



**MARBLE FALLS  
PARKS, RECREATION,  
AND OPEN SPACE  
MASTER PLAN  
UPDATE  
2017**

**ADOPTED MARCH 7, 2017**





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UPDATE  
2017**

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**ORDINANCE NO. 2017-O-03A**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARBLE FALLS, TEXAS, ACCEPTING THE 2017 PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING.**

**WHEREAS**, due to certain changes, growth, and development of the City of Marble Falls, it has become necessary, due to the passage of time and the needs of the community, to update the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan of the City of Marble Falls, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marble Falls has followed all procedures and done all things required by its Charter and State law for the update of its Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, it is intended that this Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan will replace the Parks Plan approved in the City’s Comprehensive Plan approved in Ordinance 2016-O-06A on June 07, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Marble Falls, Texas, desires to accept the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission to approve the updated Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARBLE FALLS, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That all of the above and foregoing recitals and preambles are found to be true and correct, and made a part of this ordinance for all purposes.

**SECTION 2.** That the City Council of the City of Marble Falls, Texas, does hereby accept, as advisory and as a guide, the 2017 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment “A” and incorporated herein for all purposes, the same to be the 2017 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan of the City of Marble Falls, for all purposes.

**SECTION 3.** That the City Council of the City of Marble Falls, Texas, hereby submits this 2017 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to all citizen groups and committees, city boards and commissions, and all citizens interested in the orderly growth and progress of the City of Marble Falls, for use as a guide in the planning of future growth and development of the City of Marble Falls.

**SECTION 4.** That the 2017 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, attached as Attachment “A”, shall replace the Parks Plan approved in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update.

**SECTION 5. PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE.** The repeal of any ordinance or part of ordinances effectuated by the enactment of this ordinance shall not be construed as abandoning

any action now pending under or by virtue of such ordinance or as discontinuing, abating, modifying or altering any penalty accruing or to accrue, or as affecting any rights of the City under any section or provisions of any ordinances at the time of passage of this ordinance.

**SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any provision, section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, or the application of the same to any person or set of circumstances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void, invalid, or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council of the City of Marble Falls in adopting, and of the Mayor in approving this ordinance, that no portion thereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall be come inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality or invalidity of any portion, provision or regulation.

**SECTION 7. REPEALER CLAUSE.** The provisions of this ordinance shall be cumulative of all other ordinances or parts of ordinances governing or regulating the same subject matter as that covered herein, provided, however, that all prior ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with any of the provisions of this ordinance are hereby expressly repealed to the extent that such inconsistency is apparent. This ordinance shall not be construed to require or allow any act which is prohibited by any other ordinance.

**SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication as may be required by governing law.

**SECTION 9. NOTICE AND MEETING CLAUSE.** It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to the public and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

**READ, PASSED, AND ADOPTED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March, 2017.**



**ATTEST:**

Christina McDonald  
**Christina McDonald, TRMC**  
**City Secretary**

John Packer  
**John Packer, Mayor**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Patty L. Akers  
**Patty L. Akers, City Attorney**



March 24, 2017

City of Marble Falls  
Mr. Robert Moss  
Parks and Recreation Director  
1808 2nd Street  
Marble Falls, TX 78654

Reference: Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update

Dear Mr. Moss,

Halff Associates, Inc. is pleased to submit the final version of the Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update for your review. This document is a culmination of an extensive planning process involving the elected and appointed officials, City staff, and the residents and business owners of Marble Falls and the surrounding region. Marble Falls is in the unique position of providing parks and recreation for its residents, as well as the greater region. As such, the Plan strives to capture the many observations and findings identified during the planning process, addressing both local and regional issues. The Marble Falls community envisions a parks and recreation system that is second to none. Therefore, the Plan's recommendations encompass and seek to enhance the varying components of the Marble Falls parks system — from parks and athletic opportunities, to connectivity, tourism, and access to Lake Marble Falls.

As with any comprehensive analysis, this Plan contains many recommendations. The recommended action items include both those that address immediate needs in the community as well as longer-term actions which are visionary and are intended to guide the City towards further development of a unique, high-quality parks system for the next 10 years and beyond. The Plan is intended to guide the growth and enhancement of the parks system, but incorporates flexibility to allow the City to respond to unique opportunities as they arise.

We deeply appreciate the opportunity to have worked with you, your staff, and the citizens of Marble Falls, and believe that this Plan will help guide the City as it continues to develop a family-friendly, well-connected parks system which enhances the community's quality of life, economic activity, and memorable sense of place.

Sincerely,

Halff Associates, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Bucchin".

Matt Bucchin, AICP, LEED Green Associate  
Director of Planning

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## Acknowledgments

The Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update was developed by the City of Marble Falls with the technical assistance and design help of Halff Associates, Inc. A special thanks goes to the many residents, landowners, and community leaders for their insight and support throughout the duration of this study. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of the 2017 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update.

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Jane Knapik, Special Cemetery Member

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# INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

# 1

## *Introduction*

Marble Falls is currently home to over 6,000 residents. The community has historically experienced a stable population, yet steady growth. In recent years the community has experienced more rapid growth as new residents and visitors have been attracted to the amenities of and access to the Texas Hill Country, Lake LBJ, and Lake Marble Falls.

Located along the coveted Highland Lakes system, Marble Falls has incredible opportunities to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors by providing high-quality, diverse parks, recreation, and open spaces. The 2016 Marble Falls Comprehensive Plan Update recognized the City's role as a regional commercial hub and tourist destination and the need to address growth and development pressures. As such, the vision for the community is to proactively strive to balance being a livable and destination city; of being a great place to visit for a little bit of time, or to live for a long time.

Marble Falls' recreation system of parks and open space plays an important role in establishing a foundation for a quality of life that can be enjoyed by visitors and residents. Through the process of developing the Comprehensive Plan, residents expressed a desire for an enhanced parks system, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the City, additional recreational opportunities, and increased effort to bolster the City's attractiveness as a tourist destination.

The Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan identifies the national, regional, and local trends that do, and will continue to, provide benefits to residents of Marble Falls. A review of previous planning efforts helps the community understand the relationship between parks and open space and other visions and goals of the City. Finally, understanding current population and conditions of the community and expected opportunities will help guide decisions and recommendations for the future of this system.



## ***Why Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space***

Parks, recreation, and open space play a significant role in establishing a quality of life for residents and visitors of the City. The provision of high-quality, well-maintained parks, trails, open space areas, and recreational opportunities enhances the quality of life for residents, improves the community image, and contributes to the overall attractiveness of a city. Marble Falls' identity is largely rooted in the invaluable natural resources in the area, such as Lake Marble Falls and the Texas Hill Country. By maximizing the potential of these amenities, Marble Falls can establish an excellent quality of life for its residents and expand its recreational opportunities as a tourist destination.

The last update of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan was in 2012. It was intended to steer City activity and decisions from 2012 to 2017. While the full five year time period has not ended, there have significant changes in the community which warranted an earlier plan update than normal. In particular, the City recently updated its Citywide Comprehensive Plan which identified strategic recommendations for moving forward with the parks and recreation system. Concurrently, the City has been in the process of revitalizing its downtown area. One of the most significant proposed projects is a public-private partnership to develop a hotel / conference center straddling the boundary between downtown, Lakeside Park, and Lake Marble Falls. As part of the development agreement for this public-private partnership, specific improvements were identified to be made to the City's downtown park properties. This necessitated a consolidated vision for the four downtown park properties.

Marble Falls continues to grow in people and geographically. With the addition of new residents, the demands on the park system also increase. As Marble Falls continues to grow and develop, additional park land and resources will be needed in newly developed areas and throughout the entire community. This Plan will identify potential areas for parkland acquisition as well as the projected time frame when the City should begin to pursue acquisition of additional parkland to meet the community's growing need.

With a growing population also comes the potential for shifting preferences and priorities of the needs and demands of the park, open space, and recreation system. Building upon the community input received during the comprehensive planning process, this planning process will help to determine a more refined citizen and user vision for moving forward. Indeed, this planning effort is a critical component in establishing a vision and identifying goals and strategies that will continue to proactively set and maintain high standards for the Marble Falls' parks, recreation, and open space system, while at the same time allowing it change to meet the growing needs and desires of the community. The vision and recommendations identified in this Plan will be used to set priorities and budget to implement the proposed projects over time. Since the Plan will also allow the City to remain competitive for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and other, grant funding, it is critically important to think about and plan for the next 10 years of parks and recreation opportunities in Marble Falls.

## Benefits of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

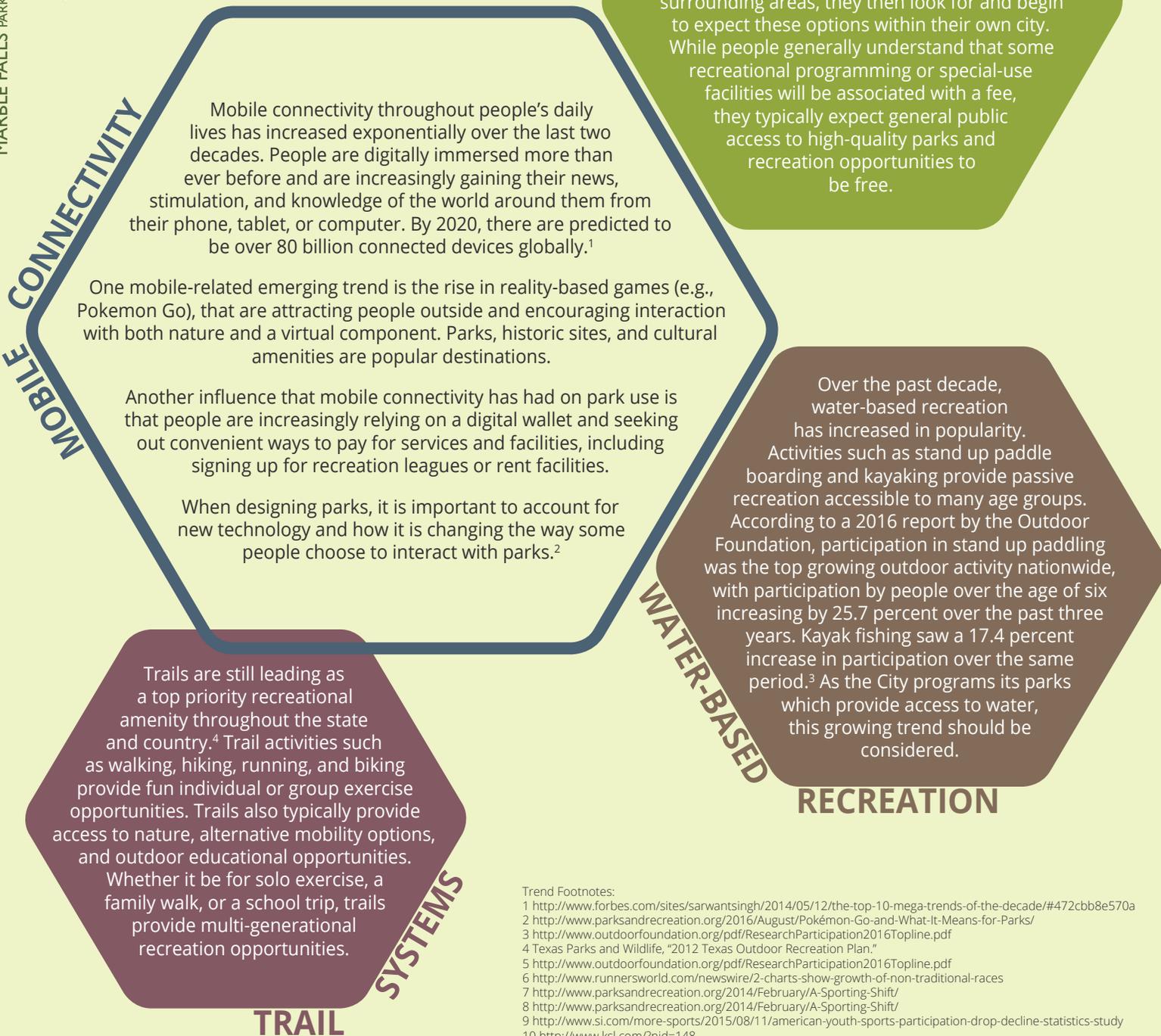
Parks and open space have a positive impact on the quality of life of communities. A high-quality and well-structured system provides residents a healthier environment in which to live; positively impacts the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of children and adults; offers access to natural resources; and fosters a sense of pride in the community.



## Park & Recreation Trends

Parks serve a fundamental role to many aspects of a community, and as such there are many factors and trends that influence parks: demographics, work habits, health, technology, recreation and leisure time, mobility, urbanization, development patterns. As these factors evolve, so will demand and preferences for public facilities and the role of parks, recreation, and open space. Understanding trends can help the city anticipate future needs of the citizens and visitors and respond to shifts in demands and preferences. With that in mind, it is vital to understand today's regional, statewide, and national trends related to parks and recreation.

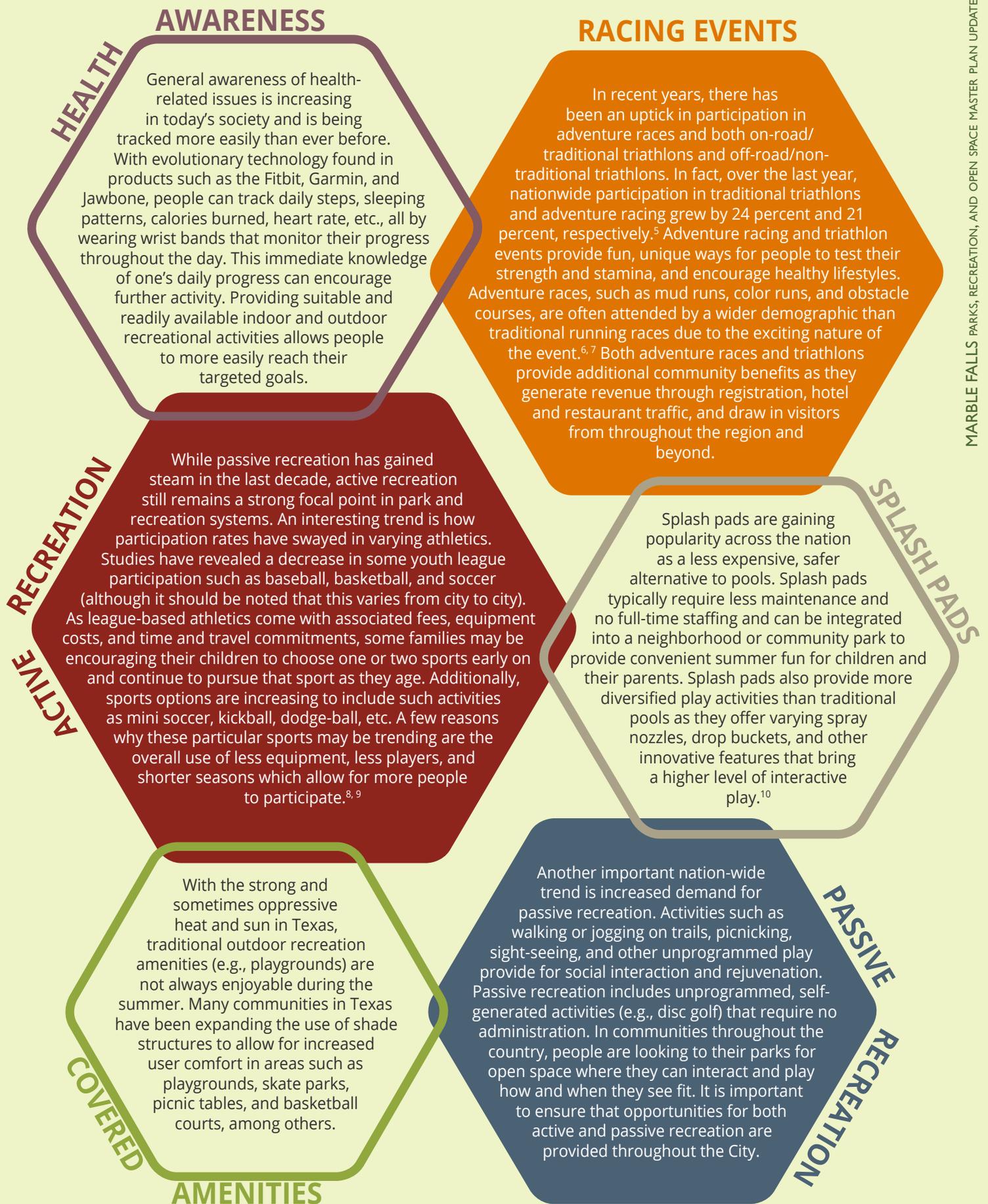
Figure 1.1, Trends in Parks and Recreation



Trend Footnotes:

- 1 <http://www.forbes.com/sites/sarwantsingh/2014/05/12/the-top-10-mega-trends-of-the-decade/#472cbb8e570a>
- 2 <http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2016/August/Pokemon-Go-and-What-It-Means-for-Parks/>
- 3 <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2016Topline.pdf>
- 4 Texas Parks and Wildlife, "2012 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan."
- 5 <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2016Topline.pdf>
- 6 <http://www.runnersworld.com/news/2-charts-show-growth-of-non-traditional-races>
- 7 <http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2014/February/A-Sporting-Shift/>
- 8 <http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2014/February/A-Sporting-Shift/>
- 9 <http://www.si.com/more-sports/2015/08/11/american-youth-sports-participation-drop-decline-statistics-study>
- 10 <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148>

Figure 1.1, Trends in Parks and Recreation (cont.)



## Purpose of the Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

The Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update (Plan) describes the current state of the parks, recreation, and open space system in Marble Falls and makes recommendations to maintain and improve the system based on existing and projected population growth and demographic changes. This process includes identifying needs and deficiencies in the existing system; establishing a vision for the future of parks, recreation, and open space system based on community input and previous planning efforts; and identifying goals, strategies, and priorities to achieve the vision of this Plan.

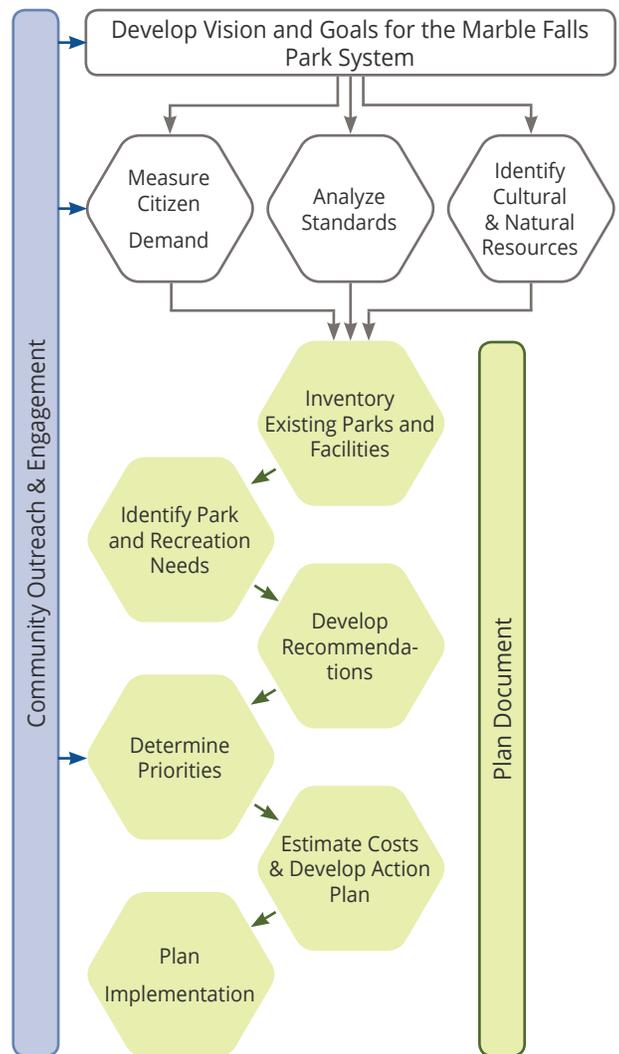
## Planning Process & Timeline

In April 2016, Marble Falls selected Halff Associates, Inc. to prepare an update to the City’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The planning process involved a series of steps that allowed for the development of a successful document which outlined the vision, goals, and strategy for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in the City. These steps 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.

The development of the Plan was guided by a Parks Advisory Committee (PAC), which was primarily represented by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Additional members were included to provide context related to the redevelopment of the downtown park areas. Overall, the committee provided guidance throughout the planning process and as goals and strategies were developed. And this committee will continue to partake in the implementation of this Plan as champions promoting the Plan to Council and the community, and other applicable groups.

Throughout the planning process, public input was gathered from residents, park users, staff, elected and appointed officials, and other stakeholders through various means. This allowed the community to voice their opinions and concerns and help shape recommendations and priorities for the next 10 years and beyond. During the preparation of this Plan, public input was gathered through a series of stakeholder meetings, an online community survey, and an open house (see Chapter 2, *Community Vision*).

**Figure 1.2, Planning Process**



## Plan Elements

The Plan is divided into four main elements. The first element is understanding the current context. This includes the existing state of the parks, recreation, and open space system, existing and projected population and demographic information, recent planning efforts that inform the current goals and vision for the community, and current trends. This process also includes significant input from community stakeholders and residents to identify the vision and goals for parks, recreation, and open space in Marble Falls. The context element will help identify the needs and deficiencies of the system, which is the second element of the plan. A needs assessment compares the existing current state to where it wants or needs to be based on other factors such as population, community vision, and trends. The third element is recommendations and strategies to achieve the desired vision for parks, recreation, and open space. The final element is making cost estimates, establishing priorities, and identifying specific implementation strategies.

## Implementation & Time Frame

The first thing to understand is that implementation of this Plan will happen incrementally over time. Policy-oriented recommendations will affect the decision-making process and may take the shape of City resolutions or priorities for planning and budgeting. Implementing strategies for developing parks, recreation, and open space will utilize existing processes such as the Capital Improvements Program and development regulations. The Plan prioritizes recommendations into near-term (1-2 years), mid-term (3-5 years), and long-term (6-10+ years) recommendations.



*The development of the Plan was guided by a Parks Advisory Committee (PAC), which was primarily represented by the Parks and Recreation Commission.*

## Planning Area

The planning area for this Plan includes the current incorporated area of the City of Marble Falls (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 Marble Falls includes approximately 13.6 square miles, and the ETJ adds an additional 26.1 square miles. State Highway 281 (Avenue H) runs north-south through the center of the community and provides easy access and connectivity to the region.

The City's Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining 130 acres of public and private parkland, trails, and special use areas. This includes pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, linear parks with trails, and associated amenities. The existing parks, open space, and recreation system is described in further detail in Chapter 3, *Existing Conditions*.

## Service Area

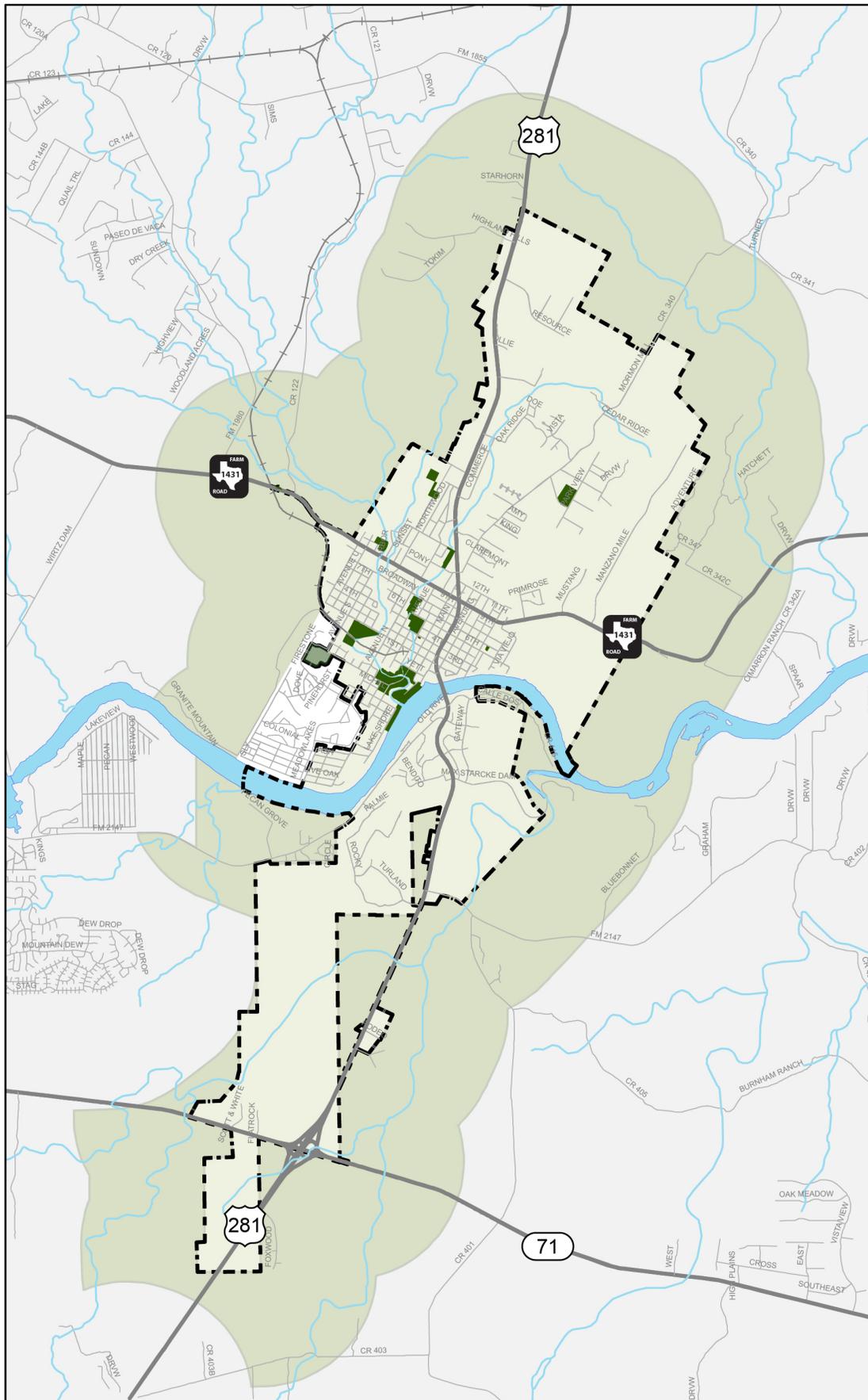
While the planning area is limited to the City limits, and to a limited capacity the ETJ, the "service area" describes the area from which regular park users are drawn. It is estimated that 60 to 80 percent of park users are from outside of the City limits. Since Marble Falls is the economic center of the region and is surrounded by many smaller communities with limited resource and amenities, many users of Marble Falls' parks and recreation system come from these communities.

As such, the service area likely extends well beyond the City limits and ETJ and is likely equivalent to the geographic area of the Marble Falls Independent School District (MFISD). This area encompasses an area of approximately 296.28 square miles, has an estimated population of 23,700 people<sup>1</sup> and includes the neighboring communities of Cottonwood Shores, Granite Shoals, Highland Haven, Horseshoe Bay, and Meadowlakes. The established area of Marble Falls, nearby communities, and tourist destinations means that the City has many opportunities for expansion and economic growth.

---

<sup>1</sup> July 2016, Demographic Analysis for Marble Falls Independent School District.

**Map 1.1, Planning Area**



- Legend**
- City Limits
  - Marble Falls ETJ
  - Lake Marble Falls
  - Stream
  - Railroad
  - Local Roads
  - Main Roads

## Demographics

### Historical Population Growth

As indicated in Figure 1.3, *Historical Population Growth*, the City of Marble Falls has experienced varying levels of population growth during the 20th century. Between 1940 and 1950, there was a large population increase of over 1,000 people contributed to the construction of the Max Starcke Dam. Following the completion of the dam in 1951, a long drought slowed the town's economy and population growth was negligible for the next 20 years. In the 1970s, an increase in tourism and development of a retirement-based economy led to a steady and moderate pace of growth that continues to today.<sup>1</sup>

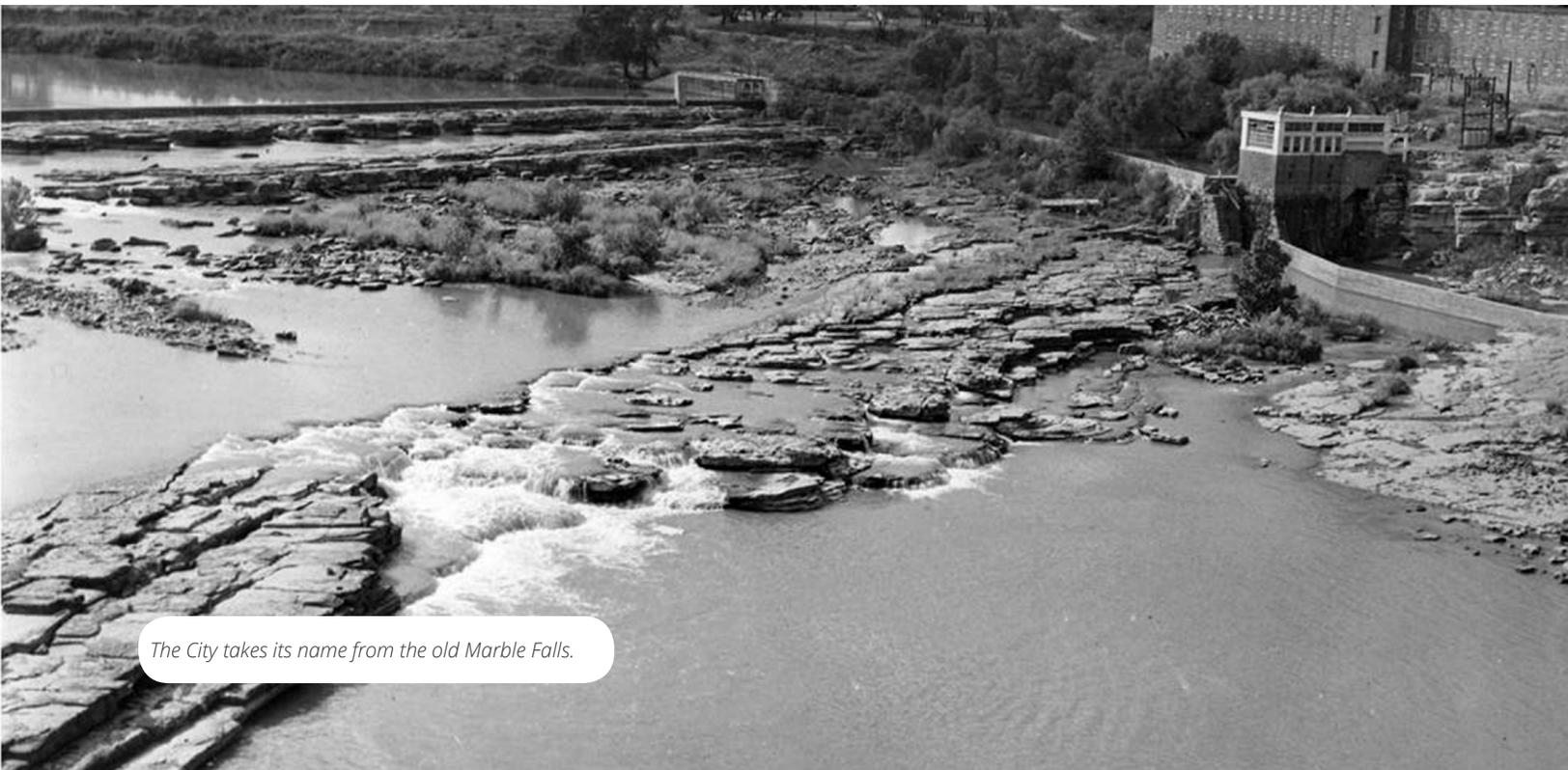
Prior to the construction of the dam, the City's population made up a small percentage of the Burnet County's total population. Since 1950, however, the county has generally seen a stronger population growth than the City and the City's population as a percentage of the county continues to decrease, albeit slowly. This may be, in part, due to availability of housing in different areas of the county.

