dance and mixer for active seniors at the San Marcos Activity Center.
- **Senior Expo.** Occurring biennially, this free event connects seniors with goods, services, organizations, discounts, and clubs in the San Marcos area.
- **Golden Sweetheart's Ball.** A Valentine's party with music by Sound Experience and a catered dinner at the San Marcos Activity Center.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

- **Goal:POST at Miller Middle School.** Texas State University's Recreational Administration students lead games for Miller Middle School students after they finish their homework.
- **SLOEP (Spring Lake Outdoor Education Program) for Goodnight Middle School Students.** Texas State University's Recreational Administration students lead this program for Goodnight Middle School students.
- **L.E.G.I.T. Summer Internship Program.** Summer internships are offered to San Marcos High School sophomores and juniors. Students get on-the-job training and the opportunity to work in real world situations. They acquire work-related skills, soft skills, and workforce knowledge.
- **Best Friends For Life (BFFL).** Texas State University's Therapeutic Recreation graduate students lead an assortment of activities including drumming, yoga, crafts, swimming, and at times, horseback riding.
- **San Marcos Homeschoolers.** The Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the San Marcos Homeschoolers group, provide physical education and enhancement opportunities for area homeschool students.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMS

Dances for Adults With Disabilities is a themed dance party with DJ music and door prizes for adults with disabilities. This is a free event that takes place every other month at the San Marcos Activity Center. Participants who require assistance must have an escort.

TRAVEL GROUP

Both family and adult-only travel trips are offered by the City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department. Adult only trips are for ages 18 and older (or 21 and older for the casino trips). Family trips are for anyone over the age of five years. Destinations for travel trips include:

- Educational sites
- Historical sites
- Plays
- Shopping
- Vineyard tours
- Casinos

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other activities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department include swimming lessons and camps. Swim lessons are comprised of leveled lessons (levels one through five), parent and tot swim lessons, and private swim lessons. Camps include Summer Fun Camp, Discovery Camp, Camp Quest, Spring Break Camp, and Holiday Camp.

Discovery Center programs involve educational classes such as Learning with Larvae, as well as other special events, like the MiGreat Challenge, Native Plant Sales, workshops, and volunteer opportunities.

Through a partnership between the Parks and Recreation Department and Texas State University's Total Wellness program, enrichment and fitness classes are available. Fitness classes include Fit-Kids Club, Fitness in the Park, and group fitness classes, such as:

- Active Older Adult Fit-Mix and Yoga
- Aqua Pump
- Boot Camp
- Cardio-Resistance Training (Step | Floor)
- Core training
- Cyclone
- H2O
- Kick-boxing
- Yoga
- Zumba®
- Zumba Toning®



The Summer Fun Camp is just one of the camps offered by the City of San Marcos.

EVENTS

The Parks and Recreation Department offers several special events throughout the year. Most of these events occur at parks and are attended by locals and visitors alike.

- **Sounds of San Marcos Open Mic Night.** The Sounds of San Marcos Open Mic Night is held at Eddie Durham Park at varying times throughout the year.
- **San Marcos Neighborhood All-Star Games (SNAG).** In 2012, the San Marcos Neighborhood All-Star Games (SNAG) were established. Held at Rio Vista Park, neighborhoods compete against each in sack races, tug of war, corn hole, putt-putt golf, dominoes, giant connect four, giant checkers, pie eating, and a variety of relay races.
- **Farmer Fred's Garden Spring Carnival.** Farmer Fred's Garden Spring Carnival takes place at Plaza Park and City Park. Activities include an egg hunt, carnival games, prizes, candy, and live music.
- **Live on the Lawn.** Live on the Lawn is presented by Keep San Marcos Beautiful and is located at San Marcos Plaza Park. Sustainability themes and vendors are featured weekly and local artists and live music are showcased as well.
- **Party in Your Park.** Party in Your Park takes place at a different neighborhood park every three months. Activities include yard games, music, and refreshments.



One event in San Marcos is the Veterans Day Parade which runs through downtown San Marcos.

- **Movies in Your Park.** Movies in Your Park occurs weekly during the summer at Plaza Park. Family friendly activities are offered before show time, which begins at sunset.
- **Miss Beautiful SMTX Pageant.** In early June, adult women with disabilities ages 18 years and up participate in the Miss Beautiful SMTX Pageant, which is held at the San Marcos Activity Center.
- **Daddy Daughter Dance.** The annual Daddy Daughter Dance takes place on the Friday before Father's Day. Dancing, crafts, and snacks are featured at this event for fathers or father figures and their daughters.
- **Mother and Son Bowling Night.** The Mother and Son Bowling Night takes place on the Thursday before Mother's Day.
- **SummerFest.** Held in Plaza Park, the annual Fourth of July Celebration includes live music, food, fireworks, a children's costume contest, and a parade.
- **Native Plant Sale.** The Native Plant Sale takes place at the Discovery Center with staff available to answer questions about native plants. This event takes place each year in the middle of October.
- **Farmer Fred's Harvest Fall Carnival.** Similar to the Farmer Fred's Garden Spring Carnival, the Farmer Fred's Harvest Fall Carnival occurs the Saturday before Halloween. Activities include carnival games, a costume contest, a barrel train ride, and concessions.
- **Veterans Day Parade.** Occurring in the middle of November, the Veterans Day Parade runs through downtown San Marcos. There is a free breakfast at the Hays County Courthouse Lawn and pre-festivity entertainment for children is provided by the Kiwanis Club Bicycle Brigade.

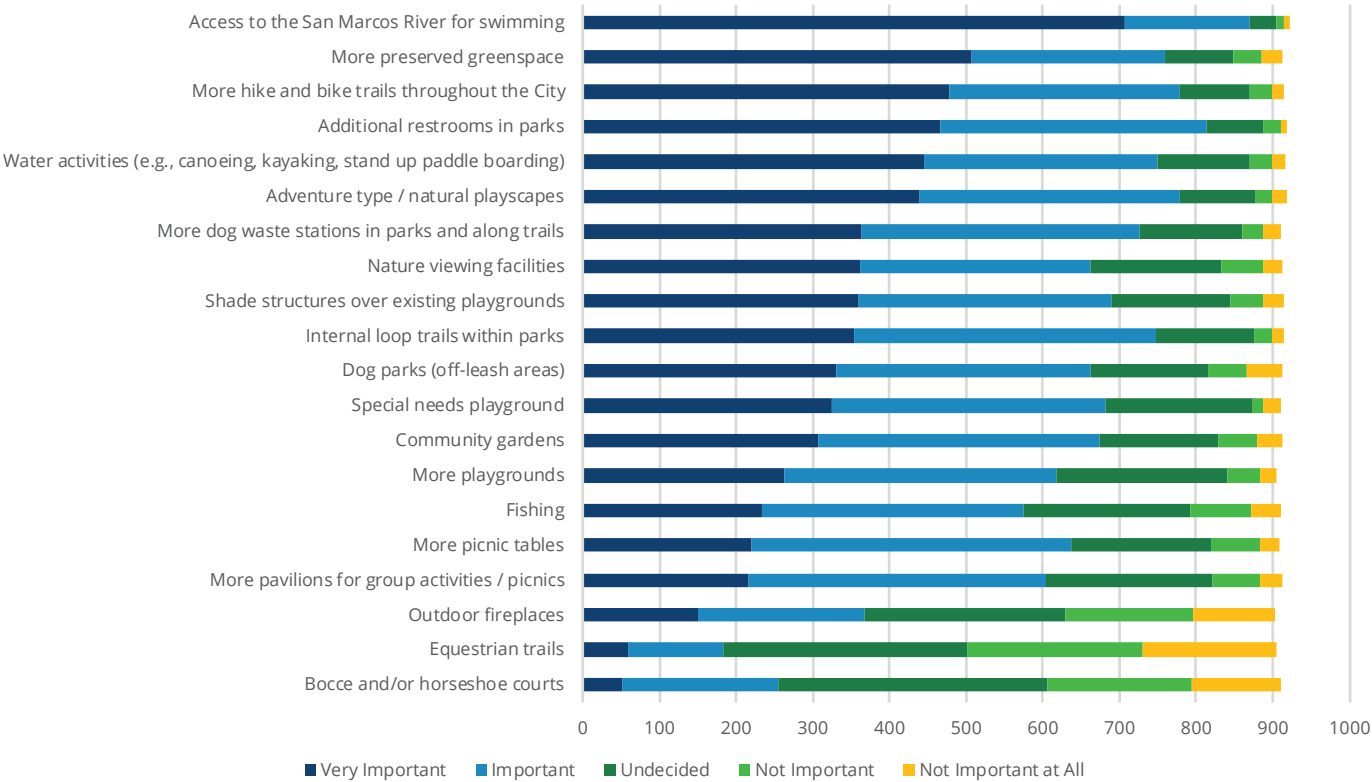


Live on the Lawn has vendors and local artists with a sustainability theme.

Issues and Needs

As set out in Figure 3.26, *Importance of Passive Recreation in San Marcos Parks*, top selections include providing access to the San Marcos River for swimming, the addition of greenspace, and adding more hike and bike trails throughout the City (see also Figure 3.25, *Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks*, page 83).

Figure 3.26, Importance of Passive Recreation in San Marcos Parks



SUMMARY OF RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

Present deficiencies in recreational programming include basketball courts, tennis courts, and volleyball courts (see Table 3.9, *Recreation Facilities Level of Service*). Even though most of the City's water-based recreation is supported by swimming and tubing in the San Marcos River, the community survey indicated that there is a need for more water-based recreation, as there is currently only one swimming pool in San Marcos. The target number of swimming pools was four in 2018 and in 2030, that number will remain at four.

Though the existing number of facilities does not meet the recommended level of service, from 2018 to 2030, the facility needs remain the same.

Table 3.9, Recreation Facilities Level of Service

	FACILITY	CURRENT AVAIL.	CURRENT LOS (1 FACILITY PER # RESIDENTS)	TARGET LOS (PER RESIDENTS)	2018 NEED BASED ON 64,589 POP.	2018 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS	2030 NEED BASED ON 79,819 POP.	2030 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS
ACTIVE REC.	Basketball Courts	14	4,427	1 per 4,000	17	Deficit of 3	20	Deficit of 6
	Tennis Courts	6	10,330	1 per 4,000	17	Deficit of 11	20	Deficit of 14
	Volleyball Courts	1	61,980	1 per 7,000	10	Deficit of 9	12	Deficit of 11
PASSIVE REC.	Trails (miles)	26.2	2365.6	1 per 4,000	17	Surplus	20	Surplus
WATER REC.	Swimming Pool	1	61,980	1 per 20,000	4	Deficit of 3	4	Deficit of 3

Recommendations

GOAL RPE-1. MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATING EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL AMENITIES.

Action RPE-1.1. Evaluate further opportunities to increase multigenerational, passive recreation in existing and future City parks.

The parks system in San Marcos contains over 1,480 acres of greenspace and natural areas. As set out in Figure 3.25, *Importance of Passive Recreation in San Marcos Parks*, around 75 percent of survey respondents would like to see additional preserved greenspace as well as more hike and bike trails throughout the City. Natural areas with wildlife habitat viewing, paddling trails, and other water-based recreation furthers a visitor's opportunity to access and interact with nature, which in turn, increases their desire to protect the City's natural resources. As such, it is suggested that the City provide additional, multigenerational passive recreation opportunities throughout the parks system.

Action RPE-1.2. Ensure adequate funds are budgeted for annual maintenance and upkeep of the San Marcos Activity Center.

The San Marcos Activity Center is highly frequented, with wear and tear occurring earlier than anticipated (e.g., in the walking corridor and conference rooms). Adequate budgeting for maintenance and updates is needed to ensure customer satisfaction.

Action RPE-1.3. Consider conducting a Recreation Programming and Event Assessment to determine gaps and overlaps in services.

As set out in Figure 3.21, *Which Age Group has the Greatest Need for Athletic or Other Recreational Programming?*, on page 81, respondents identified the greatest need for additional athletics or recreational programming was for seniors over the age of 55. The next greatest need was for adults between the ages of 20 and 25, and then young children under the age of five. As such, the City should consider conducting a Recreation Programming and Event Assessment to review and analyze the City's public, private, or public/private recreational program offerings, making sure to include an inventory of both San Marcos' programs, services, and facilities, as well as those offered by other organizations within the City and ETJ. Analysis of the collected inventory data will identify gaps and overlaps and can also include an additional public survey to gauge the community's interest in specific programs.

Action RPE-1.4. Consider an expanded agreement with the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce, and other local partners to further establish the City's parks and recreation assets, events, and programming as destination attractions.

The City's downtown district, historical areas, facilities, and natural amenities (e.g., the San Marcos River) are all destination attractions which collectively enhance the overall economic health and wellbeing of the City. Improvements to these amenities provide numerous benefits, including increased sales

tax dollars, increased hotel/motel tax dollars, and economic competitiveness over neighboring regions. An expanded collaboration with the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce, and other local partners would increase advertising and outreach for these destination attractions and their associated events.

Action RPE-1.5. Consider entry door patron counters at the San Marcos Activity Center.

As set out in the existing conditions of this section, the San Marcos Activity Center is highly frequented, with over 187,000 membership uses during fiscal year 2016-2017 alone. Since many of the patrons and visitors do not need to check in at the front desk (e.g., guests to the conference rooms), there is limited knowledge of the full extent of use of this facility. Moving forward, the City should consider installing patron counters at the main entry door so that accurate usage can be determined.

Action RPE-1.6. Continue to coordinate with area partners to implement the strategies and actions identified in the City's 2013 Youth Master Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Department was asked to collaborate with area partners to not only grow and improve the free and low-cost opportunities for youth to participate in a variety of recreational sports programs, but also to continue to offer children and teens cultural and educational service opportunities. As such, the City should continue fostering these relationships to ensure customer satisfaction.

Action RPE-1.7. Evaluate opportunities to develop a San Marcos Teen Center as identified in the City's 2013 Youth Master Plan.

As set out in the 2013 Youth Master Plan, the City should identify opportunities to develop and staff a teen center that provides a free and safe place for teens to gather after school and on weekends to socialize, do homework, and participate in a variety of clubs and activities.

Action RPE-1.8. Coordinate with the City's communication department to develop an outreach campaign for the parks and recreation system to target City families.

To advertise recreation opportunities, the Parks and Recreation Department should continue using social media for timely updates on programs, services, and events. In addition, outreach campaigns, such as neighborhood "work" days in City parks could also be utilized.

Action RPE-1.9. Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of tournaments in the City.

As set out in Figure 3.23, *Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*, 14 percent of survey respondents participate in the San Marcos Youth Baseball Softball Association. In addition, Figure 3.25, *Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks*, shows that around half of survey respondents would like more lighted practice fields for baseball/softball and soccer/football. A partnership between the San Marcos Youth Baseball Softball Association and the City can reduce the duplication of services.

Element 4

Greenspaces and Resource Protection



Introduction

The protection of greenspaces and other sensitive natural resources is important to the San Marcos community, with many feeling they are a necessary component to their health and wellbeing. This section highlights the existing greenspaces and natural resources in San Marcos, discusses the issues and needs associated with each area, and offers recommendations for the future.

Existing Conditions

Set out in Table 3.10, *Existing Greenspace Areas*, are the greenspaces in San Marcos. Together, they total over 1,480 acres and include 32 miles of walking and biking trails, one pavilion, three restrooms, and 108 parking spaces. The majority of the greenspaces are in the northwest part of the City (see Map 3.9, *Existing Greenspaces*, on page 100).

Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area is the largest greenspace with over 760 acres. The upper entrance is accessible from Valencia Way and the lower entrance is accessible from Hunter Road. Recent improvements include additional parking, signage, and portable restrooms and there are plans for ADA trail access in the future.

Table 3.10, Existing Greenspace Areas

PARK NAME	LOCATION ADDRESS	ACREAGE	WALKING/ BIKING TRAIL (MILES)	PICNIC SHELTER/ PAVILION (#)	RESTROOMS (#)	PARKING (#)
Blanco River Village	350 Trestle Tree	12.8				
Blanco Riverwalk	512 Riverway Ave	55.9				
Blanco Shoals Natural Area	1201 E River Ridge Pkwy	91.5	2			
Cottonwood Creek Park	4300 Highway 123	52.9				
Lancaster Greenbelt	2108 Lancaster St	0.9				
Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area	2102 Hunter Rd	142.0	5.9		1	38
Prospect Park	1414 Prospect St	9.0	2			4
Retreat on Willow Creek	205 Hunter's Hill Dr	33.0				
Ringtail Ridge Natural Area	1814 Old Ranch Road 12	45.1	2	1		
Schulle Canyon Natural Area	100 Ridgewood	21.1	1			8
Sessom Creek Natural Area	915 Chestnut St	10.4	0.5			
Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area	685 Lime Kiln Rd	251.5	6		1	20
Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area	1753 Valencia Way	760.2	13		1	38
TOTAL		1,486.3	32	1	3	108

[illegible]

DRAINAGE AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

One important component of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of San Marcos is the drainage system. The two main purposes of the San Marcos drainage system are to transport and store stormwater and to infiltrate rainwater. These processes lessen flooding, enhance water quality, and recharge the Edwards Aquifer. Natural areas and water courses (e.g., creeks, rivers, tributaries, ponds, and floodplains) are part of the primary drainage system. Man-made features (e.g., streets, ditches, culverts, retention ponds, and gutters) that control stormwater runoff into the natural areas are part of the secondary drainage system. Set out in Map 3.10, *Existing Watershed and Floodplain Areas*, on page 102, are the primary natural water courses which are fed by the man-made drainage system.

San Marcos is bisected by many creeks and tributaries and is bordered by the Blanco River to the north and the San Marcos River to the east. Each area of the City is broken up into drainage basins based on the tributary or branch that drains into the watershed.

Stormwater that drains from the land in San Marcos goes into one of the following two watersheds:

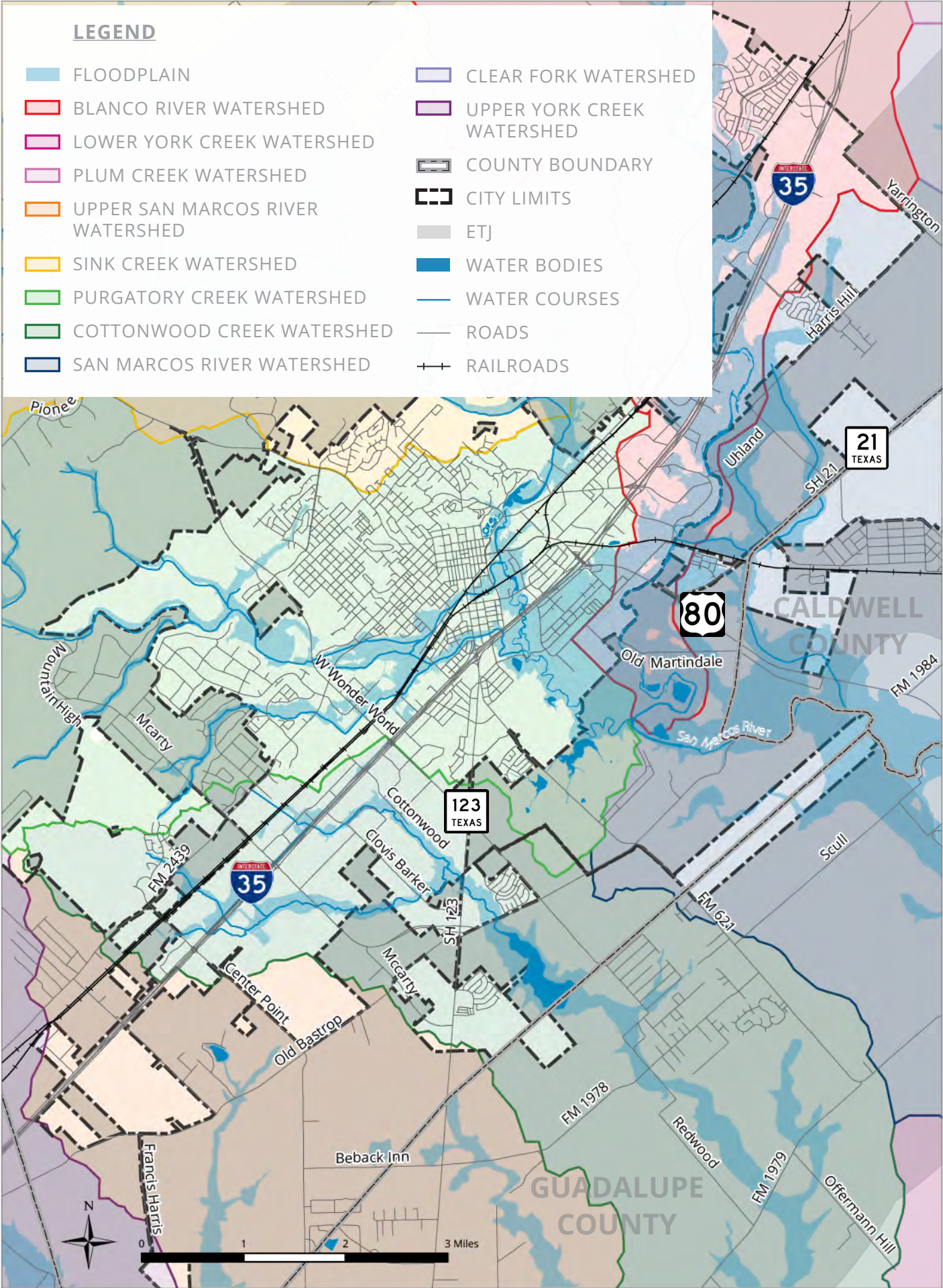
- Blanco River Watershed
- San Marcos River Watershed

Since developmental practices and regulations can greatly influence stormwater drainage, and since flooding can occur when stormwater drainage is not properly managed, it is important to evaluate drainage plans and both the positive and negative impacts on drainage for all projects, including private development, transportation projects, and parks and recreation projects. Property, buildings, infrastructure, and even life can be impacted if any part of the drainage system fails.

EDWARDS AQUIFER

Map 3.11, *Sensitive Natural Resources*, on page 104, shows the location of the Edwards Aquifer in relation to the City. As San Marcos sits above the upper portion of the Aquifer, all projects need to comply with applicable TCEQ Edwards Aquifer Rules.

Map 3.10, Existing Watershed and Floodplain Areas



HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is the culmination of a decades-long conversation on how to best protect the endangered species of the San Marcos and Comal Rivers and their associated springs. The HCP has five signatories including the City of San Marcos, Texas State University, the Edwards Aquifer Authority, the San Antonio Water System, and the City of New Braunfels. All of the City of San Marcos is located within a designated protection area.

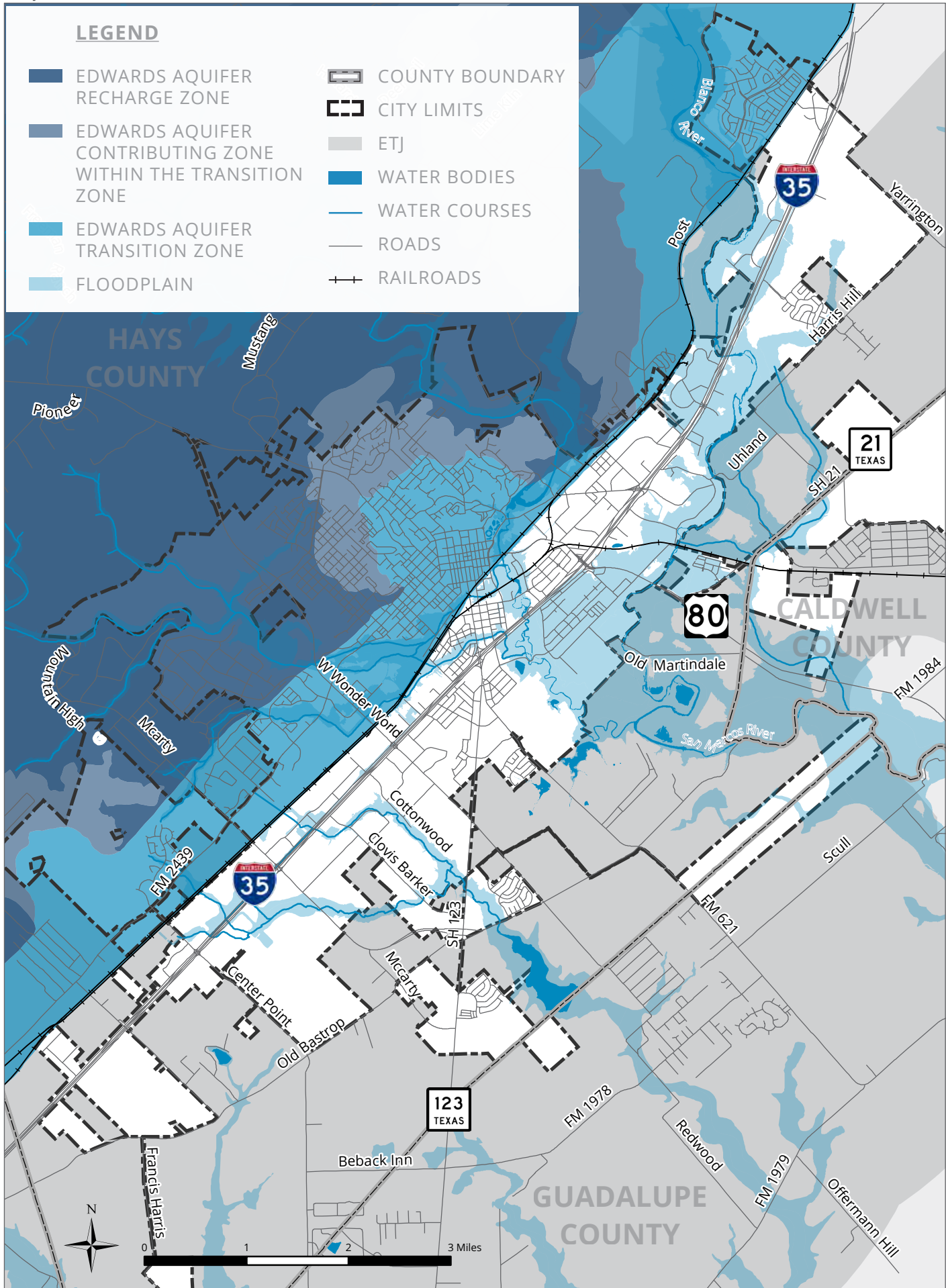
The Fish and Wildlife Service approved the HCP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in February 2013; notice was published in the Federal Register soon thereafter. An incidental take permit was included as part of the approval.

The Habitat Conservation Plan involves the following components in San Marcos:

- Bank stabilization
- Constructing river access areas
- Planting native plants in and along the river as well as throughout the San Marcos River watershed
- Invasive species removal
- Water quality protection



Map 3.11, Sensitive Natural Resources



Issues and Needs

The top priorities for survey respondents include water supply protection of the San Marcos and Blanco Rivers, and protection of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Areas/river clarity and quality (see Figure 3.27, *Importance of the Following Priorities in Protecting Greenspace Areas in the City and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction*). Additionally, Figure 3.28, *When Considering the Types of Facilities and Activities Which Typically Occur, or Could Occur, in the City's Greenspace Areas, How Important are the Following?*, on page 106, shows that the addition of nature trails for walking or hiking, better/more restrooms, and better trailhead kiosks/wayfinding signage are the top selections by survey respondents.

Figure 3.27, Importance of the Following Priorities in Protecting Greenspace Areas in the City and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

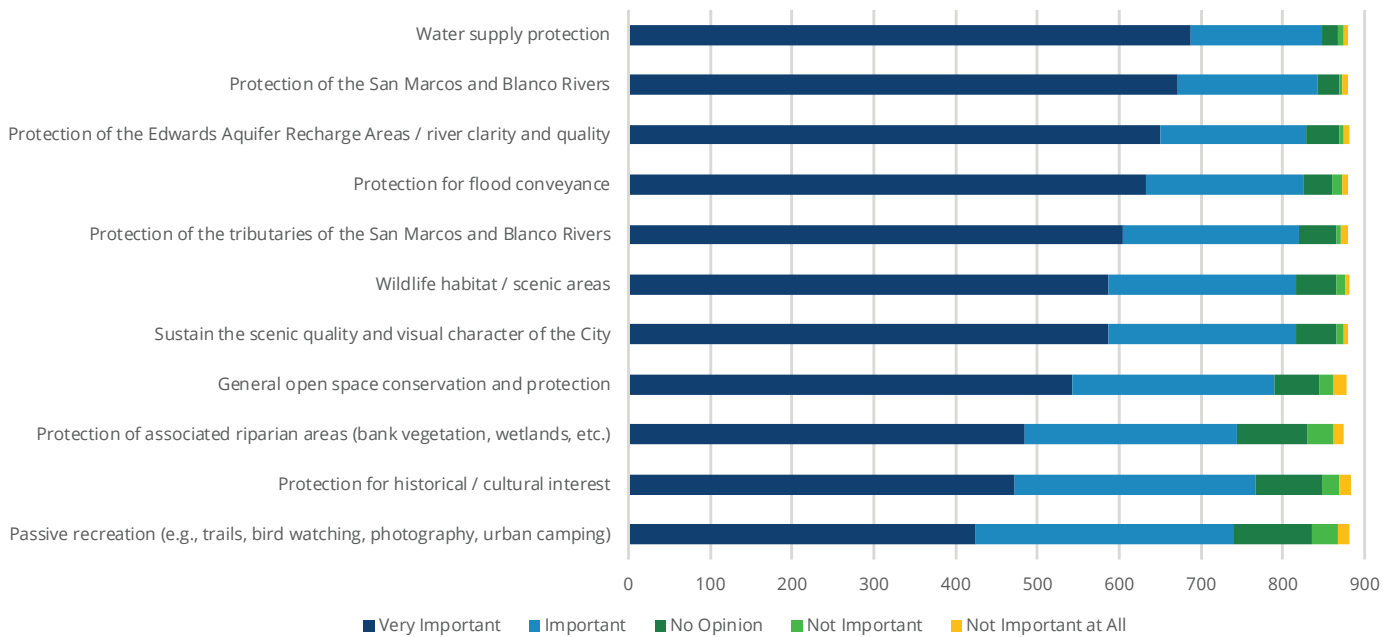
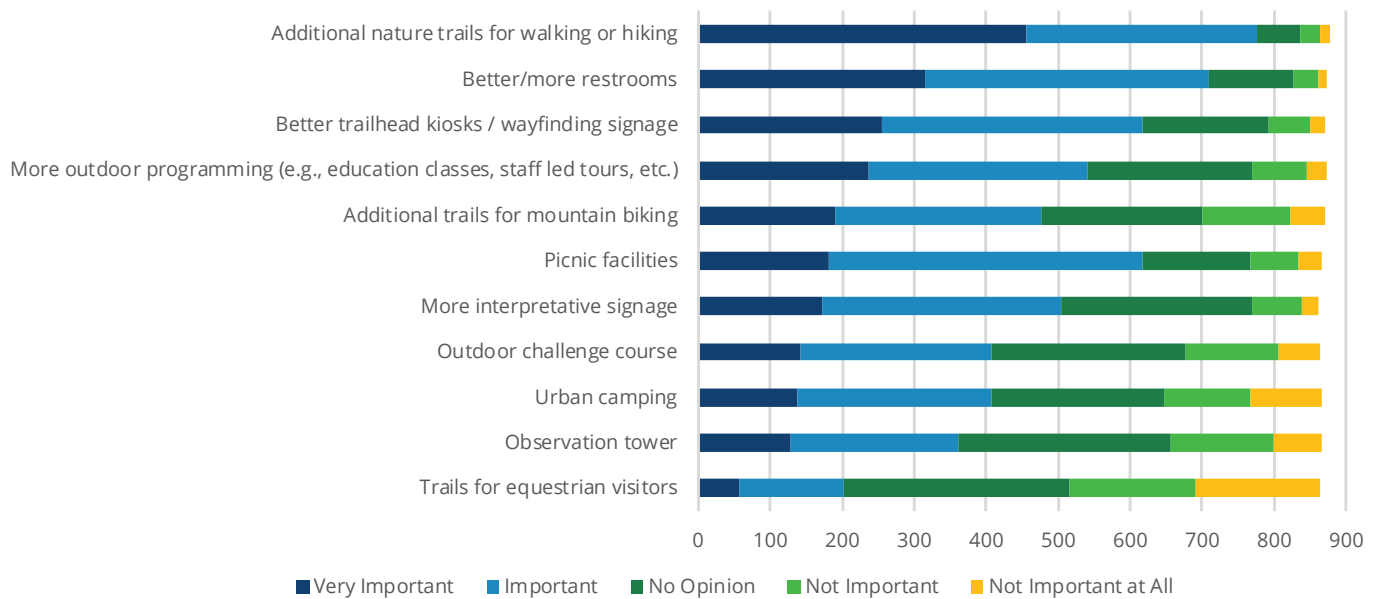


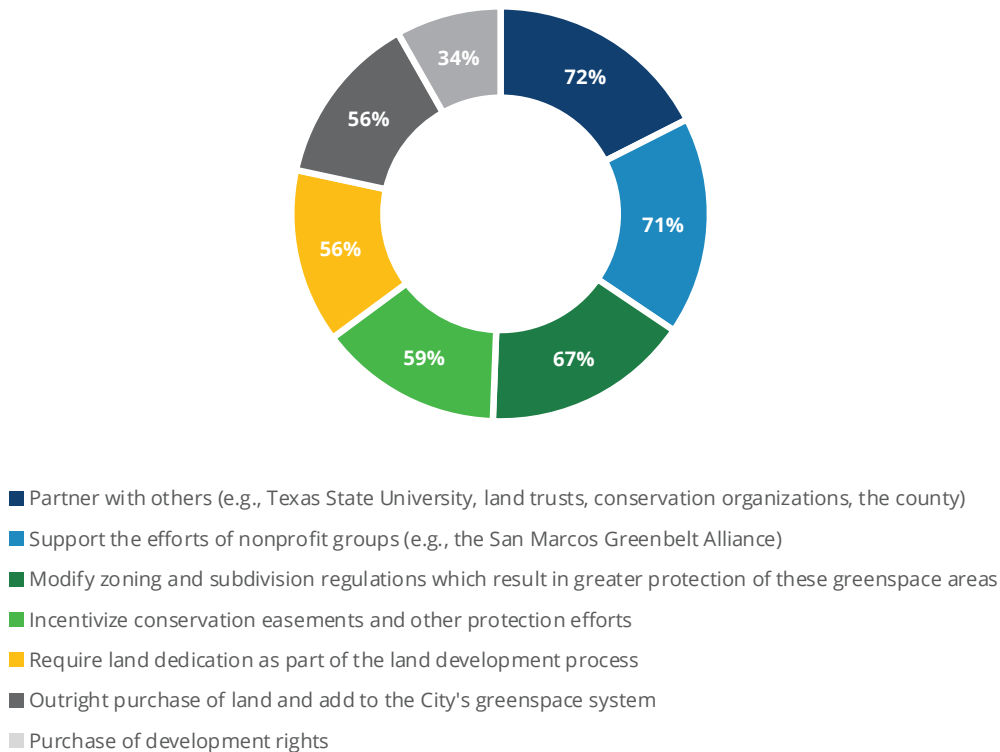
Figure 3.28, When Considering the Types of Facilities and Activities Which Typically Occur, or Could Occur, in the City's Greenspace Areas, How Important are the Following?