Figure 1.3, Historical Population Growth

| YEAR | MARBLE FALLS (PERSONS) | PERCENT CHANGE | CITY SHARE OF COUNTY POPULATION | BURNET COUNTY (PERSONS) |
|------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1910 | 1,050                  | --             | 10%                             | 10,755                  |
| 1920 | 639                    | -39%           | 7%                              | 9,499                   |
| 1930 | 865                    | 35%            | 8%                              | 10,355                  |
| 1940 | 1,021                  | 18%            | 9%                              | 10,771                  |
| 1950 | 2,044                  | 100%           | 20%                             | 10,356                  |
| 1960 | 2,161                  | 6%             | 23%                             | 9,265                   |
| 1970 | 2,209                  | 2%             | 19%                             | 11,420                  |
| 1980 | 3,252                  | 47%            | 18%                             | 17,803                  |
| 1990 | 4,007                  | 23%            | 18%                             | 22,667                  |
| 2000 | 4,959                  | 24%            | 15%                             | 34,147                  |
| 2010 | 6,077                  | 23%            | 14%                             | 42,789                  |
| 2015 | 6,281                  | 3%             | 14%                             | 45,463                  |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

1 Marble Falls, Texas. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marble\\_Falls,\\_Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marble_Falls,_Texas)



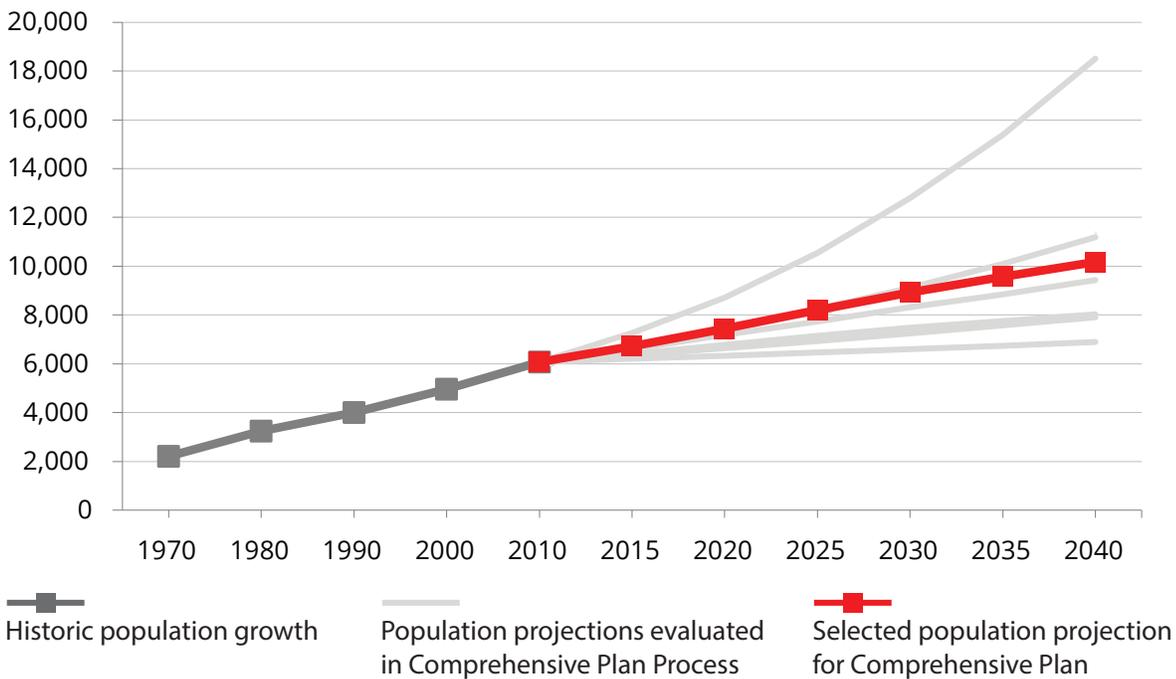
The City takes its name from the old Marble Falls.

## Future Population Projections

The City appears to once again be poised for growth. With the opening of the Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in the southern most point of Marble Falls' City limits and both recent and proposed improvements along U.S. Highway 281, there is renewed interest in developing both residential and commercial properties, and a renewed focus on improving the character of development and tourism potential of Downtown.

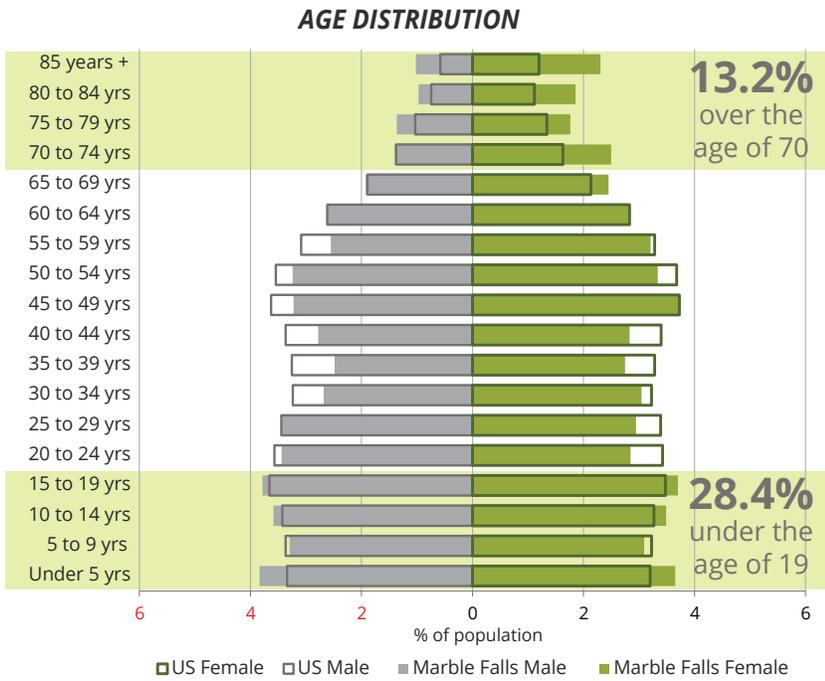
The Comprehensive Plan evaluated a number of population projections, from a low of 6,888 people using historical growth rates based on school attendance, to a high of 18,509 people based on TWDB projections. The recently updated Comprehensive Plan anticipates a 2040 population of 10,171 people, chosen from the Texas State Data Center 1.0 scenario which is believed to reflect the best case scenario for the future population of the City (see Figure 1.4, *2016 Comprehensive Plan Population Projection*).

**Figure 1.4, 2016 Comprehensive Plan Population Projection**



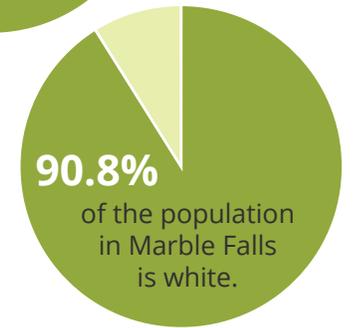
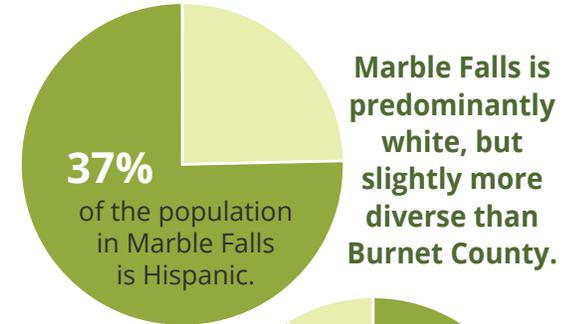
However, based on the potential for continued rapid growth, particularly with the opening of the Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in August 2015 and considering the development proposals recently approved or currently being processed, it is important that the City continue to monitor this increase in growth to determine long-term trends. Additional trends are identified in Figure 1.5, *Marble Falls Demographic Snapshot*.

Figure 1.5, Demographic Snapshot

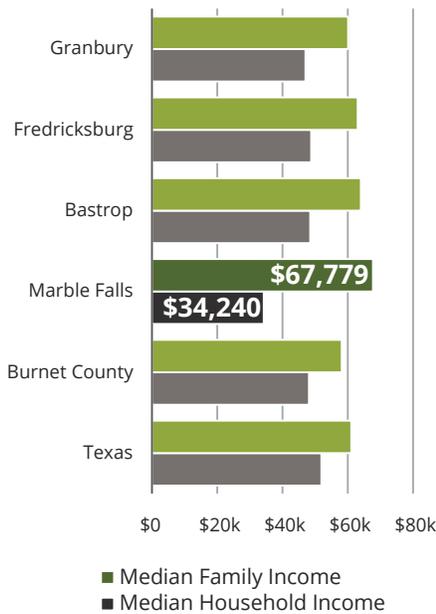


Compared to the United States, Marble Falls has a greater percentage of the population aged zero to five, 10 to 19, and 70 and older.

### RACE & ETHNICITY



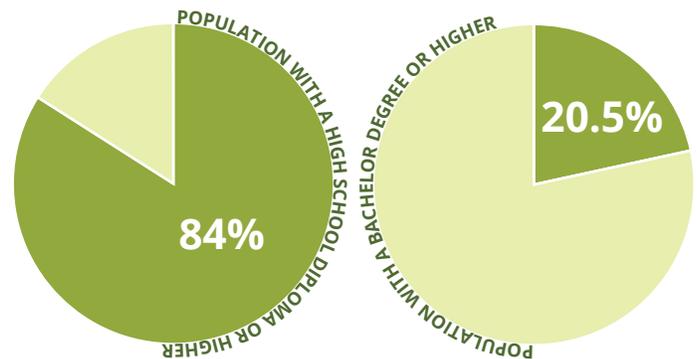
### HOUSEHOLD & FAMILY INCOMES



The median family income in Marble Falls is greater than comparable cities, Burnet County, and Texas.

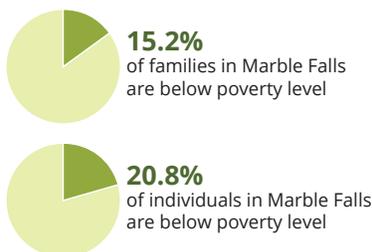
On the contrary, the median household income is lower in Marble Falls than comparable cities, Burnet County, and Texas, suggesting that individual householders, or unrelated household units, are more economically disadvantaged than similar households associated with families.

### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Marble Falls' percentage with high school diplomas of 84 percent is higher than the state or county, but the percent with a Bachelors degree or higher is lower.

The Baylor Scott & White Medical Center will likely bring additional professional jobs to Marble Falls, and the area is likely to see an increase in educational attainment levels.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. For more detailed data and geographic comparisons, refer to the Marble Falls Comprehensive Plan Update 2016.

## Past Planning Initiatives

### City of Marble Falls Comprehensive Plan (2016)

The Marble Falls Comprehensive Plan is a “big picture” document that establishes the vision and outlines a strategy for the future of the whole community. It was updated in 2016, and recommends an update to the City’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (Action 6.1.1). This PROSMP is a direct implementation of that action.

The Comprehensive Plan includes an evaluation of the park, recreation, and open space system, including existing park and open space facilities, the trail system, pedestrian and bicycle network, and recreational programs for children, youth, and adults. It highlights key issues identified by the public and analyzes overall park, recreation, and open space needs for the current and projected future population. It also identifies opportunities of the parks, recreation, and open space system as it relates to the tourism industry.

The Comprehensive Plan establishes policies that guide the day-to-day decisions by City staff and elected and appointed officials. To be consistent among City planning documents, policies of the Comprehensive Plan as they relate to decisions about parks, recreation, and open space should be carried through into this plan:

1. Systematically develop the parks, trail, and open space system in coordination with new growth and development.
2. Prioritize the revitalization of the Downtown parks system in concert with other Downtown redevelopment initiatives.
3. Promote partnerships with local stakeholders (e.g., MFISD) and other third party providers to provide increased recreational opportunities in a cost effective manner. This could include transforming underused school yards into multi-purposed recreational and exercise facilities through such amenities as playscapes, sports courts and fields, walking/running tracks, etc.
4. Utilize linear open space along floodplains and drainageways as a means to provide public recreation and transportation connections to key destinations (e.g., parks, schools, library, senior center, and Downtown).
5. Prioritize increased connectivity between neighborhoods, parks, and other key destinations using sidewalks, on-street bicycle lanes, off-street multi-use paths, and trails.
6. Utilize the Thoroughfare Plan and Trails Plan to ensure that key connections and appropriate design is considered in all new road development and existing street rehabilitation projects. This could include the striping of new on-street bike lanes as part of a repaving project or installation of a higher bridge to accommodate a future safe crossing envisioned as part of the overall Citywide trail system.
7. Ensure adequate staffing and budget to facilitate well-maintained parks, trails, and open spaces, and to provide quality recreational opportunities for residents.
8. Develop and utilize the City’s parks, trails, and open spaces to provide quality of life amenities to existing residents and for tourism purposes.
9. Invest in community attractions and amenities that celebrate Marble Falls’ unique natural and cultural attributes which set it apart from the rest of the Highland Lakes area.
10. Facilitate collaborative marketing efforts with local businesses and stakeholders, including promotional and networking resources, to promote Marble Falls regionally.

### Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Objectives of the Marble Falls Comprehensive Plan

Ensure successful implementation and maintenance of parks and recreation resources.

Focus funding and efforts to improve the City’s existing parks system.

Develop a Citywide trail network to provide connectivity to and between residences, parks, schools, retail, and civic destinations.

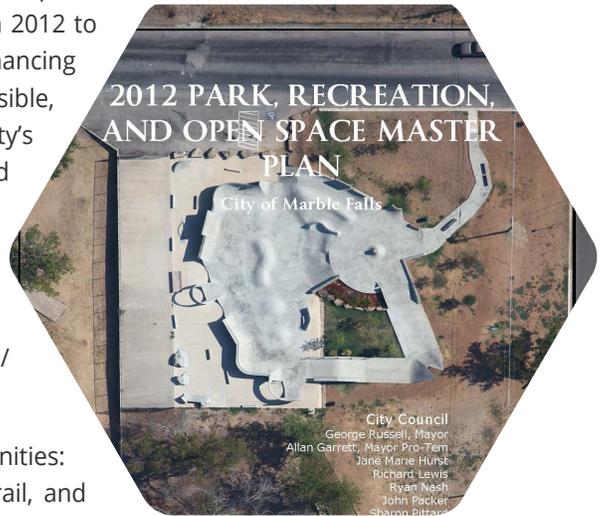
Provide diverse, multi-generational recreation programming.

Increase the City’s efforts to attract and/or promote tourism-related industries and use in Marble Falls.

*Source: Marble Falls Comprehensive Plan Update, 2016*

### *Marble Falls Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (2012)*

The City's Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan was last updated in 2012 and was intended to guide City decision-making from 2012 to 2017. Key plan goals included maintaining, updating, and enhancing existing parks and recreation facilities; providing a safe, accessible, and diverse parks and recreation system; conserving the City's natural, cultural, historical, and archaeological resources; and supporting efforts in the community to increase recreational programming. The plan provided a list of priority projects regarding repairs and upgrades to existing facilities, development of additional park and recreation amenities, and key major developments including a sports complex and pool/water park.



Since this plan's adoption, the City has developed two park amenities: a dog park and Phase 1 of the Backbone/Whitman Creek Trail, and completed or is in the process of completing a number of maintenance/repair projects identified in the 2012 Plan.

### *Marble Falls Flood Protection Planning Study (2014)*



In 2014, a Flood Protection Planning Study was conducted to determine potential flood reduction strategies for Whitman Branch and Backbone Creek. Through analysis of multiple alternatives, a creekwalk trail system connecting the Downtown to community parks, in conjunction with creek channel improvements, was determined to be a promising option which would reduce the risk of flooding, reclaim land for potential development, and provide recreation opportunities for the community.

### *Marble Falls Sports Complex (2012)*

In 2012, a feasibility analysis for a proposed Marble Falls Sports Complex was conducted. The sports complex was proposed to provide state-of-the-art facilities for youth and adult athletics, hosting both local games and regional tournaments. The plan presented a market analysis, proposed building program with phasing and estimated project construction costs, potential economic and fiscal impacts, and funding potential for the complex. To date, the City has not acted on any plans for the sports complex.

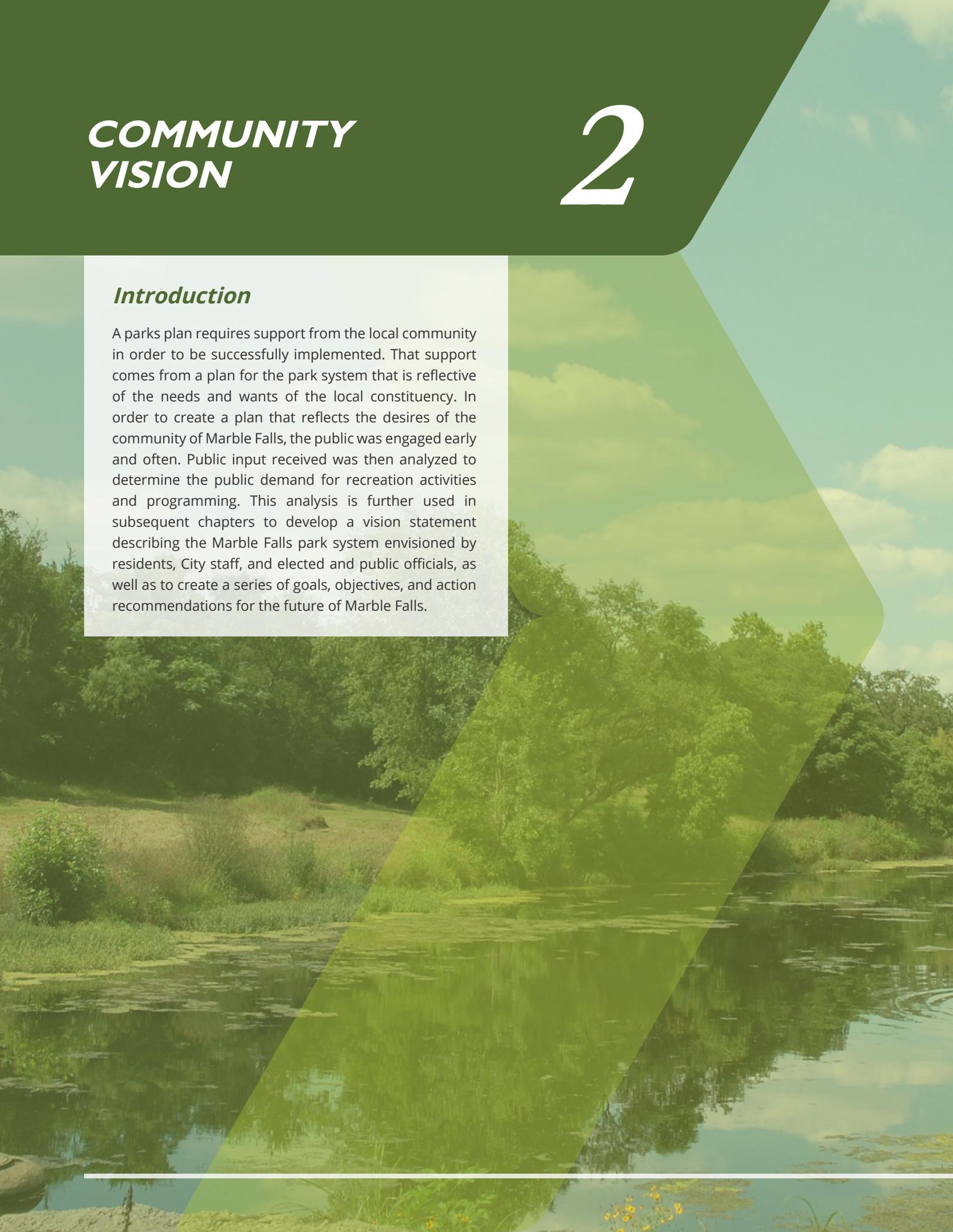


# COMMUNITY VISION

# 2

## *Introduction*

A parks plan requires support from the local community in order to be successfully implemented. That support comes from a plan for the park system that is reflective of the needs and wants of the local constituency. In order to create a plan that reflects the desires of the community of Marble Falls, the public was engaged early and often. Public input received was then analyzed to determine the public demand for recreation activities and programming. This analysis is further used in subsequent chapters to develop a vision statement describing the Marble Falls park system envisioned by residents, City staff, and elected and public officials, as well as to create a series of goals, objectives, and action recommendations for the future of Marble Falls.



## Engagement

Public input is an essential part of the planning process as it provides the necessary direction to help ensure public support for post-adoption implementation actions. As part of the effort to garner public input for the 2017 Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROSMP), a series of engagement approaches were used. These included stakeholder meetings and key person(s) interviews; establishment of a parks advisory committee (PAC); the issuance of an online community survey; a group of design charrettes, one for the downtown parks and one for Park View Park; and a public open house. Through the use of multiple engagement strategies, people were provided opportunities to be involved in the planning effort a variety of ways. All of these strategies provided opportunities for interested parties to help inform the Plan on the types and levels of park and recreation improvements to be made to the Marble Falls parks system.

### Stakeholder Meetings & Key Interviews

As part of the public engagement process, a series of informative listening sessions were conducted to provide background information regarding the needs in the park system. A series of stakeholder meetings were conducted in June of 2016, including participation from the following stakeholders groups:

- Mayors of adjacent cities;
- Planning and Zoning Commission members;
- Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA);
- Marble Falls Library;
- Marble Falls Independent School District (MFISD);
- Marble Falls Parks and Recreation Commission;
- YMCA;



- Burnet County Historical Commission;
- Burnet County;
- Churches;
- Athletic Leagues;
- Boy Scouts;
- Highland Lakes Master Gardeners;
- Jolly Rogers Paddle Company;
- Coordinators for events in Marble Falls; and
- Local residents and business owners.

These participants were asked to provide their thoughts about the existing conditions of the parks, any deficits in park facilities and recreation offerings, and the priorities for improvements to parks system. Key person interviews focused on getting feedback from City staff, public officials, and the Economic Development Corporation.

Over the course of the two days of stakeholder meetings and key person interviews, a series of key desires and concerns came to the forefront, including:

- A significant portion of park users in the City do not live in Marble Falls.
- Need to balance resident and non-resident interests and determine how to fund park improvements which serve this larger population.
- Need for increases in departmental resources (e.g., staffing and financial) to accommodate system growth and maintenance.
- Desire for increased pedestrian access and interaction with Lake Marble Falls and the waterfront areas.
- Heavy use and parking during large events causes maintenance challenges and damages vegetation.
- Desire for multi-generational, family-friendly amenities.
- Desire for a community recreation center.
- Desire to explore partnership opportunities with MFISD.
- Desire to explore partnership opportunities with adjacent cities to provide recreation programming and facilities.
- A sports complex would need a consistent source of revenue from a larger area beyond Marble Falls.
- People identify Marble Falls with natural beauty, water, and recreation. How can the parks system best provide access to these amenities?
- Desire for improved maintenance of athletic facilities in the City. There is a preference for improved existing facilities rather than developing new ones.
- Need for publicly accessible athletic facilities (e.g., soccer, baseball, etc.).
- Desire for additional opportunities for youth, adults, residents, and groups to volunteer or donate towards a specific park improvement.
- Marble Falls has a significant amount of parkland for a city its size. There is a need to determine how best to plan, develop, and manage that land.

## Downtown Parks

- Need to accommodate and balance everyday use and large events.
- There are vehicular/pedestrian safety concerns near the play areas in Johnson Park.
- Restrooms in Johnson Park need to be replaced.
- Desire to integrate the new hotel and conference center into the parks system.
- Desire for pedestrian connections and interconnectivity between the parks and surrounding area.
- Need for additional parking.
- Desire for more passive recreation.
- Desire to consider moving athletic recreation out of Downtown parks. If it remains in the Downtown parks, athletic uses should be grouped together.

## Parks Advisory Committee

The Parks Advisory Committee (PAC), was tasked with providing oversight throughout the planning process. The PAC was made up of members from the Marble Falls Parks and Recreation Commission, a representative from the Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce & CVB, a representative from the Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation, a representative from City Council, and a representative from the City's Planning and Zoning Commission. The PAC's responsibilities included ensuring that the Plan provided a balance of opinions on important City issues, making sure the Plan had comprehensive input towards its vision, and to review and provide comments on the draft Plan during its development.



*The PAC provided valuable input and guiding direction throughout the development of the Plan.*

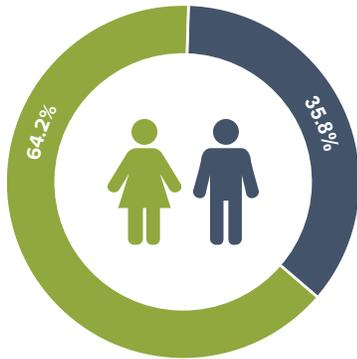
## *Online Community Survey*

Another form of inclusive public engagement was the use of an online survey to gather information on the opinions of community members and residents of the region on the recreation activities and park system offerings afforded to them in Marble Falls. The survey was advertised using the City's website, Facebook, Instagram, and press releases in the Highlander News and the Daily Tribune. Additionally, the survey was shared with the adjacent cities of Meadowlakes, Granite Shoals, Cottonwood Shores, and Horseshoe Bay. The local athletic organizations, MFISD, the area's private recreation providers, and the YMCA were also contacted to help promote the survey. The survey was open for participation during the summer and early fall of 2016 and received a total of 588 responses.

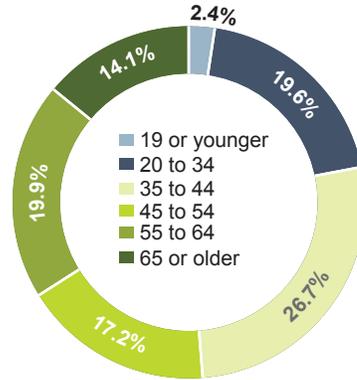
The online survey was open to both residents and non-residents. In addition to being the commercial hub for the region, Marble Falls' parks and recreation opportunities are enjoyed by people living in a greater area beyond the extent of the City limits. Based on user group data, visual analysis, and input from park goers, Marble Falls' parks and recreation are used by residents from within the larger MFISD service area (i.e., approximately 300 square miles). As such, it is important to gain an understanding of the wants, needs, and priorities of those who use the parks, regardless of where they live. However, it is equally, if not more, important to understand the thoughts, desires, and priorities of Marble Falls' residents in order for the City to ensure their needs are being met.

The following pages analyze the results of the public survey. Overall demographics are first presented for the entirety of respondents, and separately for the resident-only respondents. Key results of individual survey questions are subsequently discussed. Survey results including all responses are illustrated graphically and resident-only responses are overlaid on the graphics. As clearly illustrated, resident and non-resident responses were remarkably similar. Top interests and priorities were generally the same, with small shifts in the order of the top items. Results for each question are further explained.

**Figure 2.1, Gender Participation (All Respondents)**



**Figure 2.2, Participation by Age (All Respondents)**



Figures 2.1, *Gender Participation*, and 2.2, *Participation by Age*, identify the demographic characteristics of all survey participants. Females made up a majority of the participation by gender. While the 35 to 44 age group was the largest group that participated, participation across all age groups were relatively even. The 19 or younger cohort is frequently under represented in this type of survey. With that in mind, the survey was distributed to ensure adequate consideration of members of that age group.

**Figure 2.3, Children at Home (All Respondents)**

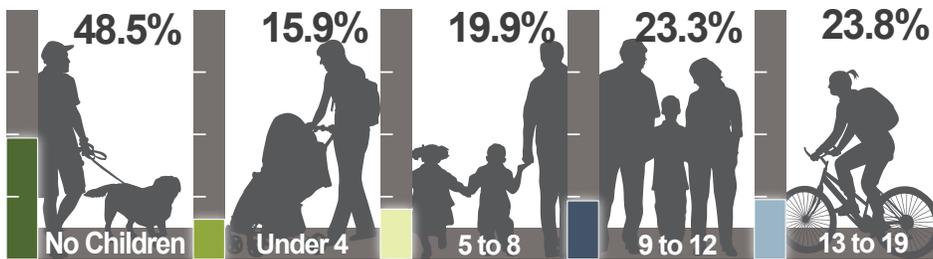


Figure 2.3, *Children at Home*, illustrates that almost half (48.5%) of the survey respondents had no children living at home. Of those respondents with children at home, the children’s ages were relatively balanced.

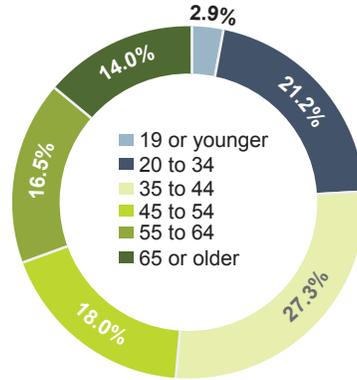
Image courtesy of Elizabeth Maynard, Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce & CVB Staff



**Figure 2.4, Gender Participation (Residents)**



**Figure 2.5, Participation by Age (Residents)**



Figures 2.4, *Gender Participation (Residents)*, and Figure 2.5, *Participation by Age (Residents)*, identify the demographic characteristics of the survey takers who lived in Marble Falls. There is very little difference in the breakdown of demographics between the Marble Falls residents and the total combined survey takers.