This trailhead at Prugatory Creek offers various amenities such as seating and trash cans.

Survey respondents also indicated that the City should partner with local entities (e.g., Texas State University, land trusts, conservation organizations, Hays County) to protect greenspaces in the future. More top actions include supporting the efforts of nonprofit groups (e.g., the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance) and modifying zoning and subdivision regulations, which results in greater protection of greenspace areas (see Figure 3.29, *To Protect Additional Areas of Greenspace in the City and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, What Types of Action Should the City be Pursuing?*).

Figure 3.29, To Protect Additional Areas of Greenspace in the City and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, What Types of Action Should the City be Pursuing?



Set out in Table 3.11, *Greenspace Area Level of Service*, are the existing levels of service for greenspaces in San Marcos. In the previous Parks Master Plan, there was a target of five acres of greenspace per 1,000 people. At that time, the City was at 26 acres of greenspace per person. Since there are currently no set national metrics for quantifying greenspace level of service, and since the City has alternate reasons for further protection (e.g., protecting the aquifer recharge areas), there is not a recommended level of service moving forward.

Table 3.11 Greenspace Area Level of Service

PARK CLASSIFICATION	EXISTING ACREAGE	CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 64,589 POPULATION)		RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE		RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE
Greenspace & Natural Areas	1,486.3	24.0	Ac./1,000 Residents	Varies	Ac./1,000 Residents	N/A	N/A

Recommendations

GOAL GRP-1. ENCOURAGE NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS OF THE PARKS SYSTEM.

Action GRP-1.1. Evaluate opportunities to proactively pursue additional greenspace property acquisitions in and around the City.

As set out in Map 3.12, *Greenspace Area Priority Acquisition Areas*, there are key locations in the northwest part of San Marcos which are considered priority greenspace acquisition areas. Some of these properties are located in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, an environmentally sensitive area that is an ideal location for both protection of the City's water quality, and to provide a continuous connection between Purgatory Creek Natural Area and Spring Lake Natural Area. Potential acquisition of these properties, as well as any other greenspace area in the City, should be evaluated against the San Marcos Greenspace Selection Criteria prior to finalization (see Figure 3.30, *San Marcos Recommended Greenspace Selection Criteria*, on page 109).

Map 3.12, *Greenspace Area Priority Acquisition Areas*

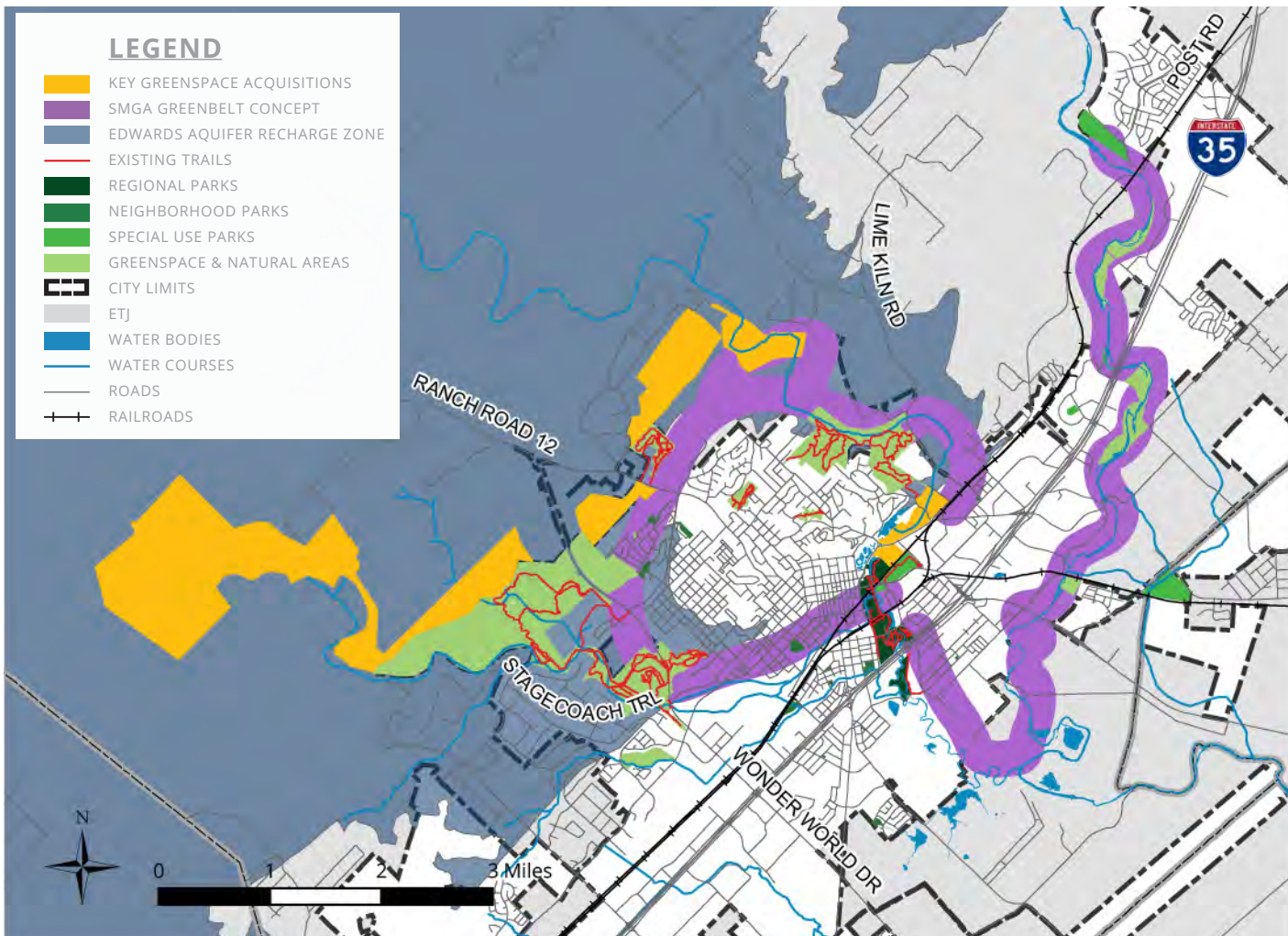


Figure 3.30, San Marcos Recommended Greenspace Selection Criteria

GREENSPACE SELECTION CRITERIA

In order to be considered, a proposed property **MUST** meet **ALL** of the following three criteria:

1. The protection of this property is consistent with the policies of the Vision San Marcos Comprehensive Plan and any other plan pertinent to the acquisition of greenspace in San Marcos.
2. The property has natural, scenic, historical, or agricultural value.
3. The property is located within the San Marcos City limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

If the property under consideration meets **ALL** of the three criteria above, then to further qualify for selection the property **MUST** meet two or more of the **PUBLIC BENEFIT LIST** items and at least one of the **FEASIBILITY LIST** items.

PUBLIC BENEFIT LIST

1. The property provides connection to other open protected or open space land.
2. The property promotes responsible watershed and floodplain management.
3. The property is important for the movement of wildlife between habitat and/or for the conservation of native vegetation.
4. The property provides protection for the Edwards Aquifer.
5. The property presents an opportunity to partner with other agencies and organizations, both public and private.
6. The property helps balance urban development with natural areas and helps define the form of the community.
7. The property has the potential to offer alternative non-motorized routes for the movement of people.
8. The property provides opportunity for equal access for traditionally under-represented groups.
9. The property promotes public health and safety.
10. The property creates and enhances the aesthetics/scenery and quality of life that define the community.
11. The property can contribute to the conservation listed species or species of concern.
12. The conservation of this property offers economic benefits to the community.
13. The property provides appropriate recreational or educational opportunities.

FEASIBILITY LIST

1. The property could likely be protected or acquired with reasonable effort in relation to the property's conservation value.
2. It is likely that adjacent properties could be connected/protected.
3. The property is accessible to the general public.
4. Grant or matching funds may be available to facilitate acquisition.
5. Lack of immediate action precludes future protection or acquisition.
6. The property would require minimal funds for restoration, development, and/or maintenance because it is in a relatively natural state.
7. The mechanism and/or fund are in place for on-going maintenance.
8. The property could easily be acquired through development agreements.

Action GRP-1.2. Develop emergency access plans for the City's greenspace parks.

During road closures and emergencies, access to many of the greenspace parks is inhibited. As such, it is suggested that the City create an Emergency Preparedness and Management Plan for each of the greenspace parks to ensure that City staff and emergency services are prepared. These plans should be integrated into the City's overall Emergency Preparedness and Management Plans and should include tasks for all City staff, as well as tasks specifically for PARD staff during all stages of an emergency.

Action GRP-1.3. Evaluate opportunities to better manage wildlife and land in the City's greenspace parks.

The addition of more natural areas would decrease species loss by providing them a habitat to live. The creation of partnerships between the City and local organizations can help manage wildlife in greenspace parks. These partnerships would allow resources to be allocated efficiently without any duplication of efforts. The addition of a natural areas manager to parks staff would help to focus management tasks. In addition, the creation of a management plan would provide clear direction for the parks staff moving forward.

Action GRP-1.4. Develop a master color coding system as part of the wayfinding signage in the City's greenspace parks.

Having recognizable, safe, and navigable greenspace parks and trails is a priority for parks and open spaces. Through a well-planned and consistent wayfinding signage system, both residents and visitors will be able to navigate the parks and trails and visually identify City-owned park land. This wayfinding signage, which can also aid in emergency response situations, would need to be located at key points within the parks and trails and would consist of park entry signage, trail entry kiosks, trail maps, brochures, a website, and internal trail wayfinding signage. This could be undertaken as part of an individual wayfinding signage plan or as part of a broader trail assessment and management plan.

Action GRP-1.5. Coordinate with local, federal, and state partners to undertake controlled burns within the City's greenspace parks.

Fire was once a natural part of forest and grassland ecology in Texas. For most of the 20th Century, though, wildfires were quickly extinguished and as a result, an



unhealthy imbalance in the natural ecosystems has occurred. To better protect and enhance these natural ecosystems in the greenspace properties, the City should consider collaborating with applicable local, federal, and state agencies to undertake controlled burns and any accompanying management guidelines. Selective chemicals can yield similar results and should also be considered.

Action GRP -1.6. Continue to coordinate with and support efforts by the SMGA and the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) to acquire, protect, and maintain new greenspace and/or riverfront park properties.

With regards to the protection and maintenance of greenspace properties, another mutually beneficial relationship is the one between the City and the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF). Moving forward, the City should continue to collaborate with both the SMGA and the SMRF to acquire, protect, and maintain any new greenspace and/or riverfront park properties. This would involve finding the right balance between protecting sensitive natural resources and providing public access. Currently, on the east side of Interstate 35 there are very few greenspaces. As the City continues to acquire more greenspace, land on the east side of Interstate 35 needs to be considered to serve those who live in this area.

Action GRP-1.7. Consider adding restroom facilities at the entrances to the City's greenspace park properties.

Recent additions of portable restroom facilities have been a necessary benefit to several entrances of the greenspace park properties. Thinking ahead, the City should consider how these temporary facilities can be transitioned to more permanent ones. Moreover, additional entrances which may also need restroom facilities should be identified.

Action GRP-1.8. Identify additional resources to better respond to reoccurring maintenance and enforcement issues in the greenspace park properties.

Two of the identified issues regarding the greenspace park properties were the excessive trash and list of unfinished maintenance projects. Additionally, there has been an expressed need for enforcement of issues related to user conflicts. Moving forward, the City should identify opportunities for additional resources (funding, staffing, and/or partnership agreements) to better respond to these reoccurring maintenance and enforcement issues in the greenspace park properties. The addition of park ambassadors to the greenspace areas would help to address these issues.

Action GRP-1.9. Add a water quality land manager for the natural areas.

Protecting the water quality of San Marcos is a top priority for the City in maintaining a desirable recreation area along the San Marcos River. A water quality land manager would be a designated position and would address issues related to water quality as they arise.

Action GRP-1.10. Create a management plan for the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

Since a large portion of San Marcos is in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, a plan must be created to protect this environmentally sensitive area. The management plan can consist of a prioritized list of projects that could be undertaken to improve and maintain the water quality of the Aquifer.

Element 5

Trails



- PARK RULES**
1. PARK CURFEW 11:00PM TO 6:00AM
 2. NO GLASS CONTAINERS
 3. DOGS MUST BE KEPT UNDER RESTRAINT
 4. SPEED LIMIT 15 MPH OR AS POSTED
 5. PARKING FOR PARK USERS ONLY
 6. PARKING IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY
 7. NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON TRAILS
 8. NO FIRE WOOD COLLECTION
 9. ALL WILDLIFE AND HABITAT PROTECTED

**HELP US
PROTECT OUR PARK**
NO OPEN FLAMES!

NO CAMPFIRES NO SMOKING NO OPEN FLAMES



Introduction

Trails provide multi-generational recreation opportunities, increase the quality of life of the community, and create alternatives to vehicular transportation. This section covers the existing park trails in San Marcos, discusses the issues and needs related to them, and offers recommendations for the future.

Existing Conditions

Trails comprise a significant part of recreation planning in a community. Trails offer access to and connectivity between parks and other destinations, and provides recreation, fitness, and socialization opportunities. In recent years, the demand for trails has grown across the nation, with one of the most popular outdoor activities being trail running.¹

At present, there are over 26 miles of trails maintained by the City of San Marcos (COSM) and the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGA). Most of the regional parks, special use parks, and greenspace and natural areas in San Marcos contain trails. Set out in Table 3.12, *Existing Trails* and Map 3.13, *Existing Trail Locations*, are the existing trails within each of these parks. The map also shows current bicycle routes and sidewalk locations within the City.

From August 2016 to July 2017, approximately 100,000 people visited Purgatory Creek Natural Area, thus proving that proximity to trails is important for park users, as many residents want the choice to easily walk or ride to get to a trail. Map 3.13, *Existing Trail Locations*, shows one-quarter-mile and one-half-mile service areas around the City's existing trails. Sidewalks and bicycle routes are not shown with a buffer since they are for single use and oftentimes only serve to provide the connection to the citywide trail system. Currently, the center and northwest portions of the City are the only areas served by the existing trails system.

¹Outdoor Participation Report, 2016. The Outdoor Foundation. <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2016.pdf>

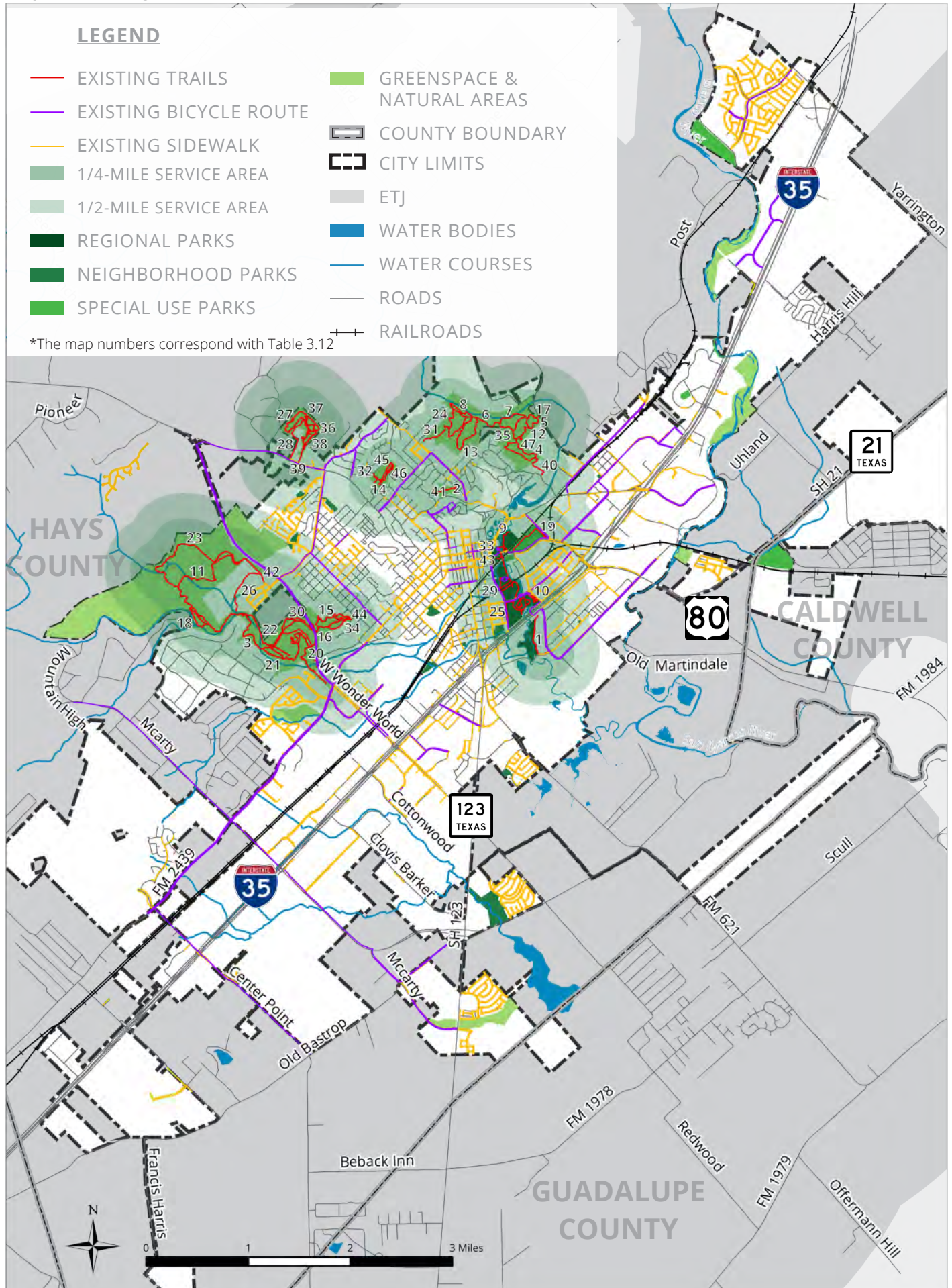
Table 3.12, Existing Trails

TRAIL NUMBER	TRAIL NAME	MILES	PARK
1	N/A	0.5	Woods of San Marcos
2	Bamboo Shoot	0.0	Sessom Creek Natural Area
3	Beatrice	1.3	Purgatory Park
4	Blind Salamander Way	0.3	Spring Lake Preserve
5	Blue Heron	0.3	Spring Lake Preserve

Table 3.12, Existing Trails (cont.)

TRAIL NUMBER	TRAIL NAME	MILES	PARK
6	Blue Stem	0.9	Spring Lake Preserve
7	Buckeye	0.4	Spring Lake Preserve
8	Centipede	0.4	Spring Lake Preserve
9	City Park Trail	0.3	City Park
10	Crook Park Trail	0.5	Crook Park
11	Dante	4.3	Purgatory Park
12	Exogyra	0.3	Spring Lake Preserve
13	Grey Fox	0.9	Spring Lake Preserve
14	Itsy Bitsy Trail	0.1	Schulle Canyon Park
15	Limbo Loop	0.9	Purgatory Park
16	Limbo/Virgil	0.1	Purgatory Park
17	Lime Kiln	0.0	Spring Lake Preserve
18	Malacoda	0.6	Purgatory Park
19	Memorial Park Trail	0.5	Memorial Park
20	Nimrod	0.6	Purgatory Park
21	Ovid East	0.2	Purgatory Park
22	Ovid West	0.3	Purgatory Park
23	Paraiso	1.6	Purgatory Park
24	Porcupine	0.3	Spring Lake Preserve
25	Ramon Lucio Park Trail	1.1	Ramon Lucio Park
26	Restricted Park Access Road	0.5	Purgatory Park
27	Ridge Loop	0.7	Ringtail Ridge
28	Ringtail Park Access Road	0.5	Ringtail Ridge Access
29	Rio Vista Park Trail	1.1	Rio Vista Park
30	Ripheus	0.7	Purgatory Park
31	Roadrunner	0.8	Spring Lake Preserve
32	Root Rock	0.1	Schulle Canyon Park
33	San Marcos Plaza Park Trail	0.1	San Marcos Plaza Park
34	Sinon Trail	0.1	Purgatory Park
35	Skink Link	0.2	Spring Lake Preserve
36	Tex's Trail	0.5	Ringtail Ridge
37	The Berms	0.3	Ringtail Ridge
38	The Panhandle	0.9	Ringtail Ridge
39	The Spur	0.1	Ringtail Ridge
40	Tonkawa	0.9	Spring Lake Preserve
41	Trail #1	0.3	Sessom Creek Natural Area
42	Upper Access	0.5	Purgatory Park
43	Veramendi Plaza Park Trail	0.1	Veramendi Plaza Park
44	Virgil's	0.5	Purgatory Park
45	Virginia Witte Way	0.4	Schulle Canyon Park
46	Warbler Walk	0.3	Schulle Canyon Park
47	Wickiups	0.1	Spring Lake Preserve
TOTAL		26.2	

Map 3.13, Existing Trail Locations



Issues and Needs

Survey respondents were asked if they agree with a series of statements regarding the trail system or linear parks that are used to connect destinations. Their top selection was that they would like to see trails close to where they live so they can walk and/or bicycle to destinations throughout the City. They would also like to see trails developed as an alternative means of transportation, and they prefer soft surface crushed granite trails over concrete trails (see Figure 3.31, *Agreement With the Following Statements Regarding the Trail System or Linear Parks Used to Connect Destinations*). Additionally, Figure 3.32, *What Activities Do You Use Trails For?*, depicts the top selections by survey respondents to be walking for leisure, viewing scenery or wildlife, walking or running for exercise, or wildlife, and walking or running for exercise.

Figure 3.31, Agreement With the Following Statements Regarding the Trail System or Linear Parks Used to Connect Destinations

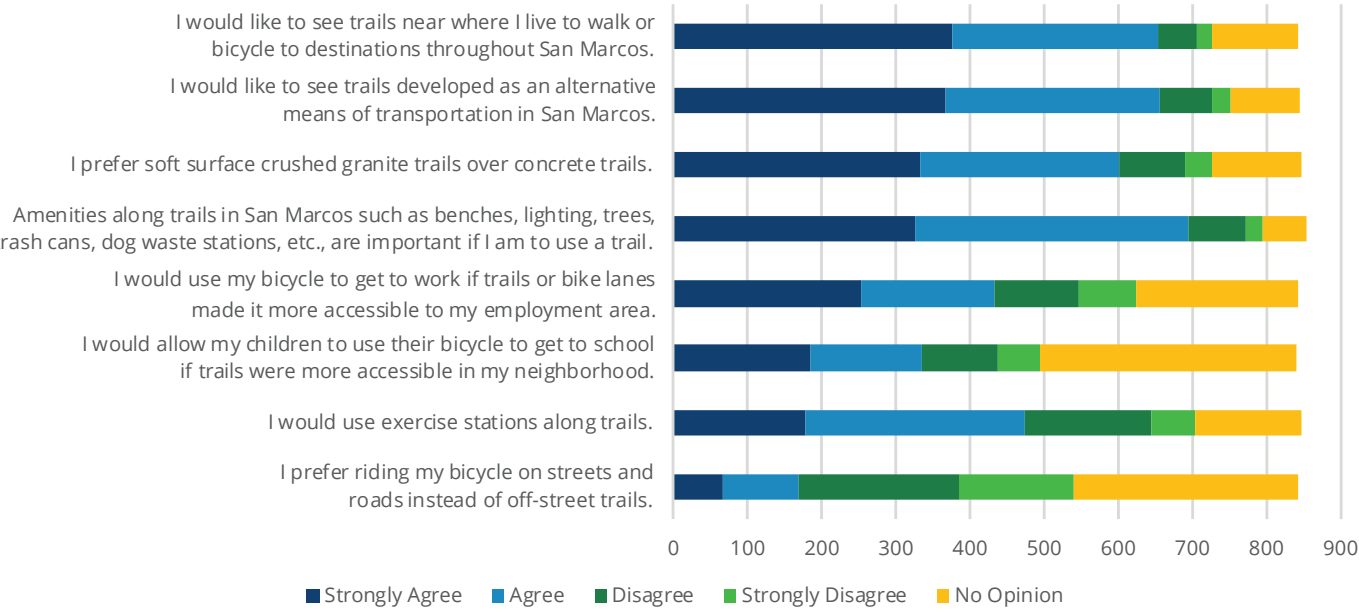
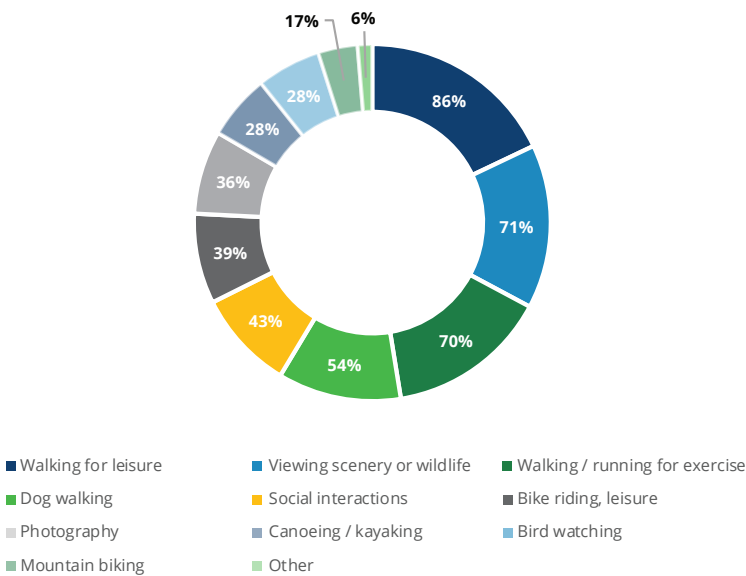


Figure 3.32, What Activities Do You Use Trails For?



PROPOSED TRAILS

With the growing awareness in health, quality of life, and alternative modes of transportation, being in close proximity to a trail is becoming more important for residents of San Marcos. Trails provide opportunities for non-motorized transportation as well as multi-generational leisure activities. Moreover, survey respondents indicated that the addition of trails in residential areas with connections to key destinations in the City was a top priority.

Map 3.14, *Proposed Trail Linkages*, on page 118, shows the proposed trail locations within the City limits and ETJ. These proposed trails are mainly located along rivers and streams and provide users the opportunity to experience nature. They also connect riverfront parks, Purgatory Creek Natural Area, Spring Lake Natural Area, and Ringtail Ridge Natural Area. Additionally, Map 3.15 also shows the proposed bike route and sidewalk locations. Since the one-quarter-mile and one-half-mile service area buffers cover the majority of the City, it is recommended that the current amount of trails double from 26.2 miles to 52.4 miles.

In 2018, the City adopted the Transportation Master Plan, which included a section on trails. As this plan is implemented, service area gaps can be filled and better citywide connectivity can be achieved.

Trail Types

Single Track

A type of mountain biking trail that is around the width of the bike.

Greenway

Multi-use greenways are shared, off-street facilities for bicycles and pedestrians typically provided through parks and green spaces. They can be made of concrete or decomposed granite.

Hike and Bike Trail

A multi-purpose trail for mountain bikes, walking or hiking.



LEGEND

- PROPOSED GREENWAY TRAILS
- PROPOSED BICYCLE ROUTE
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK
- 1/4-MILE SERVICE AREA
- 1/2-MILE SERVICE AREA
- REGIONAL PARKS
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
- SPECIAL USE PARKS
- GREENSPACE & NATURAL AREAS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CITY LIMITS
- ETJ
- WATER BODIES
- WATER COURSES
- ROADS
- RAILROADS

Recommendations

GOAL T-1. EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE TRAIL SYSTEM IN SAN MARCOS.

Action T-1.1. Conduct a system-wide accessibility assessment to identify, prioritize, and address issues in the City parks, trails, and greenspace system.

A number of the City's parks include elements which may be inaccessible to those with a disability. In order to ensure that all park users have equal access to facilities, trails, and amenities, the City should conduct a system-wide park accessibility assessment of parking areas, picnic facilities, playgrounds, trails, and seating areas. Once complete, required accessibility improvements need to be funded and implemented based on a prioritized list. Additionally, a map identifying the type and location of the accessibility accommodation should be created and maintained on the City's website.

Action T-1.2. Improve ADA accessibility to the San Marcos River.

As identified in Figure 3.18, *How Important Is It For the City to Address the Following Parks, Recreation, and Trail Issues?*, around 75 percent of survey respondents want to see water access improved for people with disabilities. As part of the development of design and construction plans for the riverfront parks system improvements, access points which meet the American with Disabilities (ADA) standards need to be identified, designed, and constructed along the San Marcos River, with particular attention given to designating a kayak access point for Wounded Warrior at Rio Vista Park.

Action T-1.3. Collaborate with local and regional partners to define and establish the Emerald Crown Trail connection to Kyle, Buda, and eventually, to the Violet Crown Trail in Austin.

Establishing regional trail connections between cities can be beneficial for all involved communities. One such regional trail connection is the Emerald Crown Trail. Proposed by the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGA), this trail is in its preliminary planning stages and is intended to connect beginning at the San Marcos River, through Dudley Johnson/ Randy Vetter/ Five Mile Dam Park, and on to Kyle and Buda, where it will eventually connect to the Violet Crown Trail being constructed by the Hill Country Conservancy. Considering the broad range of benefits for both local and regional partners, the City should consider supporting increased collaboration on this proposed five year project.

Action T-1.4. Consider developing a bicycle and pedestrian implementation plan to fulfill the trail alignments established in the 2018 San Marcos Transportation Master Plan.

As part of the recent adoption of the 2018 San Marcos Transportation Master Plan, the City identified a proposed greenway plan that included conceptual alignments of a trail network. The plan contained recommendations for short-term facility improvement projects (e.g., connecting the southern end of the riverfront parks system to the East Guadalupe neighborhood area), as well as long-ranging facility improvement projects (e.g., creating an outer greenways loop around San Marcos). Moving forward, the City should collaborate with local and regional partners to implement the plan. This could range from developing a bicycle and pedestrian implementation plan to participating in a regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. It could also involve working with nearby communities and private developers to maximize not only these joint implementation projects, but regional grant applications as well.

Action T-1.5. Prioritize a connection between the new TxDOT frontage roads and the proposed extension of the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail underneath I-35 at Ramon Lucio Park.

As part of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) project to elevate the frontage road along Interstate 35, the City will need to ensure that a direct connection is made from the sidewalks along I-35, to the proposed multi-use trail underneath.

Action T-1.6. Evaluate and prioritize the installation of additional trail amenities along the City's greenway and other trail systems.

Figure 3.31, *Agreement With the Following Statements Regarding the Trail System or Linear Parks Used to Connect Destinations*, shows survey respondents feel additional trail amenities need to be developed along not only the City's existing trails, but any future ones as well. At a minimum, more benches, lighting, trees, trash cans, dog waste stations, and drinking fountains need to be added, particularly along the trails in the riverfront parks system.

Action T-1.7. Identify priority trail extensions to connect the citywide trail system to the riverfront parks system.

Set out in Figure 3.18, *How Important Is It For the City to Address the Following Parks, Recreation, and Trail Issues?*, is one of the community's higher priorities of connecting the overall citywide trail system to the riverfront parks trail system. As such, the City should identify and prioritize any trail extension which could connect additional outlying areas to the riverfront parks system.

Action T-1.8. Identify opportunities to establish a hierarchy of trail types throughout the parks and greenways system.

As the demand for additional trails continues to grow, the City should identify further ways in which to establish a more diversified and connected trail system. Some examples include 12-foot multi-use trails in the riverfront parks system, multi-use regional trail connections between parks, internal loop trails in neighborhood parks, and hiking and mountain biking trails in the City's greenspace parks.

Action T-1.9. Add trails to connect the east and west sides of San Marcos.

Other than the trails that are currently in the greenspaces and riverfront parks, there is no continuous trail network that allows residents and visitors to get from one side of the City to the other. Interstate 35 divides the City in two parts and creates a physical barrier that makes it difficult for pedestrians and bicyclist to cross. Potential solutions to solve this issue could include the addition of more over or underpasses for trails which would allow trail users to safely cross the interstate.

Action T-1.10. Add trails that connect San Marcos High School to the rest of the City.

By allowing alternate forms of transportation to vehicles, San Marcos High School students can have the option to walk or ride their bike to school. The addition of trails to the school can also provide a way for students who do not have access to a vehicle to get to school safely.

Action T-1.11. Consider adding rules and regulations on scooters and electric bikes on the trails.

As technology progresses, the popularity of scooters and electric bicycles continues to grow. This creates conflict with traditional bicycles and pedestrians who move at a much slower pace. Consider the establishment of speed limits on trails to reduce the number of potential accidents that could occur between these different user groups.

Action T-1.12. Add a trail that connects San Marcos to San Antonio.

With the recent and projected growth of the San Marcos and San Antonio region in the near future, a trail connecting the two communities would create a regional alternate form of transportation to vehicles. Bicyclists who would like to commute long distances could use this trail as a form of transportation or for recreational purposes.

Action T-1.13. Add a green belt loop around the City to increase connectivity.

The addition of a greenbelt loop around San Marcos would increase the use of the trail system by providing better connectivity in the City. This loop could be used for transportation and would reduce traffic congestion by allowing citizens to walk or ride a bike to various end user destinations.

Action T-1.14. Create a Trails Master Plan for the City.

It is suggested that the City create a Trails Master Plan before building any extensive parts of the planned trail system shown on Map 3.16, *Proposed Trail Linkages*. The Trails Master Plan would identify and prioritize specific trail positions in the target connectivity corridors illustrated on that map. Trail segments would consist of both on- and off-street sections. As part of the Trails Master Plan, it is suggested that the City consider partnership opportunities for connections to adjacent communities.