**Figure 2.6, Children at Home (Residents)**

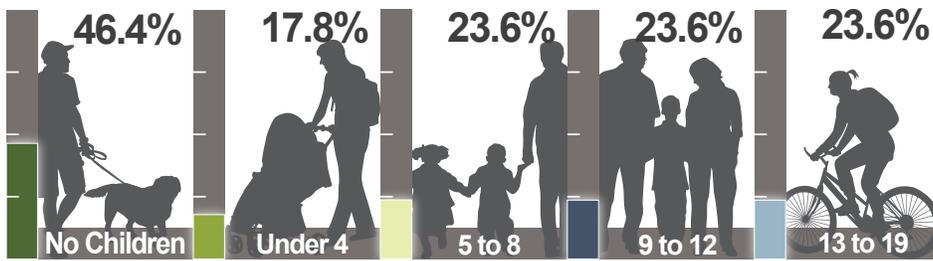
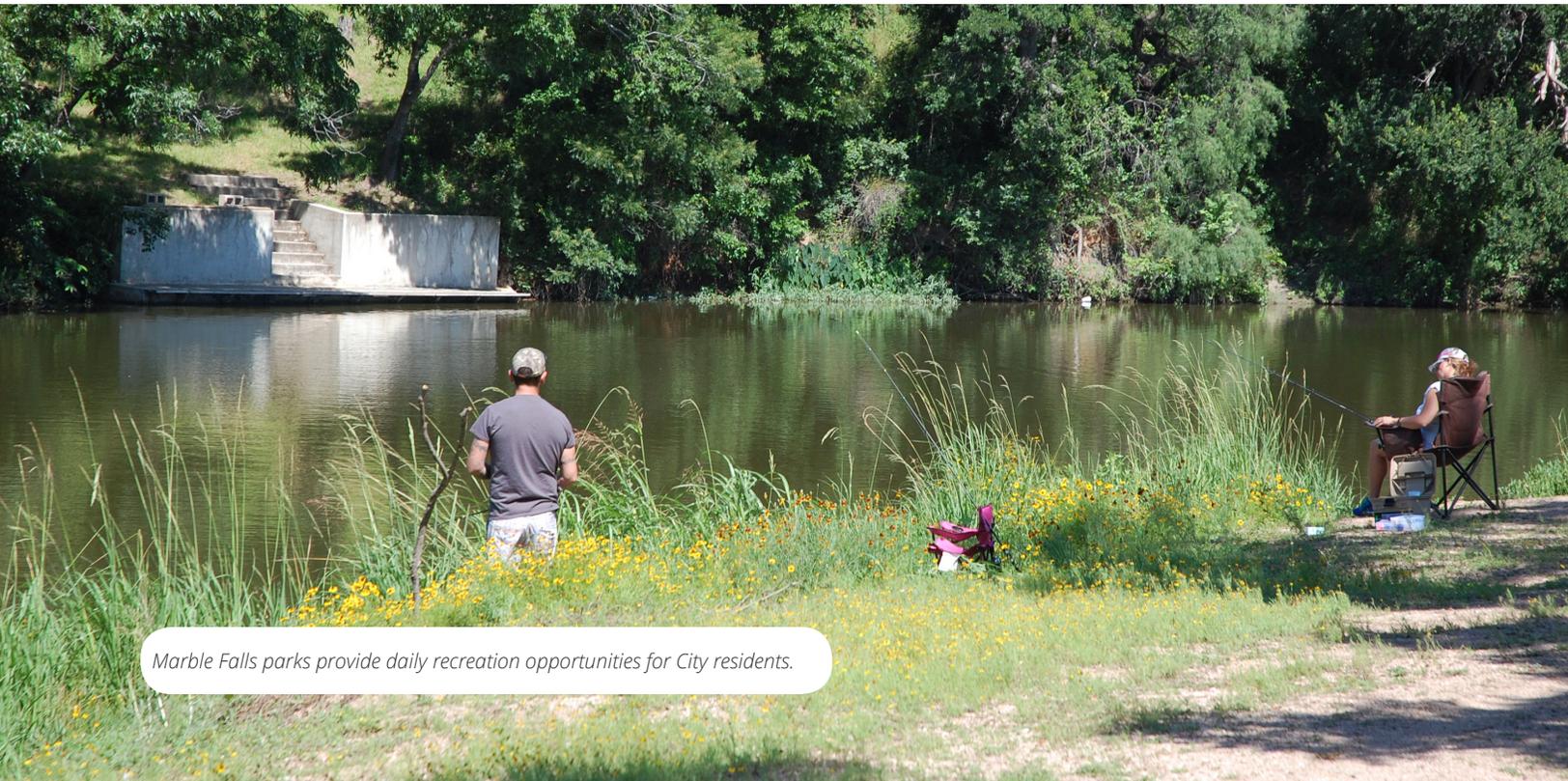
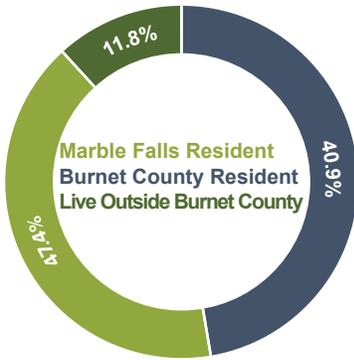


Figure 2.6, *Children at Home (Residents)*, shows that there is very little difference in the family makeup of Marble Falls resident respondents versus that of the combined survey takers.



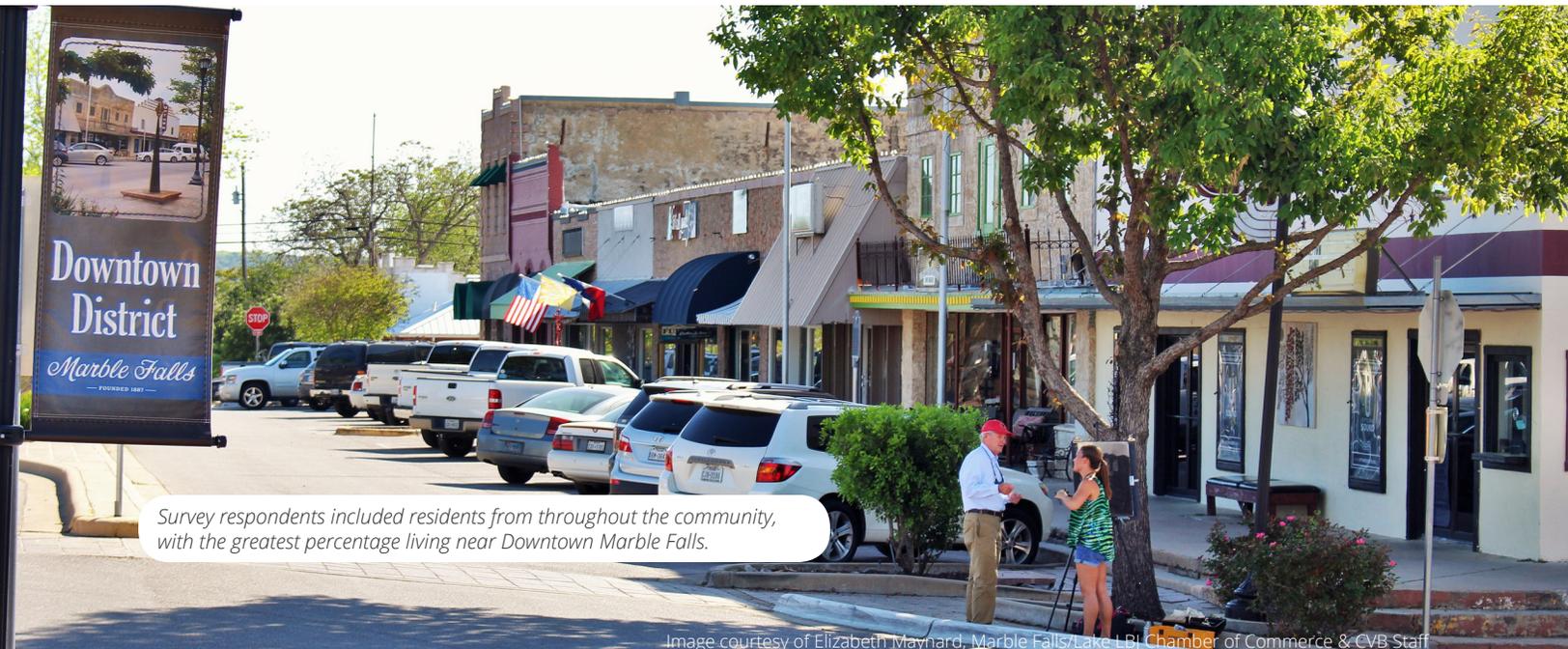
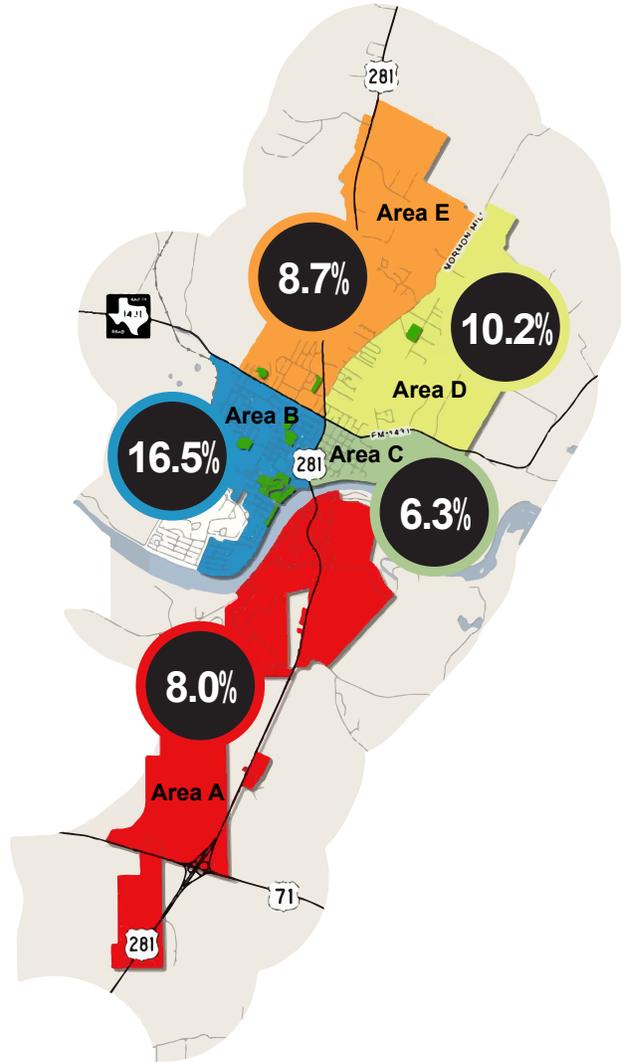
Marble Falls parks provide daily recreation opportunities for City residents.

Figure 2.7, Participation by Residency



As previously described, the Marble Falls park system serves a larger group of people than just City residents. Figure 2.7, *Participation by Residency*, illustrates the geographical representation of the survey respondents. Notably, nearly 48 percent of respondents indicated that they are Marble Falls residents. Based on the amount of non-City resident responses, it is clear that there was a strong amount of interest in the PROSMP by people from surrounding communities. Figure 2.8, *Participation by Location*, provides a further breakdown of where City resident respondents lived. Respondents who lived in Marble Falls represented a cross-section of different areas in the City. However, people living in Area B (including Downtown Marble Falls) had the greatest level of participation.

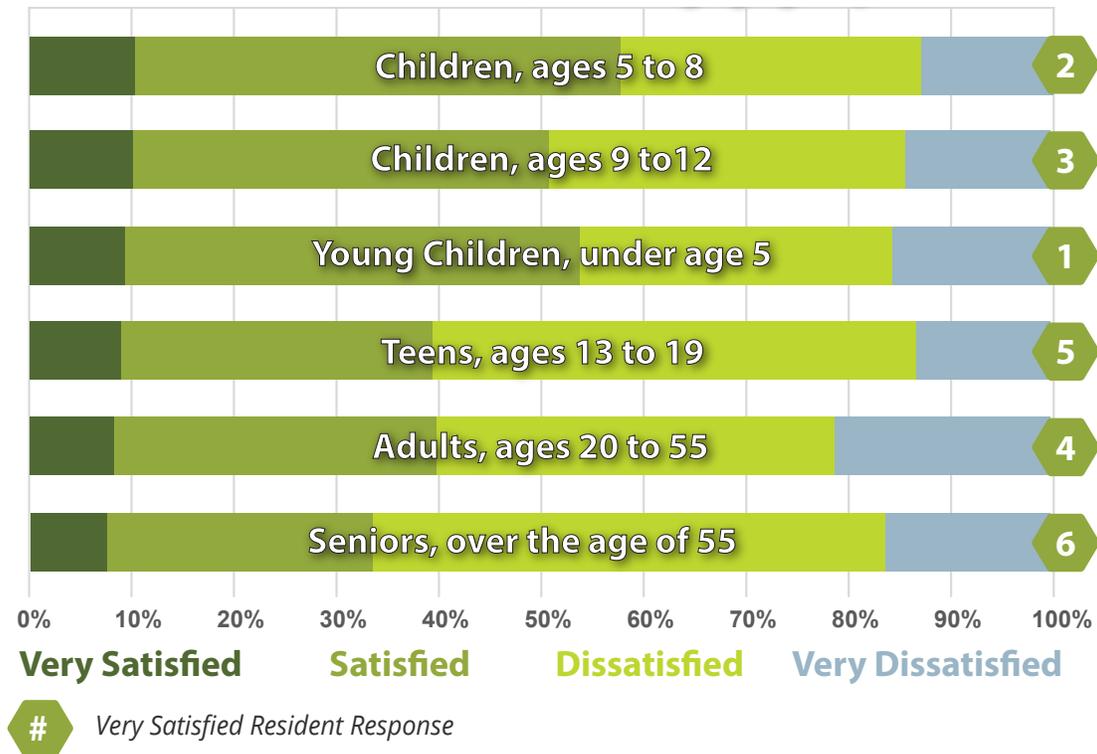
Figure 2.8, Participation by Location



Survey respondents included residents from throughout the community, with the greatest percentage living near Downtown Marble Falls.

Image courtesy of Elizabeth Maynard, Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce & CVB Staff

**Figure 2.9, Satisfaction with Athletic/Recreation Programming**  
(excluding "No Opinion")



Survey respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction with athletic and recreation programming for different age groups. As illustrated in Figure 2.9, *Satisfaction with Athletic/Recreation Programming*, the highest level of satisfaction was with programming for children, ages five to eight and the least amount of satisfaction was with programming for seniors, over the age of 55. In terms of dissatisfaction, respondents indicated the greatest level of dissatisfaction with programming for adults, ages 20 to 55. The responses for the total combined survey respondents and resident-only respondents were relatively similar. The numbers on the right side of Figure 2.9 rank the level of satisfaction based on resident responses. When considering "very satisfied" responses, residents expressed a greater level of satisfaction with programming for young children under five and adults, ages 20 to 55. However, residents indicated a greater level (approximately 3%) of overall dissatisfaction with every age group. As a whole, responses show that athletic and recreation programming in the community has the opportunity to improve to better meet needs of the local population.

Survey respondents were next asked which age group they felt had the greatest need for recreation programming. As illustrated in Figure 2.10, *Greatest Need for Programming*, respondents felt that teens, ages 13 to 19 and children, ages nine to 12 have the greatest need for programming. Marble Falls resident responses show a stronger need for programming for seniors, over the age of 55, which rank third on their priority list. Marble Falls resident responses show that children, ages 5 to 8 had the least need for recreation programming. When considering these responses, it is important to remember that over 45 percent of respondents do not have children living in their home.

**Figure 2.10, Greatest Need for Programming**

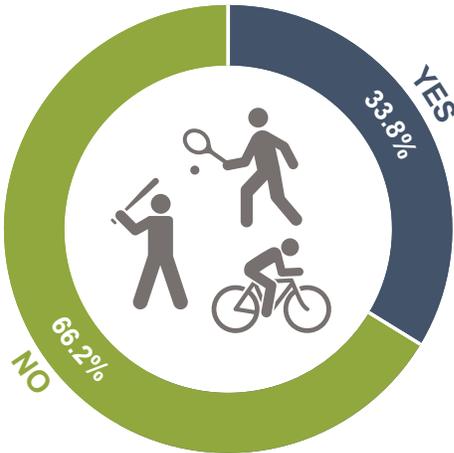
**Which age group has the greatest need for athletic or other recreation programming?**

1. Teens, ages 13 to 19
2. Children, ages 9 to 12
3. Children, ages 5 to 8
4. Adults, ages 20 to 55
5. Young Children, under age 5
6. Seniors, over the age of 55

# Resident Response



**Figure 2.14, Participation in an Athletic Association or Recreation Program**



**Figure 2.15, Participation in an Athletic Association or Recreation Program (Residents)**



Approximately one-third of all survey respondents participate in an athletic association or recreation program (see Figure 2.14, *Participation in an Athletic Association or Recreation Program*). A slightly greater percentage of residents indicated that they participate in an athletic association or recreation program (Figure 2.15, *Participation in an Athletic Association or Recreation Program (Residents)*).

**Figure 2.16, Leagues Respondents Participate In**

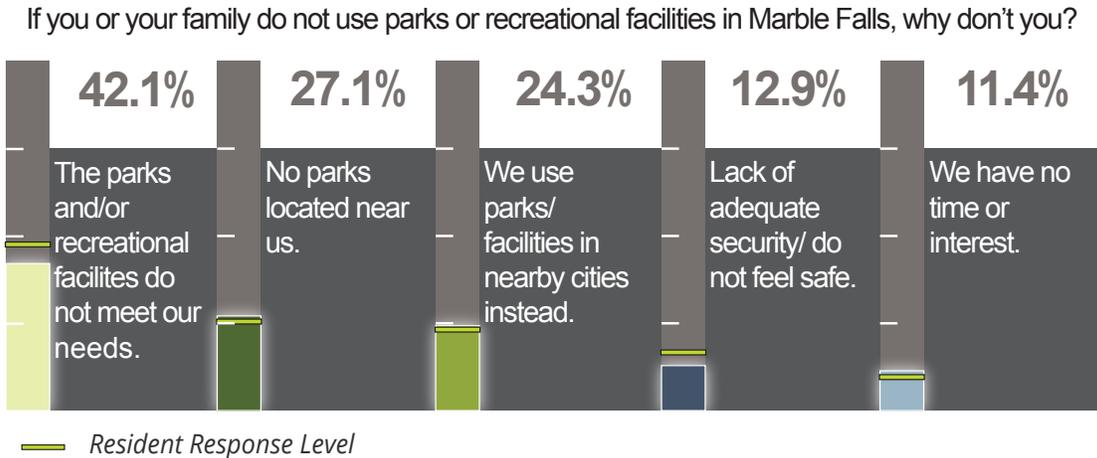
|  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| Marble Falls Youth Baseball/Softball Association | 47% | 48% |
| Granite Country Youth Soccer Association         | 40% | 43% |
| Marble Falls Youth Football/Cheer                | 25% | 30% |
| YMCA of Highland Lakes                           | 25% | 25% |
| La Liga Adult Soccer                             | 14% | 6%  |
| Marble Falls Adult Softball Association          | 11% | 10% |
| Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes        | 10% | 12% |

All Survey Respondents     Marble Falls Residents

Those that indicated that they participate in an athletic association, league, or recreational program were further asked to identify the league or program in which they participate. The leagues with the greatest participation by both residents and non-residents were Marble Falls Youth Baseball/Softball Association and the Granite Country Youth Soccer Association (see Figure 2.16, *Leagues Respondents Participate In*).

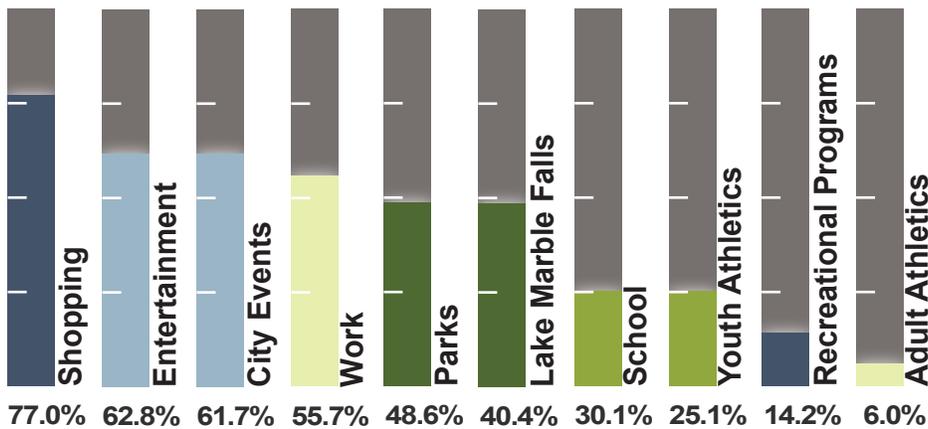


**Figure 2.20, Reasons People Don't Recreate in Marble Falls**



Respondents were asked about reasons they do not use the parks and recreation facilities in Marble Falls. They were allowed to give multiple reasons to explain their lack of use. As shown in Figure 2.20, *Reasons People Don't Recreate in Marble Falls*, the primary reason for both residents and non-residents is that the parks and recreational facilities do not meet their recreational needs. The remaining reasons received similar responses for residents and non-residents, except that a greater percentage of residents indicated that they do not feel safe in the parks.

**Figure 2.21, Things that Bring Non-Residents Into the City**



As both a commercial and recreation hub for the region, Marble Falls sees a great influx of people on a daily basis. As such, non-residents were asked what their primary reasons were for visiting Marble Falls. Based on the results illustrated in Figure 2.21, *Things that Bring Non-Residents Into the City*, the top three reasons were shopping, entertainment, and City events. Parks was the fifth rated reason, just ahead of Lake Marble Falls. As a whole leisure related activities like shopping, entertainment, and recreation are a significant draw to those who live outside the City.

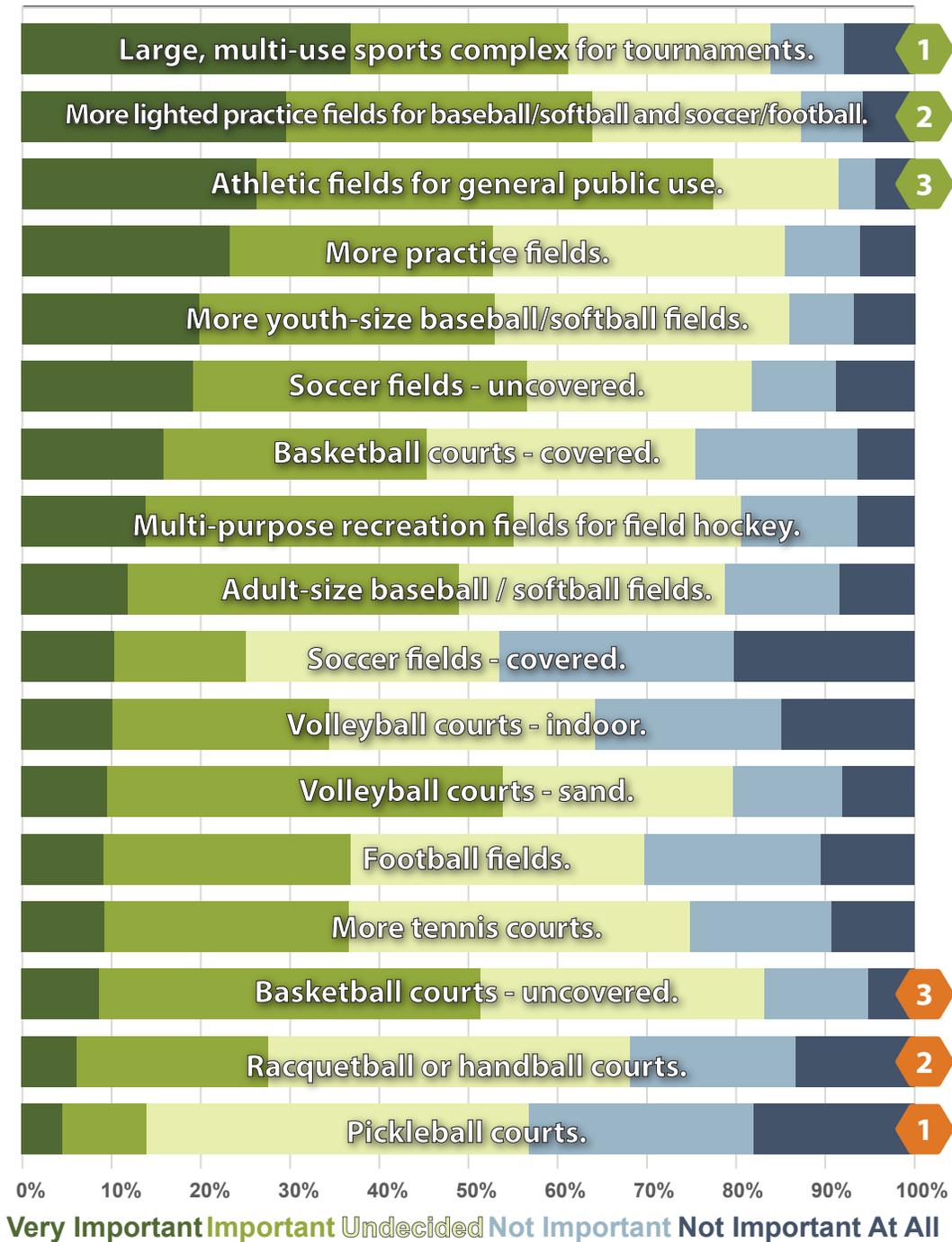


**Figure 2.24, Trail-Related Statements**  
(excluding "No Opinion")



During the 2016 Marble Falls Comprehensive Plan, a desire for additional trails was identified. In order to gather further input regarding trail development in Marble Falls, respondents were asked to assert their opinions on a series of trail-related questions. Illustrated in Figure 2.24, *Trail-Related Statements*, respondents show strong support for the development of more trails near residences, to serve as a method for alternative travel, and the preference of crushed granite trails over concrete trails. The opinions of residents and non-residents were the same.

Figure 2.25, Importance of Athletic-Related Items



# Most Important Resident Response      # Least Important Resident Response

Respondents were asked to indicate the level of importance they associate with a variety of athletic-related facilities. As illustrated in Figure 2.25, *Importance of Athletic-Related Items*, respondents felt that a large, multi-use sports complex, more lighted practice fields, and athletic fields for general public use were the more important items. The most and least important survey results were the same for Marble Falls residents and the combined responses.

**Figure 2.26, Most Needed Athletics-Related Facility/Activity**

What athletics related facility/activity is most needed?

- 1. Large, multi-use sports complex for tournaments.**
- 2. Athletic fields for general public use.**
3. Multi-purpose recreation fields for field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, etc.
4. Soccer fields – uncovered.
5. More youth-size baseball / softball fields.

**Figure 2.27, Most Needed Athletics-Related Facility/Activity (Residents)**

What athletics related facility/activity is most needed?

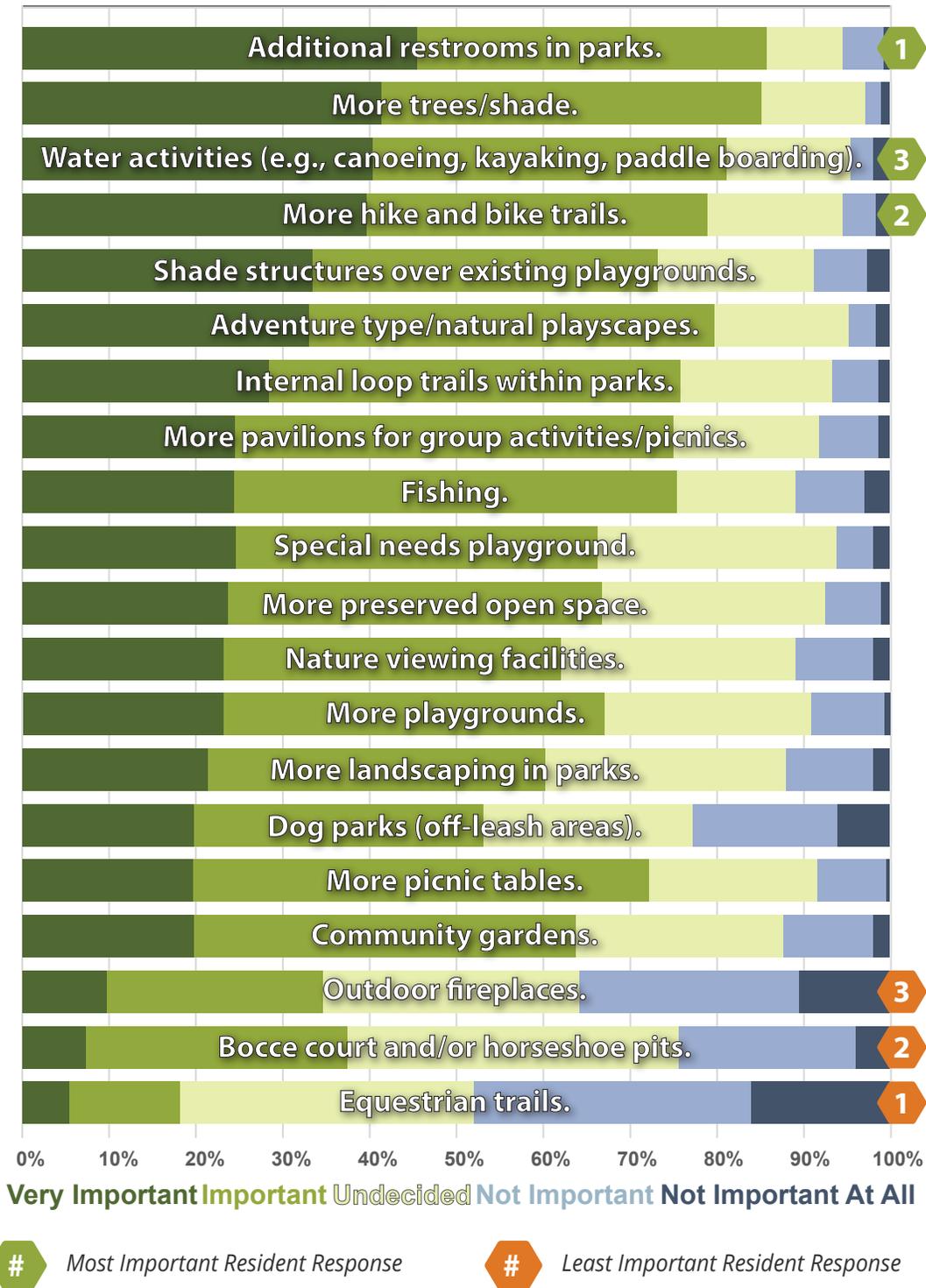
- 1. Large, multi-use sports complex for tournaments.**
- 2. Athletic fields for general public use.**
3. Multi-purpose recreation fields for field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, etc.
4. More youth-size baseball / softball fields.
5. Basketball courts - covered.

Using the same list as the previous question, respondents were then asked to choose the facility they felt was most needed. For both residents and the combined responses, a large, multi-use sports complex was the most important athletic facility chosen (see Figure 2.26, *Most Needed Athletics-Related Facility/Activity* and Figure 2.27, *Most Needed Athletics-Related Facility/Activity (Residents)*). Covered basketball courts were seen as more important than soccer fields by residents. This was the only difference between the two respondent groups.



*Additional athletic fields for general public use were seen as highly important by survey respondents.*

Figure 2.28, Importance of Passive Recreation Items



In order to determine priorities for the future of passive recreation amenities and activities, respondents were asked to identify the importance they associate with a variety of passive recreation related items. Additional restrooms in parks, additional shade, and water activities were identified as the most important items. Resident responses differed slightly in that they felt hike and bike trails were more important than additional shade (see Figure 2.28, *Importance of Passive Recreation Items*).

**Figure 2.29, Most Needed Passive Recreation Facility/Activity**

What passive recreation facility/activity is most needed?

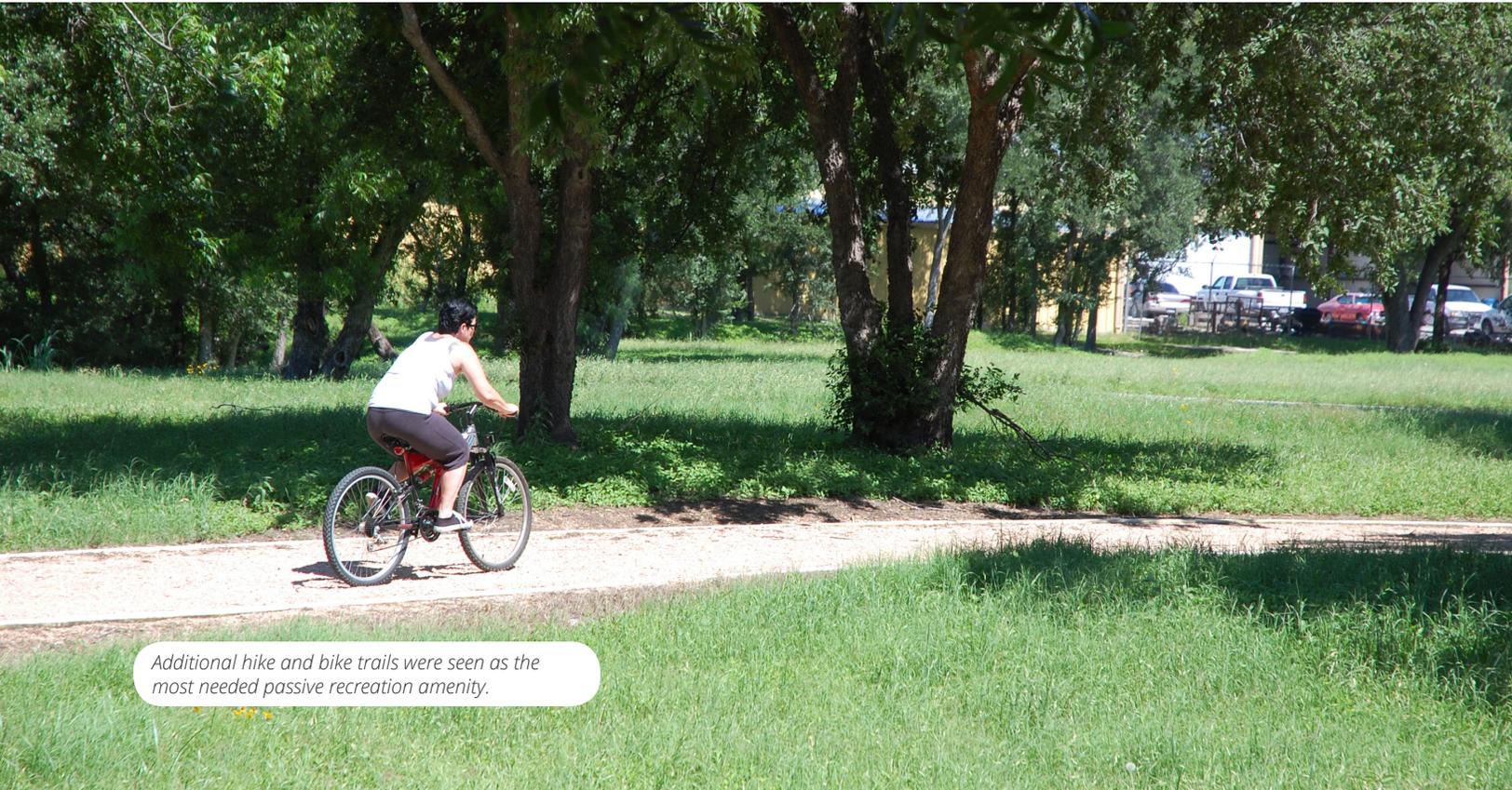
- 1. More hike and bike trails.**
- 2. Water activities (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding).**
- 3. Additional restrooms in parks.**
- 4. Adventure type / natural playscapes.**
- 5. More playgrounds.**

**Figure 2.30, Most Needed Passive Recreation Facility/Activity (Residents)**

What passive recreation facility/activity is most needed?