Action T-1.15. Add smaller greenbelt loops in the City.

Smaller greenbelt loops would increase connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclist in the center of the City. Key destinations such as downtown, the riverfront parks system, and school could be some of the places that would be located along the loops.

Element 6

Maintenance and Operations





Introduction

Parks and open spaces are of economic importance to the City because they help to increase the population as well as retain community members. Therefore, as residential and commercial real estate expands, it is important to not only increase the amount of park land in the City, but also responsibly maintain it.

A primary goal of maintenance is the sustainable preservation of properties, which helps reduce costs and increase life cycles. All of this is a function of balancing resources to address workload responsibilities, the most important of which are the following:

- Sufficiently trained employees
- Adequate work and storage space
- Suitable equipment for given tasks

If these are in place, the Parks and Recreation Department is able to increase their efficiency and offer cost effective services for the City.

Existing Conditions

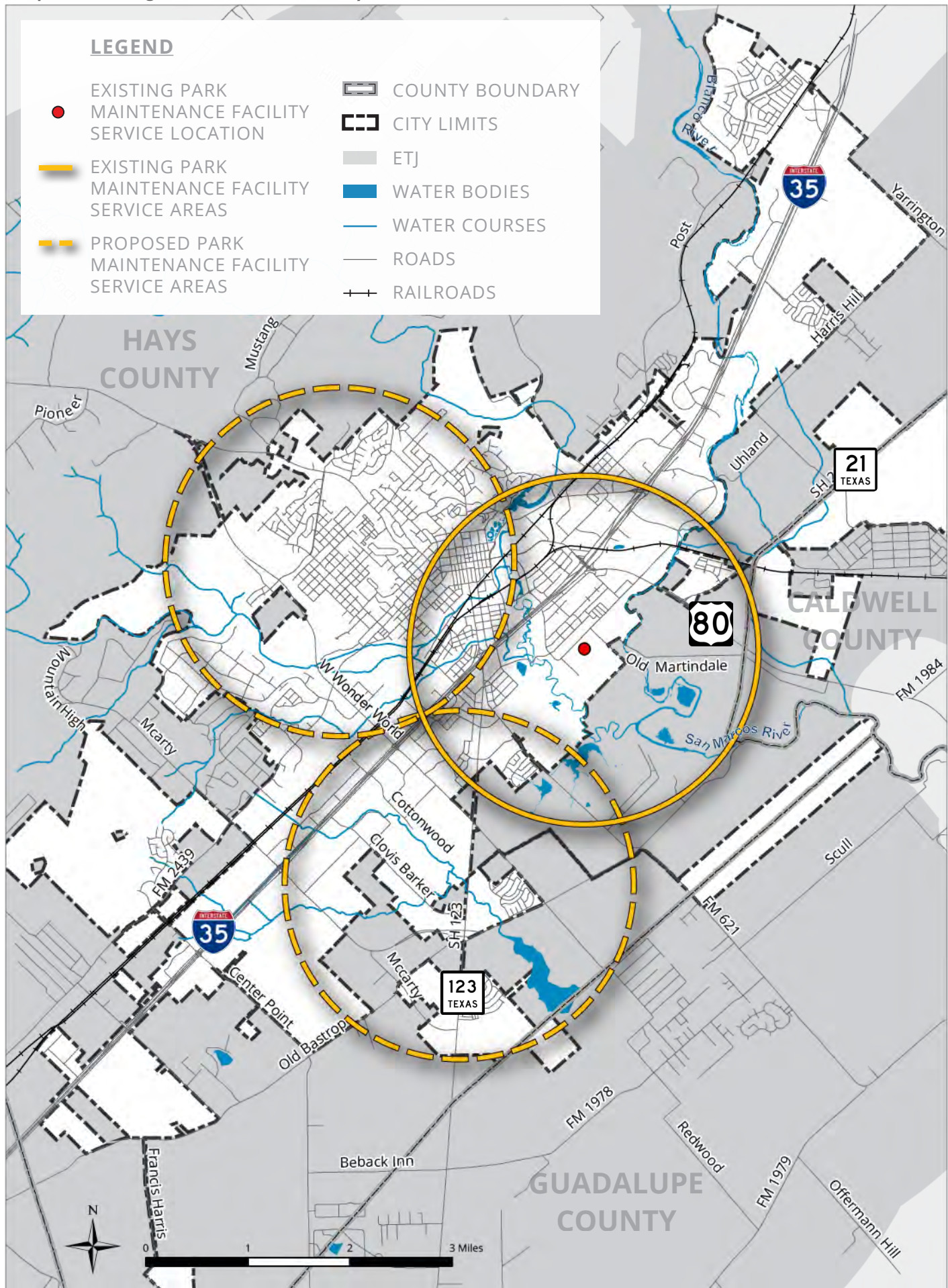
Below is a list of positions within the City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department.

- Activity Center Attendant
- Activity Center Attendant, Lead
- Administrative Clerk
- Administrative Coordinator
- Aquatics Program Coordinator
- Arts Coordinator
- Athletic Program Coordinator
- Athletic Program Manager
- Community Services Operations Manager
- Construction Projects Manager
- Executive Director of Community Services
- Facilities Maintenance Worker
- Facility Events Coordinator
- Habitat Conservation Plan Manager
- Parks Maintenance Supervisor
- Parks Operations Manager
- Recreation Programs Manager
- Senior Program Coordinator
- Special Events and Marketing Coordinator
- Youth Services Coordinator
- Youth Services Manager
- Youth Services Specialist

PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

The existing park maintenance facility is located on River Road behind the City of San Marcos Animal Shelter (see Map 3.15, *Existing Park Maintenance Facility Service Location*). The solid yellow circle represents an approximate 3.5-mile service area, a fraction of the City. The dashed yellow lines show potential areas where a park maintenance sub-station could provide a more balanced response time to respond to park issues.

Map 3.15, Existing Park Maintenance Facility Service Location



MAINTENANCE

As set out in Table 3.13, *Projected Staff Numbers*, are the current and projected number of City maintenance staff. At present, the City employs seven Park Rangers. On weekends, there are a total of 20 staff members. When looking at property-to-staff ratios, current numbers indicate that the City cannot adequately meet park maintenance needs.

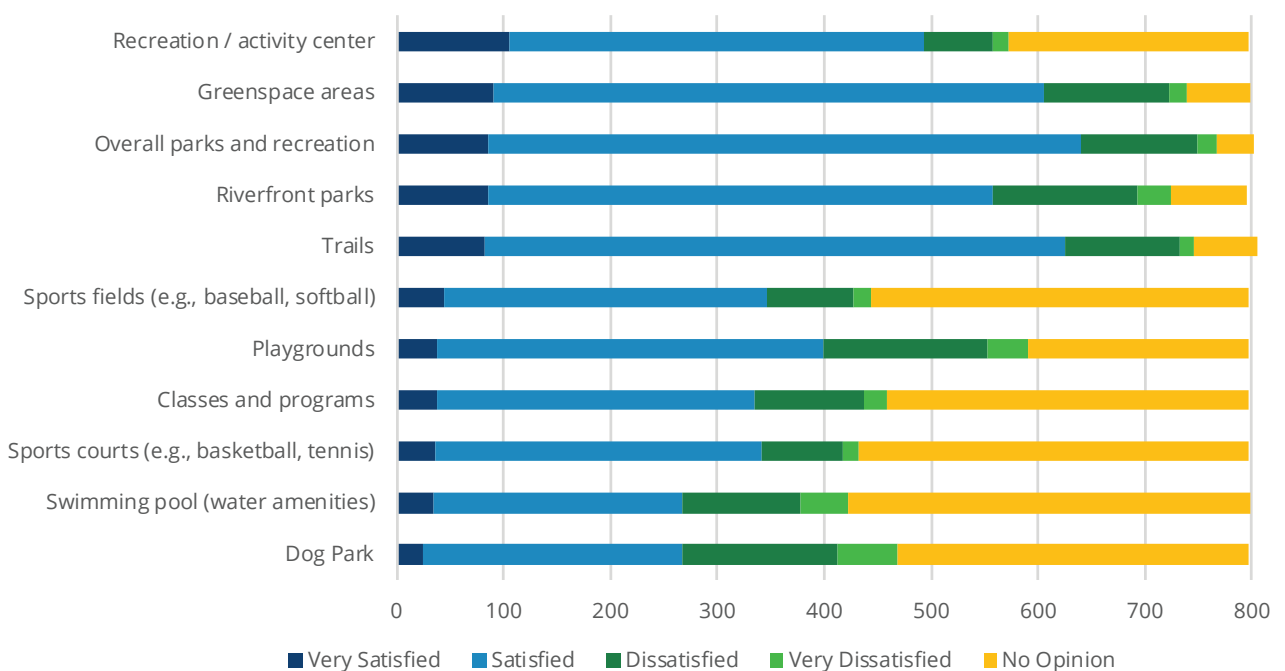
Table 3.13, Projected Staff Numbers

PROJECTED STAFF NUMBERS		
Employee Category	Current Staff	Future Staff
Full-time crew	5	15
Easter Seals	13	39
Other staff	4	12
TOTAL	22	66

Issues and Needs

Survey respondents were asked if they were satisfied with the quality, appearance, and maintenance of specific parks and recreation elements within the City. As Figure 3.33, *Satisfaction With the Quality, Appearance, and Maintenance of the Following Parks and Recreation Elements in San Marcos?*, indicates, they are most satisfied with the recreation and Activity Center, greenspace areas, and overall parks and recreation. Additionally, they were dissatisfied with the quality of sports courts and fields, the swimming pool, and the dog park.

Figure 3.33, Satisfaction With the Quality, Appearance, and Maintenance of the Following Parks and Recreation Elements in San Marcos?



Recommendations

GOAL MO-1. CONTINUE KEEPING SAN MARCOS A BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY.

Action MO-1.1. Develop a parks system management plan and inventory of park assets.

It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department implement and follow the park facility and maintenance rules as listed below. These rules assist with the development of state-of-the-art facilities and amenities, help to create specific levels of expertise to maintain over time, and can be used for training and operational schedules.

- All staff to be uniformed, given protective gear, and presented in a professional manner
- All parks maintenance gear and vehicles to be appropriately maintained, washed, and identified as a City Parks Department vehicle
- Perform all scheduled work using standard arboricultural and horticultural practices for landscape maintenance (see Table 3.14, *Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule*)
- Perform all work necessary to inspect, maintain, repair and replace park amenities on a regular basis
- Assign skilled park maintenance staff for athletic field maintenance to create an even, playable, and safe condition to all fields
- Cross-train park maintenance staff to complete different maintenance tasks as needed or in the absence of other staff
- Train all parks staff each year on safety procedures and expectations

Development of management guidelines for public trees should also be considered.

Action MO-1.2. Formalize memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with all volunteer groups.

Memorandums of Understanding should include defined escape clauses as well as clear expectations of the responsibilities of both the City and the volunteer group. The San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance and the Boy Scouts of America are examples of volunteer groups that are working in the San Marcos area to preserve natural spaces.

Table 3.14, Recommended Routine Landscape and Maintenance Schedule

	CONTRACT TASK / FUNCTION	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
		FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	FREQ	
General														
1	Post special event clean-up , post weather event clean-up	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	
Irrigation														
2	Irrigation audits, seasonal adjustments, inspections, maintenance/repair, and installation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Tree Maintenance														
3	Planting	1										1	1	3
4	Prune shade trees (exception of red oaks and live oaks. Prune only June – February 1, ideally in the winter)	1	1									1	1	4
5	Prune native trees	1												1
6	Prune spring flowering ornamental trees					1								1
7	Prune crape myrtles, native ornamental, native trees and shade trees	1	1									1	1	4
8	Tree trimming for clearance/safety. Oaks need to have the wounds painted, and not more than 25% of the tree canopy is removed at one time.				1	1	1	1	1	1				6
9	Maintain tree wells/Round-up band			1		1		1		1		1		5
10	Replenish tree well mulch, new trees			1						1				2
11	Treat insects & disease control				1			1						2
12	Replenish mulch				1						1			2
13	Soil aeration	1	1	1	1							1	1	6
14	Root collar excavation	1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	8
15	Remove dead branches	1	1										1	3
16	Integrated pest management			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Turf														
17	Aerification (except athletic fields)			1										1
18	Aerification of athletic fields			1		1					1			3
19	Mowing, edging, trimming of summer turf (Bermuda, St. Augustine)	1	1	2	3	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	1	38
20	Mowing, edging, trimming of Buffalo turf				1	1	2	2	2	1	1			10
21	Fertilizer application to Bermuda and St. Augustine turf athletic fields			1		1		1			1			4
22	Apply post-emergent herbicide		1			1				1				3
23	Apply pre-emergent herbicide		1							1				2
24	Insect/pesticide control (fire ants included)				1				1			1		3
25	Disease control						1							1
Pond Management														
26	General policing of floating debris and removal of debris	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	26
27	Clean outfall structures	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	15
28	Maintain edges		1	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	1			18
29	Aquatic weed control		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	9
Jogging and Bike Trails/Concrete Pavers/Concrete Walks														
30	Clean/Sweep trails and paths	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Debris and Trash Collection														
31	Empty trash receptacles	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	
Drainageways, Inlets, Culverts														
32	Remove trash/debris	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	12

1

Pruning reduces the risk of failure (medium-aged and mature trees can also be cleaned, reduced, raised, or restored to manage risk.) Provide clearance, improve aesthetics, reduce shade, maintain health, and improve a view.

3

2

Pruning types: structural pruning, thinning, reducing, raising, cleaning and restoration.

5

Recommended two times pear year as needed to maintain specified depth of mulch.

4

Mow bermuda at heights of 1 to 2 inches and mow St. Augustine at heights of 2.5 to 4 inches.

Identify other areas that are grow zones and their frequency of mowing to allow temporarily growth of pollination, host plants, and native flowers/grasses.

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Action MO-1.3. Evaluate best-practices in establishing and operating a Park Ranger program.

Park Rangers conduct periodic patrols and enforcement of rules in the City parks system, at large public gatherings, and at special events. Compared to the City of New Braunfels and other similar river recreation communities, San Marcos has a small Park Ranger presence, particularly during peak times. Moving forward, the City needs to reevaluate the Park Ranger program, with consideration given to expanding their presence in riverfront parks, greenspaces, and on trails.

Action MO-1.4. Provide necessary resources to adequately train, on an annual basis, multiple targeted staff in irrigation maintenance best practices.

All City staff should be required to maintain applicable State of Texas licenses and specialized park maintenance personnel should be assigned for irrigation inspections and repairs. Additionally, a policy to have all of the irrigation parts originate from the same manufacture can be put into place, thus reducing the variety of inventory replacement parts.

GOAL MO-2. EVALUATE THE NEED FOR MORE EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY IN MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS.

Action MO-2.1. Develop a policy of projecting the needed increases in park maintenance staff and funding as part of new property acquisitions.

The quality of a parks and recreation system is dependent upon the appearance of the facilities and amenities as well as the expertise of City staff. A policy of projecting the needed increases in park maintenance staff and funding can support the development of training and operational schedules. It can also create a sense of pride and ownership over the park properties. Routine maintenance would include inspections, repairs, and replacements of park amenities.

Action MO-2.2. As the City continues to grow, consider adding park maintenance facilities in areas that provide better proximity to different parks in the City.

As new parks are acquired, additional maintenance facilities will be needed. As set out in Map 3.15, *Existing Park Maintenance Facility Service Location*, on page 124, are the proposed locations of two new park maintenance facilities. These locations are set apart from the existing park maintenance facility and are in close proximity to several parks that need to be maintained. By providing additional park maintenance facilities, staff can quickly get from the closest maintenance facility to a nearby park.

Action MO-2.3. Develop metrics regarding acreage to staffing levels.

As the City acquires more greenspace, additional trained maintenance staff will be needed. An action plan projecting the needed staff-per-new-park-property ratio can be created in an easy to read, table format.



As the City continues to grow, additional staff will be needed to maintain parks.

Element 7

Funding and Financing



Introduction

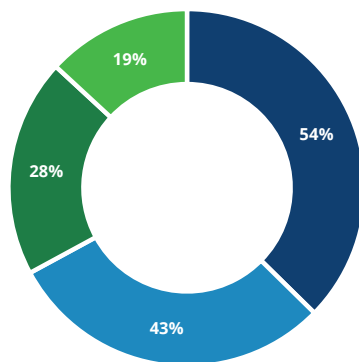
In order to meet the expressed desires of the residents of the City of San Marcos, the Parks and Recreation Department will need additional funding.

Existing Conditions

A series of survey questions pertaining to improvements to the City's greenspace system were asked of the San Marcos community (see Figure 3.34, *In Order to Help Offset Staffing and Maintenance Costs of the City's Greenspace System, Please Check the Following Items That You Think You Could Support?*, below). Over half indicated that they would be willing to support some kind of financial fee to visit these greenspace parks (e.g., either an entrance donation box or a user fee). While the other half did not support charging for access, the amount that did opens up the question of exploring the topic further.

Further, around 70 percent of survey respondents indicated that they would be willing to pay additional City taxes to see the quality of existing parks and recreational amenities upgraded. They would also be willing to pay more taxes to see new parks and recreational amenities developed or expanded.

Figure 3.34, *In Order to Help Offset Staffing and Maintenance Costs of the City's Greenspace System, Please Check the Following Items That You Think You Could Support?*



- Establishing a donation box (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)
- I do not support an entrance fee to the City's greenspace system
- Establishing a nominal entrance fee for non-City residents (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)
- Establishing a nominal entrance fee for all visitors (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)

Potential Funding Sources

Since funding is the overarching prerequisite necessary to implement any of the recommended actions, this Plan identifies a series of potential funding sources which may be helpful in achieving the recommended action items in the most cost effective manner possible. Due to potential limitations of funding, it is recommended to pursue outside sources whenever possible. Outside sources include grants, partnerships with public agencies (e.g., San Marcos CISD, the Greater San Marcos Partnership, etc.), and partnerships with private entities.

CITY GENERATED FUNDING SOURCES

General fund expenditures (i.e., non-capital expenditures) are primarily used for improvements or repairs to existing parks and facilities. Typical general fund expenditures are for smaller repair and replacement efforts. These include the following:

- General fund expenditures
- Municipal bonds
- Tax Increment Financing/Public Improvement Districts
- Electric utility partnerships
- Half cent sales tax funds
- Park donation funds
- Park improvement fee funds
- Cash in lieu of conveyance of land
- Utility bill contributions
- Tree restoration funds

GOVERNMENT GRANT SOURCES

Grants are non-repayable funds or products disbursed or gifted by a grantee (e.g., a government agency or department, business or corporation, foundation or trust) to a recipient (e.g., a nonprofit entity, educational institution, business or an individual). Typically, these grants are for a particular project and may or may not come with special requirements. A comprehensive list of available grant opportunities is available in Appendix B, *Potential Funding Opportunities*. Common grant sources include:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- National Park Service (NPS) programs

STATE GOVERNMENT

- TPWD - Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) funds the following grants:
 - » Outdoor Recreation grants (TPWD)
 - » Indoor Recreation (Facility) grants (TPWD)
 - » Boating Access grants (TPWD)
- Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grants (TPWD)
- Recreational Trail grants (TPWD)

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants (TPWD)
- Regional park grants administered by TPWD
- Texas Preservation Trust Fund grants

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Purchase and Transfer of Development Rights

OTHER PRIVATE AND QUASI PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES

- Partnering with developers and private land owners
- Other foundation and company grants
- Grants for greenways
- Private sponsorship programs/naming rights
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Land trusts



Recommendations

GOAL FF-1. PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO ALLOW FOR A WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM.

Action FF-1.1. Continue to evaluate opportunities to leverage City funding as part of larger projects.

Actively pursue additional funding to support the provision of a high quality parks and recreation system in San Marcos. To fund identified larger-scale capital improvements (e.g., to implement portions of the riverfront parks system schematic plan) for the parks system, consider approaching the residents with a bond election.

Action FF-1.2. Pursue additional potential funding sources.

Funding needs to be set aside for the creation and development of parks as well as park maintenance. Around 65 percent of survey respondents would like to see maintenance improved in the riverfront parks system. One example of a funding source which could be used to expand the riverfront parks system is the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Action FF-1.3. Develop a framework to determine rationale for appropriate funding source.

It is suggested to pursue external funding sources when possible due to possible restrictions of funding. General Fund expenses (i.e., non-capital expenses) are mainly used for improvements or repairs to existing parks and facilities. Below are some examples of these types of funding sources.

- Municipal bonds
- Tax Increment Financing/Public Improvement Districts
- Electric utility partnerships
- Park improvement fee funds
- Cash in lieu of conveyance of land
- Utility bill contributions
- Tree restoration funds

Action FF-1.4. Establish criteria in the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) which includes cost of long-term maintenance as part of decision making.

To avoid the scenario where the City is overwhelmed by the amount of effort required to maintain developed parks over time, it is suggested that the City assign funds for the maintenance and replacement of facilities on a regular basis. An effective planning method is to consider facility and amenity life cycles and determine anticipated preventive and repeated repairs for each resource in each park. Another option is to identify new park amenities which have less long-term maintenance costs over time. One example would be the consideration of splash pads over pools and the associated initial and long-term maintenance costs with each option.

Action FF-1.5. Conduct an evaluation to consider the establishment of fees for parking along the riverfront parks system.

The City of New Braunfels collects almost \$300,000 to \$500,000 in annual revenue which goes to parks system improvements and security. These funds are placed in a special revenue account. As the City of San Marcos and the surrounding region continue to grow, the use of the riverfront parks system will increase along with the demand for parking. The City can benefit from this increased use by charging for parking in this area. The defined parking areas identified in Appendix C, on page C - 3, provide the opportunity to establish paid parking for peak season access to the riverfront parks system.

Action FF-1.6. Explore additional ways to improve cost recovery in the riverfront parks.

This could include more pavilions and picnic shelters that can be rented. Set out in Figure 3.19, *How Important Do You Think the Following Considerations Are?*, are the responses that show that survey respondents are supportive of charging an entrance or parking fee per vehicle for non-residents for the riverfront parks. This fee would be one way to improve cost recovery at these parks. Some survey respondents also indicated that they would like there to be an entrance fee per vehicle for all visitors at the riverfront parks which would be another way to improve cost recovery.

Action FF-1.7. Consider establishing a voluntary contribution fee at each trailhead in the City's greenspace parks system.

As identified in Figure 3.34, *In Order to Help Offset Staffing and Maintenance Costs of the City's Greenspace System, Please Check the Following Items That You Think You Could Support?*, around 54 percent of survey respondents indicated that they would like to see a donation box established using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system.

Action FF-1.8. Reevaluate the City's contract with the Lion's Club regarding the allocation of fees.

Currently, the Lion's Club provides the City approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year in fees for exclusive provision of tubing concessions along the San Marcos River in the City's riverfront parks system. Moving forward, the City should renegotiate with the Lion's Club to make that an agreeable percentage of profits so the City/Lion's Club both work together and they both benefit from years with greater profits.

Action FF-1.9. Consider establishing a fee at each trailhead in the City's greenspace parks system.

As identified in Figure 3.34, *In Order to Help Offset Staffing and Maintenance Costs of the City's Greenspace System, Please Check the Following Items That You Think You Could Support?*, around 28 percent of respondents would like to charge an entrance fee for non-City residents and 19 percent of respondents would like to charge an entrance fee for all visitors. This could include a specified amount for each vehicle in the parking lot and could or could not include a designated waiver for residents within the City limits.

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four

Implementation Action Plan

San Marcos
PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Introduction

Prior chapters of this Plan have captured the vision for San Marcos' parks, recreation, and open space by evaluating the requirements and preferences of the public and assessing existing conditions and levels of service. Chapter 3, *System Analysis, Needs, and Recommendations*, details what needs to be completed to accomplish the desired public vision for the future.

Moving forward, this chapter prioritizes the action recommendations into an Implementation Action Plan that details the near-, mid-, and long-term path moving forward. While it determines the City's highest near-term priorities, it also provides direction towards attaining longer-term priorities which will require further prioritization and re-prioritization before implementation.

This chapter further provides a framework for Plan management. It has recommendations for upcoming Plan updates to ensure the anticipated vision for the parks and recreation system remains aligned with that of the San Marcos community.

Coordinated Implementation

Actual implementation of this plan will include a coordinated effort by many partners, including City public leaders and residents as well as outside agencies. This coordinated implementation will be vital to the successful implementation of the Plan recommendations. This also comes with the recognition that the City has a responsibility to partner with all local, state, and federal entities that can be of assistance in expanding and refining the San Marcos parks, recreation, and open space system today and in the future. At a minimum, this includes:

- San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGA)
- San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF)
- Texas Master Naturalists
- Texas Master Gardeners
- Lions Club
- Youth Associations
 - Jr. NBA/WNBA Basketball League
 - Fall Slam Youth Volleyball
 - Snake League Soccer
 - Jr NFL Flag Football
 - USA Fall Youth Developmental League
 - San Marcos Area Youth Soccer Association - SMAYSO
 - San Marcos Area Youth Softball Association - SMYBSA
- Hays County
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Texas State University
- The Meadows Center
- Natural Resources Conservation Services -NRCS

TPWD Compliance

One of the further purposes of this Plan is to function as a parks, recreation, and open space master plan as defined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This is because “qualified” plans increase a city’s competitiveness when applying for TPWD grant funding.

High Priority Needs

Set out in Table 4.1, *Summary of High Priority Needs in San Marcos*, are the main priorities for parks, recreation, open space, and trails in San Marcos. These priorities are consistent with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) requirements. Community feedback, needs assessments, site visits, and feedback from City staff and elected and appointed officials determine these priorities. An effective set of actions, informed by recognized needs, have been suggested to increase the quality of life of residents for purposes of grant applications. The identified priorities have been categorized into two lists: outdoor facilities/ amenities and indoor facilities/ amenities.

Table 4.1, Summary of High Priority Facility Needs in San Marcos

NEW OR ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED BASED ON <u>COMMUNITY INPUT</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Places to swim in the river 2. Nature trails 3. Shade trees 4. Running / Walking / Biking shared use paths / trails 5. Greenspace 	
NEW OR ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED BASED ON <u>LEVEL OF SERVICE</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Picnic facilities (tables, BBQ grills) 2. Picnic pavilions 3. Splash pad 4. Playgrounds 5. Restrooms 	NEW OR ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED BASED ON <u>EXISTING CONDITION</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shade structure / add more trees 2. ADA connections 3. Playground upgrades 4. Renovate trails 5. Make updates to the adult softball complex
TOP COLLECTIVE <u>OUTDOOR FACILITY</u> NEEDS BASED ON ABOVE SUMMARIES <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Places to swim in the river 2. Nature trails 3. Shade structure / add more trees 4. Running / Walking / Biking shared use paths / trails 5. Greenspace 6. Picnic facilities (tables, BBQ grills) 7. Picnic pavilions 8. Splash pad 9. Playground upgrades 10. Make updates to the adult softball complex 	

Prioritized Action Plan

Implementation Tools

Recommended actions address a wide range of items from recreational programming, to facility enhancements, upgraded resources, and higher level policies. Set out in Figure 4.1, *Types of Implementation Tools*, are the different implementation tools that will be important to achieve this Plan. They include:

- Policies
- Capital investments
- Non-capital investments
- Operational changes
- Regulatory changes
- Further studies

Figure 4.1, *Types of Implementation Tools*



Prioritization Time Frames

As identified in Figure 4.2, *Levels of Priority*, there are three specific time frames for which actions will be implemented during the horizon of this Plan. They include.

- High Priorities
- Moderate Priorities
- Longer-Term Priorities

Figure 4.2, Levels of Priority

High Priorities	Actions which are intended to be started within the next one to three years (2019-2021). Frequently, these actions will be started and completed within this time. Although, it is not unusual for actions to be started in this time frame and completed over time. These are the City's top priorities for implementation.
Moderate Priorities	Actions which are intended to be started within the next four to six years (2022-2024). Some of these actions may become the top priorities determined in the City's next Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan update.
Longer-Term Priorities	Actions which are supposed to continually lead the City to its ideal future parks and recreation vision. Most of these actions are supposed to be applied over the long-term (2025-2027+) and will be further prioritized in later Plan updates.

Prioritization Criteria

Note that the prioritization presented in this Plan is intended to direct staff and Council actions, and any element may be started earlier than recommended if unique circumstances or opportunities occur. Prioritization is derived using the subsequent criteria:

- Level of need created from public feedback (online survey results, stakeholder meetings, public open house, etc.)
- Level of need based on the needs assessment
- Capacity of the City to fund implementation
- Capacity of the City to sustain operations
- Site assessments of existing park facilities in the City

Starting on page 142, Table 4.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, shows a summary of the City's high, moderate, and longer-term priorities. Elements meeting the majority of the criteria were categorized as very high priority elements and are to have the highest level of attention over the next one to three years. All actions are prioritized, though longer-term actions should be re-evaluated and re-prioritized during the next Plan update.

Table 4.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, shows a list of actions by their title. For descriptions and additional details of included elements for each action, see Chapter 3, *System Analysis, Needs, and Recommendations*.

Table 4.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan

ITEM	ACTION ID	ACTION	TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-8+		
Study							
1	PF-1.1	Pursue the acquisition and development of neighborhood-scale park resources in areas of need.	■			TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
2	PF-1.2	Establish criteria for determining appropriate properties to acquire as part of new park properties in the City.	■			TBD	STUDY/ OPERATIONAL CHANGE
3	T-1.5	Prioritize a connection between the new TxDOT frontage roads and the proposed extension of the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail underneath I-35 at Ramon Lucio Park.	■			TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
4	FF-1.8	Reevaluate the City's contract with the Lion's Club regarding the allocation of fees.	■			TBD	STUDY
5	PF-5.9	Evaluate opportunities to respond to soil compaction, drainage issues, and trash removal in existing City parks.	■			TBD	STUDY
6	FF-1.2	Pursue additional potential funding sources.	■			TBD	STUDY
7	GRP-1.8	Identify additional resources to better respond to reoccurring maintenance and enforcement issues in the greenspace park properties.	■			TBD	STUDY/ OPERATIONAL CHANGE
8	GRP-1.1	Evaluate opportunities to proactively pursue additional greenspace property acquisitions in and around the City.	■			TBD	STUDY/ OPERATIONAL CHANGE
9	MO-1.3	Evaluate best-practices in establishing and operating a Park Ranger program.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY
10	MO-2.1	Develop a policy of projecting the needed increases in park maintenance staff and funding as part of new property acquisitions.	■			TBD	STUDY
11	FF-1.5	Conduct an evaluation to consider the establishment of fees for parking along the riverfront parks system.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY/ OPERATIONAL CHANGE
12	FF-1.6	Explore additional ways to improve cost recovery in the riverfront parks.	■			TBD	STUDY
13	GRP-1.3	Evaluate opportunities to better manage wildlife and land in the City's greenspace parks.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY
14	T-1.4	Consider developing a bicycle and pedestrian implementation plan to fulfill the trail alignments established in the 2018 San Marcos Transportation Master Plan.	■			TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
15	PF-1.6	Evaluate the effectiveness of the City's new park land dedication provisions of the Land Development Code.	■			TBD	STUDY/ REGULATION
16	GRP-1.10	Create a management plan for the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.	■			TBD	STUDY
17	T-1.13	Add a green belt loop around the City to increase connectivity.	■			TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
18	FF-1.1	Continue to evaluate opportunities to leverage City funding as part of larger projects.	■			TBD	STUDY
19	FF-1.4	Establish criteria in the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) which includes cost of long-term maintenance as part of decision making.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY
20	A-1.2	Explore the possibility of relocating the baseball fields out of the riverfront parks system.	■			250K PER FIELD	STUDY

Table 4.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

ITEM	ACTION ID	ACTION	TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-8+		
21	PF-3.2	Consider development of a new dog park on the east side of the City using available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.	■			TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
22	PF-3.8	Add shade in the parks and along trails.	■			TBD	STUDY
23	T-1.1	Conduct a system-wide accessibility assessment to identify, prioritize, and address issues in the City parks, trails, and greenspace system.	■			TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
24	PF-3.1	Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.	■			200K - 500K EA.	STUDY
25	A-1.1	Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of athletic fields in the City.	■			TBD	STUDY/ OPERATIONAL CHANGE
26	T-1.14	Create a Trails Master Plan for the City.	■			TBD	STUDY
27	MO-1.1	Develop a parks system management plan and inventory of park assets.	■			TBD	STUDY
28	MO-1.2	Formalize memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with all volunteer groups.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY
29	RPE-1.7	Evaluate opportunities to develop a San Marcos Teen Center as identified in the City's 2013 Youth Master Plan.	■			TBD	STUDY
30	T-1.3	Collaborate with local and regional partners to define and establish the Emerald Crown Trail connection to Kyle, Buda, and eventually, to the Violet Crown Trail in Austin.	■			TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
31	PF-3.3	Evaluate potential options to remove or relocate the pool at Rio Vista Park.	■			400K - 500K	STUDY
32	PF-3.6	Consider development of new dog parks in areas of need.	■			TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
33	PF-5.6	Evaluate opportunities to establish purple pipe (reclaimed water) irrigation in the riverfront parks system.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY/POLICY
34	MO-2.3	Develop metrics regarding acreage to staffing levels.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY
35	PF-2.1	Evaluate opportunities to improve security and protection against vandalism at Conway Park and other parks with similar issues.	■			TBD	STUDY/POLICY
36	PF-5.2	Consider creating consolidated design standards for development and/or enhancement of new facilities (e.g., buildings, structures, landscaping, and signage) in the riverfront parks system.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY/ REGULATION/ POLICY
37	A-1.3	Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of rugby and lacrosse fields.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE/TBD	STUDY
38	T-1.6	Evaluate and prioritize the installation of additional trail amenities along the City's greenway and other trail systems.		■		TBD	STUDY/ CAPITAL INVESTMENT
39	A-1.7	Evaluate opportunities to locate and create a consolidated activities district.		■		TBD	STUDY
40	PF-4.1	Continue to identify opportunities to integrate art and culture in the parks and recreation system.		■		TBD	STUDY/POLICY
41	RPE-1.9	Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of tournaments in the City.		■		TBD	STUDY/POLICY

Table 4.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

ITEM	ACTION ID	ACTION	TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-8+		
42	T-1.8	Identify opportunities to establish a hierarchy of trail types throughout the parks and greenways system.		■		INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY/ OPERATIONAL CHANGE
43	A-1.6	Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of tournaments in the City.		■		INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY
44	PF-1.3	Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex from Hays County.		■		TBD	STUDY
45	PF-1.4	Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Randy Vetter and Dudley Johnson Park from Hays County.		■		TBD	STUDY
46	PF-4.2	Undertake an evaluation of the Memorial Tree Program.		■		INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	STUDY
47	PF-1.5	Evaluate opportunities to create new parks on properties that may be bought out due to past flood events.			■	TBD	STUDY
48	PF-2.3	Considering adding community-scale park amenities at Dudley Johnson/ Randy Vetter/ Five Mile Dam Park, and Gary Park.			■	TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
49	PF-5.13	Evaluate opportunities to increase overnight stays through programming that will bring events to parks in the riverfront parks system.			■	25K - 50K	STUDY
50	T-1.12	Add a trail that connects San Marcos to San Antonio.			■	TBD	STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT
Operational Change							
1	PF-5.5	Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of Park Rangers during the summer.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
2	RPE-1.2	Ensure adequate funds are budgeted for annual maintenance and upkeep of the San Marcos Activity Center.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
3	FF-1.3	Develop a framework to determine rationale for appropriate funding source.	■			TBD	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
4	PF-2.5	Establish a routine playscape inspection and replacement program.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
5	GRP-1.2	Develop emergency access plans for the City's greenspace parks.	■			TBD	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
6	RPE-1.1	Evaluate further opportunities to increase multigenerational, passive recreation in existing and future City parks.	■			TBD	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
7	GRP-1.9	Add a water quality land manager for the natural areas.	■			TBD	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
8	A-1.4	Identify additional opportunities for increasing recreation practice space in the City's park system.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE/TBD	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
9	PF-5.7	Work with the Urban Forester and other stakeholders to clear the invasive trees and plants from the Meeks property as well as other park properties to improve the quality of wildlife and habitat and decrease erosion.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE/ NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
10	MO-2.2	As the City continues to grow, consider adding park maintenance facilities in areas that provide better proximity to different parks in the City.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE

Table 4.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

ITEM	ACTION ID	ACTION	TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-8+		
11	PF-5.10	Expand the City's efforts in river clean up to include tributaries.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
12	RPE-1.3	Consider conducting a Recreation Programming and Event Assessment to determine gaps and overlaps in services.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE/TBD	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
13	GRP-1.4	Develop a master color coding system as part of the wayfinding signage in the City's greenspace parks.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
14	PF-5.12	Add an ambassador program to the Riverfront Parks.		■		INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
15	PF-5.8	Evaluate opportunities to limit the number of vehicles and pedestrians queuing off of Cheatham Street.		■		INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
16	RPE-1.4	Consider an expanded agreement with the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce, and other local partners to further establish the City's parks and recreation assets, events, and programming as destination attractions.		■		TBD	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
17	RPE-1.5	Consider entry door patron counters at the San Marcos Activity Center.		■		INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
18	GRP-1.5	Coordinate with local, federal, and state partners to undertake controlled burns within the City's greenspace parks.		■		INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	OPERATIONAL CHANGE/ NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
19	MO-1.4	Provide necessary resources to adequately train, on an annual basis, multiple targeted staff in irrigation maintenance best practices.		■		TBD	OPERATIONAL CHANGE
Regulation							
1	T-1.11	Consider adding rules and regulations on scooters and electric bikes on the trails.	■			TBD	REGULATION
Non-Capital Investment							
1	FF-1.7	Consider establishing a voluntary contribution fee at each trailhead in the City's greenspace park system.	■			TBD	NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENTS
2	PF-3.10	Add more open play areas.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
3	PF-5.3	Increase the number of publicly available restrooms in the City's riverfront parks system.		■		150K EA.	NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
4	PF-2.4	Make improvements to El Camino Real Park.		■		TBD	NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
5	PF-5.11	Improve the maintenance of the grass in the riverfront parks system.		■		INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
6	PF-3.7	Add additional park pavilions that can be rented throughout the parks system.		■		50K - 250K EA.	NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
7	PF-5.14	Add the San Marcos logo and street names to the bridges in the riverfront parks system.			■	TBD	NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
8	FF-1.9	Consider establishing a fee at each trailhead in the City's greenspace parks system.			■	TBD	NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Table 4.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

ITEM	ACTION ID	ACTION	TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-8+		
Policy							
1	GRP-1.6	Continue to coordinate with and support efforts by the SMGA and the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) to acquire, protect, and maintain new greenspace and/or riverfront park properties.	■			TBD	POLICY/ OPERATIONAL CHANGE
2	A-1.5	Initiate discussions with local youth sports leagues to reexamine partnership responsibilities.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE/TBD	POLICY/ REGULATION
3	RPE-1.8	Coordinate with the City's communication department to develop an outreach campaign for the parks and recreation system to target City families.	■			TBD	POLICY
4	RPE-1.6	Continue to coordinate with area partners to implement the strategies and actions identified in the City's 2013 Youth Master Plan.	■			TBD	POLICY
5	PF-5.1	Consider consolidating the City's disparate riverfront parks into a single system.			■	INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	POLICY/ OPERATIONAL CHANGE
Capital Investment							
1	T-1.9	Add trails to connect the east and west sides of San Marcos.	■			TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT/ NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT
2	PF-3.11	Add a community center on the east side of the City.	■			TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
3	T-1.7	Identify priority trail extensions to connect the citywide trail system to the riverfront parks system.	■			TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
4	PF-2.6	Add pervious parking lot surfacing, where feasible or adequate water treatment for parking lots in parks.	■			TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
5	T-1.2	Improve ADA accessibility to the San Marcos River.	■			INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
6	GRP-1.7	Consider adding restroom facilities at the entrances to the City's greenspace park properties.	■			150K EA.	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
7	PF-2.2	Consider upgrading the existing sport fields at Gary Park.	■			TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
8	PF-3.4	Commission a parks master plan for the 40-acre property owned by the City along River Road.		■		TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
9	T-1.15	Add smaller greenbelt loops in the City.		■		TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
10	PF-3.9	Add an all abilities playground to a park that is outside of the riverfront parks system.		■		500K - 700K EA.	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
11	PF-3.5	Commission a parks master plan for the new 18-acre property associated with the Blanco River Village development.		■		TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
12	PF-5.4	Increase the number of available parking spaces for the City's riverfront parks system.		■		1MIL - 1.5 MIL (PER SCHEMATIC)	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
13	T-1.10	Add trails that connect San Marcos High School to the rest of the City.		■		TBD	CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Plan Update

A long-term vision for the City, which contains a 10-year plan of prioritized implementation actions, was created in a vigorous public engagement process. If implemented, the City will reach its desired future. Implementation by level of priority and importance guarantees that the City is responding incrementally to the communities' needs and desires.

This does not mean that this Plan will serve all needs and desires of the public for the entirety of the next 10 years. To the contrary, it is projected to specify direction for implementation actions prioritized in the near- and mid-term future. In this respect, the following recommendations are highlighted as a means to keep this plan up-to-date.

- **Annual Progress Report and Update.** Preceding the beginning of the annual budget process, City staff should establish and present an annual progress report on the status of the actions acknowledged in the Prioritized Implementation Action Plan. In addition, they should work with elected and appointed officials to determine which recommendations should move up in prioritization.
- **Five-Year Update.** While not required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to continue qualification for grant funding, undertaking an official Plan update every five years helps the City to continue to be competitive in a very competitive grant process as TPWD sets a larger point value (through their grant funding assessment) on submittals that show that a plan update has been completed in the last five years. This can be prepared and adopted in a short report format and attached as a supplement to this Plan.
- **10-Year Update.** Again, while not required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to continue qualification for grant funding, TPWD does place a higher point value on creating a new plan every 10 years.



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appendix a

Public Engagement

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Please sign in below (PLEASE PRINT)

Meeting: CITY LEADERSHIP

Date: 07/14

Time: _____

Name	Email Address	Organization
Bert Straternann	bstraternann@sanmarcostx.gov	S.M. Parks
Kelly Eby	keby@sanmarcostx.gov	CS
AMANDA HERNANDEZ	ahernandez2@sanmarcostx.gov	CosA
Melani Howard	mhoward@sanmarcostx.gov	CS
Richard Merritt	rmerritt@sanmarcostx.gov	PARO
LISA MORRIS	lmorris@sanmarcostx.gov	PARO
Jennifer Mach	jmach@sanmarcostx.gov	PARO
JEFF CALDWELL	scaldwell@sanmarcostx.gov	SMMO
Jessica Ramos	jramos@sanmarcostx.gov	PARO
DREW WELLS	dwells@sanmarcostx.gov	COSM PARO
Kristi Wyatt	KWyatt@sanmarcostx.gov	COMM



SAN MARCOS PROSMP UPDATE



MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Please sign in below (PLEASE PRINT)

Meeting: PRAIB MTG #1 Date: 09-06-17 Time: 5:30 P.M.

Name	Email Address	Organization
Larry Mock	LBM1957@Austin.RR.com	Parks Board
Paul Murray		Parks Bd.
Sue Cohen		Parks Board
David Case		Parks Board
Bert Statemann		S.M. Parks
Brian Olson		Parks Board
Bridgett Phillips		Parks Board



SAN MARCOS PROSMP UPDATE



MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Please sign in below (PLEASE PRINT)

Meeting: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Name	Email Address	Organization
Sherwood Bishop	sherwood@sherwoodbishop	SHGA
Dianne Wassenich	wassenich@grandecom.net	San Marcos River Foundation
Rachel Sanborn	rachel@sanmarcosriver.org	SMRF
Paul Murray	paulmurray332@gmail.com	Park & Park SMGA
JEAN Moody	jeanmoody@austin.vr.com	Start of RIVERWALK & Parks Co.
Sharon O'Neil	shacha@grandecom.net	Seasom Creek Neighborhood Assn Rep. to CONA
Aephane Langkamp	leatspring88@gmail.com	Greenbelt Alliance Avid Park User/Summer
Mitch Hoffman	mlhoffm@austin.vr.com	San Marcos Lions Club



SAN MARCOS PROSMP UPDATE



MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Please sign in below (PLEASE PRINT)

Meeting: STAKEHOLDER MTG #2 Date: 09/07/17 Time: 9:00 A.M.

Name	Email Address	Organization
SCOTT HENIZE	smpttherapy@grandecom.net	SMGA
JOEL BARKS	joelbarks@gmail.com	SMGA
ALAN SCOTT	agscott@grandecom.net	SMGA
Bernie Andersen	bernie.andersenfb@gmail.com	SMGA
Kevin Burke	kburke@sanmarcos.tx.gov	COSM
Michael Edca	edca@michaeledca.com	SMAYSO
STEPHAN SUNDQUIST	SSUNDQUIST68@GMAIL.COM	YOUTH SPORTS
Clancy Hardin	Chardin@SanMarcos.tx.gov	COSM CUR
Chas M. Mendoza		Cena
Bobbie Shultz		Heritage River Walk Committee
Dianne Wassenich	wassenich@grandecom.net	SMRF
Rachel Sanborn	rachel@sanmarcosriver.org	SMRF
LANCE JONES	lance1j@hotmail.com	SMBA
CHARLES OWENS	Owens@grandecom.net	SMBA
Mark Taylor	markbtaylor@grandecom.net	SMGA

Paul Murray

Parkes Board



SAN MARCOS PROSMP UPDATE



YOUR CITY, YOUR PARKS. YOUR OPINION MATTERS!



THE SAN MARCOS PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

All who live and/or work in San Marcos are invited to

PARTICIPATE IN A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

to review the progress of the plan and provide feedback on preliminary recommendations.

PLEASE JOIN US! COME TO OUR MEETING MAY 23RD, 2018

@ THE SAN MARCOS ACTIVITY CENTER, 501 E. HOPKINS

OPEN HOUSE FROM 5:30 TO 7:30 PM (STOP BY ANY TIME)

For more information please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 512-393-8400.

The City of San Marcos needs your help and input!

The City is updating its Park, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan. This document helps San Marcos set priorities for parks, recreation facilities, trails, and greenspaces for the next 10 years. As part of the parks planning process, the City is also developing a concept plan for improvements to the City's riverfront park system (i.e., Dog Park, Skate Park, City Park, Memorial Park, Plaza Park, Veramendi Plaza, Hays County Veterans Memorial, Bicentennial Park, Children's Park, Rio Vista Park, Ramon Lucio Park, Wilderness Park, Crook's Park, Cape's Camp, Thompson's Island). As a concerned citizen, the City takes your views about parks very seriously.

Please take some time to answer this survey about parks and recreation in San Marcos. The survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Encourage neighbors and other San Marcos area friends to participate in this important survey as well!

Instructions: Please answer the questionnaire with YOUR opinions. If your spouse or others in your family would like to complete a questionnaire, the same survey can be taken online. For each question, check the one box that is closest to your opinion unless instructions say, "Check all that apply."

The survey will be open until November 13, 2017. However, as an incentive for your efforts, if you complete this survey by November 8, 2017 you will be able to enter into a drawing for the chance to win one of the following prizes (3 winners will be chosen):

- A one year individual membership to the San Marcos Activity Center
- Rio Vista Fun Prize Pack: Propane grill, grill utensils, waterproof phone pouch, & sunglasses
- Greenspace Hiking Prize Pack: Hydration backpack, hiking pole, & sunglasses

All survey answers will remain confidential and your information will not be sold or used for solicitation.

San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Demographics

1. Are you male or female?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

2. What is your approximate age?

- ☐ 19 years old or younger
- ☐ 20-34 years old
- ☐ 35-44 years old
- ☐ 45-54 years old
- ☐ 55-64 years old
- ☐ 65 years old or older

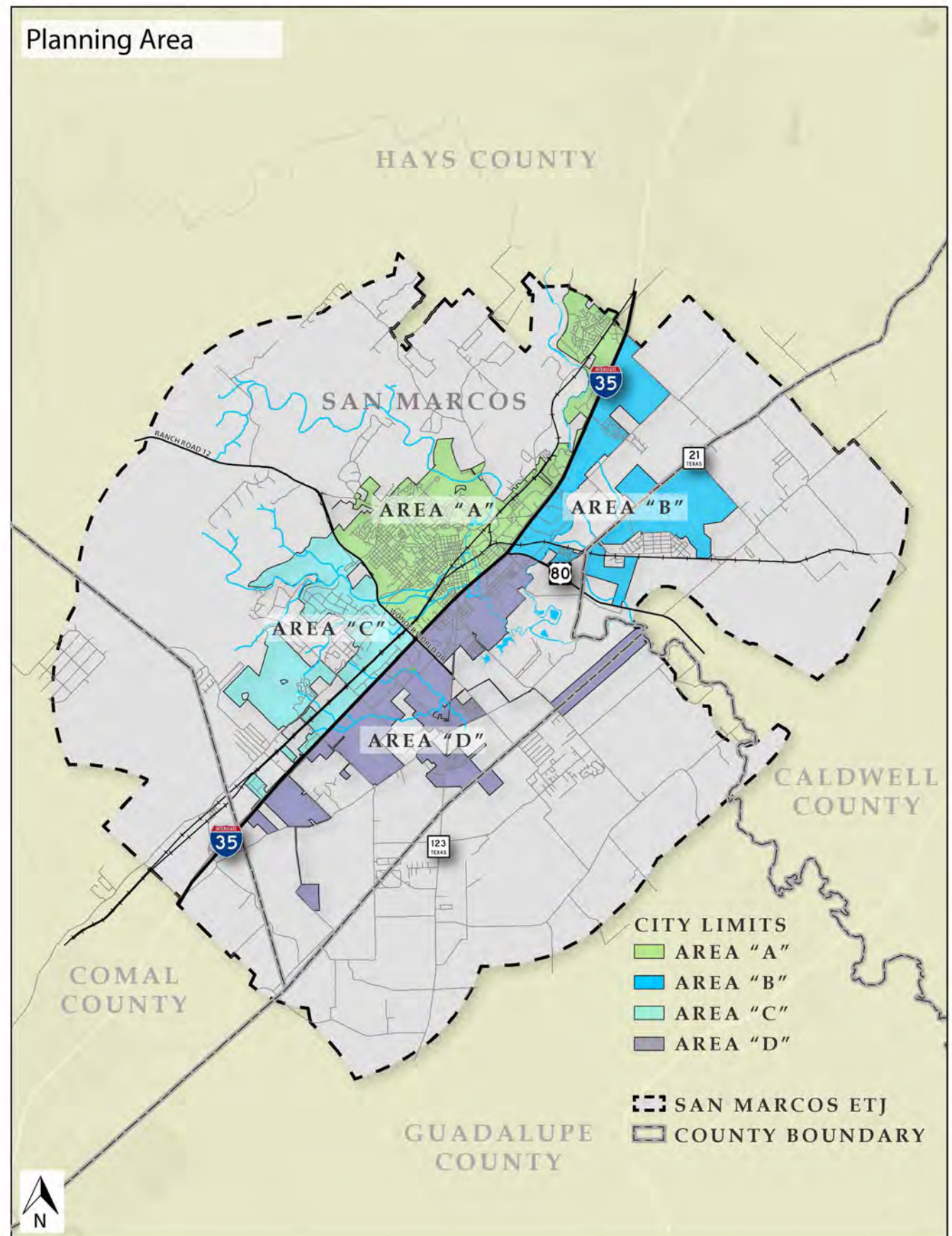
3. Are you a resident of the City of San Marcos?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but live in Hays County
- ☐ No, but live in Caldwell County
- ☐ No, but live in Comal County
- ☐ No, but live in Guadalupe County
- ☐ No, I do not live in the City of San Marcos or adjacent Counties

4. If you are a City resident, in which area of San Marcos do you live (based on Map A below)?

- ☐ Area A
- ☐ Area B
- ☐ Area C
- ☐ Area D
- ☐ I do not live in the City limits of San Marcos

Map A: San Marcos Planning Areas



5. How long have you lived in San Marcos?

- ☐ Under 1 year
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ 4-7 years
- ☐ 8-10 years
- ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ More than 20 years
- ☐ I do not live in San Marcos

6. If you have children living at home, what are their ages? Check all that apply.

- ☐ No children
- ☐ Children under age 4
- ☐ Children ages 5-8
- ☐ Children ages 9-12
- ☐ Children ages 13-19

San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Parks & Facilities

7. In the past year, how often have you or your family participated in or used the following?

	Daily	At Least Weekly	Few Times Per Month	Few Times Per Year	Very Rarely or Never
Attended a San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department event such as Party in your Park, concerts in the park, fall or spring carnival, Veterans Day Parade, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated in a youth athletic league	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated in an adult athletic league	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated in any class or program offered by the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated in activities for seniors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Used a private gym or fitness center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Used a City facility for a meeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited a City park or park facility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited a City park pavilion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited a City playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited Rio Vista pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Daily	At Least Weekly	Few Times Per Month	Few Times Per Year	Very Rarely or Never
Visited a school park in the evenings, on the weekends, or during the summer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited or used the San Marcos Activity Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rode a bicycle for fitness or to get somewhere in the City	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in San Marcos, why don't you? Check all that apply.

- ☐ No parks are located near us
- ☐ We use parks/facilities in nearby cities instead
- ☐ The parks and/or recreational facilities do not meet our needs or interests
- ☐ Lack of adequate security/do not feel safe
- ☐ We have no time or interest
- ☐ Other (please specify)

9. Check the box that best describes how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
I'm satisfied with the overall quality of parks in my neighborhood.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better parks will help to improve our city image.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel that parks help strengthen our city economically.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe that the City needs a greater amount of park land or greenspace.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe that the City should more fully develop the park land and greenspace that it already owns.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I'm willing to pay additional City taxes to see the quality of <u>existing</u> parks and recreational amenities upgraded.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I'm willing to pay additional City taxes to see <u>new</u> parks and recreational amenities developed or expanded.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The City should publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve city parks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Daily	At Least Weekly	Few Times Per Month	Few Times Per Year	Very Rarely or Never
Visited a school park in the evenings, on the weekends, or during the summer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited or used the San Marcos Activity Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rode a bicycle for fitness or to get somewhere in the City	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in San Marcos, why don't you? Check all that apply.

- ☐ No parks are located near us
- ☐ We use parks/facilities in nearby cities instead
- ☐ The parks and/or recreational facilities do not meet our needs or interests
- ☐ Lack of adequate security/do not feel safe
- ☐ We have no time or interest
- ☐ Other (please specify)

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not Important at All
Natatorium Competition Pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spray Park / Splash Pads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Landscaping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shade Trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor Recreation Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Athletics, Recreation Programming & Events

11. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current ATHLETIC or other RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING provided in San Marcos for people in the following age groups?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion
Young children (under age 5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children, ages 5-8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children, ages 9-12	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teens, ages 13-19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults, ages 20-55	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seniors over the age of 55	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Moving forward, which age group do you feel has the greatest need for ATHLETIC or other RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING? Rank your answers from one (1) to six (6), with one (1) having the greatest need.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Young children (under age 5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children, ages 5-8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children, ages 9-12	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teens, ages 13-19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults, ages 20-55	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seniors over the age of 55	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Regarding your answers to questions #11 and #12, what athletic or other recreational programs (e.g., art, gardening, music, etc.) do you think the City of San Marcos should sponsor or support which are not currently offered? For which age group(s)?

14. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current ATHLETIC or other RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING provided in San Marcos for people WITH SPECIAL NEEDS in the following age groups?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No Opinion
Young children (under age 5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children, age 5-8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children, age 9-12	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teens, age 13-19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults, age 20-55	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seniors over the age of 55	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Regarding your answer to question #14, what athletic or other recreational programs (e.g., art, gardening, music, etc.) for people with SPECIAL NEEDS do you think the City of San Marcos should sponsor or support which are not currently offered? For which age group(s)?

16. Do you or someone in your family participate in an athletic association or recreation league in the City of San Marcos?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

17. If yes to question #16 above, in which one(s) do you participate? Check all that apply.

- ☐ San Marcos Youth Baseball Softball Association
- ☐ Adult Basketball Leagues
- ☐ Firecracker Evening 5K
- ☐ San Marcos Area Youth Soccer
- ☐ Adult Softball Leagues
- ☐ Velcro T-Ball
- ☐ Adult Volleyball Leagues
- ☐ Junior and Adult Tennis
- ☐ League or Activity offered by Texas State University
- ☐ Pickleball
- ☐ Youth Lacrosse
- ☐ Youth Rugby
- ☐ Adult Rugby
- ☐ Youth Flag Football
- ☐ Other (please specify)

18. Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following ATHLETIC-RELATED FACILITIES to be provided or added in San Marcos parks.

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not Important at All
Adult-size baseball / softball fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic fields for general public use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts – covered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts - uncovered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Football fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Large, multi-use sports complex for tournaments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not Important at All
More lighted practice fields for baseball/softball and soccer/football	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More practice fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More youth-size baseball / softball fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multi-purpose recreation fields for field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Racquetball or handball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer fields – covered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer fields – uncovered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volleyball courts – sand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volleyball courts – indoor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Using the list above, what is the ONE athletics-related facility/activity you or your family feel is most needed?

Facility/Activity

Most Needed

Other (please specify)

20. Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following PASSIVE RECREATION items to be provided or added in San Marcos parks.

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not Important at All
Access to the San Marcos River for swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional restrooms in parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adventure type / natural playscapes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bocce and/or horseshoe courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog parks (off-leash areas)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equestrian trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal loop trails within parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More dog waste stations in parks and along trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More hike and bike trails throughout the city	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More pavilions for group activities / picnics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More picnic tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More preserved greenspace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature viewing facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor fireplaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special needs playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shade structures over existing playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not Important at All
Water activities (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

21. Using the list above, what is the ONE passive recreation facility/activity you or your family feels is most needed?

	Facility/Activity
Most Needed	<div></div>

Other (please specify)

San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Greenspaces & Resource Protection

22. Please rate how important the following priorities are in protecting greenspace areas in the City and extraterritorial jurisdiction?

	Very Important	Important	No Opinion	Not Important	Not Important at All
General open space conservation and protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Passive recreation (e.g., trails, bird watching, photography, urban camping)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection for flood conveyance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection for historical / cultural interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection of associated riparian areas (bank vegetation, wetlands, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Areas / river clarity and quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection of the San Marcos and Blanco Rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection of the tributaries of the San Marcos and Blanco Rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustain the scenic quality and visual character of the City	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water supply protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Very Important	Important	No Opinion	Not Important	Not Important at All
Wildlife habitat / scenic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

23. When considering the types of facilities and activities which typically occur, or could occur, in the City's greenspace areas, how important are the following to you?

	Very Important	Important	No Opinion	Not Important	Not Important at All
Additional nature trails for walking or hiking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional trails for mountain biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better trailhead kiosks / wayfinding signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better/more restrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More interpretative signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More outdoor programming (e.g., education classes, staff led tours, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observation tower	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor challenge course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails for equestrian visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urban camping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

24. In order to protect additional areas of greenspace in the City and extraterritorial jurisdiction, what types of action should the City be pursuing (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Incentivize conservation easements and other protection efforts
- ☐ Modify zoning and subdivision regulations which result in greater protection of these greenspace areas
- ☐ Outright purchase of land and add to the City's greenspace system
- ☐ Partner with others (e.g., Texas State University, land trusts, conservation organizations, the county)
- ☐ Purchase of development rights
- ☐ Require land dedication as part of the land development process
- ☐ Support the efforts of nonprofit groups (e.g., the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance)

25. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being of the greatest importance), how important is the protection of the San Marcos and Blanco's Rivers water clarity/quality to you?

0 10

26. In order to help offset staffing and maintenance costs of the City's greenspace system, please check the following items that you think you could support?

- ☐ Establishing a donation box (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)
- ☐ Establishing a nominal entrance fee for all visitors (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)
- ☐ Establishing a nominal entrance fee for non-City residents (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)
- ☐ I do not support an entrance fee to the City's greenspace system

San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Trails

27. The following questions are related to a trail system or linear parks used to connect destinations, as opposed to looping trails within a park. Please check the box that best describes how strongly you agree or disagree with the following trail-related statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
I would like to see trails developed as an alternative means of transportation in San Marcos.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like to see trails near where I live to walk or bicycle to destinations throughout San Marcos.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I prefer soft surface crushed granite trails over concrete trails.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would use exercise stations along trails.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amenities along trails in San Marcos such as benches, lighting, trees, trash cans, dog waste stations, etc., are important if I am to use a trail.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would use my bicycle to get to work if trails or bike lanes made it more accessible to my employment area.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would allow my children to use their bicycle to get to school if trails were more accessible in my neighborhood.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I prefer riding my bicycle on streets and roads instead of off-street trails.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

28. What activities do you use trails for?

- ☐ Walking for leisure
- ☐ Walking / running for exercise
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Bike riding, leisure
- ☐ Viewing scenery or wildlife
- ☐ Mountain biking
- ☐ Canoeing / kayaking
- ☐ Bird watching
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Social interactions
- ☐ Other (please specify)

San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Riverfront Parks

To assist with your response to questions 29 to 31 please see Map B below.

Map B: San Marcos River Access Locations





29. During the last year, how often have you or your family visited the RIVERFRONT PARK SYSTEM to do the following activities or use the following facilities?

	Daily	At Least Weekly	Few Times Per Month	Few Times Per Year	Very Rarely or Never
Athletic fields within the riverfront parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canoeing or kayaking in the river	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Floated in the river (with own tube)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Floated in the river (using the Lions Club tubes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pavilions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playscape (in Children's Park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pool (in Rio Vista Park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swam or waded in the river	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts (in Rio Vista Park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

30. Thinking ahead to the future of the City's RIVERFRONT PARK SYSTEM, how important is it for the City to address the following parks, recreation, and trail issues in the near future?

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not important at All
Improve existing parking areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add new parking areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the riverfront park system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add additional water access points to lessen impact of existing access points	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better connect the riverfront parks to a citywide or regional trail system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve water access for swimming and wading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve water access for canoeing/kayaking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve water access for people with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve the overall quality and appearance of the riverfront parks (improved maintenance)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upgrade the existing facilities/amenities in the riverfront parks (e.g., playscapes/restrooms)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve existing athletic facilities (i.e., athletic fields and tennis courts at Rio Vista Park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not important at All
Remove and relocate existing athletic facilities (i.e., athletic fields and tennis courts at Rio Vista Park) to a more appropriate location outside the riverfront park system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add additional public restrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase shade opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add additional rentable covered pavilions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add additional covered picnic shelters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relocate and improve existing pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Control access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve wayfinding signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add additional historical, cultural, and natural resource interpretative signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhance areas for additional community events (e.g., add an amphitheater)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add additional programming and events for the community outside of peak season	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. When thinking ahead to the future of the City's RIVERFRONT PARK SYSTEM, how important do you think the following considerations are:

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not Important At All
Controlling access <u>every day during peak season</u> (i.e., adding gated access with attendants or kiosks during the summer season)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Controlling access <u>on weekends during peak season</u> (i.e., adding gated access with attendants or kiosks during the summer season)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Charging an entrance or parking fee per vehicle for non-residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Charging an entrance fee per vehicle for all visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing off-site public parking and shuttling visitors to the riverfront parks system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting off-site private parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishing an annual pass for all visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishing an annual pass at discounted rates for City residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Maintenance & Operations

32. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the quality, appearance, and maintenance of the following parks and recreation elements in San Marcos?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion
Overall parks and recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greenspace areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports fields (e.g., baseball, softball)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports courts (e.g., basketball, tennis)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming pool (water amenities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Classes and programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation / activity center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Riverfront parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Thank you!

33. Thank you for participating in the San Marcos Parks , Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan public survey. If you complete this survey before November 8, 2017 you will be eligible to win one of the three following prizes.

- A one year individual membership to the San Marcos Activity Center
- Rio Vista Fun Prize Pack: Propane grill, grill utensils, waterproof phone pouch, & sunglasses
- Greenspace Hiking Prize Pack: Hydration backpack, hiking pole, & sunglasses

To be eligible please provide your email address below.

34. Would you like to receive updates on the City's parks master planning process and upcoming recreational opportunities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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SAN MARCOS PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Public Open House | May 23rd, 2018

SIGN-IN SHEET

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SAN MARCOS PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



San Marcos Community Alliance

SAN MARCOS PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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SAN MARCOS PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



SAN MARCOS PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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SIGN-IN SHEET

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SAN MARCOS PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



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[illegible]



appendix b

Potential Non-City-Generated Funding Sources

San Marcos
PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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21st Century Community Learning Center									■																
Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration Grant																						■	■		
Aegon Transamerica Foundation									■		■														
Aetna and the Aetna Foundation: Community Grants Program											■														
Aetna Foundation, GoLocal: Cultivating Healthier Communities Program											■														
Air Grants & Funding											■												■		
Air Quality Initiative											■														
Allen Foundation									■		■														
Allstate Foundation																									■
ALSC/BWI Summer Reading Program Grant									■																
America the Beautiful: Free Seeds for Planting “Freedom Gardens”				■																					
AmeriCorps						■			■	■							■								
Aquatic Resource Education Program									■															■	
Bank of America Foundation									■		■														
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges											■														
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas Healthy Kids, Healthy Families initiative											■								■						
BNSF Railway Foundation									■	■	■		■												
Boat Sewage Pumpout Grants										■														■	
Boating Access (BA) Program																								■	
Boating Access Grant																								■	
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program																								■	
Broadband Opportunity Council												■													
Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BROADBANDUSA)												■													
Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots				■						■			■	■	■							■			
Brownfields Assessment Grants										■	■														
Brownfields Cleanup Grants										■	■														
Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilots										■															
Brownfields Economic Development Initiative										■	■									■					
Build-A-Bear Literacy and Education Grants									■																
Challenge Cost Share Program									■	■					■										
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation									■	■	■														
Child and Adult Care Food Program											■														
Child Care and Development Fund									■		■														
Children’s Health Protection										■	■									■					

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	ADA	AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT	BIKES/ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION	COMMUNITY GARDEN	COMMUNITY OUTREACH	COMMUNITY SERVICE	CONSERVATION	ECONOMIC	EDUCATION	ENVIRONMENT	HEALTH	INFRASTRUCTURE	PARKS	PLAYGROUNDS	PRESERVATION	PROGRAMMATIC	PUBLIC SAFETY	RECREATION	REVITALIZATION	SAFETY	TRAILS	TRANSIT	TRANSPORTATION	WATER ACCESS	YOUTH PROGRAMS
		■									■														
GO! Grant											■														
Grants for Arts Programs									■																
Head Start Program									■																
Home Depot Foundation, Community Impact Grant											■														
HOPE VI Revitalization Grants																			■						
HUD E-Maps									■	■															
Hunter Education Program									■															■	
Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs (Title V)																									■
Indoor Recreation Grants																		■							
Kerr Foundation Grants									■		■														
Land and Water Conservation Fund							■																		
Landowner Incentive Program (Non-Tribal Portion) – Overview															■										
Local Parks Grant													■												
Lockheed Martin Community Contributions											■														
Lowe's Community Partners Grant									■																
Lowe's Small Grants						■																			
Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant	■								■					■											
Mattel Children's Foundation									■																
MetLife Foundation											■									■					
									■															■	
Muscle Milk Recovery Grant											■														
National Blueprint: Increasing Physical Activity Among Adults Age 50 and Older											■														
National Coastal Wetlands Grants Program																								■	
National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research Funding Opportunities											■														
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Grants for Conservation Projects							■																		
National Swimming Pool Foundation Grants									■		■														
Nature Works Everywhere Grant				■			■		■	■	■														
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)										■	■														
Outdoor Recreation Grants																		■							
Partnership to Improve Community Health (PICH)											■														
People for Bikes Community Grant Program			■																	■		■	■		
Pew Charitable Trusts Grants									■	■	■														
Physical Education for Progress Grants											■														
Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program									■																
Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant											■														
Public Welfare Foundation																									■
Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program						■																			
Recreational Boating Safety									■											■				■	

[illegible]

[illegible]

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Corporation for National & Community Service

AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps seeks to strengthen communities through projects that address education, public safety, the environment, and other unmet human needs. AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a Notification of Intent to apply for this competition, but it is not required. There are application deadlines at various times throughout the year.

Amount: Vary, may be awarded as fixed amount or cost reimbursement

Website: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2018/americorps-state-and-national-grants-fy-2018>

Department of Agriculture — Food Nutrition Service

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers funds for meals and snacks for children in low-income areas during after-school and summer hours. Through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, USDA administers Afterschool Snacks, a program that offers reimbursement for snacks to after-school care program providers. For eligibility, the after-school programs must offer educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment after school, on weekends or holidays during the school year. The organization will be reimbursed at the highest level, currently 55 cents a snack per child per day.