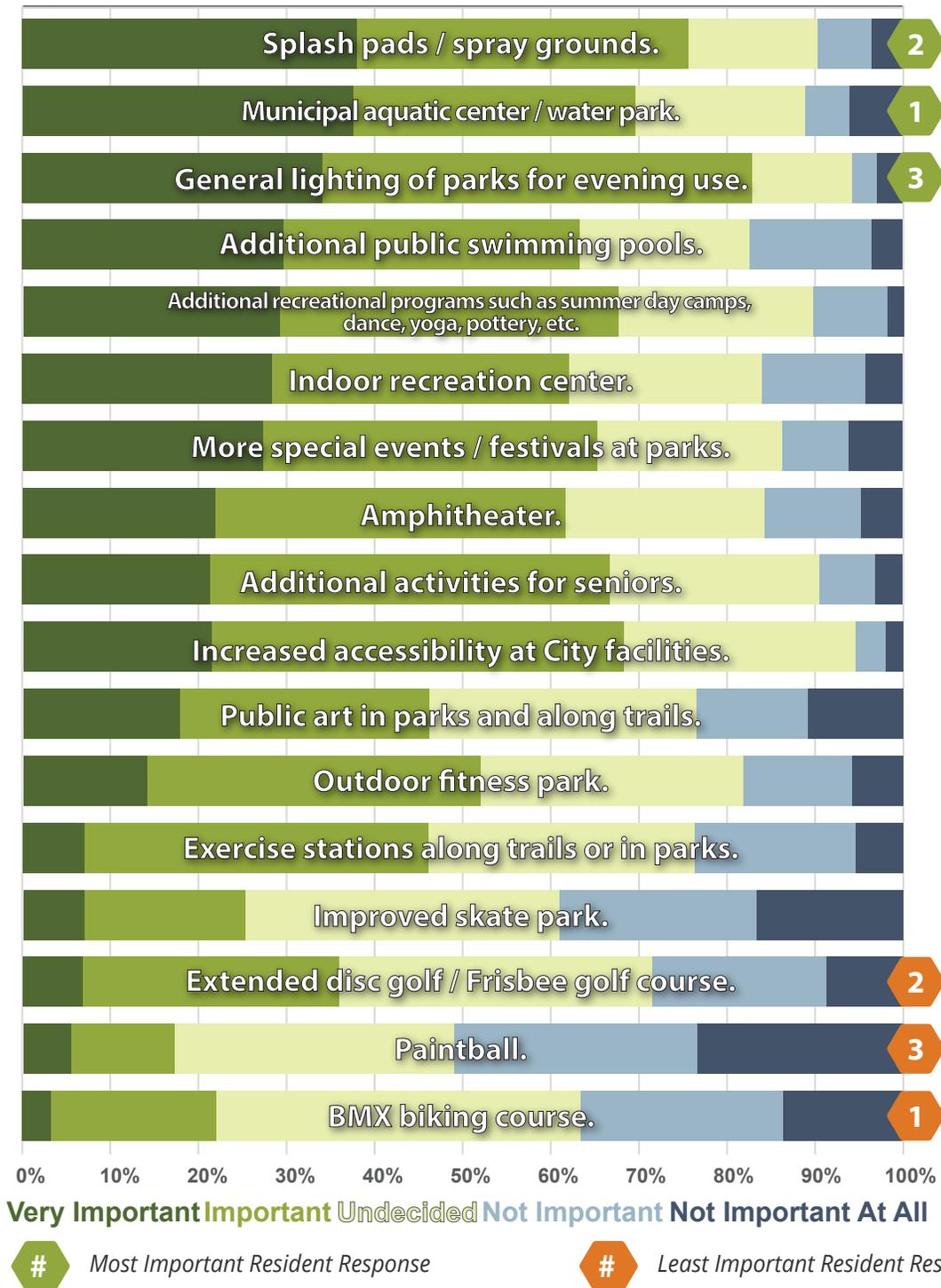
- 1. More hike and bike trails.**
- 2. Additional restrooms in parks.**
- 3. Water activities (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding).**
- 4. Adventure type / natural playscapes.**
- 5. More pavilions for group activities.**

When asked to identify the passive recreation facility they felt was most needed, more hike and bike trails, water activities, and additional restrooms in parks were identified as the most needed by both residents and full respondents (see Figure 2.29, *Most Needed Passive Recreation Facility/Activity* and Figure 2.30, *Most Needed Passive Recreation Facility/Activity (Residents)*).



*Additional hike and bike trails were seen as the most needed passive recreation amenity.*

Figure 2.31, Importance of Miscellaneous Parks and Recreation Items



While some types of recreation facilities and amenities don't fall nicely into a specific recreation category, they still need to be accounted for as part of a park system. Respondents were asked to indicate how much importance they placed on a variety of miscellaneous park and recreation items. Water recreation opportunities such as splash pads and aquatic center/water parks were identified as the most important items (see Figure 2.31, *Importance of Miscellaneous Parks and Recreation Items*). The results show similar views between the combined survey responses and the survey responses of Marble Falls residents, with most and least important responses being the same but in a slightly different order.

**Figure 2.32, Most Needed Miscellaneous Parks and Recreation Facility/Activity**

**Top Five Recreation Activities.**

1. **Splash pads / spray grounds.**
2. **Aquatic center / water park.**
3. **Additional recreational programs such as summer day camps, dance, yoga, pottery, etc.**
4. **General lighting of parks for evening use & Indoor recreation center.**
5. **Additional public swimming pools.**

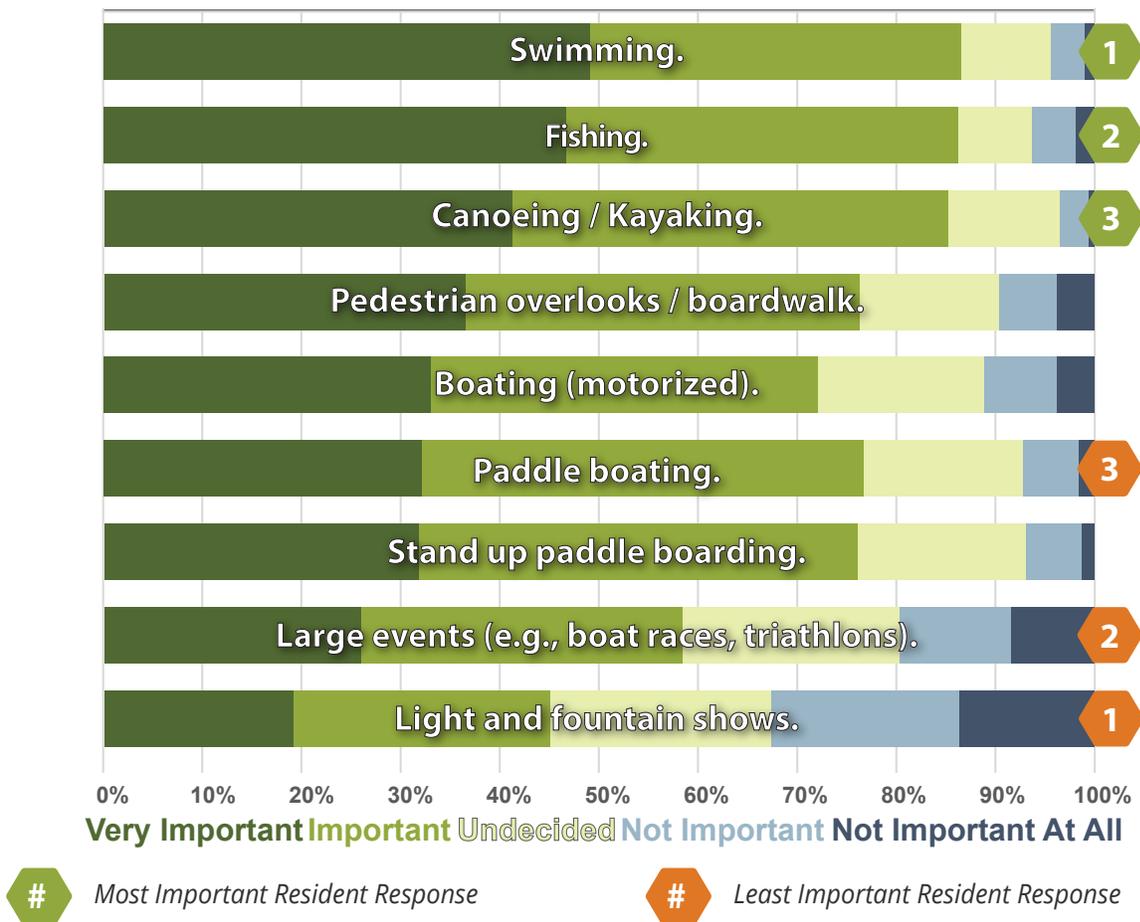
**Figure 2.33, Most Needed Miscellaneous Parks and Recreation Facility/Activity (Residents)**

**Top Five Recreation Activities.**

1. **Splash pads / spray grounds.**
2. **Aquatic center / water park.**
3. **Additional public swimming pools.**
4. **Additional recreational programs such as summer day camps, dance, yoga, pottery, etc.**
5. **More special events / festivals at parks.**

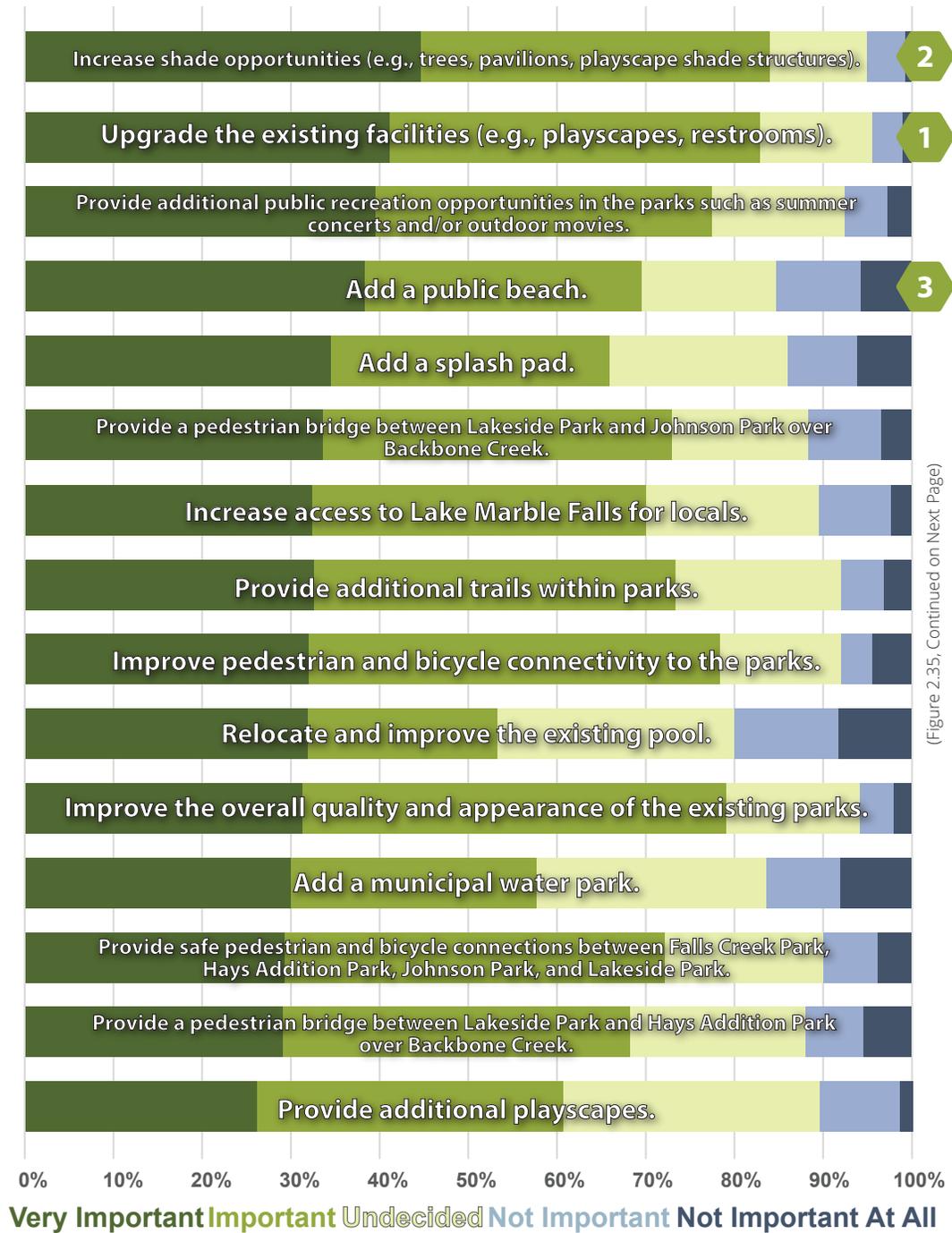
When asked to choose their top most needed facility using the same list as the previous question, water-based recreation items remained at the top of the list for both residents and combined responses. Residents felt that more special events in the parks were more important than park lighting and an indoor recreation center (see Figure 2.32, *Most Needed Miscellaneous Parks and Recreation Facility/Activity* and Figure 2.33, *Most Needed Miscellaneous Parks and Recreation Facility/Activity (Residents)*).

**Figure 2.34, Importance of Activities on Lake Marble Falls**



Lake Marble Falls creates unique recreation opportunities in the City that are not available to other communities. When asked to identify the importance of activities that are associated with the lake, the top three important activities were the same for both the combined survey responses and the Marble Falls resident responses. As a whole the activities identified in Figure 2.34, *Importance of Activities on Lake Marble Falls*, were all viewed as very important or important by over 50 percent of respondents, with the exception of the light and fountain show.

Figure 2.35, Importance of Addressing Downtown Park Items



(Figure 2.35, Continued on Next Page)

# Most Important Resident Response

The parks in Downtown Marble Falls, including Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, and Lakeside Park, provide a unique recreation opportunity for the community. In order to gauge the public's interest in a variety of potential improvements and additions to the parks, respondents were asked to rate the importance of a long list of items (see Figure 2.35, *Importance of Addressing Downtown Park Items*, continued on the next page). Items of greatest importance included increasing shade opportunities, upgrading existing facilities, providing additional community recreation opportunities, and the addition of a public beach. Resident responses were similar to the combined survey, with residents feeling that a public beach was of greater importance. The least important resident responses vary slightly from the combined survey results. The inclusion of a soccer field in the parks was voted as the second least important issue for residents, while it was the fifth lowest priority for the combined results.

Figure 2.35, Importance of Addressing Downtown Park Items (cont.)

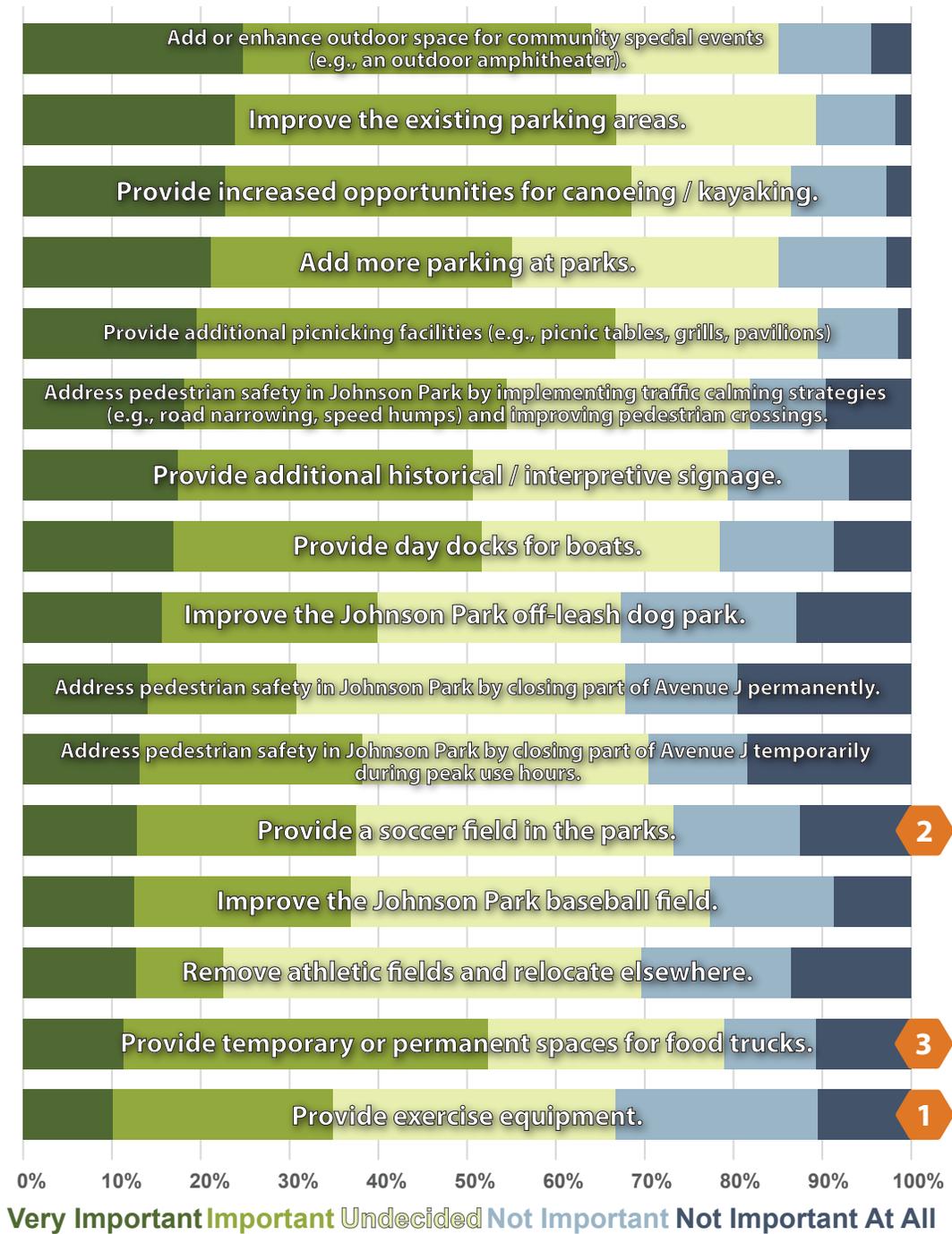
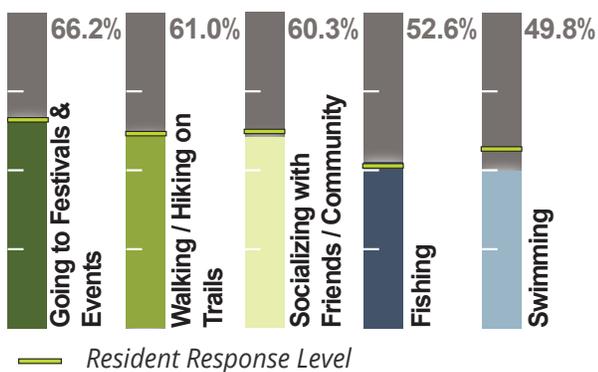


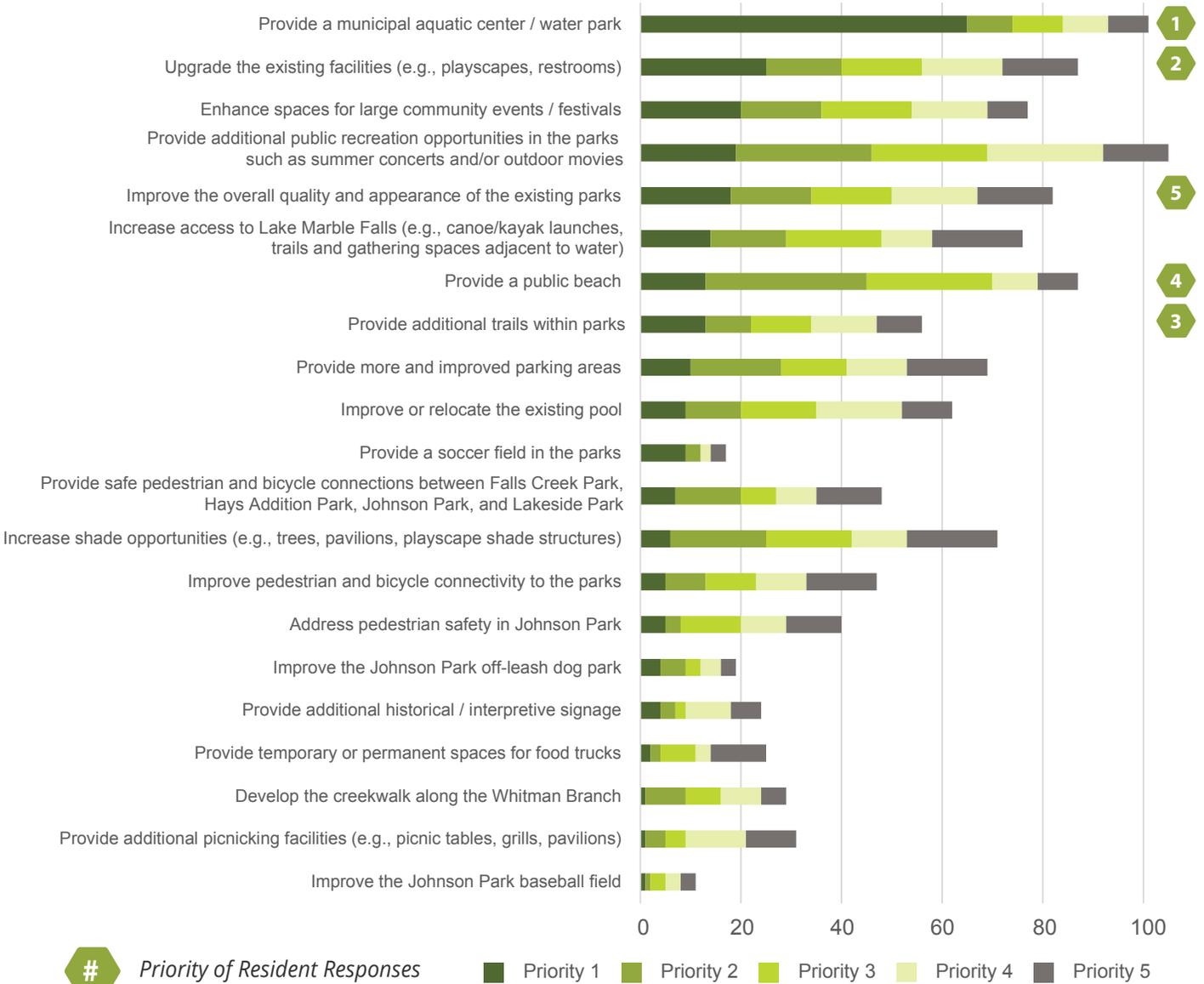
Figure 2.36, Top Activities to do in the Downtown Parks



**#** Least Important Resident Response

In response to a follow up question, respondents indicated the five activities listed in Figure 2.36, *Top Activities to do in the Downtown Parks* as the most desired activities for the Downtown parks. Notably, all the activities involve passive, family-friendly, multigenerational recreation. Residents indicated a slightly higher importance towards swimming.

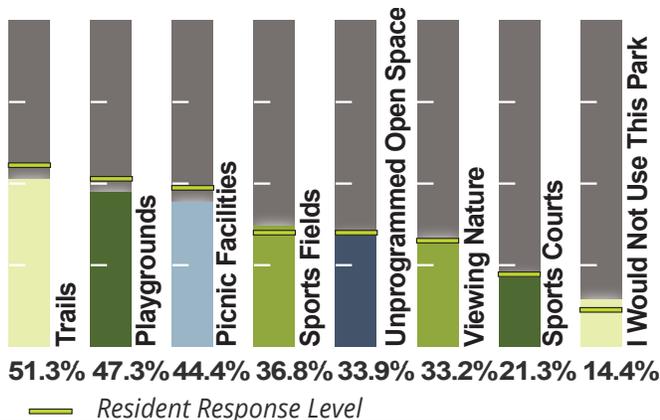
**Figure 2.37, Ranking of the Downtown Parks Items**



**# Priority of Resident Responses** ■ Priority 1 ■ Priority 2 ■ Priority 3 ■ Priority 4 ■ Priority 5

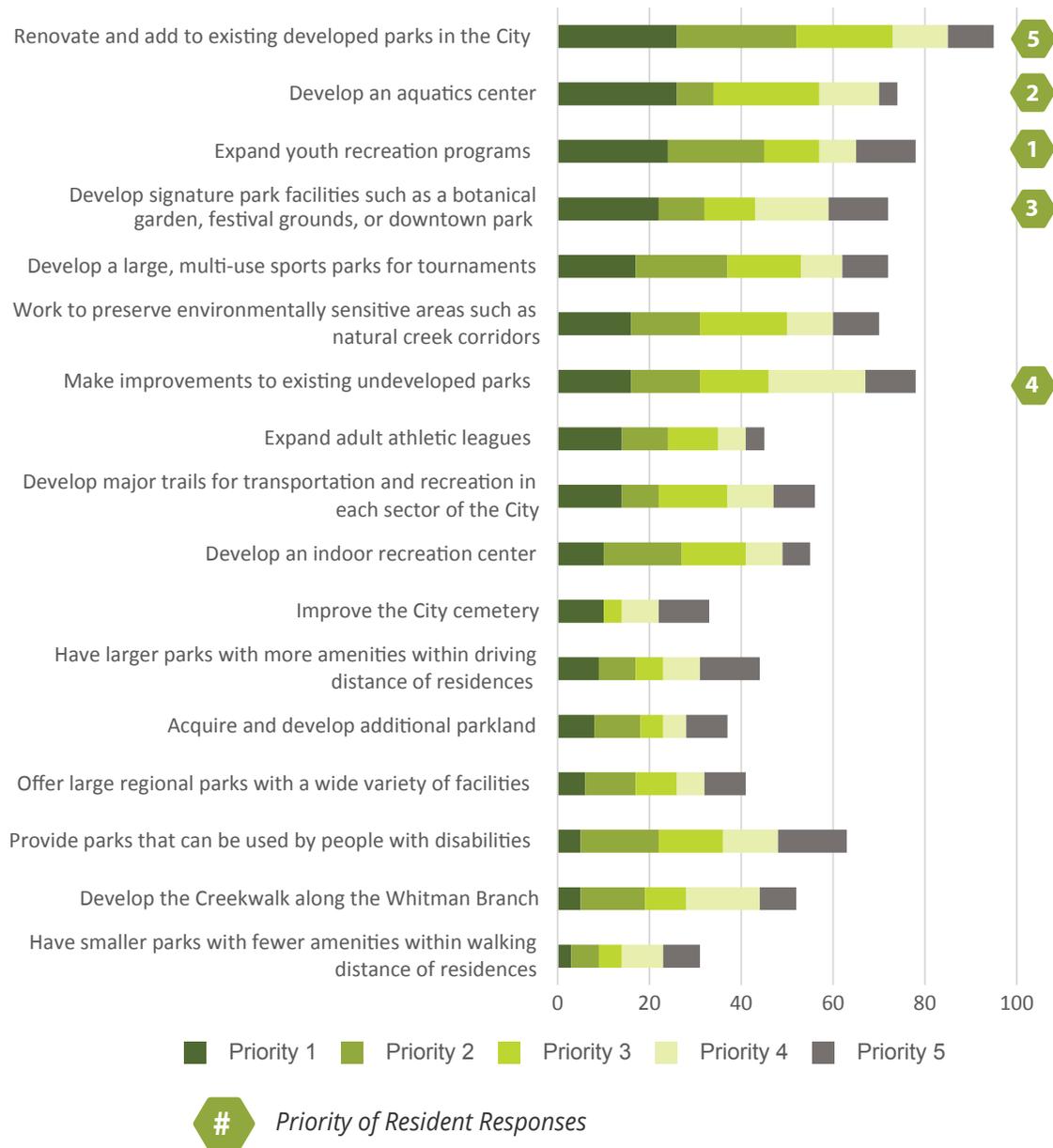
In an effort to re-imagine the Downtown parks system, respondents were asked to rank a series of potential items for the Downtown parks. The top item receiving the greatest amount of high priority votes was a municipal aquatic center/water park. Considering the sum of the top five priorities, the additional items receiving the most overall support (illustrated by the widest bars in Figure 2.37, *Ranking of the Downtown Park Items*) were providing additional public recreation opportunities in the parks, providing a public beach, and upgrading the existing facilities. Residents felt that providing additional trails within parks and providing a public beach were of more importance than the combined results indicated.

**Figure 2.38, Envisioned Use for Park View Park**



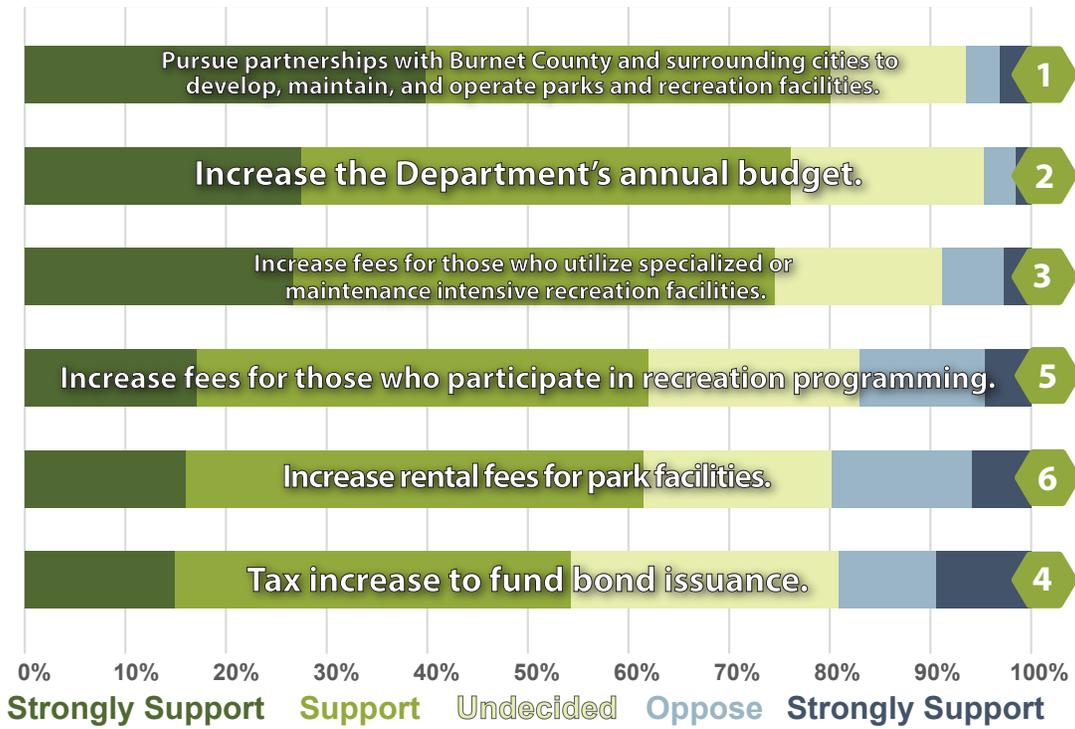
Park View Park is an undeveloped City park which is also being analyzed and conceptually planned as part of the PROSMP process. In order to identify community interests, respondents were asked how they envisioned using Park View Park. The majority of respondents, both resident and combined responses envision using the park primarily for passive recreation with such elements as trails, playgrounds, and picnic facilities (see Figure 2.38, *Envisioned Use for Park View Park*).