For more information, go to: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program>

Contact: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-contacts>

Texas Office:

Administered by Texas Department of Agriculture
1700 N. Congress Ave., 11th Floor
Austin, TX 78701
Phone: 877-839-6325
<http://www.squaremeals.org>

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs.

The Program offers three types of grants: Planning awards range from \$20,000 - \$45,000; implementation and support service awards range from \$65,000 - \$100,000; training awards range from \$15,000 - \$50,000. Matching funds of 25% are required for all four grant types.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service administers a Summer Food Service Program that provides free meals to children throughout the summer months when school is not in session. Approved sponsors, including school districts, park agencies, nonprofit organizations, and camps, organize the program and provide the meals to a group of children (18 or under) at a central site(s). Children can receive either one or two reimbursable meals each day.

To apply for either program, contact the state education agency at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm>

For more information on the program, go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Summer/Default.htm> or contact USDA Food and Nutrition Service Public Information Staff.

Website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

Amount: \$15,000 to \$100,000; Total program funding estimated to be \$5 million.

Timeframe: December 8, 2017

Contact: farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov

SHARE OUR STRENGTH

After School and Summer Feeding Program Grants - Share Our Strength® is a national nonprofit agency that is working towards ending childhood hunger in America. [http://www.strength.org/grants/Share Our Strength](http://www.strength.org/grants/Share%20Our%20Strength) provides grants to local community organizations all across the country who work successfully to fight childhood hunger. Their After-School and Summer Feeding Program grants support efforts that provide more eligible kids with healthy food through these programs. Share Our Strength is especially interested in increasing participation in meal programs that utilize USDA reimbursement through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Nonprofit organizations that work to increase the number of children that receive nutritious after-school and summer meals may be eligible to apply for funds raised through Share Our Strength.

ALSC/BWI SUMMER READING PROGRAM GRANT

The American Library Association offers the ALSC/BWI Summer Reading Program grant to members of the ALA. This grant gives \$3,000 to help implement a summer reading program at a public library. The applicant must be a member of the ALA as well as the Association for Library Services to Children. The grant committee is looking for ideas that will appeal to all children and also help those with disabilities. The committee will look for a theme and a plan to implement the program successfully in your library system.

Association for Library Service to Children 50 E Huron, Chicago, IL 60611 (800) 545-2433 ext. 2163

Website: www.ala.org

BUILD-A-BEAR LITERACY AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation gives literacy grants to organizations who want to run summer reading programs in addition to other educational grants. The grant amount depends on the project but can be from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The grants are not automatically renewable, and you will have a waiting period of a few years before you can apply for the grant again. These grants may be given throughout the United States and Canada. Applications are typically accepted from January 1st through March 31. For more information, refer to:

<http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/contents/contents.jsp?catId=3100004&id=10100029>

DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION

Dollar General will provide grants for summer reading programs. The grant amounts will be up to \$3,000. The program needs to be aimed for students in pre-K up to seniors in high school. Additionally, the program should have specific measures in place that will help kids who are behind on their reading skills or who have learning disabilities. In order to qualify for a grant, you must have a Dollar General store in your state.

There are also several other literacy grants available through this program. Dollar General Corporate Office, 100 Mission Ridge, Goodlettsville, TN 37072 (615) 855-4000, and Website:

www.dgliteracy.com/grant-program/summer-reading-grants.aspx

Multiple grant opportunities are available for CAMPS: <http://www.acacamps.org/grants>

Links to government and private grants and awards relevant to the camp community are listed in the order of the grant application deadline.

Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS (CFP) COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

The primary goals of the CFP are to: Meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation in Federally assisted nutrition programs, or improving access to food as part of a comprehensive service; Increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the communities; Promote comprehensive responses to local food access, farm, and nutrition issues; and Meet specific state, local or neighborhood food and agricultural needs including needs relating to: Equipment necessary for the efficient operation of a project; Planning for long-term solutions; or The creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers. This grant requires 100% matching.

Examples of CFP Projects include, but are not limited to, community gardens with market stands, value chain projects, food hubs, farmers' markets, farm-to-institutions projects, and marketing & consumer cooperatives. All projects must involve low-income participants.

Examples of PPs include, but are not limited to, community food assessments' coordination of collaboration development plan, GIS analysis, food sovereignty study, and farm-to-institution exploration. All projects must involve low-income participants

Website: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program>

Amount: Total program funding: \$8.64 million; Maximum award of \$125,000 for Community Food Projects and \$35,000 for Planning Projects

Timeframe: December 4, 2017

Contact:

Paul Cotton, Ph.D., RDN
Division Director
paul.cotton@nifa.usda.gov
2324 Waterfront Centre
P: 202-401-6010
F: 202-401-0776

Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or

improved or created wildlife habitat.

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years.

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/equip/>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/equip/>

Contact:

Texas Office:

TEXAS STATE OFFICE

101 S MAIN ST

TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602

(254) 742-9800

(254) 742-9819 Fax

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

(254) 742-9881

Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

(254) 742-9525

Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands. CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, American Indian Tribes, or individuals. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible.

Through CIG, NRCS partners with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adopt promising technologies. These new technologies and approaches address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resources concerns. CIG benefits agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

States can also award project that benefit a limited geographical area. Participating states will announce their funding availability for CIG competitions through their state NRCS offices.

The maximum CIG award is set annually by the NRCS Chief and historically has been either \$1 million or \$2 million. An applicant's CIG funding request must be matched at least 1:1 with non-federal funding. Matching funds can be any combination of cash and in-kind contributions. The grantee is also responsible for providing the technical assistance required to successfully complete the project. NRCS will provide technical oversight for each project receiving an award.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

Texas webpage: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/cig/>

Amount: Total program funding averages \$20 million per year. Max award set annually.

Timeframe:

Contact:
National & Texas Office:
Program Contact:
nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov
Melleny Cotton, CIG Program Analyst
(202) 720-7412
Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov

AIR QUALITY INITIATIVE

The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiative provides financial assistance to implement conservation practices that address air resource issues for designated locations throughout the nation. Agricultural atmospheric related concerns include greenhouse gas emissions, ozone precursors, volatile organic compounds, airborne particulate matter, and some odor-related volatile compounds. For more information about agricultural air quality concerns, see the Air Quality topic.

Timeframe: NRCS accepts applications for assistance on continuous basis, but states may establish application periods.

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/air/>

Contact:

Texas Office:

TEXAS STATE OFFICE
101 S MAIN ST
TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602
(254) 742-9800
(254) 742-9819 Fax

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers assistance to land owners who are already implementing conservation practices to enhance those practices. For example, if you have been practicing prescribed grazing, CSP would give you options to enhance that practice with activities such as grazing management to improve plants for wildlife, or grazing management to reduce soil compaction, or grazing management to improve riparian function, just to name a few.

With enrollment in CSP, the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with the property owner(s) to evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land. The NRCS conservation planner will present a variety of CSP enhancement alternatives for implementation on the land, based on existing conservation practices. CSP offers annual incentive payments for installing these enhancement practices.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/csp/>

Award: varies based on implementation of conservation practices

Timeframe: Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities.

CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The purpose of the program is to assist land—users, communities, units of state and local government, and other federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. The purpose of the conservation systems are to reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range condition, reduce upstream flooding, and improve woodlands. The program is also used as a means to collect, analyze, interpret, display, and disseminate information about the condition and trends of the Nation's soil and other natural resources so that people can make good decisions about resource use and about public policies for resource conservation. Information collected through the program is used to develop effective science-based technologies for natural resource assessment, management, and conservation.

For more information about the Conservation Technical Assistance program go to:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/cta/>

Technical assistance is provided at the state level by State Conservationists. Contact information for each State Conservationists is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Contact:

Texas Office:

TEXAS STATE OFFICE

101 S MAIN ST

TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602

(254) 742-9800

(254) 742-9819 Fax

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program. All projects undertaken, with the exception of the purchase of floodplain easements, must have a project sponsor.

NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.

City and county governments, flood and water control districts, and soil and water conservation districts are the most common sponsors of EWP projects. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to:

- remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges,
- reshape and protect eroded banks,
- correct damaged drainage facilities,
- establish cover on critically eroding lands,
- repair levees and structures, and
- repair conservation practices.

NRCS may purchase EWP easements “in lieu of recovery” on any floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have a history of repeated flooding (i.e., flooded at least two times during the past 10 years). If it is more cost effective, EWP-Floodplain Easement (FPE) can be used as an alternative to EWP. See the comparison of EWP and EWP-FPE.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>

State website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/planning/>

Award: state-administered. Texas received over \$21 million in FY2016 to restore conditions from heavy rains and flooding in 2015.

Timeframe:

Contact: National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager, Shawn Anderson, National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Coordinator, at 202-720-5795.

In Texas: Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager, claudeross@tx.usda.gov, 254-742-9822

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS (WFPO) PROGRAM

The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and Tribes (project sponsors) to plan and implement authorized watershed project plans for the purpose of:

- watershed protection
- flood mitigation
- water quality improvements
- soil erosion reduction
- rural, municipal and industrial water supply
- irrigation
- water management
- sediment control
- fish and wildlife enhancement
- hydropower

Under the Watershed Program NRCS cooperates with States and local agencies to carry out works of improvement for soil conservation and for other purposes including flood prevention; conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water; and conservation and proper utilization of land.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/>

State website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Contact: Kevin Farmer, 202-720-3413, kevin.farmer@wdc.usda.gov

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve economic activity, and enhance the environment and standard of living in authorized RC&D areas. The program assists state, tribal and local units of government and local non-profit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop, and carry out programs for resource conservation a

ng RC&D coordinators, who assist local area councils. These coordinators help the area councils develop plans and proposals to compete for financial assistance from other federal,

state and private sources.

A list of local Resource Development Conservation Councils is available at: <http://www.texaslandcan.org/state-resources/Resource-Conservation-and-Development-Councils/61>

Authorized RC&D areas are locally sponsored areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for RC&D technical and financial assistance program funds. The Natural Resources Conservation Service can provide grants for land conservation, water management, community development, and environmental needs in authorized RC&D areas.

Information about the Resource Conservation and Development Program is available at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>

USDA-NRCS Landscape Initiatives Survey:

<http://narcdc.org/landscape-initiatives-survey-august2013.html>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR PROGRESS GRANTS

Grants are awarded to local educational agencies and community-based organizations to initiate, expand, and improve physical education programs (including after-school programs) for kindergarten through 12th grade students by providing equipment and support to enable students to participate actively in physical education activities, and by providing funds for staff and teacher training and education.

For more information, go to: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/pep.html>

Website: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/whitephysed/index.html>

Department of Agriculture — Rural Development

COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

Eligible areas include rural cities, villages, townships, or towns with no more than 20,000 residents. Funding types include low-interest loans, grants, or a combination of the two. Grants are awarded on a need-basis, based on community size and median household income. Grant assistance share of total eligible project costs is limited depending on community size and median household income.

Website:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>

Contact:

Texas USDA Rural Development State Office

101 South Main Street, Suite 102

Temple, TX 76501

ph: 254-742-9700

Fax: (844) 496-8123

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANTS

This program provides funding to help non-profit housing and community development organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Funds may be used to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Eligible areas include rural cities, villages, townships, or towns with no more than 20,000 residents. Funding types include low-interest loans, grants, or a combination of the two. Grants are awarded on a need-basis, based on community size and median household income. Grant assistance share of total eligible project costs is limited depending on community size and median household income.

100% matching is required.

Website:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>

Amount: Minimum grant award is \$50,000; maximum grant award is \$250,000

Timeframe:

Contact:

Texas USDA Rural Development State Office
101 South Main Street, Suite 102
Temple, TX 76501
ph: 254-742-9700
Fax: (844) 496-8123

Department of Agriculture — US Forest Service

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM, COUNCIL & 10-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Urban and Community Forestry program assists state forestry agencies, local and tribal governments, and private sector entities improve natural resource management of trees and forests in urban areas and community settings. The program encourages and facilitates the active involvement of volunteers in the management and protection of their community's natural resources. The program also analyzes, develops, disseminates, and demonstrates scientific information about protecting, managing, and maintaining community forest resources. States are encouraged to offer competitive grants that involve partnerships with local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector for the purpose of establishing effective community forestry programs.

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) is a Congressionally designated advisory council to the Secretary of Agriculture on urban forestry and related issues. The 1990 Farm Bill created NUCFAC to bring together the wide variety of voices raised about a common concern: the present health and future preservation of America's urban forests. NUCFAC was founded to synthesize the full spectrum of views into a consistent vision, as a foundation for practical policy on urban forestry and related natural resources.

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/nucfac>

The Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan developed by and for the urban forestry community. The plan's purpose is to expand awareness of the benefits that our urban forests, including green infrastructure, provide to communities throughout the nation, and increase investments in these urban forest resources for the benefit of current and future generations. The plan provides specific goals, actions, and recommendations for improving the status of urban and community forestry for the United States and its territories. The plan also identifies research needs, messaging and communications needs, and innovative funding and collaborative opportunities for urban forestry initiatives. Notably, this plan also serves as a framework for funding and recommendation priorities developed by the National Urban and Community

Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) for the U.S. Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry program and National Challenge Cost Share Grants. The urban forestry community, including the Forest Service and other applicable Federal agencies, are to use the Action Plan as a guide to implement and expand urban and community forestry for the next ten years.

Website: <http://urbanforestplan.org/>

Contact:

Nancy Stremple
Urban Forestry Program Specialist
Phone: 202-309-9873
nstremple@fs.fed.us

Department of Commerce – National Telecommunications and Information Administration

NTIA administers grant programs that further the deployment and use of broadband and other technologies in America, laying the groundwork for sustainable economic growth; improved education, public safety, and health care; and the advancement of other national priorities.

The agency manages two broadband grant programs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) (formerly called the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program). Through these programs, NTIA is overseeing an investment of approximately \$4 billion in projects throughout the United States to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service, and promote statewide broadband planning and data collection activities. The State Broadband Initiative is also responsible for creation and maintenance of the National Broadband Map.

Website: <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/home>

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided a total of \$7.2 billion to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to fund projects that would expand access to and adoption of broadband services across the United States. NTIA utilized \$4.7 billion of that funding for grants to deploy broadband infrastructure in the U.S., expand public computer center capacity, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

President Obama on March 23, 2015 signed a Presidential Memorandum creating the Broadband Opportunity Council (Council) and appointing the Commerce and Agriculture Departments as co-chairs. The Broadband Opportunity Council includes 25 federal agencies and departments that will engage with industry and other stakeholders to understand ways the Executive Branch can better support the needs of communities seeking broadband investment. It will also help identify regulatory barriers unduly impeding broadband deployment, adoption or competition, and recommend steps to remove such barriers.

Website: <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/broadband-opportunity-council>.

BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (AKA: BROADBANDUSA)

The Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP), also known as BroadbandUSA is a broadband grant program administered by NTIA to provide assistance to communities that want to expand their broadband capacity and promote broadband adoption. BroadbandUSA brings stakeholders together to solve problems, contribute to emerging policies, link communities to other federal agencies and funding sources, and address barriers to collaboration across agencies.

- **Technical Assistance:** BroadbandUSA provides technical assistance to communities that want to improve their broadband capacity and use broadband more effectively.
- **Publications:** BroadbandUSA provides expert, impartial advice and field-proven tools for assessing broadband adoption, planning new infrastructure, and engaging a wide range of partners in broadband projects.
- **Community Connectivity Initiative:** BroadbandUSA is engaging community, corporate and civic leaders to develop and finalize a set of connectivity indicators, create a strategic online self-assessment, and expand resources that support and accelerate local broadband planning efforts.

Website: <http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/>

STATE BROADBAND INITIATIVE (SBI)

The State Broadband Initiative (SBI) is a broadband grant program administered by NTIA. This program implements the joint purposes of the Recovery Act and the Broadband Data Improvement Act, which envisioned a comprehensive program, led by state entities or non-profit organizations working at their direction, to facilitate the integration of broadband and information technology into state and local economies. Economic development, energy efficiency, and advances in education and health care rely not only on broadband infrastructure, but also on the knowledge and tools to leverage that infrastructure.

Website: <http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/SBDD>

Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration

PLANNING PROGRAM AND LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Through its Planning and Local Technical Assistance programs, EDA assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. The Planning program helps support organizations, including District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible recipients, with Short Term and State Planning investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation's most economically distressed regions. As part of this program, EDA supports Partnership Planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of recipients' respective regions. The Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of local or State organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible recipients to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies and impact analyses.

Website: <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

Award: up to \$300,000,000

Timeframe: Continuing basis

Contact:

EDA Headquarters
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230
Main Line: 202-482-2000
Texas Office:

Austin Regional Office
903 San Jacinto
Suite 206
Austin, Texas 78701
Regional Director: Jorge Ayala
P: 512-381-8150
F: 512-499-0478
jayala@eda.gov

PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EDA solicits applications from applicants in rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and EAA programs. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

Website: <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

Award: up to \$300,000

Timeframe: Continuing basis

Contact:

EDA Headquarters
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230
Main Line: 202-482-2000
Texas Office:
Austin Regional Office
903 San Jacinto
Suite 206
Austin, Texas 78701
Regional Director: Jorge Ayala
P: 512-381-8150
F: 512-499-0478
jayala@eda.gov

Department of Education

Active Grant Opportunities: <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html>

Upcoming Funding Opportunities: <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

This program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

Formula grants are awarded to State educational agencies, which in turn manage statewide competitions and award grants to eligible entities. For this program, eligible entity means a local educational agency, community-based organization, another public or private entity, or a consortium of two or more of such agencies, organizations, or entities. States must give priority

to applications that are jointly submitted by a local educational agency and a community-based organization or other public or private entity.

Website: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/index.html>

Contact:

Danita Woodley
21stCCLC@ed.gov
(202) 260-8735
Texas: Christine McCormick
512-463-2334
Christine.McCormick@tea.texas.gov

Department of Health and Human Services — Administration for Children and Families

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is a division of the Department of Health & Human Services that aims to promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, individuals and communities with leadership and resources for compassionate, effective delivery of human services.

Announcements for funding opportunities can be found at: <https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/>

NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) brings together four of the nation's leading research funders — the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) — to address the problem of childhood obesity in America. These leading national organizations: work in tandem to manage projects and reach common goals; coordinate funding to make the most of available resources; and share insights and expertise to strengthen research. NCCOR focuses on efforts that have the potential to benefit children, teens, and their families, and the communities in which they live.

NCCOR publishes the funding opportunities from the partners to fund a range of project types. Visit the following website for more information on the opportunities: <http://nccor.org/news/funding-opportunities/>

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) made available \$5.2 billion to States, Territories, and Tribes in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. CCDF is authorized by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and Section 418 of the Social Security Act. CCDF assists low-income families in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education. The program also improves the quality of child care, and promotes coordination among early childhood development and afterschool programs.

Initiatives of the CCDF include:

- Strengthening Family Child Care, a special initiative to strengthen family child care (FCC). The purpose of this initiative is to promote pathways and progressions to build the supply and stability of high quality FCC providers.
- Early Learning Initiative, which includes projects and grants that bring child care and early learning partners together at federal, state, and local levels for greater collaboration and more effective services throughout the country.
- Let's Move! Child Care promotes children's health by encouraging and supporting physical activity and healthier nutrition practices in early care and education settings.

- Emergency Preparedness, which addresses emergency preparation and response as it relates to the children in the event of a major disaster or emergency.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/child-care-and-development-fund>

Contact:

CCDF Grantee State and Territory Contacts
Texas Workforce Policy and Program Assistance
Workforce Development Division
Texas Workforce Commission
Room 440-T
101 East 15th Street
Austin, TX 78778
General Phone: 512-463-6022
<https://twc.texas.gov/students/child-care-development-fund-state-plans>
OCC Regional Program Managers, Region VI
Gwendolyn Jones
OCC/ACF/HHS
Suite 914
1301 Young Street
Dallas, TX 75202
Phone: (214) 767-3849
Fax: (214) 767-8890
E-mail: gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov

HEAD START PROGRAM

The Office of Head Start (OHS) promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through local programs. Head Start and Early Head Start programs support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5.

Head Start grants are awarded directly to public or private non-profit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies within a community that wish to compete for funds. The same categories of organizations are eligible to apply for Early Head Start, except that applicants need not be from the community they will be serving.

Funding opportunities: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/funding>

Website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/funding>

Contact:

Texas Head Start Collaboration Office
Alferma Giles, Director
Phone: 713-500-3835
Fax: 713-500-3820
Email: alferma.crawford@uth.tmc.edu
Tracy Jones, Program Coordinator
Phone: 713-500-3832
Fax: 713-500-3820
Email: tracy.a.jones@uth.tmc.edu
Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office The Children's Learning Institute
University of Texas Houston
7000 Fannin, Suite 1920
Houston, TX 77030

Website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs>

CCDF Grantee State and Territory Contacts
Texas Workforce Policy and Program Assistance
Workforce Development Division
Texas Workforce Commission
Room 440-T

101 East 15th Street
Austin, TX 78778
General Phone: 512-463-6022
<https://twc.texas.gov/students/child-care-program>
OCC Regional Program Managers, Region VI
Gwendolyn Jones
OCC/ACF/HHS
Suite 914
1301 Young Street
Dallas, TX 75202
Phone: (214) 767-3849
Fax: (214) 767-8890
E-mail: gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The Office of Community Services (OCS) partners with states, communities and agencies to reduce the causes of poverty, increase opportunity and economic security of individuals and families and revitalize communities. The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/csbgr>

Administered in Texas by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs:

www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Contact:

Gavin Reid
Manager, Planning and Contracts
Community Affairs Division
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
221 East 11th, Post Office Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Phone: (512) 936-7828
Fax: (512) 475-3935
Email: gavin.reid@tdhca.state.tx.us
Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us
Rita D. Gonzales-Garza, M.P.A.
CSBG Program Administrator
Community Affairs Division
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
221 East 11th, Post Office Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Phone: (512) 475-3905

Fax: (512) 475-3935
Email: rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us
Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us
Federal Staff by Region
Region VI
Program Specialist: Isaac Davis
(202) 401-5335
Isaac.Davis@acf.hhs.gov

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Community Economic Development (CED) is a federal grant program funding Community Development Corporations that address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of sustainable business development and employment

opportunities.

CED awards funds to private, non-profit organizations that are community development corporations (CDCs), including faith-based organizations, and Tribal and Alaskan Native organizations. CDCs must be governed by a three-party board of directors that includes residents of the community served, and local business and civic leaders. CDCs must have as their principle purpose planning, developing or managing low-income housing or community development projects.

CED programs also provide technical and financial assistance for economic development activities.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ced>

Contact:

Community Economic Development Program
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, DC 20447
Phone: (202) 401-5663
CED@acf.hhs.gov

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS

Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) enables each state or territory to meet the needs of its residents through locally relevant social services. SSBGs support programs that allow communities to achieve or maintain economic self-sufficiency to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency on social services. Each state administers the program locally, determining which services to provide and who is eligible to receive these services.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg>

Contact:

Texas
Charles Smith
Executive Commissioner
Texas Health & Human Services Commission
4900 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78751
P: (512) 424-6502
F: (512) 424-6587
Charles.Smith@hhsc.state.tx.us
Racheal Kane
HHS System Federal Funds Manager
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
4900 North Lamar Boulevard
Mail Code 1400
Austin, Texas 78751
P: 512-424-6663
F: 512-424-6669
Email: Racheal.Kane@hhsc.state.tx.us, HHSCFederalFunds@hhsc.state.tx.us

Department of Health and Human Services — Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Community Health

PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH (PICH)

PICH is a 3-year initiative that supports implementation of evidence-based strategies to

improve the health of communities and reduce the prevalence of chronic disease. PICH builds on a body of knowledge developed through previously funded Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) programs and encourages collaborations with a multi-sectoral coalition to implement sustainable changes in communities where people live, learn, work, and play.

Website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/programs/partnershipstoimprovecommunityhealth/index.html>

PREVENTATIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant provides all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 2 American Indian tribes, and 8 US territories with funding to address their unique public health needs in innovative and locally defined ways. This program gives grantees the flexibility to use funds to respond rapidly to emerging health issues and to fill funding gaps in programs that deal with leading causes of death and disability.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/>

Amount:

Timeframe:

Contact:

Texas PHHS Block Grant Coordinator
Texas Department of State Health Services
P.O. Box 149347
Mail Code 1908
Austin, TX 78714-9347
Phone 512-458-7770
www.dshs.state.tx.us

Department of Health and Human Services — Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

SAMHSA makes grant funds available through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, and the Center for Mental Health Services. Funding opportunities are available in the form of non-competitive block grants and competitive block grants that support programs for substance use disorders and mental illness.

Website: <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants>

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (MHBG)

SAMHSA makes grant funds available through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, and the Center for Mental Health Services. Funding opportunities are available in the form of non-competitive block grants and competitive block grants that support programs for substance use disorders and mental illness.

The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) is one of two block grants available from the SAMHSA. The MHBG program provides funds and technical assistance to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 6 Pacific jurisdictions. Grantees use the funds to provide comprehensive, community-based mental health services to adults with serious mental illnesses and to children with serious emotional disturbances and to monitor progress in implementing a comprehensive, community-based mental health system.

The MHBG program targets:

- Adults with serious mental illnesses. Includes persons age 18 and older who

have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional condition—as defined by the Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders. Their condition substantially interferes with, or limits, one or more major life activities, such as: Basic daily living (for example, eating or dressing); Instrumental living (for example, taking prescribed medications or getting around the community); Participating in a family, school, or workplace.

- Children with serious emotional disturbances. Includes persons up to age 18 who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional issue (as defined by the DSM). This condition results in a functional impairment that substantially interferes with, or limits, a child’s role or functioning in family, school, or community activities.

Website: <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/block-grants/mhbg>

Timeline: FY2017 application period has closed

Contact: State contact that oversees SAMHSA grant administration in Texas:

Lauren Lacefield Lewis

Commissioner

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division

Texas Department of State Health Services

P.O. Box 149397

Mail Code 2053

Austin, Texas 78714-9347

Phone: 512-467-5516

Fax: 512-467-5465

E-mail: Lauren.Lacefieldlewis@dshs.state.tx.us

URL: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/sa/default.shtm>

Express Mail Address

909 W. 45th Street

Austin, Texas 78751-2803

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

SAMHSA announces discretionary grant funding opportunities through Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs). These grant opportunities help implement specific programs of the SAMHSA. Each FOA contains all the information you need to apply for a grant.

Website: <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements-2017>

Timeline: Varies

Amount: Varies

Contact:

General Grants Questions: SAMHSA’s Division of Grants Management at 240-276-1400

Grant-specific Questions: Contact the person(s) listed under “Agency Contact” in the Request for Applications (RFA)

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

The Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program provides Federal funds through grants to States, communities, and Native American tribes to develop and implement systems of care programs. The Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) administers 6-year Federal grants to implement, enhance, and evaluate local systems of care. Grantees are required to match Federal dollars with local and State monies. These grants to States, communities, and Native American tribes support a broad array of services designed to meet the multiple and changing needs of children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances and their families. They coordinate systems of care by developing partnerships with mental health, child welfare, education, juvenile justice, and

other local, public and private agencies, including park and recreation agencies. Public park and recreation agencies can contract with grantees for services. Find out if there is a grantee in your community, search at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements-old>

TARGETED CAPACITY EXPANSION – PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

The purpose of the initiative is to increase the capacity of cities, counties, and tribal governments to provide prevention and early intervention treatment services to meet emerging and urgent mental health needs of communities. Projects funded through this program must target services to children and adolescents and their families.

For more information, go to: <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements-2016>

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The activities of the Community Planning and Development Program build stronger and more resilient communities through an ongoing process of identifying and addressing needs, assets, and priority investments. Community development activities may support infrastructure, economic development projects, installation of public facilities, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, clearance/acquisition, microenterprise assistance, code enforcement, homeowner assistance and many other identified needs. Federal support for community development encourages systematic and sustained action by State, and local governments. The Office of Block Grant Assistance administers funds, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), allocated to State and local governments to address locally identified community development needs through the following programs (only showing those applicable in Texas):

- CDBG Entitlement Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.
- CDBG State Program allows States to award grants to smaller units of general local government that develop and preserve decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create and retain jobs.
- CDBG Program Colonias Set-Aside requires the border states of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas to set aside a percentage of their annual State CDBG allocations for use in the Colonia to help meet the needs of the Colonias residents in relationship to the need for potable water, adequate sewer systems, or decent, safe and sanitary housing.
- Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program is the loan guarantee provision of the CDBG Program and provides communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and large-scale physical development projects.
- CDBG Disaster Recovery Program provides flexible grants to help cities, counties, and States recover from Presidentially-declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations.
- The Neighborhood Stabilization Program provides grants to communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment to purchase and redevelop foreclosed and abandoned homes and residential properties.
- Brownfields Economic Development Initiative provides grants to assist cities with the redevelopment of abandoned, idled and underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion and redevelopment is burdened by real or

potential environmental contamination.

Each fiscal year (FY), HUD publishes a General Section that contains requirements for all of HUD's competitive grant programs. To be considered for funding, applications must meet all applicable requirements of the General Section and the requirements in the Program NOFA.

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa2017/gensec

To identify funding opportunities through HUD, visit the following website: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail

Award: varies

Timeframe: varies

Contact:

National Office:

Office of Strategic Planning and Management

Grants Management & Oversight Division

Department of Housing and Urban Development

451 7th Street, SW, Room 3156

Washington, DC 20410-3000

Phone: (202) 708-0667

Houston Regional Office:

Sandra H. Warren

Director, CPD

1301 Fannin Street

Suite 2200

Houston, TX 77002

713-718-3279

Sandra.H.Warren@hud.gov

Fort Worth Regional Office:

Shirley J. Henley

Director, CPD

801 Cherry Street

Unit #45 - Suite 2500

Ft. Worth, TX 76102

817-978-5951

Shirley.J.Henley@hud.gov

San Antonio Regional Office:

Elva F. Garcia

Director, CPD

Hipolito Garcia Federal Building

615 E. Houston Street

Suite 347

San Antonio, TX 78205

210-475-6866

Elva.Garcia@hud.gov

HOPE VI REVITALIZATION GRANTS

The specific elements of public housing transformation that have proven key to HOPE VI include: Changing the physical shape of public housing; establishing positive incentives for resident self-sufficiency and comprehensive services that empower residents; lessening concentrations of poverty by placing public housing in non-poverty neighborhoods and promoting mixed-income communities; and forging partnerships with other agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses to leverage support and resources. Only public housing authorities are eligible to apply for these funds, but park

and recreation agencies can contract to develop recreation facilities at public housing sites and to provide community and supportive service programs for residents, including those relocated as a result of revitalization efforts. For more information, go to: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6

BROWNFIELDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) is designed to help cities redevelop abandoned, idled, or underutilized areas often on industrial or commercial property, known as brownfields. The program provides funding to local governments to be used in conjunction with Section 108 loan guarantees to finance redevelopment of brownfield sites. This program is not limited to industrial and/or commercial property.

Approximately \$25 million is available annually for eligible local communities. Information about the program is available at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/bedi/>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program awards grants to entitlement community grantees to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services. HUD awards CDBG funds directly to metropolitan cities and urban counties (entitlement communities), or to states for distribution to non-entitlement communities. Any activity undertaken using CDBG funds must benefit low and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums or blight or address conditions that present a serious and immediate threat to the health and safety of the community. Brownfields redevelopment and public recreation activities (especially for children) are eligible, but must be incorporated into local government priorities through the community's Consolidated Plan and annual action plan. Eligible entities include cities or urban counties. There are field offices in most states, cities or urban counties that accept these applications. There is also a state program that handles smaller communities. Each urban area is allocated a formula-derived amount of funds and must submit a consolidated plan to the field office.

For more information about the program and eligibility requirements go to:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-entitlement/cdbg-entitlement-program-eligibility-requirements/>

To find about program opportunities in metro areas (entitlement zones) contact Sue Miller at:

<https://www.hud.gov/states/oklahoma/community/cdbg>

For local government information, go to: <https://www.hud.gov/states/texas>

HUD E-MAPS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development developed an application on HUD's website intended to help people learn about environmental matters that affect their communities throughout the U.S. HUD E-MAPS is a Web-enabled version of Community 2020™ software which, combines HUD data with EPA environmental databases. The Community 2020 CD-ROM software can be purchased by community groups and individuals at a cost of \$250.00 for a region or \$300.00 for the whole country. The software provides detailed, site-specific financial, managerial, demographic and program information for virtually every entitlement or competitive grant awarded by HUD since 1992. Over 1,000 communities are required to submit a five-year Consolidation Plan for the expenditure of over \$7.0 billion federal funds for an array of community development activities. Copies of the Community 2020 software are provided to the Consolidation Plan communities to streamline the application and reporting procedures for HUD's major community development programs and to facilitate citizens having access to information on how funds are being spent in their community. The E-Maps software springs from HUD's strong conviction that every American has the right to know

about the quality of the environment where they live, work, play and raise their families.

Information about the E-Maps program is available at: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/maps.html>

Department of the Interior — Fish and Wildlife Service

AQUATIC RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Aquatic Resource Education Program helps people understand, enjoy and conserve the aquatic natural resources of the nation. States have the option of using up to 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment for aquatic resource education programs and outreach and communications projects. The Sport Fish Restoration Program, created in 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, restoration, aquatic education, and boating access. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders; duties on imported fishing tackle, pleasure boats and yachts; and a portion of the Federal fuel tax receipts from motorboats and small gasoline engines. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/grantprograms/AquaticEd/AE.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Kelly Oliver-Amy

505-248-7457

Kelly_oliver-amy@fws.gov

<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

BOATING ACCESS PROGRAM

The Boating Access (BA) Program provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects that provide access to America's waterways by developing new access facilities or renovation and/or improvement of existing facilities.

Today more than 16.8 million boats use U.S. waterways. A large percentage of these are operated by anglers and recreational boaters.

The Boating Access Program is part of the Sport Fish Restoration Program. Spending for the BA is authorized in the Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act mandates each state, the District of Columbia and insular area to allocate at least 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment to boating access projects. The allocation is averaged over a five year period for each U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service region.