**Figure 2.39, Ranking of the Parks and Recreation Action Items**



Based on public input, a needs assessment, and analysis of current and future needs, the PROSMP develops a series of recommendations for the parks and recreation system in Marble Falls. After answering a variety of questions regarding interests and recreation needs, respondents were asked to prioritize a series of potential actions the Parks and Recreation Department could undertake in the future (see Figure 2.39, *Ranking of the Parks and Recreation Action Items*). Four of the top five priorities were similar between the combined responses and resident-only responses. The only difference was their order of priority. The exception being that residents identified improvements to existing developed parks as a top priority while the combined responses did not.

**Figure 2.40, Support for Financial Strategies for the Parks and Recreation Department**



**#** Most Strongly Supported by Residents

To meet the needs of its growing population, the Parks and Recreation Department may require additional funding. As such, respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for a variety of financing strategies to increase the amount of funding available for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The strategy with the most support was to pursue partnerships with Burnet County and surrounding cities to develop, maintain, and operate parks and recreation facilities. Marble Falls resident responses were similar to the combined survey results, except that the residents more strongly supported tax increases to fund bond issuance. This was the fourth most supported strategy among residents (see Figure 2.40, *Support for Financial Strategies for the Parks and Recreation Department*).



*Increased funding may be necessary to allow the City to keep up with maintenance of existing and future park improvements.*

## Downtown Charrette

As part of the PROSMP planning process, the Downtown parks are being re-programmed using a consolidated vision as a single Downtown park. That being said, there may still be specific areas geared towards a particular use or theme such as active recreation (e.g., baseball, skatepark), passive recreation (e.g., trail, open space), special events (e.g., festivals), etc. In June of 2016, a Downtown charrette process was conducted with the PAC. The charrette, overseen by consultant staff, went through a series of exercises to identify considerations, recreation programming, and themes to be included in the development the Downtown parks. This process included activities to identify, discuss, and ultimately illustrate their ideas for a Downtown concept plan.

### Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis

Working as a large group, the PAC discussed and identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the Marble Falls Downtown parks and greater parks system, as they related to the citizens and visitors of Marble Falls. The results of the SWOT analysis (see Figure 2.41, *SWOT Analysis Results*, on the next page) helped to define the vision and conceptual design of the Downtown parks.



A SWOT analysis and mapping exercise were conducted with the PAC to help conceptually envision an improved Downtown park system.

Figure 2.41, SWOT Analysis Results

## STRENGTHS

- Lake Marble Falls – clean water due to water constantly flushing
- Backbone Creek & Whitman Branch corridors
- Positive, family-friendly spaces, picnicking
  - Relatively safe parks, policing
- Large right-of-ways, numerous alleyways
- Johnson Park (1887) – Legacy Park (1 of 29 statewide)
- Destinations within walking distance
  - Skatepark highly used
  - Tourism / non-resident opportunities

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Paddle boarding, kayaking, increased water access
- Potential to increase use of Backbone Creek
- Hotel/conference center brings additional park usage
  - Let community's desires guide the plan
- Potential use of ROW and alleys for connectivity
- Increase use and programming of Lakeside Park
  - Consider legacy of Johnson Park
- Event pricing to supplement park maintenance funding
- Development south of Lake Marble Falls – fee-in-lieu instead to allow for use in downtown parks? Or ensure park is built to set standard
- Chance to involve the youth with history, science, nature education
  - Partnership with adjacent cities (Meadowlakes for golf amenities)
- Allowing non-resident use to keep local businesses viable
  - Healthcare industry could evolve user-base
  - Christmas Trail of Lights – 50 thousand participants
  - Evolving events over time

## WEAKNESSES

- Unsightly adjacent uses
- Low number of residents limits revenue
- Little representation by non-English speakers
- Minimal engagement by certain user groups (time constraints, education, lack of understanding of how this could benefit them)
  - Lakeside Park infrequently used
- No city transportation and few safe pedestrian connections
  - Tax base smaller than service area
- Insufficient designed parking (needs better efficiency)
  - Not many museums to interest youth
  - Few cultural amenities to interest youth
- Housing and amenities not attracting new residents

## THREATS

- Make sure parks and recreation serve residents as well as tourists – some uses need tourist use to remain viable
  - Staffing
- Events as threat to parks system (Howdy-Roo, Mayfest, Boat races)
- Threat to water quality in Lake Marble Falls and Backbone Creek
- Heavy use could degrade parks, negatively impact tree health, etc.
  - Droughts and flooding
    - Vandalism
    - Lack of money

### Mapping Exercise

As part of the Downtown charrette, the PAC split into two smaller groups. Each small group discussed their thoughts and ideas for the Downtown parks and marked up an aerial map indicating key areas they felt needed special attention. Each group worked together to develop an analysis and concept map considering park improvements, reconfigurations, and connectivity and access to and between the parks. The resulting maps are shown in Figure 2.42, *Downtown Charrette Results*. Following the charrette, a series of three concepts were created for the parks. The concepts included a pedestrian-focused plan, event-focused concept, and water-focused design (see Figure 2.43, *Downtown Park Concept Alternatives*, on the next page).



**Figure 2.42, Downtown Charrette Results**



*Charrette Result One*



*Charrette Result Two*

Figure 2.43, Downtown Park Concept Alternatives

Pedestrian-Focused Concept Plan



The Main Street pedestrian experience was carried through to the Lakeside Pavilion with formal tree plantings, seating, and lighting. Pedestrians would continue along a streetscape promenade to Hays Addition Park. Alternatively, they could enter a plaza at the rear of the new hotel and conference center that incorporated art and splash play.

Lake front views were intended to be formal while creek side views were more informal and natural. The inclusion of sculptural landmarks was intended to help identify key areas in the park including bridge crossings and gathering areas.

A large water recreation/splash park included parking that could also be used for events and RV parking.

Key design elements:

- Pedestrian promenades
- Sculptural landmarks

Event-Focused Concept Plan



This event-focused concept created defined entry points into and throughout the parks for pedestrians and vehicles. Iconic elements were used at entries to visually draw people into the site and create a sense of place. Main Street extended through the park connecting to Lakeshore Drive, enabling Avenue J/ Pecan Valley Drive to be closed for large events and providing for safer pedestrian experiences. A trailhead at the rear of the hotel and conference center provided access to a loop trail extending south into the park or north to the EDC's waterfront development. A southern trail looped around the site with foot bridges over Backbone Creek.

Key design elements:

- Entrance gateways
- Large open lawns
- Transitional parking

Water-Focused Concept Plan



The water-focused concept accentuated views of and access to the water. A pedestrian bridge to Hays Addition Park was intended to divide the pedestrian versus boat access to the lake and creek. Motorized boats would be prohibited from entering Backbone Creek which would be preserved for pedestrian and non-motorized small craft. A splash pad was centrally located in Johnson Park to provide a formal interaction with water. A large plaza was located at the rear of the hotel and conference center allowing for temporary food truck access and other elements that would make this space active with pedestrians.

Key design elements:

- Fire pits
- Boardwalk
- Formal creek edge
- Formal water play

## Park View Park Charrette

Park View Park includes approximately 12 acres of natural land at the northwest corner of Park View Drive and Park Ridge Drive. As the only parkland in the northeast quadrant of the Marble Falls, this currently undeveloped park has potential to provide recreation opportunities for a currently underserved area. As part of the PROSMP planning process, a concept is being developed for this site.

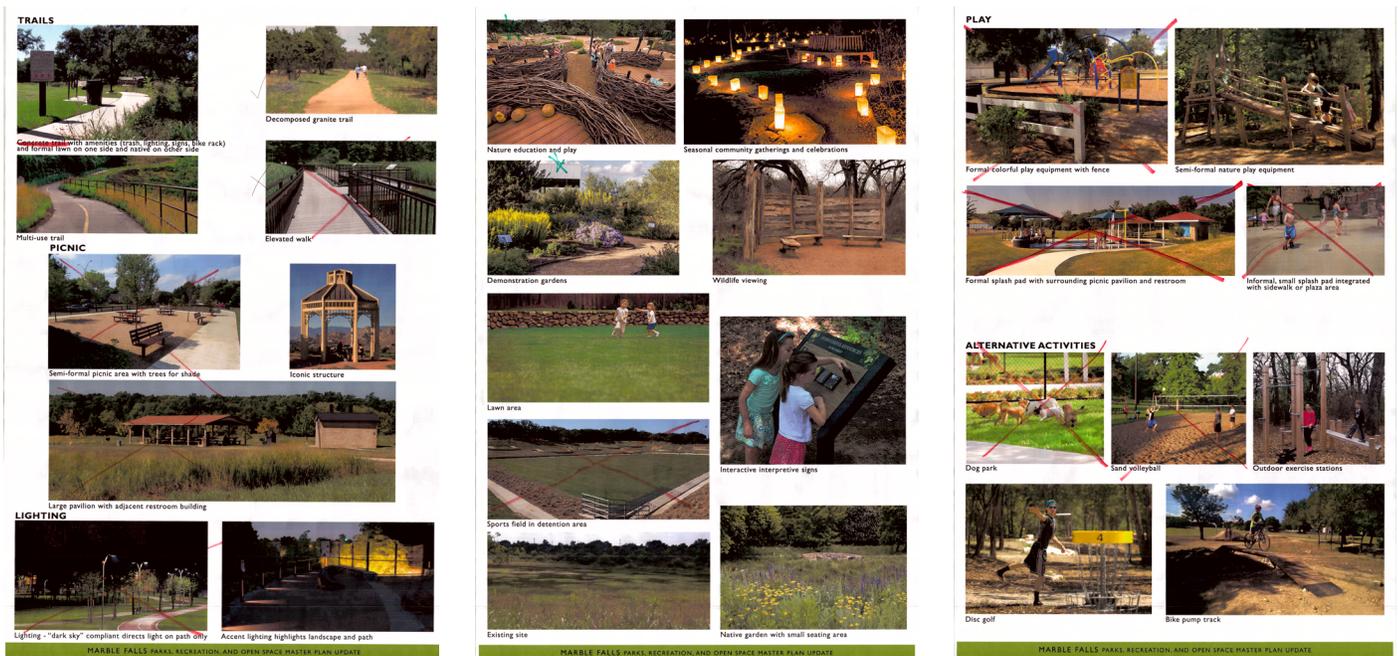
In order to determine local residents' thoughts and desires for the park, a design charrette was held in September of 2016. The charrette included the participation of 16 nearby residents. The charrette used an image preference approach for engaging participants to think critically about the space. The group was asked to comment and provide feedback on a series of photos related to potential park uses and amenities (see Figure 2.44, *Park View Park Visual Preference Boards*). Highlights from the resident feedback are listed below.

- Low impact only, not high activity area
- No nighttime use
- No permanent water in pond
- Interested in education component – garden, interpretive signage, small natural playscape
- No lit walking trail or boardwalk desired
- Desire to make the park a family activity area with a trail, picnic area with shade, and trees.
- Potential interest in exercise stations along the trail
- Interest in small bicycle obstacles along trail
- Use neutral colors
- Do not want a restroom
- Want to keep the area as parkland



Residents helped to direct sketching of conceptual programmatic ideas for the park.

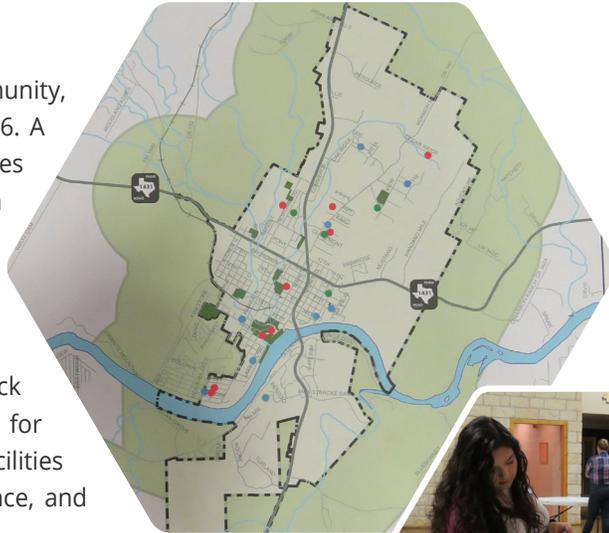
Figure 2.44, *Park View Park Visual Preference Boards*



## Public Open House

In order to solicit feedback from the general community, a public open house was held in November of 2016. A total of 35 people attended. The majority of attendees live within the City and Downtown area, with a few individuals living in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction. A series of boards presented an overview of the planning process, a summary of public input heard thus far, and parkland analysis results. Attendees were then asked to provide feedback regarding a series of preliminary recommendations for park renovations and development, connectivity, facilities and programming, parkland acquisition, maintenance, and Citywide park policies and regulations.

Key results from the open house feedback exercises can be found below and on the following pages.



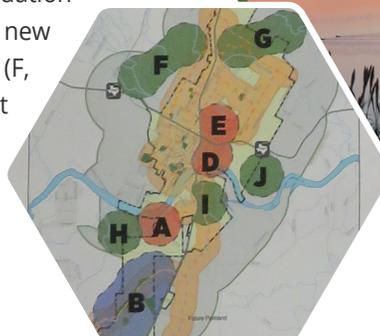
This Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update will identify community preferences for the future and identify recommendations and priorities for the next five- to 10-years.

### Why is this important?

- The Master Plan creates a "snapshot" of where the park system is now.
- The Master Plan creates an opportunity to identify changing community preferences about what is important to the citizens of Marble Falls.
- The Master Plan creates a forum for citizens to express what types of parks, recreation, and other recreation facilities they want.
- The Master Plan sets goals for the future of open space and recreation.

## Parkland Acquisition

A map depicting various locations throughout Marble Falls where the City could pursue or continue pursuing parkland acquisition was provided, and attendees were asked to place a sticker next to each preliminary recommendation that they supported. The largest percentage of responses (34%) supported pursuing a community-scale waterfront property south of the lake (Area A). The recommendation to consider acquisition and development of new neighborhood-serving parks in areas of future need (F, G, H, I, J on the map) as new residential development occurs gained a significant amount of support (20%) from attendees as well.



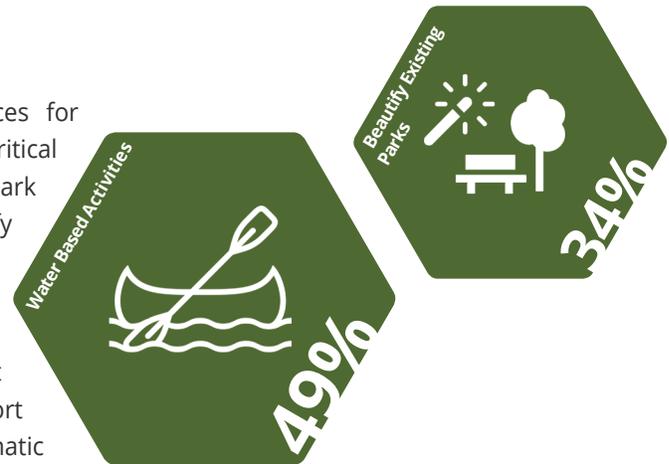
### Parkland Planning, Design, & Maintenance

To ensure that the City's vision of a second-to-none parks and recreation system comes to fruition, attendees were presented with a list of recommendations for planning, design, and renovation of new parks, as well as proposals for resources for park maintenance. Attendees were asked to place one sticker with each recommendation they supported. The results of this feedback showed the strongest support for conducting a study of restrooms in existing parks to determine the need for system-wide additions and replacements (40%); and for developing a partnership with the local Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs to encourage participation in the design, installation, and maintenance of park landscaping in key areas (34%).



### Park Renovations & Development

An understanding of current needs, adequate resources for improvement, and a commitment to implementation are critical as the City moves forward with improving its existing park system. With that in mind, attendees were asked to identify the recommendations for renovation and development that they supported. Improving access to water-based activities and identifying opportunities to beautify existing parks drew the most support with 49 percent and 34 percent of attendees, respectively. A significant amount of support was given to improving the physical, visual, and programmatic connection to the lake; evaluating opportunities to increase shade in existing parks; and providing at least one “all abilities playground.”



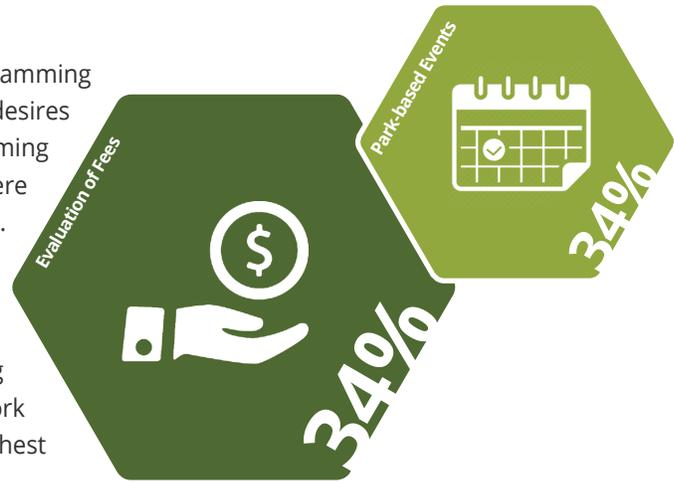
### Park Renovation Priorities

From a pictorial list of existing parks within the City, attendees were asked to place a sticker on each of three parks they felt should be renovated or upgraded first. The parks that received the most votes were Falls Creek Park (46%), Lakeside Park (34%), and Johnson Park (26%).



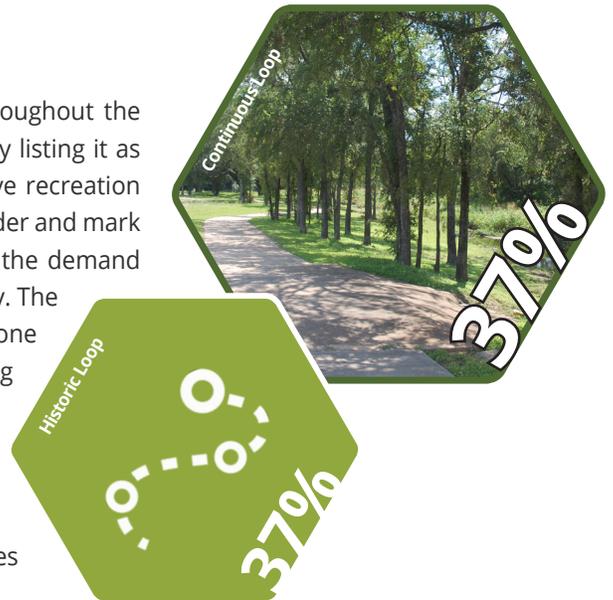
### Recreation Facilities & Programming

As the City proceeds with planning for recreational programming and facilities, it is essential to establish the needs and desires of the community. Preliminary facility and programming recommendations were presented and attendees were asked to mark those which they supported the most. Developing additional park-based events, such as art-in-the-park and community picnics, and conducting an evaluation of fees gained the most support, both having 34% of attendees' votes. Conducting an event parking study for large community events to evaluate a framework for public/private parking for large events was the next highest ranked (31%).



### Connectivity

Overwhelming support for connectivity and trails was shown throughout the public engagement process, with respondents to the online survey listing it as both their favorite recreational activity and highest priority passive recreation need. With this in mind, open house attendees were asked to consider and mark the recommendations that they most supported with regards to the demand for, and improvement of, trails and connectivity throughout the City. The results showed that connecting the Whitman Branch and Backbone Creek trails to create a continuous loop (37%), as well as considering establishing a historic trail route (37%) were most important to the community. Not far behind, the recommendations for evaluating the need for minimum lighting throughout the trail system (34%), developing a brochure advertising the designated trails (34%), and developing a Citywide Trails Master Plan (31%) received attendees next highest votes.



### Policies & Regulations

Meeting attendees were asked to vote on recommendations regarding policies and regulations that would impact the City's parks and recreation system on a broader basis. The highest ranked recommendations included evaluating the City's park-related fee structure to ensure non-City users and private organizations, such as athletic leagues, are offsetting costs of maintenance (40%), and ensuring adequate resources to provide for a well-maintained park system (40%). Pursuing development of a joint use agreement with Marble Falls ISD (34%) and updating the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan by 2022 (34%) were also highly supported recommendations among attendees.



### Downtown Parks Preliminary Master Plan

From an overview preliminary master plan for the Downtown parks and a list of proposed/recommended uses and amenities, attendees were asked to vote for those which they most supported. The top five proposed uses/amenities for the Downtown parks were the aquatic center (43%), boardwalk (40%), the beach accommodation approximately 225 people (34%), the Johnson Park pedestrian bridge and overlook (26%), and exercise stations (26%).



Outer Loop Trail

20%

### Park View Park Preliminary Master Plan

The recommended uses and amenities for Park View Park were presented to attendees on a large overview preliminary master plan. Attendees were asked to place a sticker with each element that they most supported. Attendees most highly supported the potential bike challenge course (63%), as well as an outer loop trail (20%), and exercise stations (20%).



### “Reach” Projects

Attendees were asked to choose two “reach projects” they supported most for the City to consider over time. The project with the greatest support was the development of an aquatic center as a replacement for the pool being removed from Lakeside Park (49%). Establishing a tube float along Backbone Creek (43%) had a significant amount of support, as well as pursuing a tourism train, which received the third highest amount of votes (23%).



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

# 3

## *Introduction*

In order to determine how to plan for the future of the Marble Falls' parks and recreation system, it is necessary to understand the existing conditions of the current system. This in turn helps to identify where the current system is meeting expectations; and alternatively, where it is falling short.

The park system in the City of Marble Falls is unique with respect to size, use, and type of facilities located within each park. Overtime, the park system has evolved with the growth of the City and county to provide park amenities, recreational opportunities, and open space for both the citizens of Marble Falls and, to a large degree, the greater region. The parks were constructed where land existed and money was available for development. In other words, parks were located, developed, and expanded without a cohesive plan of action to help guide important decision making.

Currently, the Marble Falls park, recreation, and open space system consists of approximately 150 acres of regional, community, neighborhood, and pocket parks and trails serving both residents and beyond. While there has not been a lot of growth in the park system recently, the City is currently capitalizing on several of its recent larger economic development initiatives which will be transformational to the future of the Marble Falls parks, recreation, and open space system.

This section defines the City's existing conditions through a description of park classifications and park and recreation profiles. This information is used as a starting point in determining needs in the following chapter.

## Park Classifications

Different parks types serve different areas, functions, and users. Understanding this helps to identify gaps and overlap in the overall system and whether or not existing facilities are addressing the current park, recreation, and open space needs of the City. In Marble Falls, the City's park system is predominantly comprised of regional, community, neighborhood, and pocket parks. Additional amenities are provided by special use and linear parks. The system is supported by access to school parks (e.g., playscapes at elementary schools). See Figure 3.1, *Park Classifications*, for a complete description of each classification, including ideal site characteristics, typical size, and service areas.

Figure 3.1, Park Classifications

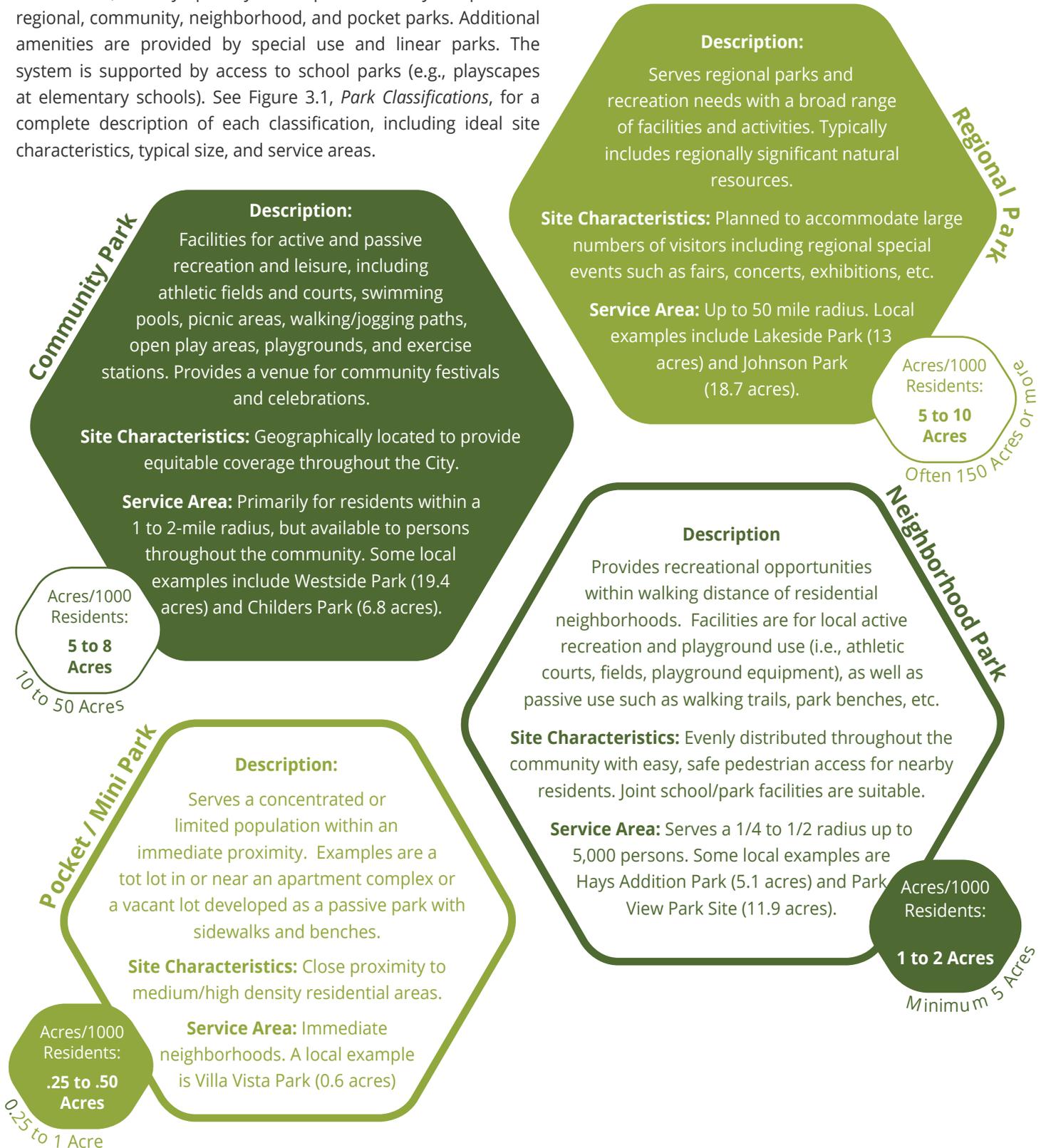
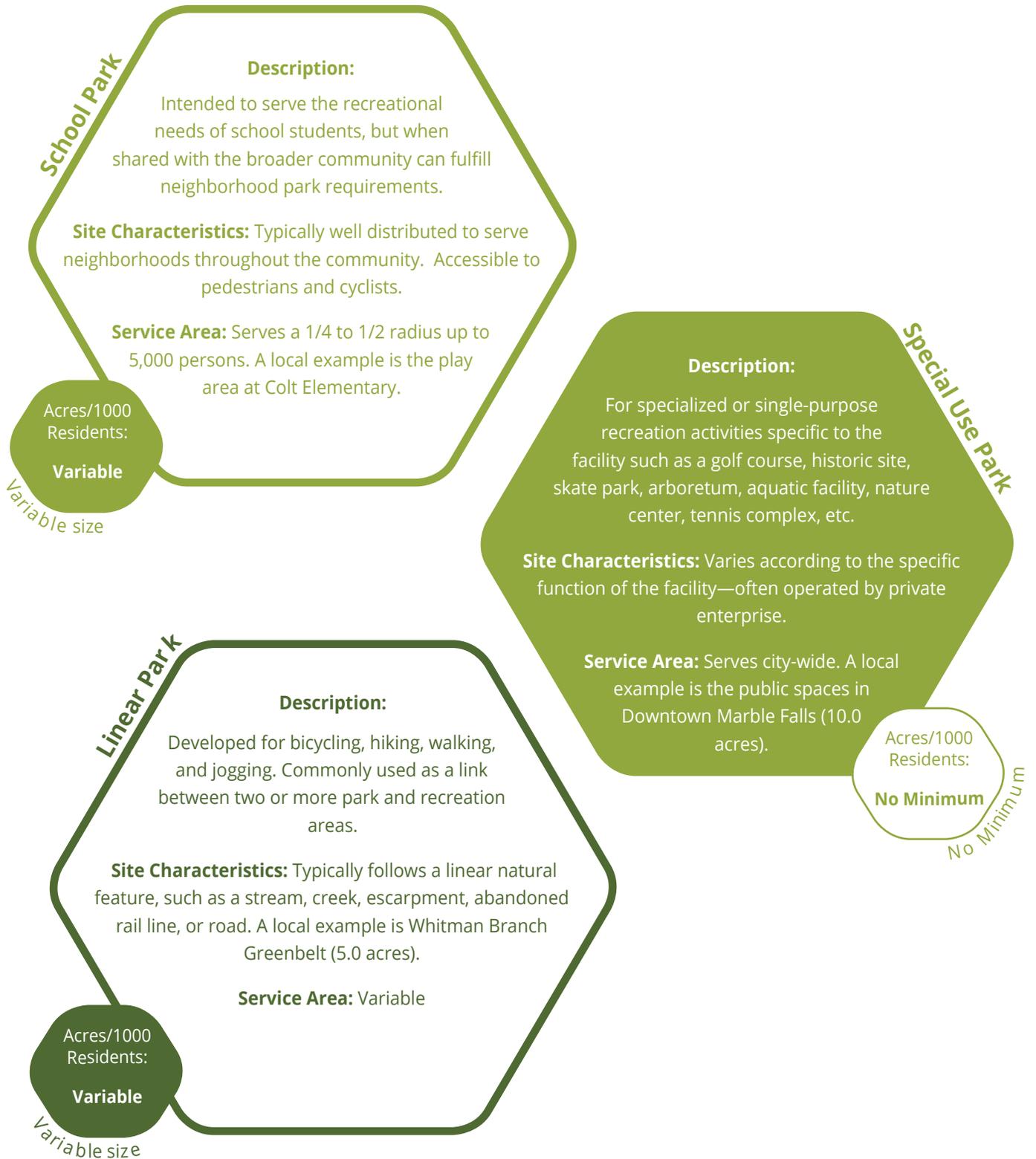


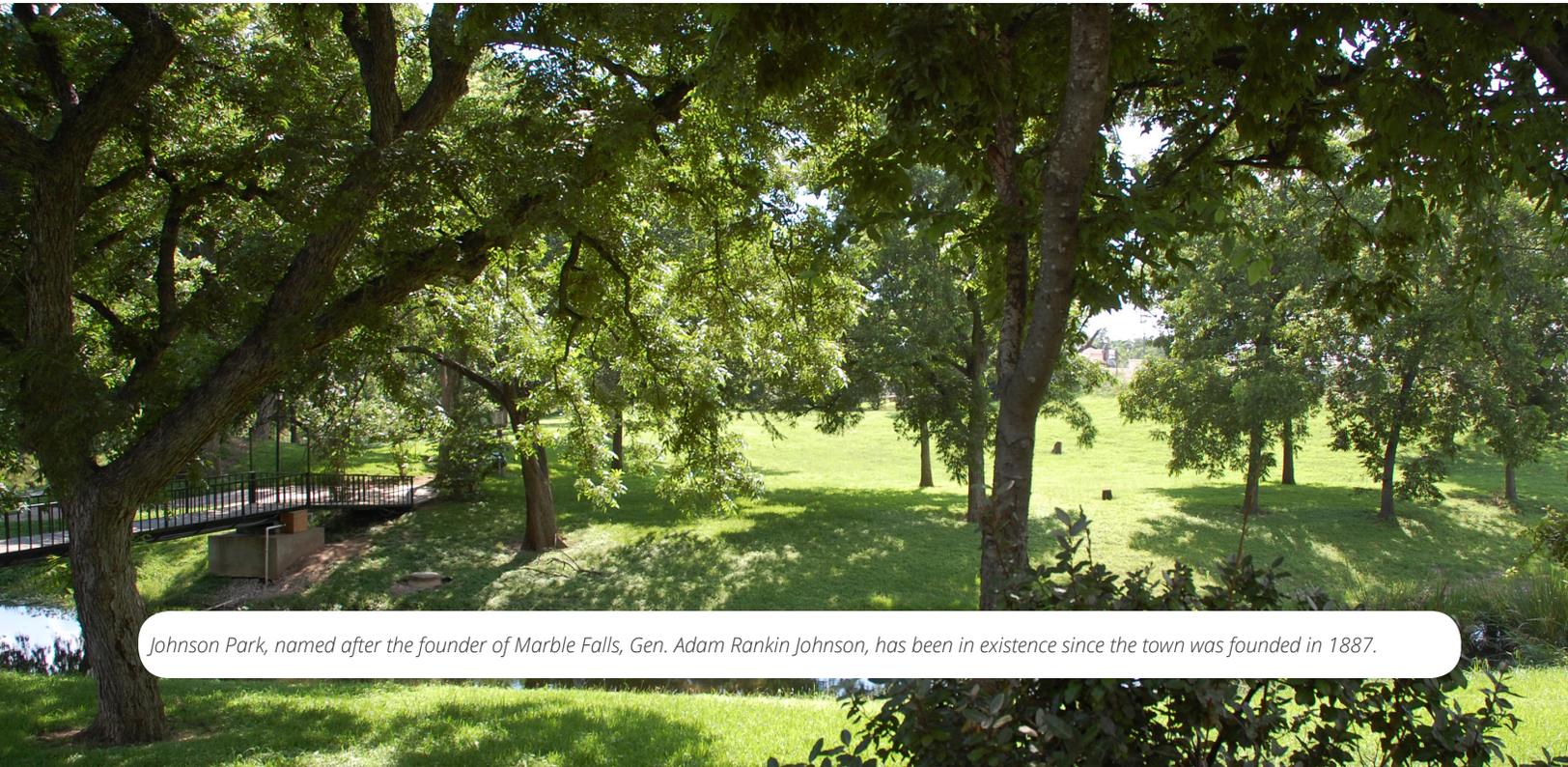
Figure 3.1, Park Classifications (cont.)



## ***Overview of the Marble Falls Parks, Recreation and Open Space System***

Residents and visitors to Marble Falls have access to a growing system of parks and recreation resources, from a regional serving Legacy Park (i.e., Johnson Park) to more intimate pocket parks (e.g., Villa Vista Park). Overall, the City is served by approximately 150 acres of regional, community, neighborhood, pocket, and linear parks (see Figure 3.2, *City Park Assets*, and Map 3.1, *Existing Parks Map*, on the following pages).

The City's regional parks encompass approximately 36 acres and include Johnson and Lakeside Parks. These two parks are predominantly used for passive recreation purposes and provide both residents and visitors to Marble Falls access to Lake Marble Falls and its tributaries. The City's community parks encompass approximately 50 acres and include Childers, VFW, Westside, and Rotary Parks and the Greens Soccer Complex. These five community parks are situated near the center of Marble Falls and provide residents and park users with a variety of different active and passive recreational opportunities. The City's three neighborhood parks encompass approximately 21 acres and are intended to serve nearby residential neighborhoods. These include Falls Creek Park (the City's skate park) located near Downtown, and two relatively undeveloped parks (i.e., Hays Addition Park and the Park View Park site). The City also has two additional pocket parks (i.e., Fourth and Avenue K and Villa Vista Parks) which currently provide minimal, to no, amenities (e.g., a playscape) within the neighborhoods they serve. Two linear parks form the basis of the City's growing linear trails system. One includes the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail and the other is the undeveloped Whitman Branch Greenbelt. Additionally, the City has three special use parks which provide benefit to City residents and visitors. These include the Granite Mountain Park off of FM 1431, the City Cemetery, and some civic open space and landscaping in Downtown Marble Falls.



*Johnson Park, named after the founder of Marble Falls, Gen. Adam Rankin Johnson, has been in existence since the town was founded in 1887.*

Figure 3.2, City Park Assets

| PARK  | ADDRESS                        | ACREAGE      | ACTIVE FACILITIES |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            | WATER REC.    |           |              | PASSIVE / SUPPORT FACILITIES |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------|------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------|-------------|---|
|   |                                |              | BASEBALL FIELD    | SOCCER FIELD | BASKETBALL COURT | MULTIPURPOSE PRACTICE FIELD | DISC GOLF | DOG PARK | TENNIS COURT | VOLLEYBALL COURT | TRAIL    | PLAYGROUND | SKATE PARK | TETHERBALL | HORSESHOES | SWIMMING POOL | BOAT RAMP | CANOE LAUNCH | AMPHITHEATER                 | COVERED PAVILION | PICNIC TABLES | GRILLS    | BENCHES/BLEACHERS | WATER FOUNTAIN | MEETING HALL | CONCESSION STAND | RESTROOM | COLUMBARIUM |   |
| <b>Regional Parks</b>   |                                |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Johnson Park  | 230 Ave J                      | 23.6         | 1                 |              |                  |                             |           | 1        |              | 1                | 1        | 4          |            |            | 2          |               | 1         |              | 1                            | 3                | 20            | 20        | 13                | 3              |              |                  | 1        |             |   |
| Lakeside Park   | 305 Buena Vista Dr.            | 13.0         |                   |              | 1                |                             |           |          | 1            |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               | 1         | 1            |                              |                  | 7             | 3         | 4                 | 3              |              |                  | 2        |             |   |
|   | Subtotal                       | 36.6         | 1                 | 0            | 1                | 0                           | 0         | 1        | 1            | 1                | 1        | 4          | 0          | 0          | 2          | 1             | 2         | 0            | 1                            | 3                | 27            | 23        | 17                | 6              | 0            | 0                | 3        | 0           |   |
| <b>Community Parks</b>  |                                |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Childers Park   | 1310 Broadway St.              | 6.8          | 2                 |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  | 1        |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  | 6             |           | 6                 | 1              |              | 1                | 1        |             |   |
| The Greens Soccer Complex                                     | 1100 6th St.                   | 9.4          |                   | 8            |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  | 1        |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  | 2             |           | 16                | 1              |              | 1                | 1        |             |   |
| VFW Park (Highland Park)                                      | 1009 Veterans Ave.             | 5.8          | 1                 |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               | 1         |                   |                | 1            | 1                |          |             |   |
| Westside Park   | 2nd St. and Ave. Q             | 19.4         |                   |              | 1                |                             | 1         | 1        |              |                  | 1        | 1          |            | 2          |            |               |           |              |                              | 1                | 10            | 10        | 6                 | 2              |              | 1                |          |             |   |
| Rotary Park*  | 1800 Colt Cir.                 | 8.8          | 4                 | 1            |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  | 4             |           | 10                |                | 1            | 1                | 1        |             |   |
|   | Subtotal                       | 50.2         | 7                 | 9            | 1                | 0                           | 1         | 1        | 0            | 0                | 3        | 1          | 0          | 2          | 0          | 0             | 0         | 0            | 0                            | 0                | 1             | 22        | 10                | 39             | 4            | 1                | 4        | 5           | 0 |
| <b>Neighborhood Parks</b>                                     |                                |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Falls Creek Park  | 900 Yett St.                   | 3.8          |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            | 1          |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               | 12        | 12                | 2              | 1            |                  |          | 1           |   |
| Hays Addition Park  | Lakeshore Dr.                  | 5.1          |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               | 1         |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Park View Park Site (undeveloped)                             | Park View Dr. & Park Ridge Dr. | 11.9         |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
|   | Subtotal                       | 20.8         | 0                 | 0            | 0                | 0                           | 0         | 0        | 0            | 0                | 0        | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0             | 1         | 0            | 0                            | 0                | 0             | 12        | 12                | 2              | 1            | 0                | 0        | 1           | 0 |
| <b>Pocket Park</b>  |                                |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| 4th and Avenue K Park (undeveloped)                           | 4th St. and Ave. K             | 0.2          |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Villa Vista Park  | Villa Vista Way (7th St)       | 0.6          |                   |              | 1                |                             |           |          |              |                  |          | 1          |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           | 2                 |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
|   | Subtotal                       | 0.8          | 0                 | 0            | 1                | 0                           | 0         | 0        | 0            | 0                | 0        | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0             | 0         | 0            | 0                            | 0                | 0             | 0         | 0                 | 2              | 0            | 0                | 0        | 0           | 0 |
| <b>Linear Parks</b>   |                                |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Whitman Branch Greenbelt (undeveloped)                        | Mission Hills Dr.              | 5.0          |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail (not within park boundary) |                                | 5.0          |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  | 1        |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
|   | Subtotal                       | 10.0         | 0                 | 0            | 0                | 0                           | 0         | 0        | 0            | 0                | 1        | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0             | 0         | 0            | 0                            | 0                | 0             | 0         | 0                 | 4              | 0            | 0                | 0        | 0           | 0 |
| <b>Special Use Areas</b>                                      |                                |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Granite Mountain Park   | FM 1431                        | 0.4          |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  | 2             |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Downtown (Main Street, City Hall, Visitor Center)             |                                | 10.0         |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Cemetery  | Johnson St.                    | 20.0         |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           | 1                 |                |              |                  |          | 1           |   |
|   | Subtotal                       | 30.4         | 0                 | 0            | 0                | 0                           | 0         | 0        | 0            | 0                | 0        | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0             | 0         | 0            | 0                            | 0                | 2             | 0         | 1                 | 0              | 0            | 0                | 0        | 1           |   |
| <b>Community Buildings</b>                                    |                                |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| Lakeside Pavilion**   | 307 Buena Vista Dr.            |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               | 1         | 1                 | 2              | 1            |                  | 1        |             |   |
| Westside Park Community Center**                              | 1704 2nd St.                   |              |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                | 1            |                  |          |             |   |
| <b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>  |                                | <b>148.8</b> |                   |              |                  |                             |           |          |              |                  |          |            |            |            |            |               |           |              |                              |                  |               |           |                   |                |              |                  |          |             |   |
| <b>TOTAL FACILITIES</b>                                       |                                |              | <b>8</b>          | <b>9</b>     | <b>3</b>         | <b>0</b>                    | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b>     | <b>1</b>         | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b>   | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>1</b>      | <b>3</b>  | <b>0</b>     | <b>1</b>                     | <b>4</b>         | <b>63</b>     | <b>45</b> | <b>65</b>         | <b>11</b>      | <b>1</b>     | <b>4</b>         | <b>9</b> | <b>1</b>    |   |

\*Facilities not City-owned/leased - City-provides utilities and ground maintenance

\*\*Located in City parks

Map 3.1, Existing Parks Map

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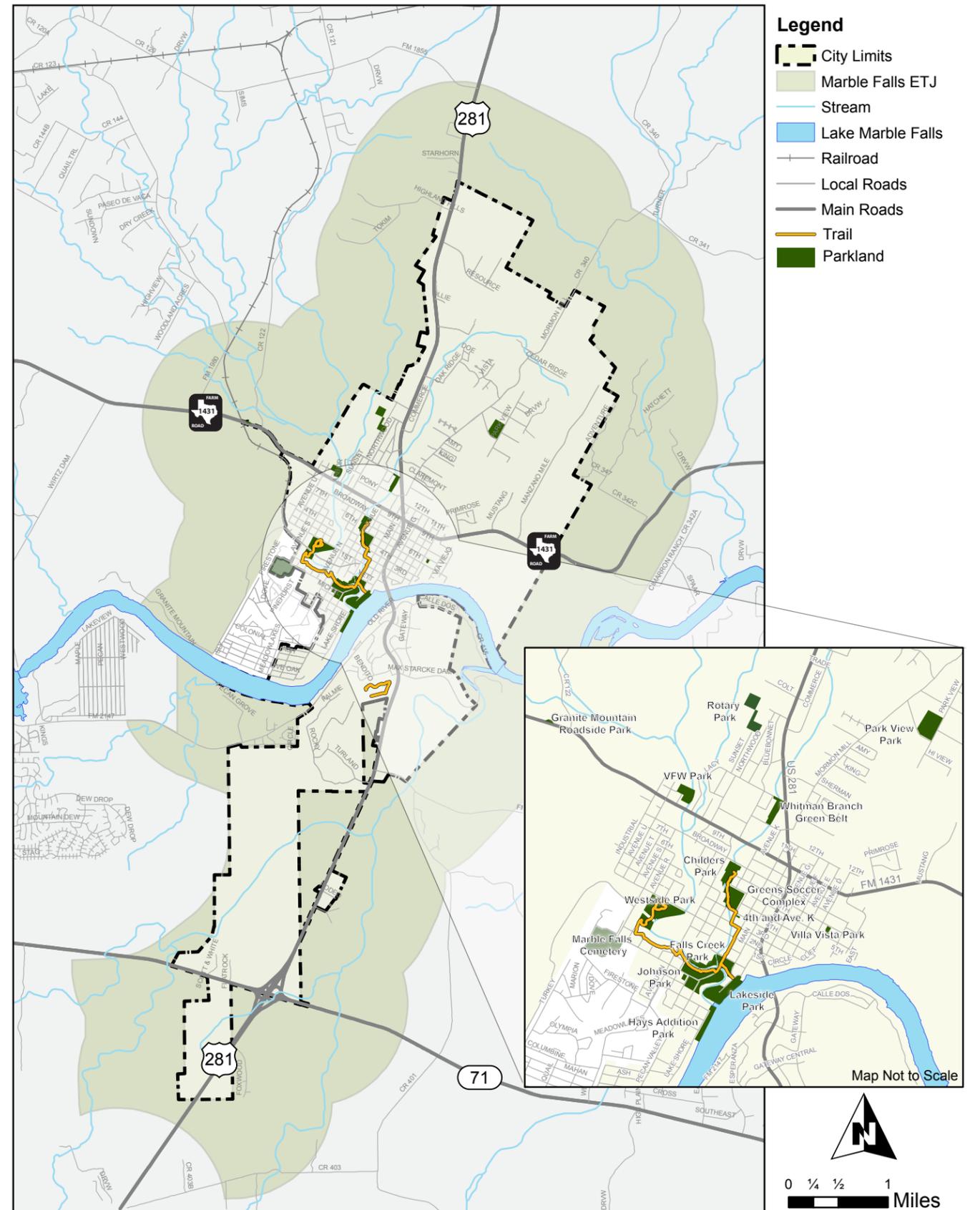


Figure 3.3, MFISD School Park Assets

| SCHOOL                     | ADDRESS           | ACREAGE      | ACTIVE FACILITIES       |                |              |                  |                             |  |                  |          |            |                                 | PASSIVE / SUPPORT FACILITIES |                   |                  |          |            |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------|----------|------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|------------|
|                            |                   |              | BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD | FOOTBALL FIELD | SOCCER FIELD | BASKETBALL COURT | MULTIPURPOSE PRACTICE FIELD | TENNIS COURT (OPEN TO PUBLIC AT TIMES) | VOLLEYBALL COURT | TRAIL    | PLAYGROUND | TRACK (OPEN TO PUBLIC AT TIMES) | PICNIC TABLES                | BENCHES/BLEACHERS | CONCESSION STAND | STAGE    | AUDITORIUM |
| COLT ELEMENTARY            | 2200 Manzano Mile | 160.0        |                         |                |              |                  |                             |  |                  |          | 3          | 1                               |                              |                   |                  | 1        |            |
| MARBLE FALLS ELEMENTARY    | 901 Ave U         | 11.0         |                         |                |              |                  |                             |  |                  |          | 2          |                                 |                              |                   |                  | 1        |            |
| HIGHLAND LAKES ELEMENTARY* | 8200 W Fm 1431    | 36.0         |                         |                |              |                  |                             |  |                  | 1        | 2          |                                 | 5                            |                   |                  | 1        |            |
| SPICEWOOD ELEMENTARY*      | 11601 Olson Dr    | 35.0         |                         |                |              |                  |                             |  | 1                |          | 2          | 1                               |                              |                   |                  | 1        |            |
| MARBLE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL | 1511 Pony Dr      | 17.0         | 1                       | 1              |              | 1                | 1                           | 4                                      | 1                |          |            | 1                               |                              | 5                 | 1                | 1        |            |
| MARBLE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL   | 2101 Mustang Dr   | 80.0         | 2                       | 1              | 1            | 1                | 1                           | 8                                      | 1                | 1        |            | 1                               | 1                            | 8                 | 1                | 1        | 1          |
| FALLS CAREER HIGH SCHOOL   | 1800 Colt Cir     | 35.0         |                         |                |              |                  |                             |  |                  |          |            |                                 |                              | 1                 |                  |          |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               |                   | <b>374.0</b> | <b>3</b>                | <b>2</b>       | <b>1</b>     | <b>2</b>         | <b>2</b>                    | <b>12</b>                              | <b>3</b>         | <b>2</b> | <b>9</b>   | <b>4</b>                        | <b>7</b>                     | <b>13</b>         | <b>2</b>         | <b>6</b> | <b>1</b>   |

\*Located outside Marble Falls City limits

Additionally, the Marble Falls Independent School District (MFISD) provides conveniently located recreational amenities such as playscapes, sports courts/fields, and walking tracks (see Figure 3.3, MFISD School Park Assets). Combined, these park and recreation resources provide Marble Falls residents and visitors a highly accessible and diversified system of active and passive facilities and amenities.

### Park Profiles

The following pages provide detailed profiles of each City-owned park and recreation asset. Each profile contains the following information:

- Surrounding Uses;
- Accessibility;
- Description of existing conditions; and
- Opportunities and Constraints.

Symbols are used (see at right) to identify the park classification and acreage of that particular park. In addition, symbols are also used to identify the types and quantity of amenities provided at the park. Further information about the types of amenities at each park can be found in Figure 3.2, City Park Assets, on the preceding pages.



## Johnson Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Backbone Creek
- Lakeside Park
- Residential neighborhoods
- Huber Plant
- Undeveloped land

### Accessibility

The park takes its primary vehicular access from Avenue J which bisects the park. There is a single eight-foot sidewalk that provides pedestrian access from S. Yett Street and is considered part of the current citywide trail system. A mid-block crosswalk exists connecting this park to Falls Creek Park. The remainder of the park and nearby residential areas do not include sidewalks.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by Johnson Park is 23.6 acres. It is the City's oldest park, established in 1887, the year Marble Falls was founded. In 2016, Johnson Park was designated as a Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS). In Texas, this designation is one the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a park. It signifies that this park has endured the test of

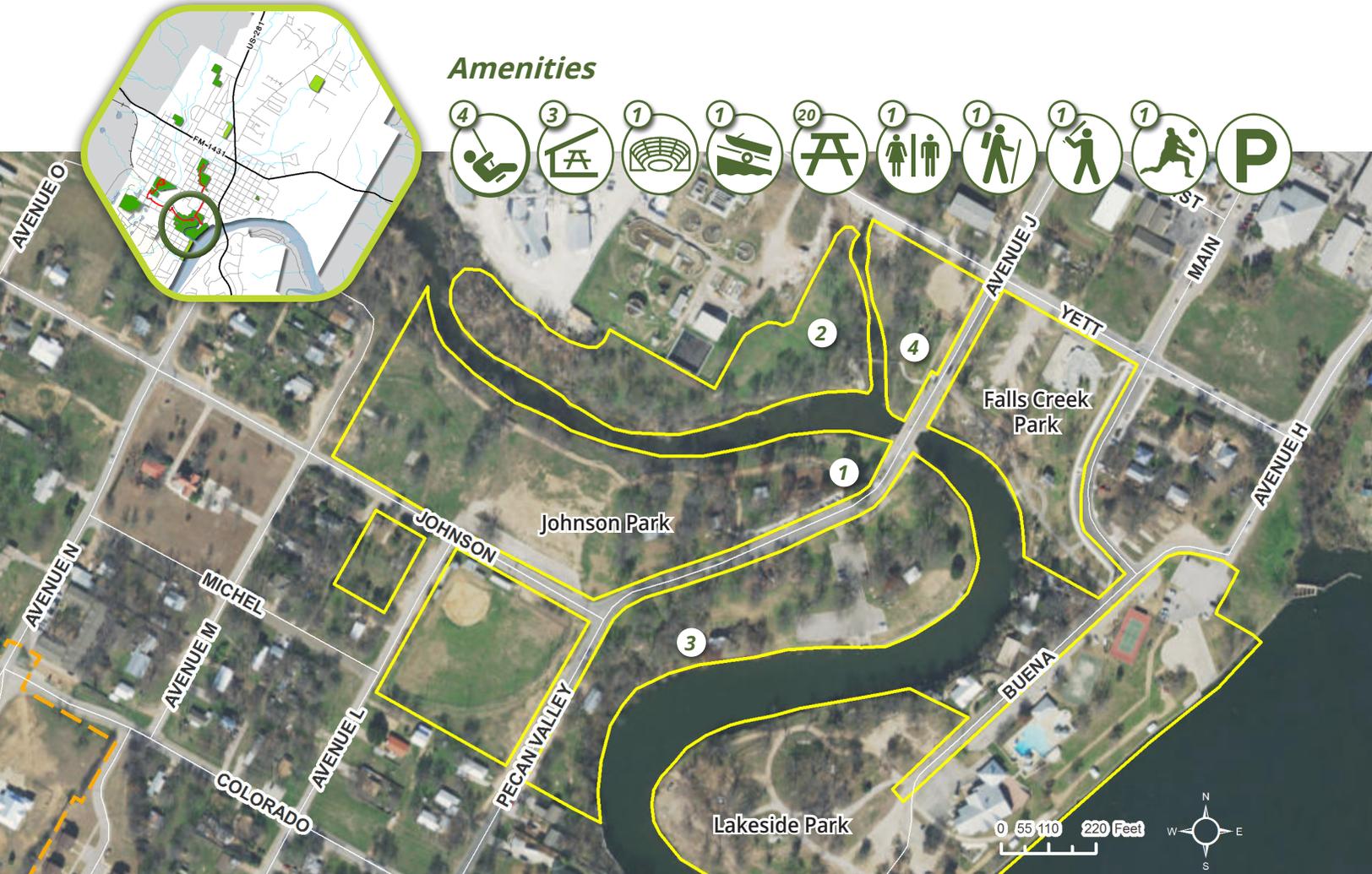


**23.6 acres**



*Johnson Park is one of Texas' few designated Lone Star Legacy Parks, one of the highest honors which can be bestowed upon a park.*

### Amenities



time and has become iconic to those who have visited, played and rested on its grounds.

Johnson Park currently includes four playscapes in various areas of the park, three covered pavilions, 20 picnic tables and grills, a restroom, and water fountains. The park also includes several on- and off-street parking lots, segments of both the Backbone Creek and Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trails, and a softball field that is used for soccer practice and games. Additionally, there is a relatively undefined off-leash dog park area, an amphitheater, a veteran's memorial and butterfly garden, horseshoe pits, a volleyball court, and a small boat ramp onto Backbone Creek.

Johnson Park is also used for several citywide community events, including Children's Day, Howdy Roo/Highland Lakes CASI Chili Pod Cookoff, Mayfest, and portions of Lakefest/Drag Boat Races.

### *Issues & Opportunities*

Johnson Park is by far the most used park in the Marble Falls park and recreation system. Indeed, almost all of the survey respondents indicated visiting this park a few times a year, with more than half indicating a few times a month, weekly, and daily. Since this park is also the primary park used for the City's large community events, it is the primary park used by the region. As such, one of the biggest issues related to Johnson Park is its overuse. Moving forward, Johnson Park needs to be designed and constructed to withstand large crowds effectively and safely. One opportunity for improvement is to establish a split rail decorative fence along both sides of Avenue J and to create defined access points for crossing. These cross access points should include speed tables, pedestrian crossing signage and lights, and decorative paving to delineate priority for pedestrians and bicyclists. These access points should be situated along Avenue J just southwest of the bridge over Backbone Creek, by the parking lot near the two existing playscapes, and near the intersection of Johnson Street.

Another opportunity is to establish a large covered pavilion and parking lot northeast of Johnson Street to accommodate the large crowds associated with the City's community events. During events, these would be used to house vendors and their equipment. Outside of events, the parking lot would be used to support other uses in and around the park (e.g., trail access).

Another opportunity is to repurpose the existing softball field, which is currently used for soccer. While soccer is important to the community, there are better opportunities elsewhere to support this use. Alternatively, this area could be used to establish a local- and regional-serving municipal aquatic center.

Additional opportunities include connecting Johnson and Lakeside Parks via a pedestrian bridge, establishing an internal loop system, adding a splashpad, and renovating/replacing restrooms and playscapes.



*Improved safety is needed for crossing Avenue J.*



*An off-leash dog area provides for canine exercise and social interaction.*



*A small amphitheater is located along Backbone Creek.*



*A combined veteran's memorial and butterfly garden acknowledge their service provided to the country.*

## Lakeside Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Backbone Creek and Lake Marble Falls
- Johnson and Falls Creek Parks
- Downtown
- Residential houses

### Accessibility

The park takes its primary vehicular access from Buena Vista Drive which bisects the park and provides a direct connection to Main Street. Secondary access is from Avenue H, although that street is proposed for closure as part of the potential development of a hotel/conference center. A recently constructed eight-foot sidewalk with on-street parking connects Downtown to the northern end of the park. The remainder of the park does not have sidewalks.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by Lakeside Park is 13.0 acres. It includes seven picnic tables and grills, restrooms, and water fountains. The park also includes a basketball court, tennis court, boat ramp, the City's only swimming pool, and multiple parking areas. Also located on site is the Lakeside Pavilion, the City's largest rentable event facility which is able to accommodate 450 occupants at a time. The southern portion of the park was previously referred to as Kampers Korner. It included numerous,



*13.0 acres*



old, well-established pecan trees, fishing access, and a few boat slips. Lakeside Park is also used as the primary location for the Lakefest/ Drag Boat Races and the Trail of Lights.

### *Issues & Opportunities*

Lakeside Park is the second most visited park in the Marble Falls park and recreation system. This is primarily because this park hosts the City's annual Lakefest boat races and includes the Lakeside Pavilion. It is also because this park provides the most publicly accessible opportunity to enjoy Lake Marble Falls for residents and visitors alike. However, the current configuration of the park is not designed to accentuate this connection between the City and the lakefront. In fact, many of the existing park amenities (e.g., sports courts and swimming pool), while important, could be relocated elsewhere, thus providing adequate area to repurpose this park into a regional and local destination park. This synergistic connection between the Downtown area and the lakefront is even more important due to the City's commitment and forward progress in developing a regional hotel/conference center just north of the park boundary.

Moving forward, the City should consider developing an internal loop trail system that maximizes pedestrian and bicyclist access to the lakefront and to all amenities. The City should also consider maximizing this parks' connectivity to abutting parks (i.e., Johnson Park, Falls Creek, and Hays Addition Parks) and residential areas, Downtown Marble Falls and the proposed hotel/conference center.

Additionally, due to the regional significance this park could play in the Highland Lakes and Austin Metro area, the City should consider developing a series of attractions that serve both locals and visitors. This could include a beach and swimming area on Lake Marble Falls, a large-scale (i.e., approximately 1,500 persons) lakeside amphitheater for water-based special events on the lake, a smaller-scale amphitheater (approximately 350 persons) for land-based special events (e.g., weddings), improved parking areas, boat slips and docks, and a large unprogrammed picnic area on the peninsula.

To make some of these amenities more feasible, the City should consider closing the boat ramp from public access. The area could be redesigned with grass pavers which could allow boat access during large special events. In the same area, the City could consider creating an overlook that provides a scenic viewpoint for locals and visitors to enjoy while at the park. This overlook could be designed as a pedestrian plaza with an ornamental and lighted splash pad. This water feature (similar to Discover Green in Houston) would provide a central gathering place for locals and visitors alike.

Finally, the City should consider purchasing the remaining residential properties located over Backbone Creek as those opportunities present themselves.



*Lakeside Park provides a unique opportunity to create a world-class lakeside regional park connected to a Downtown.*



*The scenic Lakeside Pavilion provides the opportunity to host large-scale and high-quality indoor/outdoor special events.*



*The southernmost point of the peninsula provides a great opportunity to develop a special event amphitheater.*



*Boat races are held every August as part of the City's annual Lakefest event.*

## Childers Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Undeveloped land
- Duplexes and multifamily residential
- Marble Falls Senior Center
- Marble Falls Fire Department
- Commercial retail
- Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail



6.8 acres

### Accessibility

The park takes its primary vehicular access from Broadway Street which serves the two ball fields. The current northernmost terminus of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail ends at a relatively undefined trail head in the Childer's Park parking lot. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by Childers Park is 6.8 acres. It includes two baseball fields, picnic tables and benches, a combined restroom and concession stand, access to the City's trail system, and a relatively undefined parking lot.

### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

While not the largest community park in Marble Falls, this park has the potential to serve both neighborhood- and community-scale park needs.

The biggest issues with Childers Park is its aging facilities. As such, this park could benefit from an overall update. This includes improvements to the park's accessibility, such as establishment of a defined parking lot with ADA accessible parking spaces, an ADA accessible sidewalk from the trail to the ballfields, an ADA trail spur from the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail to the Senior Center, and improved sidewalks off of Broadway Street.

As set out in the Comprehensive Plan, Childers Park is also a critical junction in the City's growing citywide trail system. Currently, there is an established segment connecting Childers Park south to the Greens Soccer Complex and further to parks near Downtown. Since Childers Park is currently the northernmost terminus of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail, this park and its parking lot should be used as a designated trailhead. This could include the addition of a trailhead monument and a trail system wayfinding kiosk and sign. It should also include a more enhanced entry onto the trail which could include benches, bike racks, and trash facilities. Moving forward, the City's Sidewalks and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map (in the Comprehensive Plan) identifies extension of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail north across FM 1431 and east across U.S. Highway 281. This would provide neighborhoods to the north and east with connections to the citywide trail system and the park. As such, the City should consider a plan of action to acquire the necessary easements or fee simple ownership of the parcels to expand the trail system as planned. In addition, riparian vegetation should be encouraged along parts or all of the edge of the creek to improve the ecological function of the riparian corridor and to improve aesthetics.

General improvements may also be warranted to the active sports fields. In particular, shade structures over the bleachers could improve the experience for spectators during hot summer games.

Moving forward, there are additional amenities which could be considered to expand both the diversity of use types and age group offerings in the park. As such, the City could consider acquiring some of the abutting vacant parcels to provide additional land area for this park. Additional amenities to consider could include a community garden near the Senior Center, a publicly accessible athletic field, and/or a defined playground and playscape area to provide an important neighborhood amenity for the nearby duplex and multifamily residential housing in the area.