The funds apportioned annually are derived from excise taxes on fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels, import duties, and interest collected in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. These funds are apportioned to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas based on a formula which includes land area, number of paid license holders, minimums and maximums.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/BoatAccess/BA.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

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BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG) provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length, and to produce and distribute information and educational materials about the program. The BIG Program includes two funding tiers, Tier One (non-competitive) and Tier Two (nationally competitive). Under Tier One each state, the D.C. and insular area may receive funding for eligible projects up to \$200,000 annually. Tier Two funds are made available through a nationally competitive process. Tier Two proposals received are reviewed, evaluated and ranked by a national panel with the final decision for funding made by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The ranking criteria, eligible projects and regulations are listed in 50 CFR 86.

Funds for the BIG Program are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The amount provided is 4% of the funds (split between the BIG and CVA programs) in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund after deducting amounts for WSFR administration, the Multistate Conservation Grant Program, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and fisheries commissions.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/BIG/BIG.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

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CLEAN VESSEL ACT GRANT PROGRAM

The Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (CVA) provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pump-out stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

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COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) provides federal grant funds derived from federal offshore lease revenues to oil producing states for conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas including wetlands; mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources; planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with these objectives; implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan; and mitigation of the impact of outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs.

Statewide CIAP plans that include proposed projects have been prepared by the affected

states: Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The federally approved CIAP plans have also been coordinated through a public review process.

Federal grant funds must be used to directly benefit an authorized use to conserve, restore, enhance, and protect renewable natural resources. Non-federal matching funds are not required for approved grant projects associated with this federal grant program.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CIAP/CIAP.htm>

State office: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/grant-projects/ciap/index.html>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

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Susan_MacMullin@fws.gov

<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Hunter Education Program provides grant funds to the states and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects to provide instruction in firearm operations and safety, wildlife management, nature conservation, ethics, game laws, outdoor survival and wilderness first aid. Funds may also be used for the development and operations of archery and shooting range facilities.

The goal is to teach students to be safe, responsible, conservation-minded hunters. Most States require completion of a hunter education course prior to purchasing a hunting license.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/HunterEd/HE.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Andrew Ortiz

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LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NON-TRIBAL PORTION) - OVERVIEW

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides federal grant funds to grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas to protect and restore habitats on private lands, to benefit Federally listed, proposed or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk.

Grant funds must be used to establish or supplement State landowner incentive programs to benefit species identified in the State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (State Wildlife Action Plan) or classified as Special Concern by the State, or Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk. These grant funds may also be used to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for habitat protection and restoration. More info...

The LIP Program includes two funding tiers, Tier One (non-competitive) and Tier Two (nationally competitive). Under Tier One each state may receive funding for eligible projects up to \$200,000 annually and the District of Columbia and insular areas up to \$75,000 annually. If there is adequate funding in the appropriation, WSFR will rank Tier Two grants and award grants through a national competition. The competition will be announced separately.

Website: https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

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<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

The MSCGP provides funding for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects identified as priority projects by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). These high priority projects address problems affecting states on a regional or national basis. Project types that are generally selected for funding are: biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding hunter/angler participation, hunter/aquatic education, economic value of fishing/hunting, and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments.

The AFWA and the Division of Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) work together to manage the MSCGP. The AFWA administers the grant application process, providing oversight, coordination, and guidance for the MSCGP while the WSFR awards and manages the grants.

Website: https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office
500 Gold SW
Suite 8514
Albuquerque, NM 87102
<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS GRANT PROGRAM

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program is authorized by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to grant funds to coastal states to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects. Participants in the program include state, county, and municipal governments as well as non-government partners.

Funds for the Coastal Wetlands Grant Program are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) receives 18.5 percent of the funds in the Trust Fund after deducting amounts for WSFR administration, the Multistate Conservation Grant Program, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and fisheries commissions.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CW/CW.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

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SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Act, approved by Congress on August 9, 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, and restoration. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories (except Puerto Rico) by the Department of the interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>
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Kelly_oliver-amy@fws.gov
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STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROGRAM

The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program provides Federal grant funds to State fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Grant funds may be used to address a variety of conservation needs--such as research, fish and wildlife surveys, species restoration, habitat management, and monitoring—that are identified within a State's Wildlife Action Plan. These funds may also be used to update, revise, or modify a State's Plan.

Congress appropriates funds for the State Wildlife Grant Program on an annual basis. Funds are apportioned to States, commonwealths, and U.S. territories based on a formula that considers each State's population and total geographical area.

Grant funds are disbursed to States for approved grants at a maximum federal share of 75% for planning grants and 65% for Plan implementation grants. Congress also allocates a portion of appropriated funds to a competitive SWG subprogram. State Wildlife Grant funds administered by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program provide a unique source of funding, helping States to focus on targeted species in a proactive fashion, to help identify and reverse species population declines before restoration becomes more difficult and costly.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Vanessa Martinez

505-248-7452

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<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM

Approved by Congress on September 2, 1937, the Act provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research and the distribution of information produced by the projects. Congress amended the Act on October 23, 1970, to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of public target ranges. Funds are derived from an 11 percent Federal excise tax on handguns. Funds are also collected from a 12.4 percent tax on archery equipment. A certain amount of funds (section 4) must be used on hunter education before additional funds (section 10) can be attained. The section 10 funds can be used for additional hunter education programs or for wildlife restoration. These funds are apportioned each year to the states and territories (except Puerto Rico) by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of hunting license owners.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Nicole Jimenez

505-248-7466

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program provides funding for wildlife conservation projects, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation activities. The program benefits the diverse array of wildlife and associated habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, to fulfill the unmet needs of wildlife. State Fish and Wildlife Departments with a comprehensive plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior can participate in the program. Local and state agencies are encouraged to partner with their state Fish and Wildlife Departments. Contact your state Fish and Wildlife Department for more information on project eligibility.

To contact the Fish and Wildlife Department in your state go to: <https://www.fws.gov/offices/index.html>

For more information about the Conservation Grant Program, go to Grant Information: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/MultiState/MS.htm>

Department of the Interior — National Park Service

CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Challenge Cost Share Program supports local projects that promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education, and engaging youth in the outdoors. Local project partners work with National Park Service (NPS) staff to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners. This partnership challenge rewards those proposals that highlight long lasting benefits while developing new partnerships.

The program requires equal matching share. Cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources can be considered as a cost share. The maximum Challenge Cost Share project support is \$25,000. If selected our national partner, Outdoor Foundation, forms an agreement and provides project funds directly to the local partner. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners.

Website: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/>

Award: up to \$25,000 (FY2017)

Timeframe: July 1, 2016 (FY2017)

Contact:

NATIONAL OFFICE:

National Coordinator

Stephan Nofield

Stephan_nofield@nps.gov

FEDERAL LANDS TO PARKS

The Federal Lands-to-Parks (FLP) enables states and local governments to establish park and recreation areas and adapt historic buildings for public uses. Through FLP, state and local agencies may acquire land and facilities once used for federal purposes at no cost to meet park and recreation needs.

Amount: N/A. Program based on existing inventory of federal lands and transferring it to state or local governments for park and recreation use.

Annual Timeframe: As land becomes available, 25 days from the "notice of availability"

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/index.htm>

Contacts: https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/flp_contact.html

NATIONAL OFFICE:

Wendy Ormont
State and Local Programs Division
National Park Service
1201 I Street, NW
Mail Stop 2225
Washington, DC 20005
202-354-6915
Fax: 202-371-5179
Email: nps_flpnational@nps.gov
Southeast Region:
National Park Service
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-507-5689
Fax: 404-562-3282
Email: nps_flpsouth@nps.gov

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was enacted in 1964 (Public Law 88-578) to “create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities.” LWCF provides funding for: (1) land acquisition for federal land managing agencies; and (2) matching grants to state and local governments for planning (states only), acquisition and development of park and recreation areas and resource based facilities. Specifics for federal land acquisition projects are determined each fiscal year by Congress and the Administration. Of the amounts appropriated in any given fiscal year for each State and Territory is determined based on a formula set in the LWCF Act, and is subsequently approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The grantee assumes all operation and maintenance costs in perpetuity. In Texas, the LWCF allocation funds a number of grant programs available to local communities, including

Amount: In 2016, Texas was allocated a total of \$5,415,887. All state and local grants require at least a 50 percent match by the non-federal partner.

Annual Timeframe: Varies depending on state grant program.

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm>

Contacts: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/contact-list.htm>

National Office:

National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Org-2225
Washington, D.C. 20240
202-354-6900
<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1600/index.htm>

Texas Office:

Director
State Parks
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
512-389-8545
<http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/>
Midwest Region:
National Park Service
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

The RTCA program offers local groups staff assistance and consultations for locally-led conservation projects. Projects may include developing trails and greenways or protecting rivers and open space. Regional RTCA offices provide application information and assistance.

Amount: Funding or grants not offered.

Annual Timeframe: June 30

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

Contact: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/contactus.htm>

National Office:

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program
1201 Eye Street NW Washington, DC 20005

Texas Office:

RTCA, National Park Service
1901 E. Ben White Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78741

Phone: (512) 744-1940

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(512) 878-7463

Intermountain Region:

Alan Ragins

303-969-2855

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Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP supports states and communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs and to improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects public safety, holds justice-involved youth appropriately accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of juveniles and their families.

The purpose of the Delinquency Prevention Program (formerly Title V) is to prevent youth at risk of becoming delinquent from entering the juvenile justice system and to intervene with first-time and non-serious offenders to keep them from further contact with the juvenile justice system. The goal is to reduce the likelihood that youth will become serious and violent offenders as adults, reducing the burden of crime on society and saving taxpayers billions of dollars.

The program includes the:

- Youth Tribal Program

- Gang Prevention Program
- Community-Based Violence Prevention Program
- National Forum on Youth Violence Program

The OJJDP will offer funding opportunities to states, territories, localities, and private organizations, including faith-based institutions to implement the departments programs through formula and block grants and discretionary grants.

To search for upcoming funding opportunities visit: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingList.asp>

FORMULA AND BLOCK GRANTS

The Formula Grants Program supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. Through this program, OJJDP provides funds directly to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to help them implement comprehensive state juvenile justice plans based on detailed studies of needs in their jurisdictions. The Formula Grants Program is authorized under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.).

In FY 2016, OJJDP awarded \$40 million in formula and block grants. The Juvenile Justice Specialists in each state administers the funding through sub-grants to units of local government, local private agencies, and American Indian/Alaska Native jurisdictions for programs in accordance with legislative requirements.

Website: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/funding.html>

Timeline: No funding opportunities listed at this time.

Contact:

(State of Texas)
 Juvenile Justice Specialist
 Erica Ortega
 Office of the Governor
 P.O. Box 12428
 Austin, TX 78711
 512-463-8406
erica.ortega@gov.texas.gov

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

OJJDP awards discretionary grants to states, units of local government, and private organizations to administer the several programs the OJJDP has for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. During FY 2016, OJJDP awarded \$242,905,063 in 268 discretionary grants.

Website: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/funding.html>

Timeline: No funding opportunities listed at this time.

Contact: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/about/StaffList.asp>

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 810 Seventh Street NW.
 Washington, DC 20531
 202-307-5911

Department of Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor provides both discretionary and non-discretionary/formula-based grants that implement programs of its agencies and divisions. Awarding and administering grants are done by either the department or by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management

The divisions and agencies of the Department of Labor that offer grant programs include:

- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): provides project grants (cooperative agreements) and the dissemination of technical statistical data and related information on labor force activities; provides data on prices (CPI) and cost of living; data on productivity and technology data; data on compensation and working conditions; data on employment projections.
- Employment and Training (ETA): ETA administers financial assistance programs pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), administering State formula grant programs for youth, adults and dislocated workers, national emergency grants for workers affected by mass layoffs, plant closures, and disasters; grant programs for workers with disabilities, Indians and Native Americans, and for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. ETA also administers grant programs for older American workers, apprenticeship programs, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs, and assistance for research and development of workforce programs. In addition, ETA is responsible for the operation and maintenance of a national system of public employment service offices and for the national unemployment insurance program.
- Mine Safety and Health (MSHA): provides grants for research, education and training programs to ensure an adequate and competent staff of trained inspectors; and assistance for establishing or improving State mine health and safety programs through technical assistance.
- Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA): provides grants to non-profit organizations to provide training, educational services, and technical assistance; assistance to states to administer and enforce state programs; assistance to states to provide occupational safety and health technical assistance and consultant services.
- Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP): The Office of Disability Employment Policy awards competitive grants establishing short-term pilot and technical assistance projects designed to identify, develop, test, evaluate, and disseminate policies to increase employment by expanding access to training, education, employment supports, assistive and systems technology, integrated employment, entrepreneurial development, and small business opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities. Current pilot projects focus on customized employment, Olmstead populations, and innovative demonstration youth grants, among others. Solicitations for grant applications are published in the Federal Register and announced at www.dol.gov/odep. ODEP grants are awarded by the OASAM grant office.
- Veterans' Employment and Training (VETS): administers programs that address the employment, training, and job security needs of Americans who have served in uniform. VETS awards the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) as a formula grant, to each state, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. VETS also awards competitive grants to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment with in the labor force and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. VETS grants are awarded by the Employment and Training Administration Office of Grants Management.

Website about grant and contract opportunities with DOL: <https://www.grants.gov/>

Contact: Awarding and administering grants are done by either the department or by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management

Regional Offices (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management): <https://www.dol.gov/oasam/regional/about-regional.htm>

YOUNG OFFENDER INITIATIVE

This program is designed to enhance community safety by successfully reintegrating young offenders into the community by helping them become productive, responsible, and law-abiding citizens, obtain and retain long-term employment, maintain a stable residence; and successfully address their substance abuse issues and mental health needs. Eligible applicants must be state or local agencies or units of government, tribal governments, public or private nonprofit entities designated as 501(c)(3) or local Workforce Investment Boards that have formed partnerships with state and local agencies.

For grant opportunities: <https://www.doleta.gov/grants/sga/01-109sga.htm>

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

The Youth Opportunity Grants authorized in the 1998 Workforce Investment Act (www.usworkforce.org) offer a chance to make a significant impact on concentrated poverty and unemployment in this country. As a complement to Job Corps, School-to-Work, and formula-funded youth programs, Youth Opportunity Grants provide the Department of Labor with a means to saturate targeted high-poverty urban and rural communities with sufficient resources to cause a significant drop in youth unemployment and idleness in these communities.

For more information, go to: https://www.doleta.gov/grants/grants_awarded.cfm

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT STATE AND LOCAL FORMULA YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) authorizes funds to state and local communities to support workforce training and related activities for youth who are 14-21, low income, basic skills deficient, a school dropout, homeless, a parent or parenting, offender, or individuals including disabled youth that require additional assistance to complete educational program or hold employment. Local workforce investment boards (WIBs) must provide the following services to eligible youth: tutoring, study skills training, dropout prevention strategies, alternative secondary school services, summer employment opportunities, paid and unpaid work experiences, and occupational skill training. Under WIA, each local WIB must establish a Youth Council to develop, implement, and oversee strategic plans for providing these programs and enhancing youth connections to One-Stops.

State contacts can be found at: <https://www.doleta.gov/regions/region-4.cfm>

More information: https://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/wiaformula.cfm

Department of Transportation

TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly \$4.6 billion for seven rounds of TIGER to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area. The eligibility requirements of TIGER allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs.

Website: <https://www.transportation.gov/tiger>

Contact:

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
TIGERgrants@dot.gov
Phone: 202-366-0301

Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) was signed into law in December 2015, authorizing \$305 billion over fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs. Funds are apportioned to states to administer programs or further allocate funds.

ACCELERATED INNOVATION DEPLOYMENT (AID) DEMONSTRATION GRANT

The AID Demonstration program is one initiative under the multi-faceted Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP) approach providing funding and other resources to offset the risk of trying an innovation. The AID Demonstration program provides funding as an incentive for eligible entities to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation. The FAST Act authorized funding for the continuation of these programs and opportunities. Entities eligible to apply (Applicants) are State DOTs, Federal Land Management Agencies, and tribal governments. Metropolitan planning organizations and local governments may apply through the State DOT as a sub recipient.

Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/grants>

Amount: \$50,000 to \$1 million; Estimated Total Program Funding: \$50 million

Timeframe: Sep 30, 2020; Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.

Contact:

Fawn Thompson
Program Coordinator
(404) 562-3917
Fawn.Thompson@dot.gov

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality improvement program (CMAQ) is to realign the focus of transportation planning toward a more inclusive, environmentally sensitive, and multi-modal approach. The CMAQ program provides funding for programs and projects in air quality non-attainment and maintenance for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and small particulate matter (PM-10), which reduces transportation related emissions. Grants are provided through a reimbursement process that varies state by state. Funds may be used for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or non-construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use. In general, however, a sponsor would submit expenses to the state department of transportation, which would then reimburse at 80 percent of the project cost. The CMAQ Program was reauthorized for 2016 through 2020 through the FAST Act.

Amount: FAST Act provides for \$2.3 M to \$2.5 M in CMAQ funding each year from 2016 through 2020. It is estimated the State of Texas will receive an average of \$853 million in CMAQ funds annually.

Applications and information about CMAQ grants are available at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The Recreational Trails Program, was reauthorized by the FAST Act, provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users. Eligible project categories as defined in the act are: maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; construction of new recreational trails (with restrictions on new trails on Federal land); acquisition of easements or property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; state administrative costs related to program administration (up to 7 percent of a state's funds); and

operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as these objectives relate to the use of recreational trails (up to 5 percent of a state's funds). Each state has its own procedures and timelines to solicit, select, and fund Recreational Trails projects.

In Texas, the Recreational Trails program is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Amount: \$200,000 Requires 80/20 match

Timeframe: Annual Deadline – February 1st

Program website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/

<http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/nationalrecreationtrails>

State website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

Contact: For more information about project funding contact your State Trail Administrator. For a list of administrators go to: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/rtpstate.cfm

National Office:

FHWA

Christopher Douwes

Community Planner

Recreational Trails Program

Transportation Alternatives

Federal Highway Administration

FHWA HEPH-10 Rm E74-474

1200 New Jersey Ave SE

Washington DC 20590-0001

Phone: 202-366-5013

Texas Office:

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept

4200 Smith School Road

Austin TX 78744-3291

512-389-8743

Fax 512-389-8242

trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Program was created by Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act (SAFETEA-LU). The SRTS Program was funded at \$1.162 billion for Federal fiscal years (FY) 2005-2012 and is administered by State Departments of Transportation (DOTs).

The SRTS Program received dedicated funding through 2012. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) authorized the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which replaced the funding from pre-MAP-21 programs including the Transportation Enhancement Activities, Recreational Trails Program, and Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). MAP-21 did not provide specific funding for SRTS, but SRTS projects are eligible for TAP funds and for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. Under Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the TAP program was rolled into the Surface Transportation Program.

Safe Routes to School initiatives may be eligible under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program or Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.

Website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe_routes_to_school/

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The FAST Act converted the Surface Transportation Program to a block grant program that folds in the Transportation Alternative Program. The program provides funding to states and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals.

Amount: The FAST Act provides for an estimated average of \$4.796 million allocated to Texas for the STBG Program funding each year from 2016 through 2020

Timeframe:

Website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/stbgfs.cfm>

Contact: <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact/>

National Office:

Office of the Under Secretary for Policy

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

United States

Phone: 202-366-4540

Texas Office:

Administered by TXDOT

Online form:

<http://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html>

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES, STBG SET-ASIDE

The FAST Act amended the Surface Transportation Program to include a set aside for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which is replacing the MAP-21 Transportation Alternative Program. Similar to its predecessors, the Transportation Alternative Program and Transportation Enhancement Activities, the STBG Program, or TA Set-Aside, authorizes funding for The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to storm water and habitat connectivity; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways.

Amount: In Texas, The FAST Act provides for an estimated average of \$386 million set-aside from the STBG Program funding each year from 2016 through 2020

Timeframe:

Website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalalternativesfs.cfm>

Contact: <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact/>

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/infragrants>

National Office:

Office of the Under Secretary for Policy

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

United States

Phone: 202-366-4540

Texas Office:

Administered by TXDOT

Online form:

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS

Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities are federally funded, community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. TE projects must be one of 12 eligible activities and must relate to surface transportation.

For example, projects can include creation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, streetscape improvements, refurbishment of historic transportation facilities, and other investments that enhance communities and access. The federal government provides funding for TE projects through our nation's surface transportation legislation.

Applications and information about Transportation Enhancement grants are available at: www.enhancements.org.

Transportation Enhancement Activities Apportionments, Rescissions, and Obligations Website:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_enhancements/funding/

Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds are apportioned to the States by formula, based on amounts made available from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) under 23 U.S.C. 104(b) (3), which includes several adjustments, such as adjustments for metropolitan planning, open container and driving while intoxicated laws, highway safety, and safety belt and motorcycle helmet laws. The TE apportionments also include:

- FY 1992-1997: Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)
- TE funds were 10percent of the sum of STP funds (after adjustments) plus Minimum Allocation funds apportioned through the STP.
- FY 1998-2004: Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) (and extensions)
- TE funds were 10percent of the sum of STP funds (after adjustments) plus Minimum Guarantee funds apportioned through the STP.
- FY 2005-2009: Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)
- TE funds were 10percent of the sum of STP funds (after adjustments) plus Equity Bonus funds apportioned through the STP.
- FY 2010-2012: SAFETEA-LU extensions
- TE funds were 10percent of the sum of STP funds (after adjustments) plus Equity Bonus funds apportioned through the STP.
- FY 2013 and following: No new TE apportionments, but TE funds remained available through FY 2015.
- Some States may have residual TE funds available if TE funds did not lapse.

Department of Transportation – Coast Guard

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY

The RBS grant program provides funding to assist states with program administration, law enforcement and search and rescue capability, boater education, vessel numbering and titling

systems, aids to navigation, and public boating access sites. Allowable uses of the RBS Program funds include a wide spectrum of activities that fall into six broad categories – program administration, law enforcement and search and rescue capability, boater education, vessel numbering and titling systems, aids to navigation, and public boating access sites. States with approved boating safety programs that meet the participation requirements are eligible.

Amount: In 2016, Texas received approximately \$3.8 million in state grant funding

Timeframe:

Information about the program is available at: <http://www.uscgboating.org/grants/index.php>

Contact: <http://www.uscgboating.org/php-contact-form/contactC.php>

Commandant (CG-BSX-2)

U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters

2703 Martin Luther King, JR Ave SE

Stop 7501

Washington, DC 20593-7501

Phone: 202.372.1062

Environmental Protection Agency

Every year, EPA awards over \$4 billion in funding for grants and other assistance agreements. From small non-profit organizations to large state governments, EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals. With countless success stories over the years, EPA grants remain a chief tool in the advancement of human health and the environment.

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs>

AIR GRANTS & FUNDING

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) announces competitive funding announcements for projects and programs relating to air quality, transportation, climate change, indoor air and other related topics.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding>

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Grants and Debarment

Mail Code: 3901

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,

N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov

Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:

(202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection

Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Phone: (214) 665-2200

Toll free within Region 6:

(800) 887-6063

BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS

Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits

to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under Brownfields Assessment Grants, EPA is seeking proposals for Assessment Grants only, to provide funds to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning (including cleanup planning) and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=brownfields>

Award: varies \$200,000 to \$600,000, cost sharing not required, but encouraged

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Grants and Debarment

Mail Code: 3901

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,

N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov

Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:

(202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection

Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Phone: (214) 665-2200

Toll free within Region 6:

(800) 887-6063

BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANTS

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under the Brownfields Cleanup Grants, EPA is seeking proposals for Cleanup Grants only to provide funds to carry out cleanup activities at a specific brownfield site owned by the applicant.

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=brownfields>

Award: varies \$200,000; 20% cost share required.

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Grants and Debarment

Mail Code: 3901

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,

N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov

Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:

(202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection

Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Phone: (214) 665-2200

Toll free within Region 6:

(800) 887-6063

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM

The EPA Environmental grant program supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed and responsible decisions that affect environmental quality. The program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Each year, EPA's Office of Environmental Education releases a solicitation notice in the Federal Register that provides instructions for obtaining a grant. Educational agencies at the state, local and tribal level, state environmental agencies, college and universities, not-for-profit organizations, and noncommercial educational broadcasting entities are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Although government agencies cannot apply directly, they are encouraged to work with other entities on developing and implementing environmental education programs.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>

Contact:

National Office:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:
(202) 564-5315
Region 6 Office:
Bonnie King
king.bonita@epa.gov
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: (214) 665-2200

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS

With these grants, the EPA aims to provide financial assistance to grassroots community—based groups to support projects to design, demonstrate or disseminate practices, methods or techniques related to environmental justice. Specifically, EPA will grant funding assistance to be used for: environmental justice education and awareness programs; environmental Justice Programs (for example, river monitoring and pollution prevention programs); technical assistance in gathering and interpreting existing environmental justice data; and technical assistance to access available public information. Community-based grassroots organizations, other incorporated nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Tribal Governments are eligible. Applications are usually due at the beginning of March each year. Awardees are notified in August of each year.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources>

Award: Variable

Contact:

National Office:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:
(202) 564-5315
Region 6 Office:

Israel Anderson anderson.israel@epa.gov
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: 214-665-3138

URBAN PARK & RECREATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was authorized in November 1978 by Public Law 95-625, providing direct federal matching assistance to cities and urban counties for rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities. The law encourages systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities. Project proposals are submitted to the appropriate National Park Service Regional Office by eligible local units of government (selected cities and urban counties). Grants are awarded on a nationally competitive basis with regional offices having the primary responsibility for monitoring progress and post-completion requirements.

***A revised and updated Handbook will be available for this program when funding is restored in future appropriations.

Website: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/03/11/2016-05560/proposed-information-collection-urban-park-and-recreation-recovery-program-grants>

Three types of grants have been available through the UPARR program:

- Rehabilitation grants- provide capital funding to renovate or redesign existing close-to-home recreation facilities.
- Innovation grants-usually involve more modest amounts of funding aimed to support specific activities that either increase recreation programs or improve the efficiency of the local government to operate existing programs.
- Planning grants-provided funds for the development of a Recovery Action Program plan.

BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION PILOTS

The Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots (BADP) are designed to empower states, local governments and communities in economic and environmental redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely cleanup brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. The brownfields assessment pilots fund up to \$200,000 over a two-year period. These funds bring together community groups, investors, lenders, developers, and other affected parties to address site assessment and cleanup planning issues, such as green space. Acceptable green space redevelopment includes: parks, playgrounds, trails, gardens, habitat restoration, open space, and/or green space preservation. BADP are administered on a competitive basis and selected by evaluation panels consisting of EPA Regional and Headquarters staff and other federal agency representatives. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact and meet with their EPA Regional Brownfields Representative (RBR) early in the process of preparing a proposal.

A list of RBR's and contact information can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-contacts-epa-regional-offices>

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

Rio Grande Council of TX Website: <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=P100BH37.TXT>

BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND PILOTS

The Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) program allows states, local governments

and Indian tribes to receive loan funds for environmental cleanup of brownfields. The BCRLF can provide up to \$1,000,000 over five years for each pilot. The purpose of the program is to enable states, local governments, and Indian tribes to make low interest loans to facilitate the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields properties.

To contact your EPA Regional Brownfields Representative (RBR) go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-contacts-epa-regional-offices>

Information about the program and eligible sites is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

For grant Information: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>

CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROTECTION

The EPA offers this grant program to enhance public outreach and communication; assist families in evaluating risks to children and in making informed consumer choices; build partnerships that increase a community's long-term capacity to advance protection of children's environmental health and safety; leverage private and public investments to enhance environmental quality by enabling community efforts to continue past EPA's ability to provide assistance to communities; and to promote protection of children from environmental threats. Eligible applicants include community groups, public nonprofit institutions/ organizations, tribal governments, specialized groups, profit organizations, private nonprofit institutions/ organizations, municipal and local governments.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/niehsepa-childrens-environmental-health-and-disease-prevention-research-centers>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM

This EPA program seeks to provide financial assistance to States, Local agencies, and Indian Tribes for chemical accident prevention activities that relate to the Risk Management Program under the Clean Air Act Section 112(r). Additionally, through this program the EPA provides financial assistance to Tribes for chemical emergency planning, and community right-to-know programs, which are established to prevent or eliminate unreasonable risk to the health and environment of communities within the State. Eligible applicants include States, Local agencies in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Island, Northern Mariana Islands, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. Recipients must match 25 percent of the grant funds (including in-kind services).

For more information, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>

GENERAL MILLS CHAMPIONS: YOUTH NUTRITION AND FITNESS GRANTS

The American Dietetic Association Foundation, the President's Challenge, and the General Mills Foundation have partnered to improve youth nutrition and fitness in the United States. The new initiative, entitled "General Mills Champions," will provide grants to community-based groups. The initiative will also include sponsorship of the President's Active Lifestyle Awards, development of nutrition and fitness mentoring models, and sharing best practices. Through its funding component, the program will award fifty grants of up to \$10,000 each to encourage communities in the United States to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of young people, ages 2-20. Grants will be awarded to 501(c)(3) or 509(a) status not-for-profit organizations and agencies working with communities that demonstrate the greatest need and likelihood of sustainable impact on young people's nutrition and activity levels through innovative programs. Grants will be awarded to programs administered by non-profit organizations and quasi-governmental entities (e.g., Parks Boards) for demonstrating significant potential impact on youth groups with special needs or for having an impact on

large populations of youth.

For more information, go to: <http://www.eatrightfoundation.org/foundation/championgrants/>

TONY HAWK FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR SKATEBOARD PARKS

Through its grant program, the foundation seeks to fund the construction of skateparks that are designed and built by qualified and experienced skatepark contractors; include local skaters in the design process; are in low- income areas, or areas with a high population of “at-risk” youth; can demonstrate grassroots commitment to the project; have a creative mix of street obstacles and transition/vert terrain; do not require skaters or their parents to sign waivers; encourage skaters to look after their own safety and the safety of others; are open during daylight hours throughout the year; are free of charge; and are in areas that currently have no skateboarding facilities. Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. To be eligible, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) public charity or a state or local agency (including public school systems or public projects). The foundation also will consider assisting start-up organizations. The foundation expects to approve grant requests quarterly. See the foundation website for complete application procedures and to download an application form.

For more information, go to: www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/grant-application/

AETNA AND THE AETNA FOUNDATION: COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

These grants are for improving the quality of life in communities in which the company works by addressing critical social issues aligned with the foundation’s philanthropic focus areas. The foundation will consider applications for sponsorship of fundraising events such as galas and walks; outreach activities (e.g., health fairs); and other community-based health and wellness initiatives that are aligned with our priorities.

Additional information regarding the Regional Community Grants Program in each of Aetna’s business regions can be found at the foundation’s website at: <https://www.aetna-foundation.org/>

Note: Aetna Foundation funding is provided only to nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) or similar tax-exempt status and educational institutions.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL: FREE SEEDS FOR PLANTING “FREEDOM GARDENS”

The America the Beautiful Fund is a national nonprofit organization started in 1965 to encourage volunteer citizen efforts to protect the natural and historic beauty of America. In response to the events of September 11th, ABF is providing \$1 million worth of flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to plant “Freedom Gardens” across America. Anyone who wants to sponsor or start a Freedom Garden in their community can receive a grant of 100 to 1,000 free seed packets.

For further information and an application form, visit the program’s website at:

<http://healthyshasta.org/downloads/gardening/Free-Seeds.pdf>

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION: FACILITIES CAPITAL CHALLENGE GRANT

The Kresge Foundation awards grants for facility construction and renovation, capital equipment purchases and real estate acquisition. Grants range from \$100,000 to \$300,000 and are awarded to organizations that cater specifically to disadvantaged and disenfranchised in six program areas: health, environment, arts and culture, education, human services and community development.

For further information, visit the program’s website at: www.kresge.org.

Grant opportunities: <http://kresge.org/opportunities>

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION: GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is dedicated to promoting conservation and sustainable use of natural resources through environmental education, natural resource management, habitat protection, ecosystem restoration, and public policy development. NFWF funds a variety of wildlife and habitat preservation projects: Bring Back the Natives, FMC Corporation Bird and Habitat Conservation Fund, National Wildlife Refuge Support Group Grant Program, Native Plant Conservation Initiative, The Pathways to Nature Conservation Fund, Pulling Together Initiative, Restore Our Southern Rivers.

For further information, visit the organization's website at:
<http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/pages/home.aspx>

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS GRANTS

The Trusts make grants in the following program areas:

- The Culture program aims to assure that our nation's cultural resources are properly sustained and contribute to the health of our democratic society.
- The Education program seeks to raise the performance of students at all levels of education, especially the capabilities of students to learn for understanding and to acquire the literacies needed for productive employment and effective citizenship in our increasingly complex society.
- The Environment program aims to promote policies and practices that protect the global atmosphere and preserve healthy forest and marine ecosystems.
- The Health and Human Services program is designed to promote the health and well being of the American people and to strengthen disadvantaged communities.

The Public Policy program advances and helps sustain improvements in America's democratic life by strengthening the foundations of civic engagement and rebuilding Americans' confidence in government and the basic democratic process, primarily elections.

Applicants should first review the information about the program whose interests most closely match those of your organization. The guidelines lay out concisely each program's goals and objectives and the kinds of activities it will and will not consider. The Trusts will respond to all specific letters of inquiry but not to general solicitations for funds.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/supporting-the-greater-philadelphia-area/health-and-human-services/grant-faq>

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

SPECIAL RECREATION PROGRAM

This program assists development of recreation and related services for individuals with disabilities to aid their employment, mobility, independence, socialization, and community integration. Projects must provide recreational activities for individuals with disabilities in settings with peers without disabilities when possible and appropriate. The program awards discretionary grants on a competitive basis to states, public agencies, and nonprofit private organizations, including institutions of higher education.

For more information, go to: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/programs.html>

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

EXEMPLARY STATE PROGRAMS TO PREVENT CHRONIC DISEASE AND PROMOTE HEALTH

CDC supports a variety of programs to improve the nation's health by preventing chronic diseases and their risk factors. The CDC gives states guidelines, recommendations, and resources, helping state health and education agencies promote healthy behaviors. Park and recreation agencies can contract with public health and education agencies to provide these services.

For more information on this program, go to:

<http://www.astho.org/Programs/Prevention/Chronic-Disease-Prevention-and-Health-Promotion/>

To contact your state chronic disease director, go to: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chronic/>

Updated Link: <http://www.cdc.gov/grants/interestedinapplying/index.html>

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR LOCAL DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS (TITLE V)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) requests applications for programs to address the problems of delinquency prevention, within communities that experience high crime rates. Each state receives block grants to distribute to local delinquency prevention programs; public recreation agencies are eligible to apply. Each state has either a designated Title V Coordinator or Juvenile Justice Specialist who oversees the Title V grant program in that state.

To access contact information for your state coordinator or specialist, please go to:

<https://www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/titlev/pg1.html>

For grant opportunities: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingList.asp>

GANG FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) annually requests applications for programs to address the youth gang problem and one new evaluation program under its Gang-Free Schools and Communities Initiative.

Once the program is announced each year, an application kit can be found on the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Prevention Website: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/about/about.html>

Additional information may also be found at: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/index.html>

For grant opportunities: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingList.asp>

SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

The Drug-Free Communities Program is designed to strengthen community-based coalition efforts to reduce youth substance abuse. Currently, there are 307 Drug-Free Communities Support Program awards. The grants enable coalitions to design substance abuse initiatives that target the illegal use or abuse of a range of drugs, such as narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, cannabis, inhalants, alcohol, tobacco, or other related products that are prohibited by Federal, State, or local law.

For more information, go to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website:

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/>

For grant opportunities:

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingList.asp>

WEED AND SEED

Operation Weed and Seed aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in “weeding out” criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse. “Seeding” brings social and community services to the area, including SafeHavens for young people and economic development. Park and recreation departments that provide neighborhood restoration services, or prevention, intervention, or treatment for offenders may be eligible for funding. Potential sites must first gain “official recognition” from the EOWS. To do this they must develop a local strategy and plan for addressing crime consistent with Weed and Seed goals. The Office of Justice Programs suggests that each program have a coordinator.

For grant opportunities: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingList.asp>

PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION

This foundation is dedicated to supporting organizations that serve severely disadvantaged populations - including children and youth of all ages. This private foundation primarily funds general operating expenses, and looks for organizations that combine service with youth empowerment and advocacy for systemic change. First time grants can range between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

For more information, visit the website: www.publicwelfare.org

THREE GUINEAS: PROJECTS TO BENEFIT WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Three Guineas Fund welcomes proposals from tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations, or a fiscal agent with that status, for start-up projects as well as general operating support for established programs. The fund does not generally support direct service projects unless they are of strategic interest as models.

For more information, go to: www.3gf.org

TOSHIBA AMERICA FOUNDATION

The Toshiba America Foundation provides cash grants to classroom teachers to assist them in making improvements in the teaching of science and mathematics. Grants are available for teachers in grades K-6 and for grades 7-12.

For more information, go to: <http://www.toshiba.com/taf/>

UPS FOUNDATION: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The Community Investment Grant Program allocates dollars directly to UPS region offices in an effort to offer flexibility by UPS regions to invest monies in local causes they know well and support.

For more information, go to: <https://sustainability.ups.com/the-ups-foundation/>

RESOURCES FOR PLAYGROUND SAFETY FUNDING

There are many unsafe, old and outdated playgrounds that our children are playing on. However, the replacement of playground equipment can be a costly enterprise for your organization.

Suggestions for possible contributors to your project include: local civic foundations (they may also have a list of businesses that contribute to community projects), the Junior League, Jaycees, Kiwanis, Lions and local business and industry foundations.

Many fundraising sources are listed at your local library. The best way to electronically identify state-related information is to consider looking at the home pages of your senators and representatives.

Listings of government funding and grants are available through various sources such as the Federal Register, the Annual Register of Grant Support and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

Another terrific playground funding source comes from private funds. Over 43,000 private foundations are currently in the United States. Annually, their combined awards total more than \$10 million dollars. Community, corporate and family foundations are the best places to go for strictly local support. Private funding sources by state may be obtained through the Foundation Grants Index and other publications published by The Foundation Center, as well as other foundation sources such as Taft. Reference Collections operated by the Foundation Center are maintained in several locations in each state. You may contact the Foundation Center at (202) 331-1400 to find the location closest to you.

Besides networking with individuals in the community, a great way to find these foundations are to log onto the web.

Websites available to disseminate grant-related information include:

www.fdncenter.org (Foundation Center) and www.cof.org (Council on Foundations)

Grant information: <http://www.cof.org/content/grants-management>

FOUNDATIONS

The following are foundations that may be potential sources for playground equipment and playground safety based on passed giving as recorded in the 1994/95 Grants for Recreation, Sports and Athletics catalog by The Foundation Center.

Abell-Hanger Foundation (especially within the Permian Basin): <http://abell-hanger.org/our-process/>

Amon G. Carter Foundation (Fort Worth, Tarrant County): <http://www.agcf.org/how-to-get-support.html>

Houston Endowment, Inc.: <https://www.houstonendowment.org/focus-areas/>

Meadows Foundation, Inc.: <https://www.mfi.org/GrantAppGuide.html>

The Moody Foundation: <https://moodyf.org/application-process/>

Rockwell Fund, Inc. (especially Houston): <https://www.rockfund.org/grant-process/>

Shell Oil Co. Foundation (areas of company operations); <https://www.shell.us/sustainability/request-for-a-grant-from-shell.html>

The Wortham Foundation (Houston and Harris County): <https://fconline.foundationcenter.org/grantmaker-profile?collection=grantmakers&key=WORT001>

Cullen Foundation: <http://cullenfdn.org/grant-guidelines/> (Houston and Harris County)

NATIONAL BLUEPRINT: INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AMONG ADULTS AGE 50 AND OLDER

The goal of this program is to provide small grants in support of local community efforts designed to advance the goals of the National Blueprint: Increasing Physical Activity Among Adults Age 50 and Older. The National Blueprint: Increasing Physical Activity Among Adults Age 50 and Older was developed by 46 national organizations with a shared interest in promoting physical activity in the population over 50 years of age. The Blueprint, which was released in May 2001, is intended to serve as a guide for multiple organizations, associations and agencies to inform and support their planning work related to increasing physical activity among America's aging population. The Blueprint identifies barriers to physical activity in the older adult population and proposes a number of potential strategies that could be used to

address these barriers. Nineteen grants of up to \$25,000 will be provided to organizations and/or coalitions in support of local community projects designed to advance the goals of the Blueprint. Applications are invited from local agencies wanting to improve the health, function and quality of life of adults aged 50 and older. Universities and research institutes can apply but only as part of a broader coalition of local agencies and organizations.

For more information, go to: <http://www.icaa.cc/>

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Department of Labor, Division of Older Worker Programs of the Employment Training Community Service Employment Program announces funds to promote part-time employment opportunities in community service activities for unemployed, low-income individuals who are age 55 and over, that will foster increased prospect for their economic self-sufficiency. Eligible applicants include public and private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community-based organizations. Approximately \$342 million will be available for 10-20 awards.

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be available at: <http://www.doleta.gov/seniors/>

GRANTS FOR ARTS PROGRAMS

American Arts Alliance: www.americanartsalliance.org

American Association of Museums: <http://www.aam-us.org/>

Americans for the Arts: <http://www.artsusa.org>

Foundation Center's RFP Bulletin for Arts and Culture: http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_arts.jhtml

Fundsnet Arts Links: <http://www.fundsnet services.com/about-us.html>

Institute of Museum and Library Services: <http://www.ims.gov>

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies: <https://nasaa-arts.org/>

National Endowment for the Arts: <https://www.arts.gov/>

National Endowment for the Humanities: <http://www.neh.gov>

Wallace Reader's Digest Fund for Arts: <http://www.wallacefoundation.org>

STATE FUNDING SOURCES

Texas Parks and Wildlife

BOAT SEWAGE PUMPOUT GRANTS

Federal funds through the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 allow private marinas and local governments to receive grants to install boat sewage pumpout stations in Texas. Pumpout Grants can constitute up to 75% of all approved project costs. These grants provide funds for the construction and/or renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and portable toilet dump stations.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boat-sewage-pumpout>

Award: Competitive

Timeframe: Continuous

Contact:

Trey Cooksey, Program Manager

Phone (512) 389-8743

Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov

BOATING ACCESS GRANT

The Boating Access Grant Program provides 75% matching fund grant assistance to construct

new, or renovate existing, public boat ramps that provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. The State Boating Access Program receives funding from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. Funds for the federal program are derived from the federal gasoline tax generated by sales of gasoline for recreational motorboats and a federal excise tax on the sales of fishing tackle and trolling motors. Fifteen percent of the state's annual apportionment from this federal program must be used to provide public recreational boating access.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boating-access>

Award: \$500,000

Timeframe: Annually - October 1st

Contact:

Trey Cooksey, Program Manager

Phone (512) 389-8743

Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP) GRANT

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant provides funding to local governments and non-profit organizations for programming that introduces under-served populations to environmental and conservation programs as well as TPWD mission oriented outdoor activities.

Grants are available to tax-exempt organizations and local governments introducing non-traditional constituents to TPWD related outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental education programs. The success of this program lies in the partnerships created between TPWD and grass-roots organizations who have already established a relationship with these identified targeted audiences; females, physically/mentally challenged, ethnic minorities, low income and youth.

CO-OP provides grants to tax-exempt organizations ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. This is a reimbursement grant program. Recipients must purchase eligible items and submit proper documentation before being reimbursed. Eligible organizations can apply to use these funds for programming expenses such as equipment, leasing transportation, staff, liability insurance, food, program materials, etc.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>

Award: \$50,000

Timeframe: Annually – February 1st

Contact:

Cappy Smith, Program Manager

Phone (512) 389-8254

Email: cappy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov

LOCAL PARKS GRANT

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. Once funded, all grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions of the State of Texas legally responsible for providing public recreation services to their citizens. This includes cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts, and other special districts.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/about-local-parks-grants>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Annually – October 1st

Contact:

Dana Lagarde, Program Manager

Phone (512) 389-8175

Email: dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov

RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and currently there is not a maximum amount for motorized trail grants (call 512-538-4427 for motorized trail grant funding availability). Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

Award: \$200,000

Timeframe: Annually – February 1st

Contact:

Trey Cooksey, Program Manager

Phone (512) 389-8743

Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov

OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS

Types:

- Urban: 500,000 or more people
- Non-urban: 500,000 or less people
- Small community: 20,000 or less people

* based on 2010 census

How many funding cycles each year?

- 1

Maximum award amount?

- Urban: \$1,000,000
- Non-urban: \$500,000
- Small community: \$75,000

Application deadline?

- Oct 1st

- March - approval by board
- April - site visits by TPWD

Deadline for project completion?

- 2.5 - 3 years from contract date with a 1-year possible extension

Contact:

Dana Lagarde, Program Manager
Phone (512) 389-8175
Email: dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov

INDOOR RECREATION GRANTS

How many funding cycles each year?

- 1

Maximum award amount?

- Urban: \$1,000,000
- Non-urban: \$750,000

Application deadline?

- Oct 1st

Deadline for project completion?

- 2.5 - 3 years from contract date with a 1-year possible extension

Contact:

Dana Lagarde, Program Manager
Phone (512) 389-8175
Email: dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov

Texas Department of Transportation

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The purpose of the Federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is to address these issues head on. At its heart, the SRTS Program empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity once again. The Program makes funding available for a wide variety of programs and projects, from building safer street crossings to establishing programs that encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to school.

Since 2012, the Safe Routes to School Program funding has been combined with other bicycle and pedestrian programs through (what is currently called) the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.

More Information: https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/library/pubs/cit/srts_app_instructions.pdf

Contact:

Teri Kaplan, Texas Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11 Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483
Phone Number: 512-374-5235

Fax Number: 512-374-5244
Email: Teri.Kaplan@txdot.gov

Texas Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Division

SPECIAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The Texas Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Division administers 12 federal child and special nutrition programs for the State of Texas. TDA supports providers of nutrition assistance by helping ensure accountability and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars to nourish Texans in need. These nutrition programs exemplify "eating right" for Texans of every age and background and help them build a bridge to success. Everyone plays a role in teaching children the 3E's of Healthy Living - Education, Exercise and Eating Right.

Financial grants from organizations may help advance nutrition efforts in our schools and communities. On this page you will find descriptions of specific grants with upcoming deadlines, as well as a list of organizations that make grants on an ongoing basis to support local nutrition, fitness, health, education, and community initiatives.

Program Website: <http://www.squaremeals.org/Programs.aspx>

Grant opportunities: <http://www.squaremeals.org/FandNResources/FundingGrants.aspx>
Contact:

Texas Department of Agriculture
Mail: P.O. Box 12847
Austin, Texas 78711-2847
Physical: 1700 North Congress Avenue, 10th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (877) TEX MEAL (839-6325)
Fax #: (888) 203-6593
Email: squaremeals@texasagriculture.gov

Texas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands. CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, American Indian Tribes, or individuals. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible.

Through CIG, NRCS partners with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adopt promising technologies. These new technologies and approaches address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resources concerns. CIG benefits agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

States can also award project that benefit a limited geographical area. Participating states will announce their funding availability for CIG competitions through their state NRCS offices.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/cig/>

Amount: Total program funding averages \$20 million per year.

Contact:

National Office:
Program Contact:
nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov
(202) 720-1895

Melleny Cotton, CIG Program Analyst (202) 720-7412

Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov

Texas Office:

TEXAS STATE OFFICE

101 S MAIN ST

TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602

(254) 742-9800

(254) 742-9819 Fax

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

(254) 742-9881

Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

(254) 742-9525

Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers assistance to land owners who are already implementing conservation practices to enhance those practices. For example, if you have been practicing prescribed grazing, CSP would give you options to enhance that practice with activities such as grazing management to improve plants for wildlife, or grazing management to reduce soil compaction, or grazing management to improve riparian function, just to name a few.

With enrollment in CSP, the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with the property owner(s) to evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land. The NRCS conservation planner will present a variety of CSP enhancement alternatives for implementation on the land, based on existing conservation practices. CSP offers annual incentive payments for installing these enhancement practices.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/csp/>

Award: varies based on implementation of conservation practices

Timeframe: Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities. The next application deadline for funding consideration is February 3, 2017.

Contact:

Texas Office:

TEXAS STATE OFFICE

101 S MAIN ST

TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602

(254) 742-9800

(254) 742-9819 Fax

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

(254) 742-9881

Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

(254) 742-9525

Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) is designed to help people and conserve

natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program. All projects undertaken, with the exception of the purchase of floodplain easements, must have a project sponsor.

NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.

City and county governments, flood and water control districts, and soil and water conservation districts are the most common sponsors of EWP projects. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to:

- remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges,
- reshape and protect eroded banks,
- correct damaged drainage facilities,
- establish cover on critically eroding lands,
- repair levees and structures, and
- repair conservation practices.

NRCS may purchase EWP easements “in lieu of recovery” on any floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have a history of repeated flooding (i.e., flooded at least two times during the past 10 years). If it is more cost effective, EWP-Floodplain Easement (FPE) can be used as an alternative to EWP. See the comparison of EWP and EWP-FPE.

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/planning/>

Award: state-administered. Texas received over \$21 million in FY2016 to restore conditions from heavy rains and flooding in 2015.

Timeframe:

Contact: National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager, 202-690-0793

In Texas: Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager, claudeross@tx.usda.gov, 254-742-9822

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/eqip/>

Contact:

Texas Office:

TEXAS STATE OFFICE
101 S MAIN ST
TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602

(254) 742-9800
(254) 742-9819 Fax
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>
Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
(254) 742-9881
Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov
Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager
(254) 742-9525
Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov
Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES

AEGON TRANSAMERICA FOUNDATION

Aegon Transamerica Foundation grant dollars go to non-profit organizations in the following categories:

- Arts & Culture: Programs that foster creativity in the areas of music and the performing arts, including venues for artistic expression.
- Civic & Community: Programs that strive to promote community development, encourage civic leadership, and enhance work and business opportunities.
- Education & Literacy: Programs with a mission to provide knowledge and to expand individuals' capabilities, especially in the areas of financial literacy.
- Health & Welfare: Programs committed to improving the condition of the human body through nutrition, housing for the homeless, disease prevention and more.
- United Way: In addition to leading an annual campaign, employees' contributions are matched by at least 50%.

Grant requests are considered if they relate to the Aegon Transamerica Foundation's key focus areas and mission, and are designated for a community where there is a significant company and employee presence. In Texas, Transamerica is located in Plano, Texas.

Website: <https://www.transamerica.com/individual/about-us/who-we-are/aegon-transamerica-foundation/>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Applications for Foundation grants are reviewed upon receipt by local committee representatives. The timing of responses will vary by location.

Contact:

Gregory Tucker, greg.tucker@transamerica.com
Margaret Sherry, margaret.sherry@transamerica.com
Plano, TX Office
2700 West Plano Parkway
Plano, TX 75075
(972) 881-6000

AETNA FOUNDATION, GOLOCAL: CULTIVATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Aetna Foundation is dedicated to improving health in local communities and large populations alike. How do we make it happen? Through community-based programs, dynamic partnerships and proven models that can help people accelerate progress everywhere. Through its GoLocal: Cultivating Healthier Communities program, Aetna Foundation supports

local non-profit groups that advance healthy eating and active living in their communities.

Website: <https://www.aetna-foundation.org/grants-partnerships/grants.html>

Timeframe: Information for the 2018 cycle is not available.

ALLEN FOUNDATION

Grants are limited under the terms of the foundation's charter to projects that primarily benefit programs for human nutrition in the areas of health, education, training, and research. Preferences are given to proposals that train children and young adults to improve their health and development so they can form good nutritional habits at an early age. Proposals will need to contain a nutritional focus.

Website: <https://www.allenfoundation.org/commoninfo/aboutus.asp>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Rolling. Deadline is December 31st. Applications received after this date will be considered for the following year.

ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

The Allstate Foundation supports organizations dedicated to addressing two issues: Domestic Violence and Youth Empowerment. Applications for grants are by invitation only.

Website: <https://www.allstatefoundation.org/>

Contact: grants@allstate.com

BANK OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

Bank of America Foundation helps improve communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic health and sustainability. We address needs related to workforce development and education, community development, and basic needs.

Website: <http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/global-impact/charitable-foundation-funding.html>

Amount: Varies

Timeframe: The Foundation issues RFPs at various points throughout the year: Check funding opportunities on website

Contact: Foundation@bankofamerica.com

BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION GRAND CHALLENGES

The Grand Challenges family of initiatives fosters innovation to solve key health and development problems. See below for Grand Challenges grant opportunities with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as sole or contributing funder. Grant opportunities have defined issues or activities to address.

Website: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/about>

Opportunities: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenges>

Contact: grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF TEXAS HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Healthy Kids, Healthy Families (HKHF) began in 2011 as a three-year initiative designed to improve the health and wellness of at least one million children through community investments. We extended the program, making HKHF part of our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the children and families across Texas. To date, we've helped nearly three million children.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas Healthy Kids, Healthy Families initiative invests and partners with nonprofit organizations that offer sustainable, measurable programs. The programs must address health and wellness in the following areas:

- Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Disease prevention and management
- Supporting safe environments

In addition to aligning with one or more of our four areas of focus, the following criteria are required for review of all grant proposals:

- The organization must hold a 501(c)(3) tax status
- The grant must primarily target individuals in Texas
- The program must be measurable and demonstrate how the goals will be met as defined in the grant proposal

Website: <http://www.bcbstx.com/company-info/community-involvement/healthy-kids-healthy-families>

Award: up to \$250,000

Timeframe: FY 2019 updates begin early 2018

Contact: healthykidshealthyfamilies@hcsc.net

BNSF RAILWAY FOUNDATION

The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the communities they serve and in which their employees live, work, and volunteer. Generally, the foundation will consider grant requests that clearly fall within one or more of the following categories:

- Civic services including organizations which are concerned with the environment, as well as local community issues such as crime prevention, parks and recreation, diversity and community development.
- Cultural organizations that include performing, visual, and fine arts, museums and other related activities that offer opportunities for underserved children to experience cultural learning events, or preserve their cultural heritage.
- Educational institutions, both public and private, primarily at the college level. Grants of an exceptional nature may be made to vocational and non-college schools. Preferably, contributions will be directed toward the improvement of the quality of education. Ordinarily, grants will not be made to finance the expansion of a student body or the payment of scholarships. (BNSF's scholarship programs, as well as the Employee Matching Gift Program, are governed by separate policies.)
- Health and Human Service organizations such as YMCA/YWCA, programs that address chemical dependency treatment and prevention, spouse and child abuse, women's and children's aid and transitional shelters. This category also includes hospitals and medical programs.
- Youth organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs, Camp Fire, Scouts, Junior Achievement and similar groups.
- Federated organizations such as United Way and American Red Cross.
- A federally recognized tribal government, listed in the Federal Register by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Website: <http://www.bnsffoundation.org/>

Timeframe: Applications accepted continuously

Contact:

Manager BNSF Railway Foundation
BNSF Railway Foundation
2500 Lou Menk Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830
BNSFFoundation@bnsf.com

CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE FOUNDATION, QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT

The Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations that serve the disability community. Grants are awarded to organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases or birth conditions, including (but not limited to) stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Website: <https://www.christopherreeve.org/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/program-overview>

Award: Up to \$25,000

Timeframe: There are two application cycles each year. In 2016, the first cycle opened January 11 and closed February 16; the second cycle opened July 1 and closed August 15. Applications will open again in January 2017.

Contact:

QoL@christopherreeve.org
1-800-539-7309

CVS CAREMARK COMMUNITY GRANT

These grants provide funds to aid health-focused nonprofit organizations in their mission. Organizations must be invited to participate in the grant process, and are required to provide services in at least one of the following areas:

- Access to health care for underserved populations
- Chronic disease management programs
- Tobacco cessation and prevention services

Application for a Community Grant is by invitation only. For information about other giving programs, please contact the Community Relations team.

Contact:

Jennifer Leigh
Jennifer.Leigh@cvshealth.com
401-770-2935

DAVID & LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation has worked with partners around the world to improve the lives of children, families, and communities, and to restore and protect the planet. Applicable programs funded by the Packard Foundation include:

- The Conservation and Science Program invests in action and ideas that conserve and restore ecosystems while enhancing human well-being.
- The Children, Families, and Communities Program strives to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Website: <https://www.packard.org/what-we-fund/>

Award: varies

Timeframe:

Contact: Online form: <https://www.packard.org/contact-us/>
343 Second Street
Los Altos, CA 94022 USA
+1 (650) 948-7658

ESPING FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT

The Esping Family Foundation exists to help people and institutions of Dallas, Texas, specifically Dallas County to help themselves and future generations. Under the terms of its charter, the Foundation can distribute grants only to qualified public entities or 501(c)(3) charities serving the people of Texas. Grants are made in four categories:

- Education
- Human Services
- Health
- Arts and Culture

Website: <http://www.espingfamilyfoundation.org/grant-guidelines/>

Award:

Timeframe: There are two grant cycles each year:

- Spring Grant Cycle: You begin the grant application process by completing a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) which is due on or before February 15 each Spring. You will be notified on or before March 1st if you have been selected to proceed to the second phase of the grant process. Grant requests are due April 1st.
- Fall Grant Cycle: You begin the grant application process by completing a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) which is due on or before July 15 each Summer. You will hear on or before September 1st if you have been selected to proceed to the second phase of the grant process. Grant requests are due October 1st.

Contact:

Esping Family Foundation
2828 Routh St., Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75201
Phone: 214.849.9808
Fax: 214.849.9807
Heather Esping
President
hesping@espingfamilyfoundation.org
Jenny Kirtland
Vice-President
jkirtland@espingfamilyfoundation.org

FINISH LINE YOUTH FOUNDATION

The Youth Foundation is a philanthropic outlet for Finish Line to make a difference in the lives of youth in the communities it serves. Through the years, the Youth Foundation has fine-tuned its mission and grown its philanthropic presence including its grant giving capacity.

To date, the Youth Foundation has awarded more than \$14.5 million in funding to support youth and Special Olympics athletes across the country. The generosity of our customers who

donate online and in-store is what enables Finish Line to continually make an impact in the communities where our employees live, work and play.

FL Youth Foundation offers grants in three categories:

- Programmatic Grant: Up to \$5,000 to fund opportunities for kids to participate in community-based youth athletic programs and camps that emphasize active lifestyles, especially programs that serve disadvantaged and special needs kids.
- Legacy Grant: \$10,000 to \$75,000 to fund new facilities improvements and/or renovations to existing buildings, grounds, and property.
- Founder's Grant: \$5,000 to \$25,000 to fund emergency needs that would somehow be keeping the organization from providing current services, such as natural disasters or other unforeseen fiscal circumstances.

Website: <http://www.finishline.com/store/corporate/youthFoundation.jsp>

Award: varies

Timeframe: There are four grant submission cycles through the year, accepted and reviewed on a quarterly basis.

FUEL UP TO PLAY 60

Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with the USDA, to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives.

Up to \$4,000 per year is available to qualified K-12 schools enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60 to jumpstart healthy changes.

Website: <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/>

Award: Up to \$4,000

Timeframe: November 2, 2016

Contact: Online contact form: <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/about/contact-us>

GENERAL MILLS FOUNDATION GRANTS

General Mills Foundation philanthropy focuses on:

- Increasing community food security worldwide.
- Advancing the sustainability of agriculture.
- Protecting the natural resources upon which food and people depend.

GM partners with employees to strengthen our hometown communities worldwide through volunteerism and grant-making addressing local community needs.

Website: <http://www.generalmills.com/en/Responsibility/general-mills-foundation>

GO! GRANT

GO! Grants are \$1,000 to \$5,000 grants to elementary schools to spark and sustain physical activity programs that take place before, during or after the school day. The funds may be used for equipment, facilities, professional development for adults and programs that increase students' physical activity to the recommended 60 minutes or more per day. Grants are available in all states and the District of Columbia.

PHIT America GO! Grants have been awarded to almost 300 schools getting children 5-12

years old physically active and healthier. GO! Grants help get children active for the first time or increase their physical activity & fitness level. Leading brands like Nike, Adidas, Brooks, ETS, Life Fitness, Wilson, Mizuno, the USTA and many more are investing in the GO! Grants programs.

GO! Grant programs are implemented by three-year partner, KIDS in the GAME, which excels in managing programs which get more kids off the couch and physically active. This program is the ideal way to fight the 'Inactivity Pandemic' which is creating health issues for our children.

Website: <https://www.kidsinthegame.org/go-grant-school-activity-grants/>

Amount: \$1,000 to \$5,000

Timeframe: 2016-2017 deadline has ended

Contact:

Address: 875 SE 3rd Street

Suite #240, Bend, OR 97702

Phone: 541-508-3966

Fax: 541-639-3645

info@kidsinthegame.org

HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION, COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

Grants up to \$5,000 are available to IRS-registered 501c designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.

The primary goal is to provide grants and volunteer opportunities to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications, and/or weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools and other similar facilities.

Website: <https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>

Amount: up to \$5,000

Timeframe: Rolling deadline. Will receive decision 6 weeks after submission. Last day to submit applications in 2016 is December 31, 2016.

Contact: small_grants@homedepot.com

KERR FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Kerr Foundation, Inc. supports 501(c)3 organizations, programs and institutions that provide new or enhanced opportunities in the areas of education, health, cultural development and community service. Preference is given to Oklahoma organizations and institutions, although they recognize that such located outside the state and region can also have a beneficial impact on the economic, social and cultural growth and development of Oklahoma. Grant requests are limited to the following states: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas.

Website: <http://www.thekerrfoundation.org/guidelines.php>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Friday, January 13, 2017 - Grant Applications Due for consideration at the March 2017 trustee meeting

Contact:

The Kerr Foundation, Inc.

12501 North May Avenue

Oklahoma City, OK 73120

Tel (405) 749.7991

Fax (405) 749.2877

LOCKHEED MARTIN COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Lockheed Martin is committed to a program of philanthropy that supports the Corporation's

strategic business goals and invests in the quality of life in the communities where Lockheed Martin employees work and live.

In general, philanthropic contributions to national initiatives and organizations are made from corporate headquarters and contributions to local programs are made by Lockheed Martin sites close to the program.

Website: <http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/who-we-are/community/philanthropy.html>

Amount: varies

Timeframe: Applications are accepted year-round. Evaluations are typically performed quarterly. Some grant applications may not be able to be considered until the next year's budget cycle, particularly those received in the second half of the year.

Contact: Community Relations - community.relations@lmco.com

L.L. BEAN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE GIVING

The L.L. Bean Community Charitable Giving program focuses giving on national and local outdoor conservation and recreation organizations. L.L.Bean has given more than \$14 million to local, state, regional and national conservation organizations in the last ten years. Grants are made only to qualified, federal tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organizations.

Grants are made in these four categories:

1. Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

Primary activities include the maintenance and protection of our natural resources; efforts to engage more young people in activities that are relevant to our product line, such as camping, hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, fly fishing, hunting, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing; and programs that have proximity to L.L.Bean Retail Stores.

Some of our recipients include the National Park Foundation, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, The Student Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, Trout Unlimited and National Wild Turkey Federation. For a more comprehensive list, [click here](#).

2. Health and Human Services

L.L.Bean has donated over \$6 million to health and human service organizations in the past ten years, primarily through the United Way in communities where we have a physical presence. These donations reflect our confidence in the United Way allocation process and our belief in supporting the physical and emotional well-being of our employees, their families and our neighbors. Because of our significant leadership gifts in this area, we are not accepting requests from health and human service organizations at this time.

3. Education (*only available in Maine)

L.L.Bean has contributed over \$4 million to statewide initiatives in Maine such as Junior Achievement and Jobs for Maine's Graduates, as well as local education partnerships. Our support is limited to the following Maine school systems: Freeport, Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Bangor. We do not fund education initiatives outside of Maine.

4. Culture and the Arts (*only available in Maine)

We support organizations that enrich the cultural development of our local Maine communities, including the Portland Museum of Art, Maine State Music Theatre and the American Folk Festival in Bangor. We only offer support to arts organizations in Freeport, Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Bangor, Maine.

Website: http://www.llbean.com/customerService/aboutLLBean/charitable_giving.html

Amount: varies

Timeframe: Ongoing.

Contact: donationrequest@llbean.com

LOWE'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS GRANT

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation's primary philanthropic focus centers on K-12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe's Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with their core business.

Lowe's Community Partners grant program helps build better communities by providing monetary assistance to nonprofit organizations and municipalities looking for support of high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements.

Website: https://www.lowes.com/cd_Corporate+Citizenship_674540029_

<https://newsroom.lowes.com/serving-communities/>

Grant applications: <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

Amount: \$2,000 to \$100,000

Timeframe: There are two grant application cycles a year:

Spring Cycle: March 19, 2017 – May 11, 2017

Fall Cycle: July 2, 2017 – August 24, 2017

Contact:

Community Relations

704-758-2917

Community@Lowes.com

LOWE'S SMALL GRANTS

The small grants program is an outlet for organizations seeking smaller-scale assistance for non-educational focused projects. These grants range from \$100 to \$2,000. Small grant project requests must also fit within the Giving Guidelines. These requests are received on a rolling basis, with no specific cycle dates.

Website: <https://newsroom.lowes.com/serving-communities/>

Grant applications: <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

Amount: \$100 to \$2,000, distributed as a Lowe's gift card.

Timeframe: Continuous

Contact:

Community Relations

704-758-2917

Community@Lowes.com

LOWE'S TOOLBOX FOR EDUCATION GRANT

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation's primary philanthropic focus centers on K-12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe's Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with their core business.

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education program is designed to help build better schools and communities by offering schools the opportunity to apply for a grant between \$2,000 and \$5,000. Playground projects are eligible under the grant program. Schools can use funding to build a new playground or refurbish old equipment. The Toolbox for Education program also allows for schools to pad the ground with wood chips or rubber matting to make playgrounds safe. In addition, schools may use funding to enhance a playground with handicapped—accessible configurations and build pathways for wheelchair accessibility.

Website: <https://toolboxforeducation.com/hta.html>

Amount: \$2,000 to \$5,000

Timeframe: There are two grant application cycles a year:

Spring Cycle: December 18, 2016 – February 9, 2017

Fall Cycle: August 6, 2017 – September 28, 2017

Contact:

Community Relations

704-758-2917

Community@Lowes.com

info@toolboxforeducation.com

MATTEL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

The Mattel Children's Foundation focuses its strategic grant making on one major objective: Improving the lives of children in need. The Mattel Children's Foundation has developed partnerships with exemplary nonprofit partners that demonstrate this ideal through both compassionate outreach to children and strong financial accountability.

The foundation is driven by the belief that play is essential for all children because it is fundamental to development and learning but millions of children lack access to play. Currently, the foundation is dedicated to supporting nonprofit organizations around the world that make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, and with an emphasis on programs that support or enhance the opportunity for children to play.

Not accepting unsolicited applications at this time.

Website: <http://philanthropy.mattel.com/focus#time>

METLIFE FOUNDATION

MetLife Foundation has committed \$200 million over five years to help low-income individuals and families get access to safe and affordable financial products and services. MetLife Foundation works in both developing and developed economies to expand and improve financial services. We fund approaches that help low- and moderate-income people:

- improve basic cash flow management
- prepare for life's inevitable challenges
- take advantage of opportunities
- achieve their short- and long- term goals

In addition, MetLife sponsors initiatives in other philanthropic areas, expanding beyond the financial health of communities to support for medical research, arts and cultural institutions, disaster relief, and civic initiatives.

Website: https://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-responsibility/metlife-foundation/index.html?WT.ac=GN_about_corporate-responsibility_metlife-foundation

Contact: metlifefoundation@metlife.com

CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION

The Mott Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that are working to strengthen our hometown of Flint and communities around world. The foundation seeks to fulfill its mission of supporting efforts that promote a just, equitable, and sustainable society through these four programs:

- Civil Society: efforts to increase civic engagement, encourage charitable giving and help communities make positive change.

- Education: efforts to expand learning opportunities and supports for children, particularly those from low- and moderate-income communities.
- Environment: programs around the world that protect communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend.
- Flint Area: efforts to help our hometown of Flint solve problems, create opportunities and build a vibrant future for the community and its residents.

Funding for unsolicited requests is very limited. Interested entities wanting to submit an idea for funding should first complete a letter of inquiry (LOI) form. Your LOI will help our program staff determine the relevance of proposed project and offer advice on whether to submit a full proposal.

Website: <https://www.mott.org/>

Contact: Office of Proposal Entry

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Mott Foundation Building

503 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 1200

Flint, MI 48502-1851

U.S.A.