Two baseball fields are the primary use of Childers Park.



Installation of grass pavers and an ADA sidewalk connecting the parking lot to the amenities could improve accessibility.



The current northernmost terminus of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail exists in Childers Park.



Adding shade over spectator seating is an opportunity to improve user comfort during baseball games.

## Greens Soccer Complex

### Surrounding Uses

- Undeveloped land
- Multifamily residential
- Marble Falls Senior Center
- Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail



9.4 acres

### Accessibility

Although the park does not have a defined parking lot, most people park along the shoulder of Avenue K, which serves the numerous soccer fields. A segment of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail passes through the western edge of the park. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park; however, a new crosswalk and ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps were recently constructed at the intersection of Avenue K and 6th Street.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by the Greens Soccer Complex is 9.4 acres. It includes eight soccer fields, picnic tables and benches, a combined restroom and concession stand, and access to the City's trail system.



### Amenities



Currently, the park is primarily used by the Granite Country Youth Soccer Association (GCYSA). The fields serve almost 30 teams and 3,000 participants and are used for both practice and games.

### Issues & Opportunities

One of the primary issues with the Greens Soccer Complex is that there was no pre-planning of the fields or amenities on-site. As a result, the site configuration is not optimal to maximize the number of fields needed to accommodate the current demand for soccer in Marble Falls. In addition, there was no attention given to providing parking for the site, no considerations of ADA accessibility, nor thought as to additional amenities which could be warranted to serve the abutting neighborhoods and greater community.

Moving forward, the City should consider preparing a redevelopment plan for this park. As a primary focus of the redevelopment plan, the City should consider opportunities to maximize the number of league soccer fields that could be accommodated on-site. This includes creating a defined off-street parking area or defined on-street parking spaces along Avenue K. Either parking solution should include ADA accessible parking spaces.

Also as part of the redevelopment plan, the City should consider including additional amenities (e.g., a small-scale playscape) which could entertain non-soccer playing visitors to the park, while at the same time providing additional amenities for the surrounding neighborhood.

To improve user and spectator comfort during the summer, the City should consider providing shaded spectator seating areas adjacent to each field.

To improve access, the City should consider developing sidewalks along Avenue K and 6th Street. This should be connected to an ADA accessible internal loop trail connecting both ends of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail and providing interconnectivity to all amenities on site.

Additionally, the City could evaluate opportunities to renovate the existing concession stand; or alternatively, remove the concession stand and pursue establishing a food truck area with shaded seating and picnic tables. This would involve working or contracting with a local food vendor or vendors to ensure coverage on game days.



*The primary use of this park is for League soccer.*



*Due to the high demand for league soccer in Marble Falls, this park does not allow any field use outside of organized play.*



*A currently undeveloped area of the park could be used to develop an additional soccer field or an ADA accessible off-street parking area.*



*A segment of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail runs along the western edge of this park.*

## VFW Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Undeveloped land

### Accessibility

The park takes its primary vehicular access from Veterans Drive or 11th Street, which intersect at the undefined parking lot that serves the ballfield on this site. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by VFW Park (also sometimes referred to as Highland Park) is 5.8 acres. It includes a single baseball field, a restroom, bleachers, a concession stand and announcers booth, and a relatively undefined parking lot.

The property is primarily used by the Marble Falls Youth Baseball/Softball Association (MFYBSA) for its PONY baseball league.



5.8 acres



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

Although the infield of this park was recently refurbished from dirt to grass, the remainder of the property could use a face lift. This could include establishing a defined entrance and parking lot with ADA accessible parking spaces. This could also include repainting and updating the concession stand and restrooms.

Currently, this park is not generally used by the surrounding residences for non-league recreational activities. This is primarily because there are no other amenities available. However, there is unprogrammed land area associated with this park which provides an opportunity to develop additional amenities over time.

The greatest opportunity for this park is that it is conveniently located along a relatively undeveloped drainageway that runs south to Westside Park and the existing Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail and north to an undeveloped area of the Backbone Creek watershed. As set out in the Growth Plan of the Comprehensive Plan, this area is intended for future growth of the City limits as a means to protect the Backbone Creek watershed for water quality, flood protection, and recreational purposes. As such, the greatest opportunity for this park is to integrate it as part of the growing linear park and trail system. This could include establishing an underpass underneath FM 1431 and connecting this park via a linear trail to already existing Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail. A future segment could extend this trail north towards the City's water treatment fields as set out on the City's Sidewalk and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan.

Once the connection is made to the existing citywide trail system, then an established trail head and additional amenities should be considered to expand the amenity offerings available at this park. At a minimum, this should include the establishment of a playscape and picnic tables and benches.



*This park is currently served by an undefined parking area.*



*The concession stand and announcers booth could benefit from an upgrade.*



*A dirt infield was recently refurbished with grass to improve playing conditions.*



*The greatest opportunity to expand the use of this park is to connect it to the citywide trail system.*

## Westside Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Backbone Creek
- Huber Plant
- Railroad
- Residential houses

### Accessibility

The park takes its only vehicular access from 2nd Street at Avenue Q. The current northernmost terminus of the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail ends at a trail head within the park. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park.

### Description

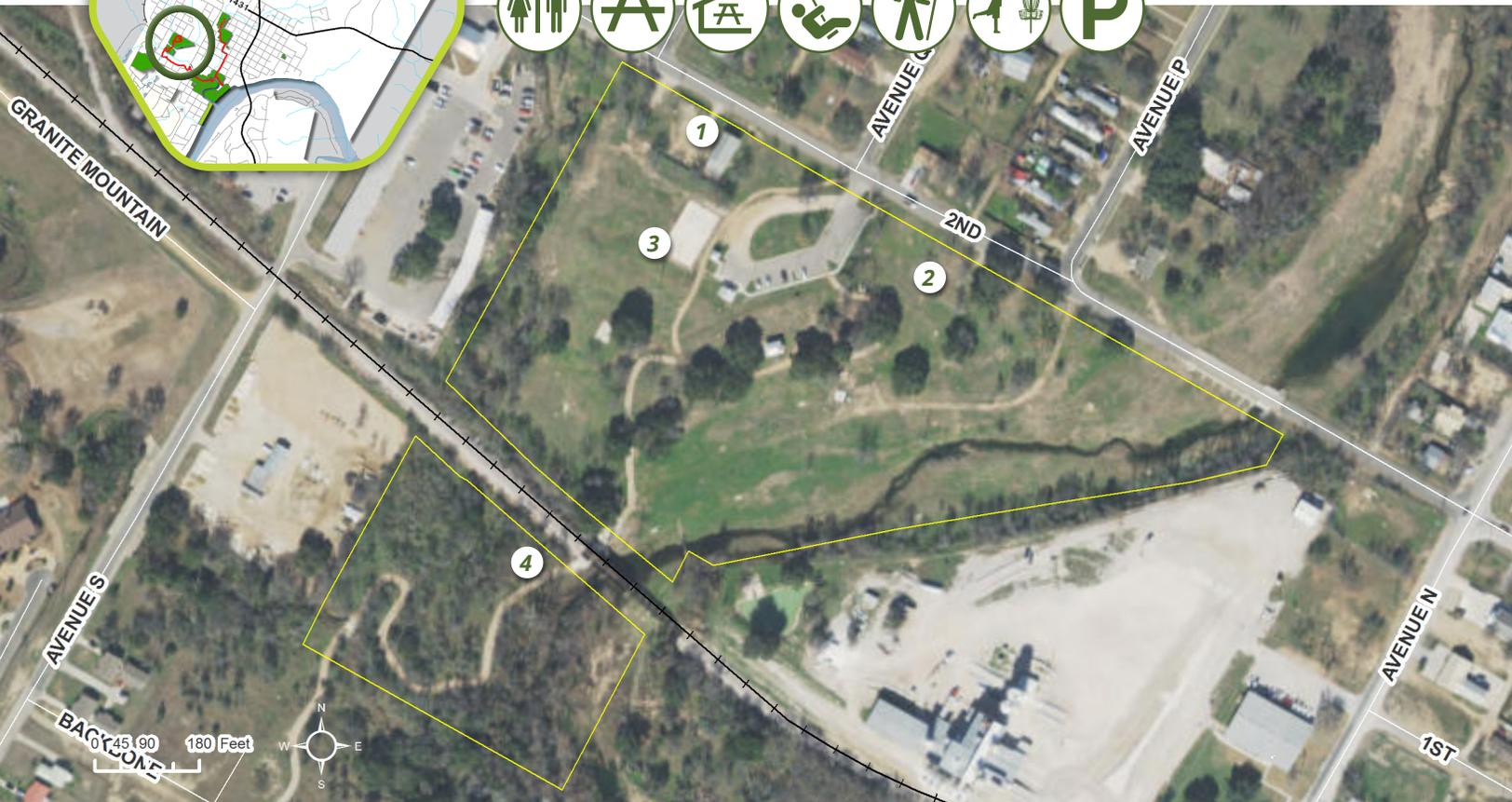
The area that is encompassed by Westside Park is 19.4 acres. It includes 10 picnic tables and grills, a restroom and water fountains. The park also includes a basketball court, a dog park (i.e., Ruff Park), playscapes, tetherball courts, a 20x30' open air covered pavilion, and the City's only 9-hole disc golf course (designed by John Houck). Also located on site is a 1,500 square foot community building (with full kitchen) which is rentable for meetings and other events. The space has previously been used for both karate and dance classes by private vendors. The park was initially developed in 2009 in partnership with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).



19.4 acres



### Amenities



Westside Park is also used for several community events, including Spring Break Week, Walk-A-Dog-A-Thon, Scoutarama, and the Hill Country BBQ Cookoff.

### *Issues & Opportunities*

After Johnson and Lakeside Parks, Westside Park is the third most used park serving both neighborhood and community interests. This is because of its connectivity to the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail and its diversified offerings of amenities. Westside Park offers a great mix of active recreation and social interaction, from the community building to the basketball courts, to the dog park.

As set out in the Comprehensive Plan, Westside Park is also a critical junction in the City's growing citywide trail system. Currently, there is an established segment connecting Westside Park south to the parks near Downtown. Since Westside Park is currently the northernmost terminus of the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail, there is a great opportunity to expand this trail to areas north. As set out on the City's Sidewalk and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan, this trail could be extended up Backbone Creek to an underpass underneath FM 1431 connecting to VFW Park. As such, the City should consider a plan of action to acquire the necessary easements or fee simple ownership of the parcels to expand the trail system as planned. In addition, an improved trailhead should be established, including a trailhead monument and a trail system wayfinding kiosk and sign. It should also include a more enhanced entry onto the trail which could include benches, bike racks, and trash facilities.

Other opportunities include expanding the 9-hole disc golf course to a full 18-hole golf course, adding doggie showers and a water feature at the dog park, and further diversification of amenities. The City should also consider adding an improved entrance monument to the park and developing an internal loop trail system that maximizes pedestrian and bicyclist access to all on-site amenities.

Finally, the City could consider restoring the riparian vegetation along parts or all of the edge of the creek to improve the ecological function of the riparian corridor and to improve aesthetics.



A 1,500 sf rentable community building is used for meetings, recreation classes, and other public/private events.



Ruff Park, the City's only fenced dog park is located at Westside Park.



Basketball and other active amenities are popular uses of the park.



Opportunity exists to expand the City's 9-hole disc golf course to a full 18-hole course.

## Rotary Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Undeveloped land
- Marble Falls ISD

### Accessibility

The park takes its primary vehicular access from Indian Trail, which passes in front of the Marble Falls Independent School District (MFISD) Administration Building. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by Rotary Park is 8.8 acres. It includes four different sized baseball fields, a soccer field, picnic tables and benches, a combined restroom and concession stand, and a paved, but unstriped parking lot. The property is owned, managed, and maintained through a unique three-way partnership. The property is owned by the Marble Falls ISD. Routine maintenance and primary use is by the Marble Falls Youth Baseball/Softball Association (MFYBSA) through a 35-year lease. Non-routine property maintenance is handled and funded by the City. The Granite Country YSA uses the upper soccer field for practice and games.



8.8 acres



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

One of the primary issues with the Rotary Fields is related to the unique three-way ownership, use, and maintenance agreement. While there is a formalized lease agreement between the YSAs and the ISD, there is not a formalized agreement between the City and the ISD. As such, there is no clear consensus as to who and how the fields and property would be improved. Moving forward, it is essential to formalize an agreement between the three parties. Determination of what types of improvements may be warranted to improve the user experience of this park should be part of that discussion. At a minimum, improvements should include establishing a formalized parking lot, improved ADA accessibility from the parking lot to the athletic fields, improved spectator shaded seating at the baseball fields, and adding seating for the soccer field.

It would also be beneficial to identify whether or not this park has a function beyond being used for athletic fields. Since the ISD has a playscape associated with the school, there is less of a need to establish one in Rotary Park. However, as set out on the City's Sidewalk and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan, this park is designated to be connected to the citywide trail system via a spur off of Northwood Drive.



Rotary Park is owned by the MFISD, used by area youth sports associations, and maintained by the City.



The baseball fields are used by the MFYBSA.



Similar to the Greens Soccer Complex, the soccer field is not open for public use.



Overtime, this park and its associated amenities could benefit from renovation, including improved ADA accessibility.

## Falls Creek Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Undeveloped land
- Future hotel/conference center
- Johnson and Lakeside Parks
- Backbone Creek
- Jolly Rodgers Paddle Co.

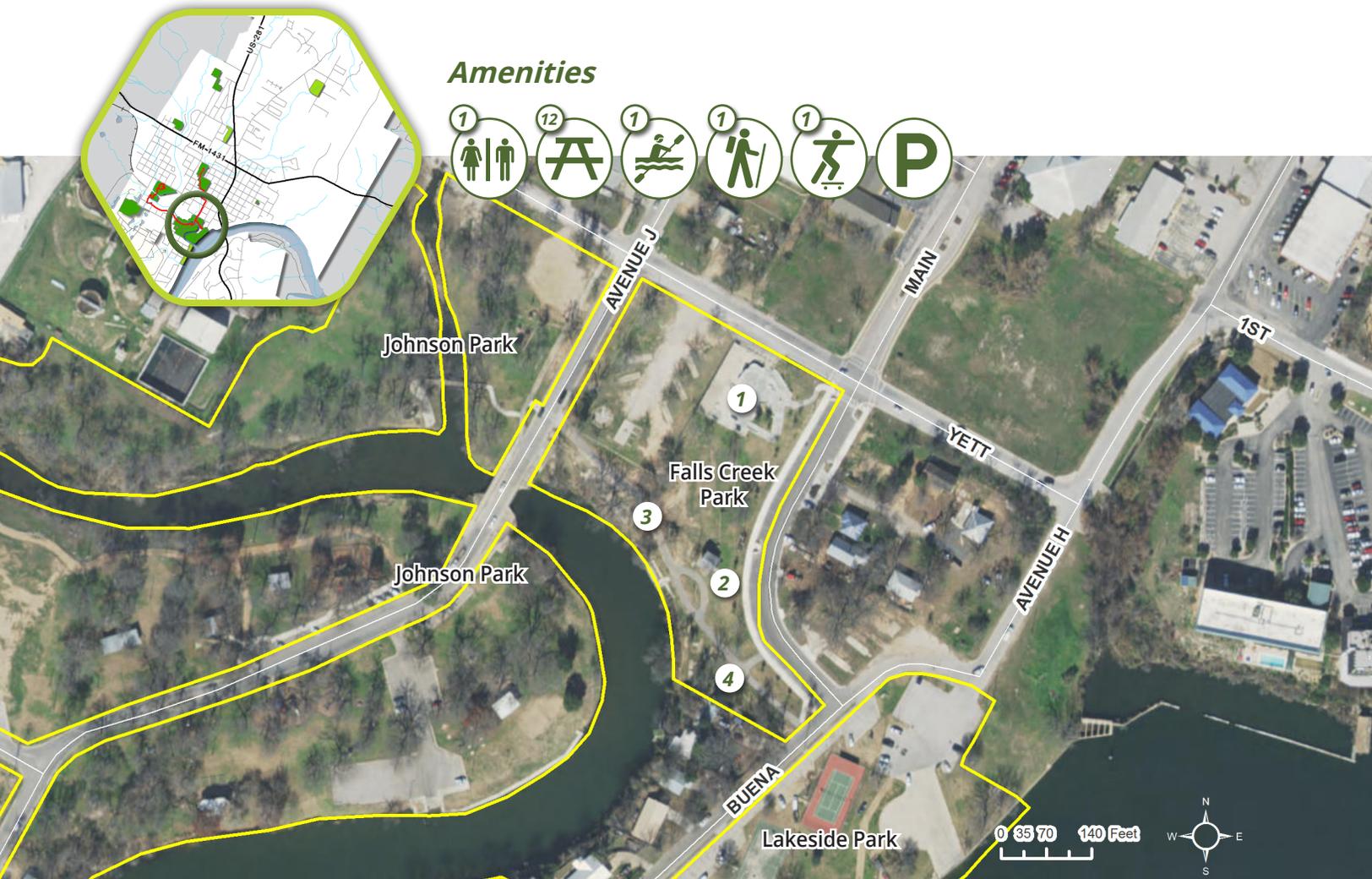


3.8 acres

### Accessibility

The park takes its primary vehicular access via an undefined on-street parking area along Yett Street. There is a secondary parking area along Avenue J on property that used to be used for RV parking. An asphalt spur trail off of the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail connects Avenue J to Buena Vista Drive. Additionally, a recently constructed eight-foot sidewalk with on-street parking connects Falls Creek Park to Lakeside Park. The remainder of the park does not have sidewalks.

### Amenities



## Description

The area that is encompassed by Falls Creek Park is 3.8 acres. Its primary use is a 12,000 square foot concrete and granite skate park containing a number of unique features such as the Parthenon Loop, the Double-Dorito Hip, the Bowless Corner, and the Rainbow Rail. Additional on site amenities include picnic tables, barbecue pits, and benches; and a restroom integrated into the Jolly Rodgers Paddle Company's canoe/kayak rental store (operated via a private vendor).

The park also includes a "wall of appreciation" which provides on-site recognition for donors to the park, and a statue commemorating Floyd Tillman, the famous Marble Falls musician.

## Issues & Opportunities

Overall, Falls Creek Park is meeting the needs of its primary intended users. However, now that the skate park is officially established, there is opportunity to enhance the experience of the primary user. In particular, additional shade structures (e.g., a small pavilion), trees, and landscaping could be added to provide protection for the skaters during the Texas' hot summer.

Due to envisioned increased traffic in this area, it would be prudent to remove the undefined on-street parking along Yett Street. Alternately, the area formerly used for RV parking area could be repurposed as a designated off-street parking area for the skate park and overflow for the entire Downtown park system.

Other opportunities include establishing more formalized entrances into the stake park at the intersection of Yett and Main Street and from an off-street parking lot towards the west, adding lighting to increase hours of usage for local youth, formalizing food truck vendor locations along the spur trail, and enhancing connectivity to and through Falls Creek Park and its amenities.

Additional future upgrades to the park could include increased, diversified skate facilities and user comfort amenities such as misters.



The primary use of Falls Creek Park is for a 12,000 square foot concrete and granite skate park.



The Jolly Rodgers Paddle Co., a private vendor, provides canoe/kayak rentals for use on Backbone Creek and Lake Marble Falls.



A spur trail provides access to the Jolly Rodgers Paddle Co, their canoe/kayak launch on Backbone Creek, and the trail system.



A monument is located on site commemorating Floyd Tillman, a famous musician from Marble Falls.

## Hays Addition Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Residential housing
- Lake Marble Falls
- Lakeside Park
- Backbone Creek

### Accessibility

Although the park does not have a defined parking lot, most people/boaters park along the shoulder of Lakeshore Drive or on the boat ramp which provides access to Lake Marble Falls. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by the Hays Addition Park is 5.1 acres. It is a predominantly undeveloped park that most people do not even know it is part of the park system. However, it owned and maintained by the City and includes a small boat launch at its southernmost point.



5.1 acres



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

Overall, Hays Addition Park is, and is planned to remain, a quiet area for residents and visitors. To increase access, a pedestrian bridge over Backbone Creek could connect this park to the other Downtown parks. This pedestrian bridge could connect to a linear internal loop trail throughout Hays Addition Park and the surrounding Downtown parks. While this would provide an extended length of trail for users of the Downtown park system, it would more importantly provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity for area residents to the rest of the park system.

Outside of a potential loop trail and pedestrian bridge, other opportunities exist to maximize the creation of wildflower meadows and a series of overlooks over Lake Marble Falls. Improvements to the existing boat ramp and formalization of on-street boat trailer parking would allow for safer boating access to Lake Marble Falls.

Additionally, a memorial is planned to be added adjacent to the boat ramp commemorating the unfortunate death of a drag boat racer killed during Lake Fest in 2015.

When development plans are created for the park, the ultimate use of an existing resident-maintained boat dock will need to be considered. Residents have expressed concern about other citizens vandalizing the area.



1 One of the greatest opportunities provided by Hays Addition Park is its views and access to Lake Marble Falls.



2 A small boat launch at the parks' southernmost point exists; a small memorial is planned commemorating a boating accident.



3 A periodically maintained wildflower meadow provides ecological and aesthetic benefits to residents and visitors.



4 A great opportunity exists to connect this park to the other Downtown parks via a pedestrian bridge over Backbone Creek.

## Park View Park Surrounding Uses

- Undeveloped land
- Single-family residential

## Accessibility

Although the park does not have a defined parking lot, potential visitors to this park would park along the shoulder of Park Ridge Drive or Park View Drive. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park.

## Description

The area that is encompassed by Park View Park is 11.9 acres. It is currently an undeveloped park with limited visitation and usage.



*11.9 acres*

## Amenities



0 40 80 160 Feet



## Issues & Opportunities

Overall, the Park View Park site is, and is planned to remain, a quiet area for residents and visitors. However, since there is no other park acreage or access to parks anywhere in the area, there is an opportunity to improve this park to better serve the needs of area residents.

One of the primary opportunities is to protect the park's sensitive natural resources and wetland ecosystem. This area is prime habitat for bird and aquatic species. To improve access, a 0.5-mile internal loop trail could be established providing users with a destination area for exercise. This trail could be supplemented with a series of fitness stations (which diversify the exercise opportunities for users) and an overlook over the wetlands.

There is an additional opportunity to connect the Park View Park site to the citywide trail system. As set out on the City's Sidewalk and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan, this park is designated to be connected to the citywide trail system from the north along Park Ridge Drive to the Marble Falls High School via a trail along Park Trail Drive.

To ensure there is safe access to this park, several on-street parking spaces could be added along Park View Drive. This could be combined with a series of speed tables and raised crosswalks located at each corner of the park and at the main intersection of Park Ridge Drive and Park View Drive. These would effectively slow down traffic as it travels along the park boundary.

Beyond trails and natural resource protection, the addition of a park entrance monument, picnic tables, and a playscape would provide increased access to traditional neighborhood serving recreational amenities. Additionally, a multipurpose open field at the southeast corner of the park could be established to provide open play areas for various free-play activities. A split rail fence could be used to define pedestrian and bicycle access points and to protect the young users of the playscape and open play areas from moving traffic.

A minimal bike challenge course could be added in the northeast corner of the park to further diversify the amenity offerings.



Currently, the Park View Park site is designated as an undeveloped future park.



The site's sensitive natural resource areas provide a unique opportunity for passive recreation and interpretative signage.



In non-active areas of the park, wildflower meadows should be used to improve both habitat and the park's visual appearance.



Design of the internal loop trail needs to take into consideration abutting residential areas.

## 4th and Avenue K Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Residential housing
- Undeveloped land
- Greens Soccer Complex

### Accessibility

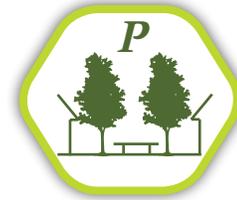
Currently, there is no defined access to the park. Although there are no existing sidewalks on the site, a segment of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail is located across the street.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by the 4th and Avenue K Park is 0.2 acres in size. It is an entirely undeveloped park that was acquired in 2009 as part of a flood mitigation buy-out program.

### Issues & Opportunities

The intent of this property is to develop it as a neighborhood serving pocket park similar to Villa Vista Park. This could include the addition of a playscape, picnic tables and benches, and other uses.



0.2 acres



Currently, 4th and Avenue K Park is undeveloped property acquired as part of the flood mitigation buy-out program. It is intended to be used as a pocket park.



0 15 30 60 Feet



## Villa Vista Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Residential housing
- Undeveloped land

### Accessibility

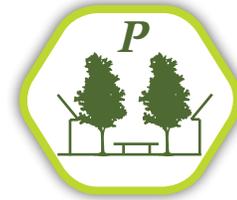
Currently, there is no defined vehicular access to the park besides on-street parking. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by the Villa Vista Park is 0.7 acres in size. It is currently used as a pocket park, which means it serves just the immediate residential area. It includes a playscape, picnic tables, benches, and a basketball court.

### Issues & Opportunities

The intent of this property is to continue to use it as a pocket park. Opportunities exist to add a water fountain, irrigation, improved ADA accessibility to each amenity, and a park entrance monument sign. A split rail fence could be located along Villa Vista Drive to protect young users from quickly running into moving traffic.

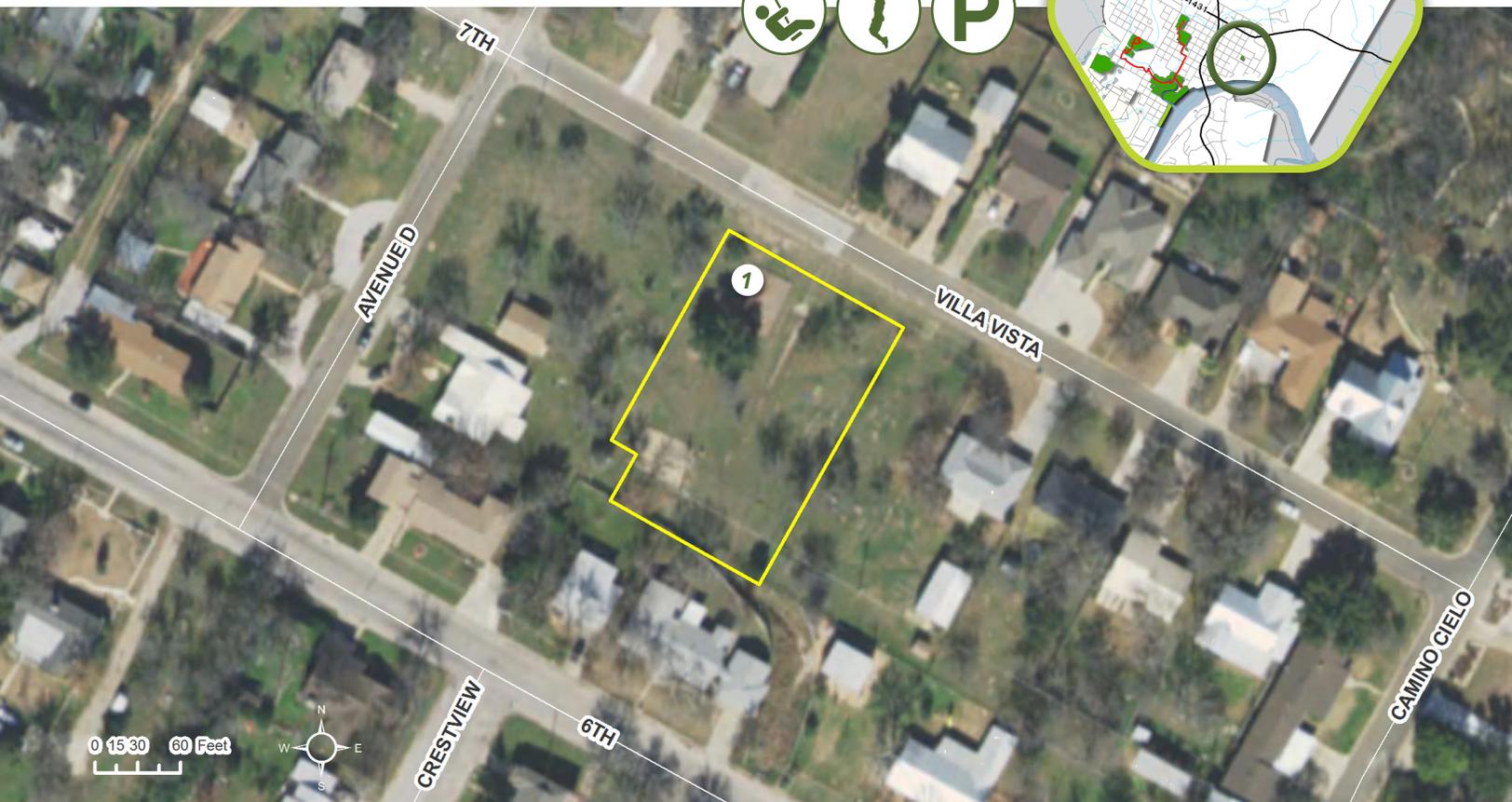


0.7 acres



Villa Vista Park is a pocket park that includes a small playscape, basketball court, and other neighborhood serving amenities.

### Amenities



## Whitman Branch Greenbelt

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Commercial retail and non-residential uses

### Accessibility

Currently, there is no defined access to the park, although it could take access from Post Oak Circle or Mission Hills Drive. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the park.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by the Whitman Branch Greenbelt is 5.0 acres. It is currently an entirely undeveloped park.

### Issues & Opportunities

As set out on the City's Sidewalk and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan, this park is designated to be connected to the citywide trail system extending the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail from Childers Park to areas north. To safely connect this segment, a pedestrian and bicycle underpass should be designed as part of the eventual replacement of the low water crossing.



5.0 acres



Currently, the Whitman Branch Greenbelt is an undeveloped floodplain and open space area which has the potential to be an extension of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail and a key connection in the overall citywide trail system.

### Amenities



## City Cemetery

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Golf course
- Municipal property

### Accessibility

The park takes its primary vehicular access from MF Cemetery Road which is near the intersection of South Avenue and Johnson Street. There are no sidewalks in proximity to the cemetery.

### Description

The area that is encompassed by the Marble Falls City Cemetery is 20.0 acres. It is located at one of the high points of the City, and has been in existence (according to the earliest headstones) since the early 1800s. It is a non-perpetual cemetery and currently has about 1,600 plots left.

### Issues & Opportunities

The Cemetery Board disbanded in the 1930s and the cemetery has been under City maintenance since then. Moving forward, there is opportunity to connect this property to the overall citywide trail system, add interpretative signage of prominent historic figures, construct a gazebo, establish a “friends of the cemetery” group, and to reestablish a “cemetery board” or association.