MUSCLE MILK RECOVERY GRANT

The MUSCLE MILK® team awards grants to revitalize high school athletic departments around the country that demonstrate a financial need. The Muscle Milk Recovery Grant™ program helps athletic programs solve immediate needs like purchasing new uniforms, replacing broken equipment or restoring facilities in disrepair.

CytoSport, Inc. ("Sponsor") believes strongly that sports and exercise are essential to the health, well-being and happiness of children and adults of all ages. As a result, we want to give back to our audience by providing grant money to worthy school or community programs that have a specific need for resources to improve athletic opportunities for kids and young adults. To facilitate this goal, we developed the Muscle Milk® Brand Recovery Grant Program ("Grant Program"), which will provide a series of grants to deserving programs at least four times a year, and maybe more. Each grant will represent a self-contained giveaway with an entry period as defined below.

Website: <http://www.musclemilkrecoverygrant.com/>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Ongoing. In 2016, three grant periods, ending on (i) September 15, 2016; (ii) October 31, 2016; and (iii) December 31, 2016.

Contact: Mail: 1340 Treat Blvd. Suite 350, Walnut Creek, CA 94597 Phone: 1-888-298-6629

NATIONAL SWIMMING POOL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The National Swimming Pool Foundation® is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to encourage healthier living by increasing aquatic activity through education and research. The National Swimming Pool Foundation has established the NSPF Fellowship Program to encourage and support graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who focus research in two areas associated with aquatic venues that are treated to maintain a sanitary condition (e.g. swimming pools, spas/hot tubs, therapy pools, water parks, etc.):

- Research to reduce the risk to people associated with - but not limited to - physical facility design, exposure to chemical or pathogenic contaminants, air quality, drowning, or entrapment, etc.
- Research to investigate and document the positive health consequences of aquatic activities against maladies such as - but not limited to - high blood

pressure, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer, aging, physical therapy, arthritis, etc.

Website: <https://www.nspf.org/NSPF-Scholarship-Program-and-Research-Fellowship-Grants>

Award: minimum of \$1,000 and \$2,000

Timeframe: Scholarships are awarded for the fall semester of each year. In order to be considered for the fall 2017 semester, the complete application package must be received by the National Swimming Pool Foundation no later than June 1, 2017.

Contact:

NSPF Fellowship Program
National Swimming Pool Foundation
4775 Granby Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-3131
Service@nspf.org

NATURE WORKS EVERYWHERE GRANT

The Nature Works Everywhere program is administered by The Nature Conservancy, a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Nature Works Everywhere gives teachers, students and families everything they need to start exploring and understanding nature around the globe alongside Nature Conservancy scientists. The program offers a grant opportunity to schools across the U.S. to build, amend or revitalize school garden projects with the core principal that gardens model nature on a relatable scale. By combining project-based learning curriculum with a school garden space, students learn conservation-mindedness.

In 2016, the Nature Works Everywhere grant broadened its support for all kinds of projects that involve students in developing a nature-based, green infrastructure solution to an environmental challenge in their community. Whether addressing issues surrounding access to healthy food, air quality, heat island effect, climate change or storm water collection, youth will be empowered as social innovators to model solutions in their school communities through project design and implementation. To accomplish this, the Nature Works Everywhere grant will support projects that implement green infrastructure to address local environmental challenges.

Website: <https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/home/>

Timeframe: Deadline for 2018 is November 3, 2017

Contact: natureworks@tnc.org

PEOPLE FOR BIKES COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. Please review the following information carefully before submitting a grant application. Proposals that are incomplete or do not fall within our funding priority areas will not be considered. Visit our Grants Awarded database for examples of funded projects.

PeopleForBikes accepts grant applications from non-profit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development, from city or county agencies or departments, and from state or federal agencies working locally. PeopleForBikes only funds projects in the United States. Requests must support a specific project or program; we do not grant funds for general operating costs.

PeopleForBikes focuses most grant funds on bicycle infrastructure projects and will also fund some advocacy projects.

Website: <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/community-grants>

Award: Up to \$10,000

Timeframe: PeopleForBikes generally holds 1-2 open grant cycles every year. The 2017 grant cycles have closed.

Contact: Zoe Kircos, Director of Grants and Partnerships, at 303-449-4893 x106 or zoe@peopleforbikes.org

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funds program and policy initiatives in four areas which are each critical to health equity—enabling everyone in our nation to live a healthier life:

- Health Systems: Catalyzing fundamental changes in health and health care systems to achieve measurably better outcomes for all.
- Healthy Kids, Healthy Weight: Enabling all children to attain their optimal physical, social and emotional well-being, including growing up at a healthy weight.
- Healthy Communities: Creating the conditions that allow communities and their residents to reach their greatest health potential.
- Health Leadership: Engaging a diverse array of leaders in all sectors with the vision, experience, and drive to help build a Culture of Health.

Specific grant programs are developed by RWJF program staff, in consultation with leading experts in our fields of interest, and with guidance and final approval from our board of trustees.

In many cases, a competitive call for proposals (CFP) is issued that defines the challenges to address, activities RWJF will support to achieve desired outcomes, and eligibility criteria. In addition, funding is also provided through open calls for ideas and different types of challenges and prize competitions.

Website: <http://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants.html>

Funding opportunities: <http://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants/funding-opportunities.html>

Award: varies

Timeframe: ongoing

Contact:

Office of Proposal Management

mail@rwjf.org

877-843-7953

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

Evidence for Action (E4A), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, funds research that expands the evidence base needed to build a Culture of Health. Our mission is to support rigorously designed quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research that yields convincing findings regarding the population health, well-being, and equity impacts of specific policies, programs and partnerships. We are especially interested in research examining the health impacts of programmatic or policy interventions that address factors outside the domain of health care services or public health practice.

Website: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants-and-grant-programs.html>

Program website: <http://www.evidenceforaction.org/>

Award: varies. E4A was allocated \$6.6 million in grant funding to award through July 2017.

Timeframe: Rolling basis.

ROTARY, DISTRICT GRANTS

District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs of a community of a qualified Rotary district. Each district chooses which activities it will fund with these grants. You

can use district grants to fund a variety of district and club projects and activities, including:

- Humanitarian projects, including service travel and disaster recovery efforts
- Scholarships for any level, length of time, location, or area of study
- Youth programs, including Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotaract, and Interact
- Vocational training teams, which are groups of professionals who travel abroad either to teach local professionals about their field or to learn more about it themselves

Website: <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/apply-grants/district-grants>

SAUCONY RUN FOR GOOD FOUNDATION

The Saucony Run For Good Foundation donates funds to causes aimed at keeping kids healthy and offers grants to reduce the childhood obesity epidemic. Grants are open to community nonprofit organizations that initiate and support running programs for kids.

Website: <http://www.saucony.com/en/runforgood/>

Award: up to \$10,000

Timeframe: Grants are issued twice per year, once in February and once in August. The deadline to apply for those grants are 12/15 and 6/15.

Contact:

191 Spring Street
Mail Drop 318S
Lexington, MA 02420-9191
runforgood@saucony.com

SHANE'S INSPIRATION

Shane's Inspiration is a non-profit organization committed to the creation of inclusive, sensory rich, developmentally appropriate, fun, safe, and challenging playgrounds where children of all abilities can play together at their highest level of ability. Shane's Inspiration offers assistance for the installation of inclusionary playgrounds.

Website: <http://shanesinspiration.org/build/>

Timeframe: ongoing

Contact:

15213 Burbank Boulevard,
Sherman Oaks, CA 91411 USA
Tel – (818) 988-5676
Fax – (818) 988-5677
Email – info@shanesinspiration.org

VOYA UNSUNG HEROES

Each year, 100 educators are selected to receive \$2,000 to help fund their innovative class projects. Three of those are chosen to receive the top awards of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000. The program is administered by Scholarship America, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship, tuition assistance and other education support programs for corporations, foundations, associations and individuals.

Applicants to the Voya Unsung Heroes Awards Program must be:

- Employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the United States.
- Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff

with effective and innovative projects that improve student learning.

Website: <https://www.scholarsapply.org/unsungheroes/>

Award: \$2,000 and opportunity to receive “top awards” of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000

Timeframe: application must be submitted on or before April 30, 2018.

Contact: unsungheroes@scholarshipamerica.org, 1-507-931-1682

WALMART COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Through the Community Grant Program, store associates are proud to support the needs of their communities by providing grants to local organizations. Funds must benefit the facility's service area: potential grantees should be nonprofit organizations with programs that benefit communities within the service area of the Walmart store, Sam's Club or Logistics facility from which they are requesting funds.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have identified four core areas of giving: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Women's Economic Empowerment and Opportunity. To ensure that your application has the best chance of being funded, the proposed use of the grant should fit within one of these areas of giving.

Website: <http://giving.walmart.com/walmart-foundation/community-grant-program>

Award: \$250 to \$2,500

Timeframe: Annually – Grant cycle begins February 1st and deadline December 31st

WALMART STATE GIVING PROGRAM

The State Giving Program invests in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. The Walmart Foundation has a State Advisory Council in each state, made up of Walmart associates representing local communities. Each Council helps identify local needs within its state, reviews all eligible grant applications and makes funding recommendations to the Walmart Foundation. Councils base recommendations on alignment with Foundation focus areas, state or community needs and program eligibility criteria.

Website: <http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/>

Award: \$25,000 to \$200,000

Timeframe: All states have two application cycles annually. The State Giving Program application is currently closed. The application will reopen early 2017.

WALMART NATIONAL GIVING PROGRAM

The National Giving Program supports organizations working across one or more states to address social issues strongly aligned with our focus areas. This program often provide funds to organizations that have local affiliates around the country, and the majority of grants from this program include re-grants to implement programs in local communities.

Website: <http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/national-giving>

Award: \$250,000 and above

WELLS FARGO, COMMUNITY GIVING

Wells Fargo and the Wells Fargo Foundation provide monetary support, expertise, and volunteers to national and local nonprofit organizations and causes that align with our business priorities, values, business expertise, and geographies. Wells Fargo works with a wide range of

nonprofits and community organizations to stabilize and strengthen low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, as well as address global social, economic, and environmental challenges. Wells Fargo focuses giving in the following areas:

- **Community Development:** programs that help provide affordable housing for low and moderate income individuals; promote economic development by financing small businesses or small farms; provide job training for low and moderate income individuals Provide financial education and promote economic empowerment; help to revitalize low and moderate income communities
- **Education:** Programs that promote academic achievement for low- and moderate-income students with a priority emphasis on K-12; provide training for teachers and administrators working with low- and moderate-income students; encourage school partnerships with parents and guardians, the local community, and the business community.
- **Human Services:** social and human service organizations whose work chiefly benefits low- and moderate-income individuals.
- **Arts and Culture:** Projects and requests that work to enhance community diversity through access to cultural experiences for low- and moderate-income individuals, availability of a broad array of artistic opportunities and venues that reflect the community's diversity, and educational programs.
- **Civic Engagement:** projects that enhance a community's quality of life through projects involving public policy, community beautification, civic leadership, citizen education, and cultural diversity.
- **Environment:** including natural resources conservation, environmental education, and support the transition to a sustainable environment.

Website: <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/corporate-responsibility/texas-grant-guidelines/>
Amount: Varies
Timeframe: Ongoing.
Contact: Each region in Texas manages its own application process and accordingly has its own contact.

RESOURCES

GRANTS.GOV

The Grants.gov program management office was established in 2002 and is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Grants.gov is an E-Government initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget.

Grants.gov is a resource for those seeking grants through federal funding opportunities. The site makes it simple to find grants based on Keyword searches, Categories, Agencies, or Eligibilities.

Website: www.grants.gov

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) provides a full listing of all Federal programs available to State and local governments (including the District of Columbia); federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; Territories (and possessions) of the United States; domestic public, quasi- public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals.

Website: <https://www.cfda.gov/?s=program&mode=list&tab=list>



appendix C

San Marcos Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan

San Marcos Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan Description

The riverfront parks system consists of all the parks along the San Marcos River. As a whole, these properties represent the more popular parks in the area. Moving forward, the City should consider redeveloping the riverfront parks to improve accessibility, connectivity, facilities, amenities, and programming.

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations:

- Enhance the pedestrian and bicycle connection between downtown San Marcos and the riverfront parks by improving CM Allen Parkway through a planted center median and Complete Streets improvements to seven intersections (e.g., at west Hopkins, Cheatham, and Comal Streets). The street improvements would include on-street parking, removing the bike lanes and replacing them with a two-way cycle track on the east side of CM Allen Parkway, and increasing the amount of sidewalk space. These proposed improvements create a gateway feature to downtown San Marcos and the riverfront parks system while at the same time addressing pedestrian/bicycle and vehicular safety concerns. See *CM Allen Section* on page C - 5.
- Create trail gateway entrances at key points along the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail. Three possible trail gateway entrances are:
 - » The new proposed parking area on the Meeks property
 - » As part of an enhanced parking area near the new playscape
 - » The new proposed parking area off of CM Allen Parkway south of Cheatham Street
- Add a gateway entrance along Charles Austin Drive into City Park. The addition of this gateway would provide visitors who would like to use the riverfront parks direction from Charles Austin Drive to the Lions Club.
- Incorporate wayfinding signage to park entrances and along the trails to direct users to park amenities and key downtown destinations.
- Increase the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail from a six-foot trail to a 10 to 14-foot trail that would connect to Texas State University to the north, to areas south of I-35, and eventually to trails along the Blanco River.
- Add a regional trail linking the riverfront parks to the East Guadalupe neighborhood via the drainage way north of I-35.
- Construct an underpass and trail connection below the railroad and to the I-35 thoroughfare improvements.
- Add trail amenities such as exercise stations, water fountains, benches, bike racks, and interpretative signage to the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail.
- Create internal loop trails within each park sub-unit.
- Develop a series of new parking lots that address parking surface water quality and allow for controlled/paid parking during the peak summer season. Possible parking areas include:
 - » A new, smaller parking lot as part of the Meeks property
 - » A redeveloped parking lot south of the railroad tracks
 - » A new parking lot north of Cheatham Street
 - » South of Cheatham Street

San Marcos Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan



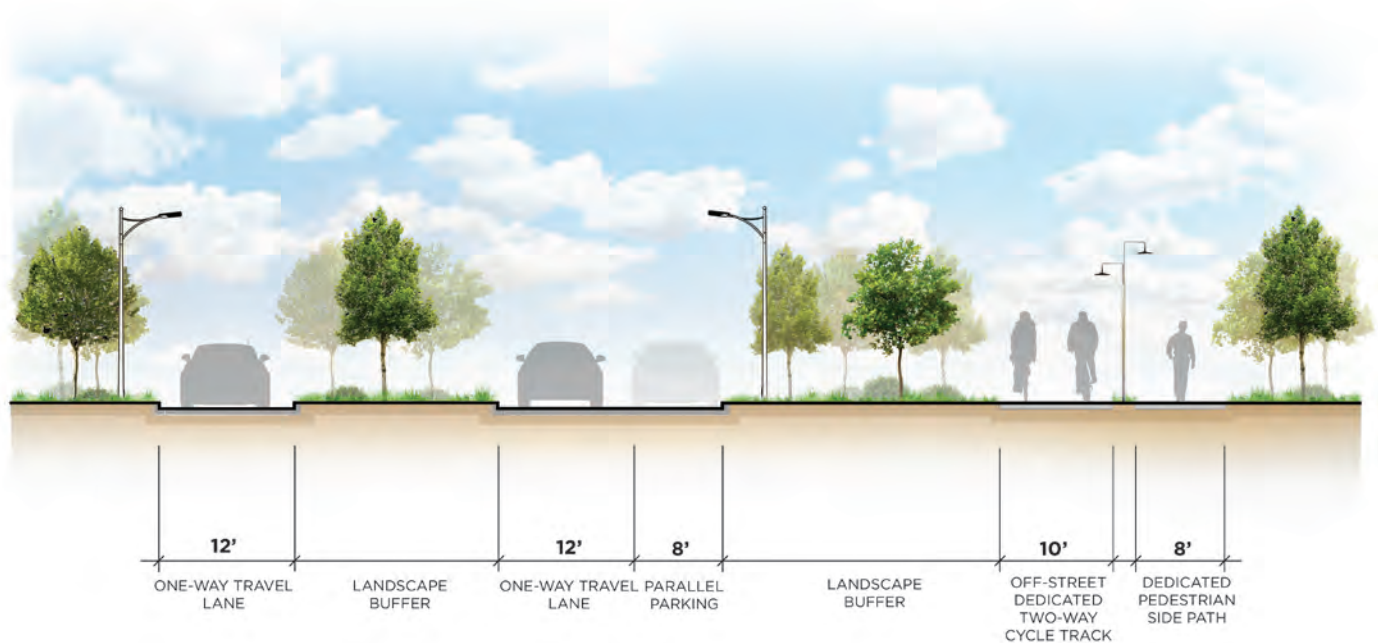
Entry Plaza Illustrative





This splash pad is one example of an ammenity that could be added to the proposed entry plaza.

CM Allen Section



- » As new parking lot as part of a potential, relocated Convention and Visitors Bureau at the corner of CM Allen Parkway and the I-35 frontage road
- » A new parking lot off of Cape Street
- Create additional river access points for canoes and kayaks that are ADA accessible and designed to accommodate the high usage expected during the peak summer season.
- Make the river more visible to the visitors of San Marcos by adding iconic gateway signs along Interstate 35 where it crosses the San Marcos River. These signs could also be added along Interstate 35 on the north edge of San Marcos. Missouri City and Buffalo Bayou in Houston are two examples of communities that have entry monuments to their cities.

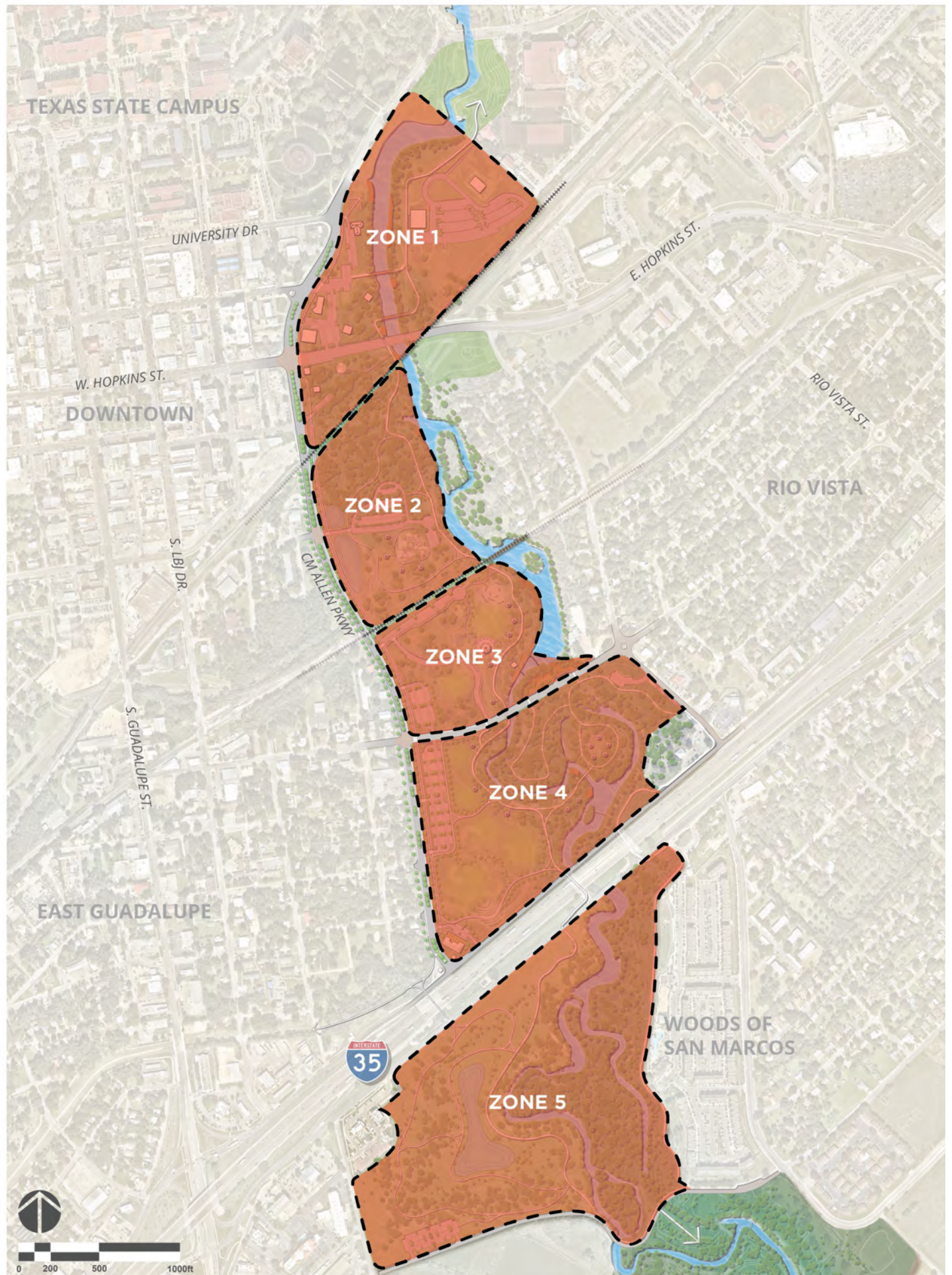
Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations:

- Create an iconic pedestrian connection between downtown and the riverfront parks system at East Hutchison Street and CM Allen Parkway. This entry is intended to create a grand entrance to the park system and to create a seamless connection to downtown. *See Entry Plaza Illustrative.*
- Evaluate long-term opportunities to relocate the Chamber of Commerce and Parks and Recreation Department Buildings to another location to maximize opportunity to create a grand entrance and off-downtown activity and event space. This would include an improved covered farmers market space, a small amphitheater area, a grand plaza with a water feature for festivals and events, and an enhanced area for River House.
- Add amenities to Children's Park including a new ADA loop connection from the parking lot to and around the exterior of the playscape (for stroller access), more shade (including a shade structure over all or a portion of the playscape), and additional seating areas. This should also include an off-set, but integrated children's spray pad and activity area.
- Create a central, large event space/amphitheater for concerts in the park and other live events. This area should be designed to accommodate up to 1,500 people.
- Remove the existing pool from Rio Vista Park and relocate it to a more appropriate location outside of the riverfront parks system. When the pool was initially constructed, Rio Vista Park was the centralized park that included this type of amenity. Today, more visitors who are not from San Marcos use the river and this park. Therefore, these types of amenities, including the baseball fields and tennis courts, could better serve the local community in another centralized location outside of the riverfront parks system.
- Remove the existing baseball/softball fields at Ramon Lucio Park and relocate them to a more appropriate location outside of the riverfront parks system.
- Create open play spaces/flex fields at the Children's Park, Rio Vista Park, and Ramon Lucio Park sub-units. These areas would accommodate residents and visitors and provide play areas for passive recreation (e.g., Frisbee, flying kites, pick-up games).



Source: http://www.andrewwatkins.us/wp-content/oqey_gallery/galleries/urban-ecologies/galimg/04-buffalo-bayou-promenade-houston-texas.jpg

- Add a rentable pavilion at the Rio Vista Park sub-unit.
- Construct new restrooms within the riverfront parks system and in close proximity to high traffic areas and along the trails.
- Add smaller, rentable pavilions along the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail and at river access points. During the peak summer season, these pavilions help with cost recovery; in the off-season, they can be offered at a discounted rate.
- Stabilize the riverbank and remove the amenities (e.g., picnic tables) at the Lion's club drop off point so that a river watching terrace can be constructed, deterring visitors from overcrowding the area.
- Improve bus access along Cheatham Street to increase safety.
- Relocate the Convention and Visitors Bureau to a more convenient location at the corner of CM Allen Parkway and the frontage road of I-35. This relocated Center should be designed with easy pedestrian/bicycle and vehicle access to the riverfront parks as well as I-35. The existing facility can be incorporated into the Discovery Center.
- Integrate a series of regional retention ponds into the riverfront parks system to help mitigate flood events and to create additional water features in the parks.
- Add volleyball and basketball courts to the riverfront parks.
- Add iconic lights to the trees and bridges in the riverfront parks.
- Propose underground electricity for the entire park system.
- Include parking lot standards such as tree preservation/mitigation, etc.



San Marcos Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan Cost Estimate

Item Number	Description	Units	Unit Price	Quantity	Total Price
ZONE 1 - Proposed Park Amenities & Improvements					
	12' Concrete Trail (San Marcos River Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail)	LF	\$175.00	1900	\$332,500.00
	10' Asphalt Multi-Use Path	LF	\$100.00	1500	\$150,000.00
	10' Asphalt Dedicated Bike Path	LF	\$100.00	200	\$20,000.00
	Enhancement to Festival Area	LS	\$250,000.00	1	\$250,000.00
	8' Concrete Pedestrian Path	LF	\$120.00	150	\$18,000.00
	6' Concrete Sidewalk	LF	\$100.00	500	\$50,000.00
	Furnishings (allowance)	LS	\$10,000.00	1	\$10,000.00
	ADA River access (AccuDock ADA Kayak Slip Dock)	LS	\$25,000.00	2	\$50,000.00
			Sub-Total Zone 1		\$880,500.00
ZONE 2 - Proposed Park Amenities & Improvements					
	Asphalt Vehicular Paving	SY	\$30.00	8000	\$240,000.00
	12' Concrete Trail (San Marcos River Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail)	LF	\$175.00	1500	\$262,500.00
	10' Asphalt Dedicated Bike Path	LF	\$100.00	1200	\$120,000.00
	8' Concrete Proposed Trails	LF	\$120.00	2200	\$264,000.00
	8' Concrete Pedestrian Path	LF	\$120.00	1200	\$144,000.00
	6' Concrete Sidewalk	LF	\$100.00	1000	\$100,000.00
	Stormwater Detention (includes site prep/cut & fill)	LS	\$100,000.00	1	\$100,000.00
	Enhanced amenities around playscape area	LS	\$10,000.00	1	\$10,000.00
	Splash Pad	LS	\$800,000.00	1	\$800,000.00
	Small Shade Pavillion (30ft dia.)	EA	\$50,000.00	3	\$150,000.00
	Prefabricated Concrete Restroom Facility (150 sf)	EA	\$150,000.00	1	\$150,000.00
	Furnishings (allowance)	LS	\$15,000.00	1	\$15,000.00
			Sub-Total Zone 2		\$2,355,500.00
ZONE 3 - Proposed Park Amenities & Improvements					
	Asphalt Vehicular Paving	SY	\$30.00	10000	\$300,000.00
	12' Concrete Trail (San Marcos River Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail)	LF	\$175.00	1100	\$192,500.00
	10' Asphalt Dedicated Bike Path	LF	\$100.00	700	\$70,000.00
	8' Concrete Pedestrian Path	LF	\$120.00	700	\$84,000.00
	6' Concrete Sidewalk	LF	\$100.00	3700	\$370,000.00
	Event/Amphitheater Feature	LS	\$200,000.00	1	\$200,000.00
	Prefabricated Concrete Restroom Facility (150 sf)	EA	\$150,000.00	1	\$150,000.00
	Large Shade Pavillion	EA	\$250,000.00	1	\$250,000.00
	Small Shade Pavillion	EA	\$50,000.00	5	\$250,000.00
	Furnishings (allowance)	LS	\$20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00
	ADA River access (AccuDock ADA Kayak Slip Dock)	LS	\$25,000.00	1	\$25,000.00
	Enhanced shore terrace zones (allowance)	LS	\$150,000.00	1	\$150,000.00
	Double Sand Volleyball Court (perimeter edge, sand, lighting & equipment)	EA	\$45,000.00	2	\$90,000.00
	Basketball Court (slab, surfacing, lighting & equipment)	EA	\$65,000.00	2	\$130,000.00
			Sub-Total Zone 3		\$2,281,500.00
ZONE 4 - Proposed Park Amenities & Improvements					
	Asphalt Vehicular Paving	SY	\$30.00	8500	\$255,000.00
	12' Concrete Trail (San Marcos River Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail)	LF	\$175.00	1400	\$245,000.00
	10' Asphalt Dedicated Bike Path	LF	\$100.00	1100	\$110,000.00
	8' Concrete Pedestrian Path	LF	\$120.00	2100	\$252,000.00
	8' Proposed Trails	LF	\$120.00	2200	\$264,000.00
	6' Concrete Sidewalk	LF	\$100.00	750	\$75,000.00
	Prefabricated Concrete Restroom Facility (150 sf)	EA	\$150,000.00	2	\$300,000.00
	Small Shade Pavillion	EA	\$50,000.00	8	\$400,000.00
	Pedestrian Bridge	EA	\$250,000.00	1	\$250,000.00
	Relocated Visitor Center (62,000 sf)	SF	\$350.00	6200	\$2,170,000.00
	Art Garden (allowance) (25,000 sf)	LS	\$75,000.00	1	\$75,000.00
	Furnishings (allowance)	LS	\$20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00
	ADA River access (AccuDock ADA Kayak Slip Dock)	LS	\$25,000.00	1	\$25,000.00
			Sub-Total Zone 4		\$5,321,500.00
ZONE 5 - Proposed Park Amenities & Improvements					
	Asphalt Vehicular Paving	SY	\$30.00	4200	\$126,000.00
	12' Concrete Trail (San Marcos River Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail)	LF	\$175.00	3500	\$612,500.00
	8' Proposed Trails	LF	\$120.00	6200	\$744,000.00
	6' Concrete Sidewalk	LF	\$100.00	600	\$60,000.00
	ADA River access (AccuDock ADA Kayak Slip Dock)	LS	\$25,000.00	2	\$50,000.00
	Prefabricated Concrete Restroom Facility (150 sf)	EA	\$150,000.00	2	\$300,000.00
	Stormwater Detention (includes site prep/cut & fill)	LS	\$200,000.00	1	\$200,000.00
	Furnishings (allowance)	LS	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
			Sub-Total Zone 5		\$4,478,000.00
				TOTAL	\$15,317,000.00

San Marcos Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan Cost Estimate (cont.)

Item Number	Description	Units	Unit Price	Quantity	Total Price
Downtown Park Gateway Pedestrian Connection					
	Concrete Plaza	SF	\$8.00	30000	\$240,000.00
	8' Concrete Pedestrian Path (includes subgrade and base prep)	LF	\$6.00	1200	\$7,200.00
	Asphalt Vehicular Paving	SY	\$30.00	3350	\$100,500.00
	Fountain Feature (allowance)	EA	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Splash Pad (allowance)	EA	\$200,000.00	1	\$200,000.00
	Parking Lot Shade Structure	LS	\$1,200,000.00	1	\$1,200,000.00
	Splash Pad Shade Structure	LS	\$60,000.00	1	\$60,000.00
	Performance Structure (1500 SF, allowance)	EA	\$200,000.00	1	\$200,000.00
	Entry Sign Feature (allowance)	LS	\$50,000.00	1	\$50,000.00
	Concrete Seatwalls	LF	\$150.00	650	\$97,500.00
	Furnishing (allowance)	LS	\$20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00
	Landscaping (allowance)	LS	\$150,000.00	1	\$150,000.00
				Sub-Total	\$2,355,200.00
				TOTAL	\$2,355,200.00
	Sub-Total Estimated Construction Cost				\$2,355,200.00
	Construction Contingency (20%)				\$471,040.00
	Soft Costs (15%)				\$353,280.00
	Total Estimated Construction Cost				\$3,179,520.00

Assumptions/Disclaimers

- 1) All Opinion of Probable Construction Costs (OPCC) represent the Consultant's best judgment as professionals familiar with the construction industry and current available unit pricing. Consultant do not guarantee that proposals, bids or actual Project Construction Costs will not vary from this opinion. Quantities are estimates only and the actual amount of work and/or materials are contingent upon final existing conditions, survey, and construction design of these improvements. This OPCC does not include subsurface utilities.
- 2) Unit pricing is based on average cost statewide and does not account for any site specific determinates that would effect costs of construction (i.e., unknown subsurface conditions, structural foundations/footing per local soil conditions, etc.).
- 3) 20% Construction Contingency Includes (but is not limited to): general conditions, mobilization, demolition, erosion/sedimentation control, site retaining walls and unclassified earthwork.
- 4) Environmental and Regulatory Review, Permitting and Fees are not included in this OPCC.
- 5) Horizontal utility adjustments/relocations/extensions/services for storm sewer, domestic water, sanitary sewer, gas, electric and communication utility lines to the site are not included in this OPCC.
- 6) Projection of future construction costs should include a 10% annual increase at a minimum.

C.M.Allen Road Improvements Cost Estimate

Item Number	Description	Units	Unit Price	Quantity	Total Price
C.M. Allen Road Improvements					
	Roadway (includes proposed surface work and demo)	LS	\$1,600,000.00	1	\$1,600,000.00
	Landscape - Turf (includes 25' buffer on east side)	SY	\$2.50	8400	\$21,000.00
	Landscape - Medians (includes bed prep, irrigation, soil, plant material, etc.)	SF	\$30.00	38000	\$1,140,000.00
	Deciduous Trees (estimated number needed)	EA	\$700.00	250	\$175,000.00
	Gateway Feature/Entry Monuments (includes trees, landscaping, signage & drainage)	EA	\$100,000.00	6	\$600,000.00
				Sub-Total	\$3,536,000.00
				TOTAL	\$3,536,000.00
	Sub-Total Estimated Construction Cost				\$3,536,000.00
	Construction Contingency (20%)				\$707,200.00
			Soft Costs (15%)		\$530,400.00
Total Estimated Construction Cost					\$4,773,600.00

Assumptions/Disclaimers

1) All Opinion of Probable Construction Costs (OPCC) represent the Consultant's best judgment as professionals familiar with the construction industry and current available unit pricing. Consultant do not guarantee that proposals, bids or actual Project Construction Costs will not vary from this opinion. Quantities are estimates only and the actual amount of work and/or materials are contingent upon final existing conditions, survey, and construction design of these improvements. This OPCC does not include subsurface utilities.

2) Unit pricing is based on average cost statewide and does not account for any site specific determinates that would effect costs of construction (i.e., unknown subsurface conditions, structural foundations/footing per local soil conditions, etc.).

3) 20% Construction Contingency Includes (but is not limited to): general conditions, mobilization, demolition, erosion/sedimentation control, site retaining walls and unclassified earthwork.

4) Environmental and Regulatory Review, Permitting and Fees are not included in this OPCC.

5) Horizontal utility adjustments/relocations/extensions/services for storm sewer, domestic water, sanitary sewer, gas, electric and communication utility lines to the site are not included in this OPCC.

6) Projection of future construction costs should include a 10% annual increase at a minimum.

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