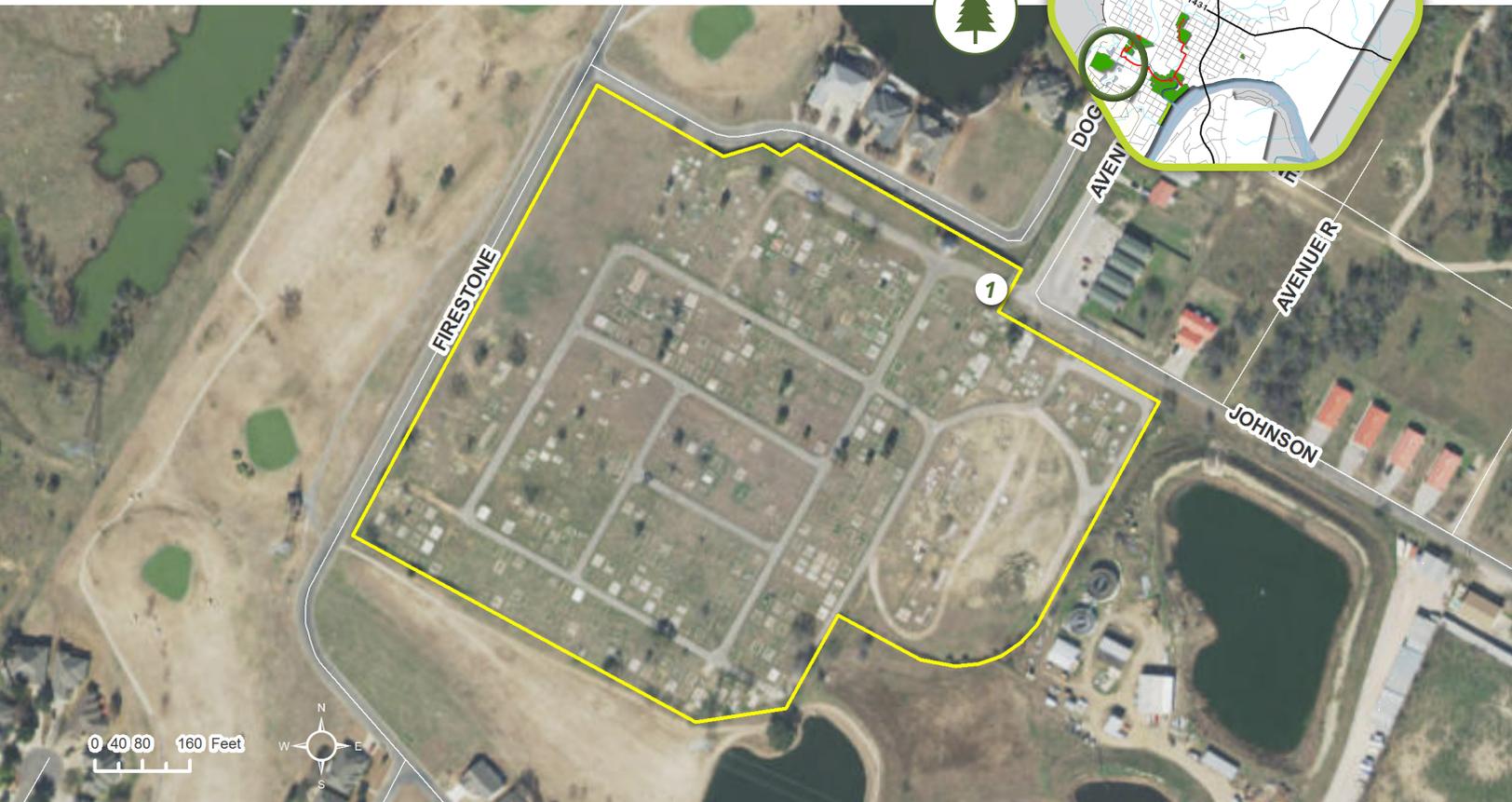


20.0 acres



The City cemetery includes historical plots and provides opportunities for education, trail connectivity, and a place for peaceful remembrance.

### Amenities



0 40 80 160 Feet



## Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Johnson and Lakeside Parks
- Undeveloped land

### Accessibility

Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail takes its primary access from Westside, Johnson, and Lakeside Parks. However, users can gain access from a multitude of informal access points along the entire length of the trail.

### Description

The trail is 10 feet wide, constructed of a combination of asphalt and crushed granite, and is approximately 1.8 miles in length.

### Issues & Opportunities

As set out on the City's Sidewalk and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan, the City envisions extending or connecting this trail to areas north and south. Moving forward, the City should identify opportunities for land acquisition; development of new trail segments, trailheads, and trail amenities; and establishing safe connections (e.g., underpasses, crosswalks, etc.) to the trail.



Currently, the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail connects Westside Park to Johnson Park.

### Amenities



# Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail

## Surrounding Uses

- Single- and multifamily residential
- Johnson, Falls Creek, and Lakeside Parks
- Downtown Marble Falls / commercial retail
- Undeveloped land

## Accessibility

Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail takes its primary access from Childers, Johnson, and Lakeside Parks. However, users can gain access from a multitude of informal access points along the entire length of the trail.

## Description

The trail is seven feet wide, constructed of concrete, and is approximately 0.8 miles in length. It follows Whitman Branch Creek and has segments along Avenues J and K, and 3rd Street.

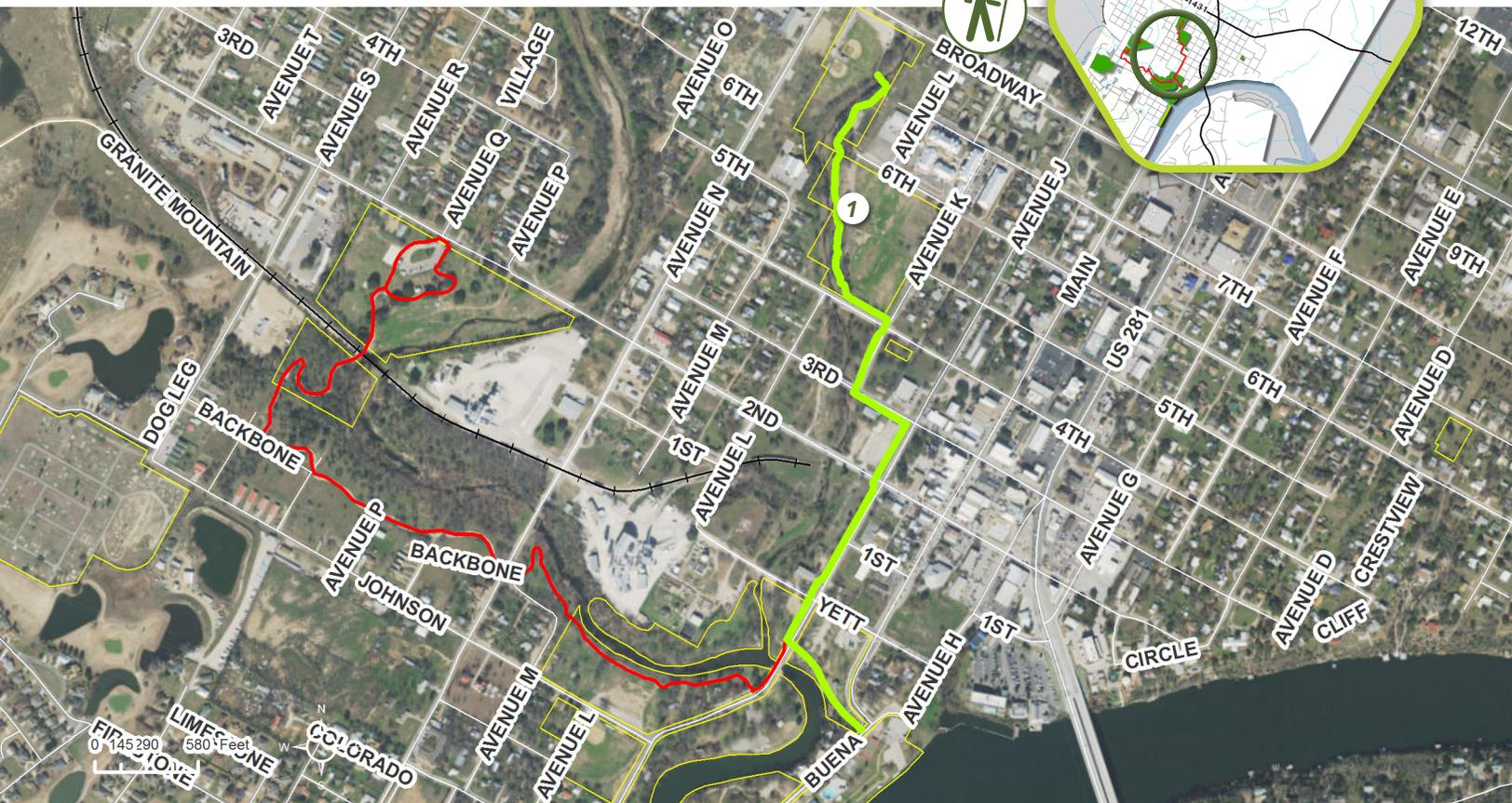
## Issues & Opportunities

As set out on the City's Sidewalk and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan, the City envisions extending or connecting this trail to areas north and east. Moving forward, the City should identify opportunities for land acquisition; development of new trail segments, trail heads, and trail amenities; and establishing safe connections (e.g., underpasses, crosswalks, etc.) onto the trail.



This segment of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike trail runs behind the Greens Soccer Complex. Overall, the trail currently connects from Childers to Johnson and Lakeside Parks.

## Amenities



## **Recreation**

There are a variety of active recreation programs for children, youth, and adults in Marble Falls. While the majority of programming is offered by third-party providers, many programs take place on City parks, in the City's rental facilities, and at the City pool.

City-provided recreation programming for children and youth includes spring break activities and swim lessons for children age three through 13. A swim team and water exercise classes are provided at Lakeside Pool by the YMCA of the Highland Lakes. The Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes provides activities such as day trips, multi-day camps, and sports clinics. Fall and spring baseball and softball are provided for boys and girls ranging from age four to 16 by the Marble Falls Youth Baseball/Softball Association. Opportunities for football and cheerleading are provided for children in kindergarten through sixth grade by Marble Falls Youth Football/Cheer. Youth ranging from younger than six to over 15 years old are provided soccer recreation through the Granite Country Youth Soccer Association. The Marble Falls Adult Softball Association and a local adult soccer league offer athletic programs for adults in the community.

Outside of organized athletics, the Jolly Rodgers Paddle Co. offers paddle boarding and kayaking on Backbone Creek and Lake Marble Falls. The City's newly opened Westside Park Community Hall provides rental space for additional recreation programs such as dance and karate lessons. These are provided by local businesses rather than City park and recreation staff.

When asked about the level of community satisfaction related to athletic/recreational programming, approximately 50 percent of survey respondents indicated satisfaction with youth programming (for young children up to the age of 12 years old). However, an overwhelming majority (approximately 60 to 65 percent of survey respondents) indicated that they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with teen, adult, and senior programming options.

Similarly, during the Comprehensive Plan engagement process, survey respondents, open house attendees, and stakeholders also highlighted the need for additional recreational programming as well as indoor recreation space in the City. Over 55 percent of survey respondents indicated they felt it was very important or important for the City to focus on the need for additional recreation amenities in the next five to 10 years. Survey respondents also felt it was very important or important to provide additional public recreation opportunities such as summer concerts and outdoor movies. The addition of such public recreation programs could benefit residents and attract additional tourism.

Moving forward, as the City continues to grow, additional recreational programming will continue to be a challenge until a dedicated recreational coordinator is provided on City staff. Without a recreation coordinator, further development of the City's programming falls on Parks and Recreation Department staff, who are already fully occupied with other parks-related tasks. Even with a focus on using third party providers, an on-staff recreational coordinator would be able to both manage and expand the recreational program offerings requested by the Marble Falls community.

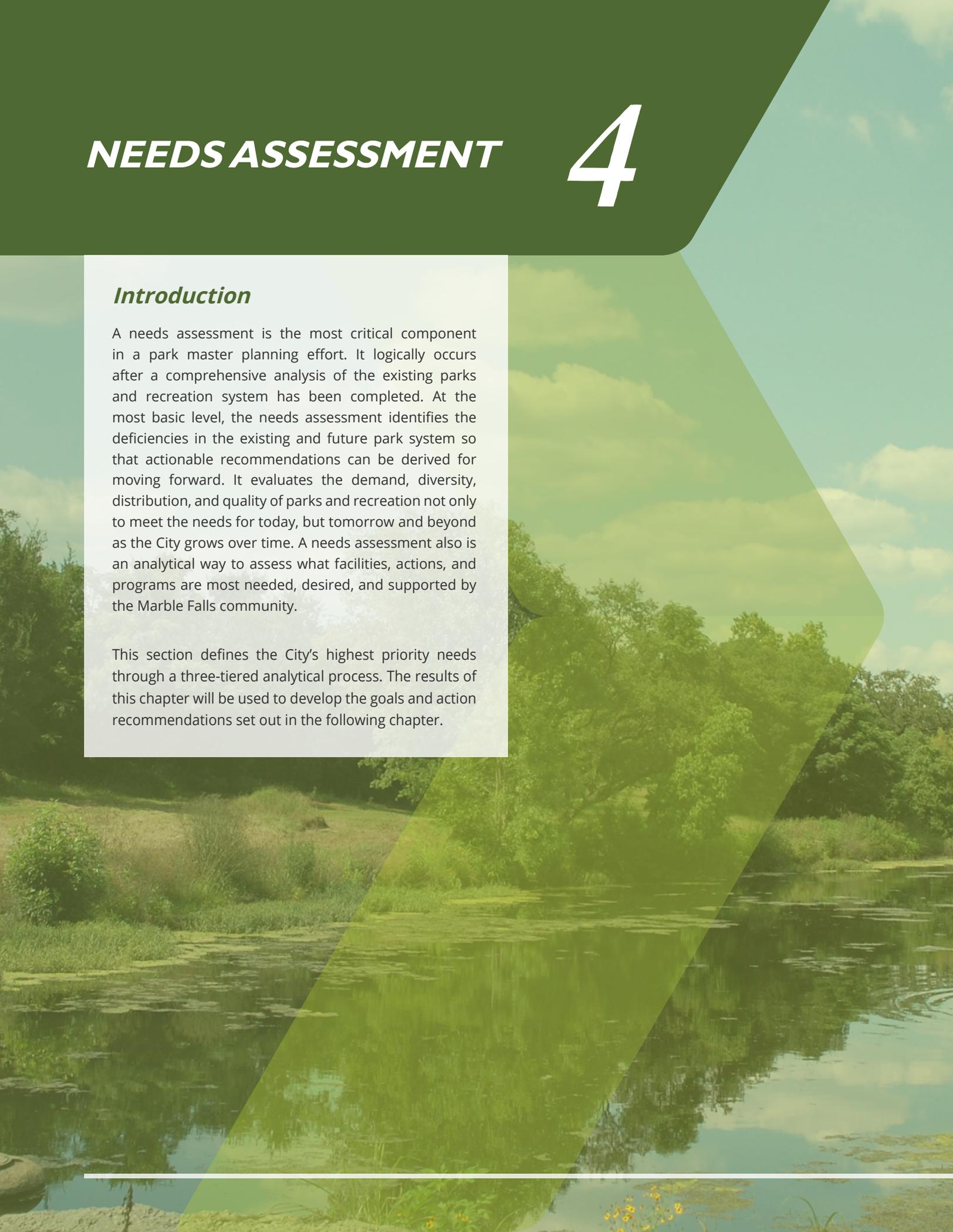
# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

# 4

## *Introduction*

A needs assessment is the most critical component in a park master planning effort. It logically occurs after a comprehensive analysis of the existing parks and recreation system has been completed. At the most basic level, the needs assessment identifies the deficiencies in the existing and future park system so that actionable recommendations can be derived for moving forward. It evaluates the demand, diversity, distribution, and quality of parks and recreation not only to meet the needs for today, but tomorrow and beyond as the City grows over time. A needs assessment also is an analytical way to assess what facilities, actions, and programs are most needed, desired, and supported by the Marble Falls community.

This section defines the City's highest priority needs through a three-tiered analytical process. The results of this chapter will be used to develop the goals and action recommendations set out in the following chapter.



## Assessment Methods

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the parks and recreation needs in Marble Falls, a variety of different analysis techniques are used to evaluate current and future needs. Three different techniques are used in the needs assessment analysis presented in this chapter. These techniques follow general methodologies accepted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for local park master plans. The three techniques are described in Figure 4.1, *Assessment Methods*, below.

While each method is an important component in the overall assessment, if considered individually, they do not represent the entire picture. Findings from each assessment method are used to determine what types of parkland and recreation facilities and amenities are needed in Marble Falls. Ultimately, these needs are vetted by the residents and are determined to best represent the key park and recreational needs of the City.

Figure 4.1, *Assessment Methods*



Decades ago, a series of national guidelines and standards for the provision of parks and recreation were developed based on demographic trends rather than specific local desires. In recognition that each city has its own unique geographic, demographic, and socioeconomic composition, the national guidelines now serve as a starting point for park planning. After analyzing the existing conditions of the parks system and gaining an understanding of the community, the standards are fine-tuned to meet local conditions.

This Plan utilizes the existing level of service in the City as a starting point and determines whether that level of service is adequate or needs to be increased or decreased. Extensive public input and the anticipated growth of the City and its population are used to determine how to adjust the current level of service. Local needs and desires are used to mold these guidelines to meet the expectations of the citizens of Marble Falls in a realistic manner.

Three types of access-based level of service determinations are made as described below.

- **Level of Service - Park Acreage**

The parkland acreage level of service analysis defines the quantity of parkland acreage in the City, expressed as a ratio of acreage to population. It analyzes whether there is sufficient acreage to serve the population today and in the future.

- **Level of Service - Access to Parkland**

The access to parkland analysis examines the location and distribution of parkland throughout Marble Falls to determine how easy it is for residents to access parkland, and determines where parkland is needed to meet the City's target level of service.

- **Level of Service - Park Facilities**

The facility level of service analysis defines the number of facilities recommended to serve each particular recreation need. Facility standards are usually expressed as a ratio of units of one particular facility per population size. For example, a facility standard for a baseball field might be one field for every 5,000 residents of the city.

The Level of Service (LOS) based assessment uses a target level of service established by the local jurisdiction, in this case the City of Marble Falls, to determine the quantity of park facilities required to meet the City's needs. These target levels of service are usually expressed as the quantity of park facilities needed to adequately serve a given ratio of residents. These targets are established to provide the level of service that the particular jurisdiction believes is the most responsive to the amount of use and the interest of its citizens. This Plan establishes individual city-specific levels of service appropriate for Marble Falls.

### What is Level of Service?

An analysis to determine if there is adequate acreage, distribution, and diversity of parkland and recreation amenities and facilities.

## Access-Based Assessment

### Park Acreage

The purpose of park acreage levels of service for parks and recreational areas is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated for all the outdoor recreation needs of a community. They allow a city to plan ahead so that parkland can be targeted and acquired before it is developed. To help determine an appropriate level of service, a “target” level is incorporated into this Plan. The target levels of service were originally established by the 2012 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

Marble Falls is a relatively small city with room to expand into its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Residential development has largely been concentrated north of Lake Marble Falls and along the City’s primary arterials (e.g., U.S. Highway 281) and major collectors (e.g., Mormon Mill Road). Based on the population projection recently adopted in the City’s 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update, the City’s population is projected to increase to approximately 8,500 people by the year 2027. With that growth will come additional development, increased park and recreation needs, and a reduction of open space. In order to ensure that adequate parkland is provided and maintained throughout the community, the City should focus on strategies to develop parkland as part of public and private developments in Marble Falls.



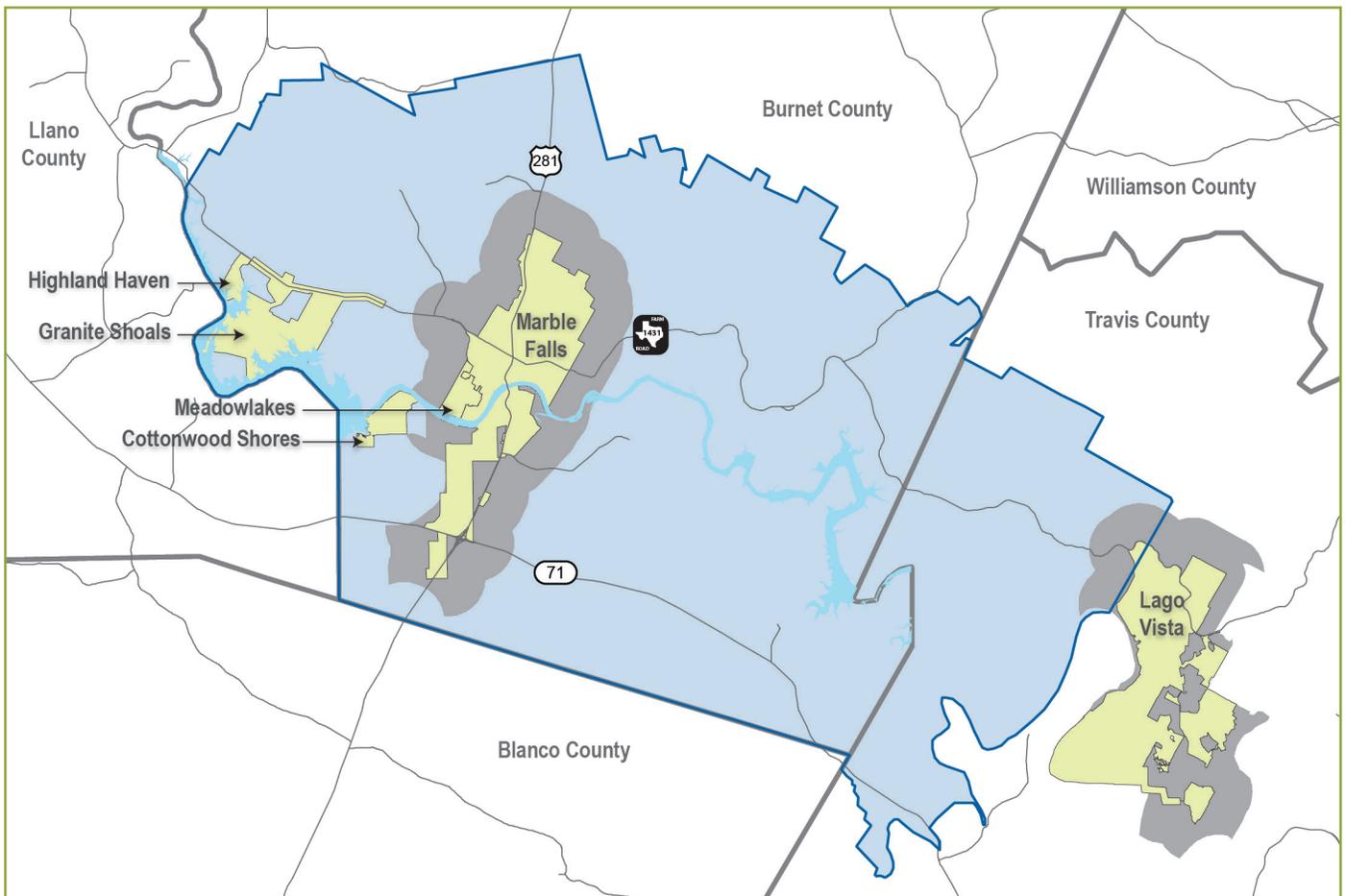
*Analyzing the quantity of parkland in the City is just one component of a comprehensive needs assessment.*

Marble Falls is unique in that a large portion of its park and recreation users (upwards of 60 to 80 percent) are not residents of the City. As previously described in Chapter 1, *Introduction & Context*, the service area for the City's parks is generally equivalent to the extents of the Marble Falls Independent School District (MFISD) (see Figure 4.2, *Marble Falls Independent School District Service Area*). As such, existing and target levels of service for parkland acreage and facilities are presented using both Marble Falls population numbers as well as a percentage (60%) of the estimated 2017 and projected 2027 populations for MFISD.

Developing and applying a target level of service for park acreage results in acreage standards for different types of parks. Currently, residents are served by the existing pocket, neighborhood, community, regional, linear, and special use parks. Additionally, as part of two proposed mixed use communities (Flatrock Springs Planned Development District and 71- 281 Mixed Use Community), the City has potential to gain over 200 acres of additional parkland when these areas are developed. Considering this potential future parkland, the needs assessment first presents calculations and mapping based on the existing parks system. It then follows with the inclusion of the potential parkland in 2027 calculations assuming that the proposed developments will be partially or fully constructed within the time frame of this Plan.

Existing and target levels of service for the Marble Falls and greater MFISD populations are depicted in Figures 4.3 through 4.6 on the following pages.

**Figure 4.2, Marble Falls Independent School District Service Area**



### Pocket Parks

Pocket parks are typically small pockets of open space located in a neighborhood or accessible by several smaller neighborhoods. They are typically less than five acres in size and primarily provide play areas for nearby residents. The service radius for a pocket park is 1/4 mile.

The City currently has two parks that are designated as pocket parks, which total 0.8 acres. The current level of service for pocket parks is 0.1 acre per 1,000 residents. The target level of service for pocket parks is 0.25 to 0.50 acres per 1,000 residents. When looking at both current and projected populations for the City of Marble Falls (see Figure 4.3, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, City of Marble Falls, 2017* and Figure 4.5, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, City of Marble Falls, 2027*), there is a deficiency of pocket parks. Considering the greater MFISD service population, the deficiency of developed pocket parks becomes even greater (see Figure 4.4, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, Greater Marble Falls ISD, 2017* and Figure 4.6, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, Greater Marble Falls ISD, 2027*). However, it is worth noting that pocket parks are most typically used by residents in the immediate neighborhood, thus it is unlikely that the greater MFISD population would use pocket parks within Marble Falls.



Villa Vista Park is a pocket park in Marble Falls.

### Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park is typically centrally located in a neighborhood or central to several smaller neighborhoods that it is meant to serve. The park should be integrated into the community in a prominent manner during the design phase, and not layered in as an afterthought during construction. An appropriate level of service for neighborhood parks in Marble Falls is 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents. There are three City-owned neighborhood parks in Marble Falls, two of which are either entirely or largely undeveloped. The service radius for a neighborhood park is one-quarter to one-half mile.



Falls Creek Park is the most highly developed neighborhood park in the City.

Neighborhood parks in Marble Falls range in size from 3.8 acres to 11.9 acres and total 20.8 acres. Based on the current population, the City's current level of service

**Figure 4.3, Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, City of Marble Falls, 2017**

| PARK CLASSIFICATION | EXISTING ACREAGE | CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 6,281 PEOPLE) | RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE | RECOMMENDED ACREAGE | SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE             | PERCENT OF NEED MET (2017) |
|---------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pocket Parks        | 0.8              | 0.1 Ac./1,000 Residents                          | 0.25 to 0.5 Ac./1,000 Residents     | 1.6 to 3.1          | 0.8 to 2.3 Ac. Deficit                | 25% to 51%                 |
| Neighborhood Parks  | 20.8             | 3.3 Ac./1,000 Residents                          | 1.0 to 2.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 6.2 to 12.4         | 8.2 to 14.5 Ac. Surplus               | 100%                       |
| Community Parks     | 50.2             | 8.0 Ac./1,000 Residents                          | 5.0 to 8.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 30.9 to 49.5        | 0 to 18.8 Ac. Surplus                 | 100%                       |
| Regional Parks      | 36.6             | 5.8 Ac./1,000 Residents                          | 5.0 to 10 Ac./1,000 Residents       | 30.9 to 61.9        | 26.2 to 5.2 Ac. Deficit / Ac. Surplus | 58% to 100%                |
| Special Use Parks   | 30.4             | 4.8 Ac./1,000 Residents                          | Varies                              | N/A                 | N/A                                   | N/A                        |
| Linear Parks        | 10.0             | 1.6 Ac./1,000 Residents                          | Varies                              | N/A                 | N/A                                   | N/A                        |

for neighborhood parks is 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents (see Figure 4.3, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, City of Marble Falls, 2017*). When compared to the target of 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents, the City is currently meeting the need for neighborhood parkland for City residents and is meeting over 70 percent of the need for the MFISD service population (see Figure 4.4, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, Greater Marble Falls ISD, 2017*). However, the current development of the City's neighborhood parks is not necessarily meeting the facility needs of users.

Even with the projected population increases within the City, the neighborhood parkland acreage needs will continue to be met in 2027 (see Figure 4.5, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, City of Marble Falls, 2027*). Considering projected population increases for the greater MFISD area, a neighborhood parkland deficit would be seen by 2027. However, as part of the proposed developments in the southern portion of the City, additional parkland is planned which would adequately meet the projected 2027 needs for residents and non-residents (see Figure 4.6, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, Greater Marble Falls ISD, 2027*).

### Community Parks

Community parks are large parks which serve several neighborhoods or a portion of a city. They serve as locations for larger community events, sports, and activities. Therefore, they contain many popular recreation and support facilities. Due to the larger service area and additional programs, community parks are typically more heavily used and accessed by a vehicle.

The additional facilities associated with a community park increase the spatial requirements necessary for this type of park. Also, community parks often require parking for users who drive from surrounding areas, which increases the amount of space needed. The target level of service for community parks in Marble Falls is 5.0 to 8.0 acres for every 1,000 residents. The service radius of a community park is typically one to two miles. There are five existing community parks in the City.



*The Greens Soccer Complex is a highly used community park.*

**Figure 4.4, Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, Greater Marble Falls ISD, 2017**

| PARK CLASSIFICATION | EXISTING ACREAGE | CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 14,220 PEOPLE <sup>1</sup> ) | RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE | RECOMMENDED ACREAGE | SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE            | PERCENT OF NEED MET (2017) |
|---------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pocket Parks        | 0.8              | 0.1 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 0.25 to 0.5 Ac./1,000 Residents     | 3.6 to 7.1          | 2.8 to 6.3 Ac. Deficit               | 11% to 23%                 |
| Neighborhood Parks  | 20.8             | 1.5 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 1.0 to 2.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 14.2 to 28.4        | 7.6 to 6.6 Ac. Deficit / Ac. Surplus | 73% to 100%                |
| Community Parks     | 50.2             | 3.5 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 5.0 to 8.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 71.1 to 113.8       | 20.9 to 63.6 Ac. Deficit             | 44% to 71%                 |
| Regional Parks      | 36.6             | 2.6 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 5.0 to 10 Ac./1,000 Residents       | 71.1 to 142.2       | 34.5 to 105.6 Ac. Deficit            | 26% to 51%                 |
| Special Use Parks   | 30.4             | 2.1 Ac./1,000 Residents   | Varies                              | N/A                 | N/A                                  | N/A                        |
| Linear Parks        | 10.0             | 0.7 Ac./1,000 Residents   | Varies                              | N/A                 | N/A                                  | N/A                        |

<sup>1</sup> The 2017 existing level of service and need numbers are based on 60 percent of the population estimate for the MFISD area described in the Marble Falls Independent School District Demographic Update in July, 2016 by Population and Survey Analysts.

Today, community parks in the City total 50.2 acres which makes the current level of service for community parks 8.0 acres per 1,000 residents. When compared to the target level of service, the City is meeting its community parkland need (see Figure 4.3, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, City of Marble Falls, 2017*). Similar to neighborhood parks, the current development of the City's community parks is not necessarily best meeting the needs of park users. If the greater MFISD population is considered, the City begins to show a deficit for community parkland (see Figure 4.4, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, Greater Marble Falls ISD*). Since the City's community and regional parks are those most likely to be used by non-residents, it is important to consider this deficit.

Looking forward to 2027, the City's existing community parks will no longer fulfill the resident or the greater non-resident population needs (see Figure 4.5, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, City of Marble Falls, 2027*). However, if the potential future parkland south of Lake Marble Falls is developed within the time frame of this Plan, this land could either nearly or fully meet the acreage needs for residents and non-residents (see Figure 4.6, *Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, Greater Marble Falls ISD, 2027*).

### Regional Parks

Regional parks are intended to serve the entire city and surrounding region. Like community parks, they act as locations for larger community events, tournaments, and activities. There are currently two regional parks in the City, totaling 36.6 acres and an existing level of service of 5.8 acres per 1,000 residents.

Due to their greater size and variety of amenities, regional parks have a service radius of three to 50 miles. The recommended level of service for regional parks in



*Johnson Park is one of the City's parkland treasures and is considered a regional park.*

**Figure 4.5, Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, City of Marble Falls, 2027**

| PARK CLASSIFICATION                               | EXISTING ACREAGE | CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 8,500 POPULATION) | RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE | RECOMMENDED ACREAGE | SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE             | PERCENT OF NEED MET (2027) |
|---|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pocket Parks                                      | 0.8              | 0.1 Ac./1,000 Residents                              | 0.25 to 0.5 Ac./1,000 Residents     | 2.1 to 4.3          | 1.3 to 3.5 Ac. Deficit                | 19% to 38%                 |
| Neighborhood Parks                                | 20.8             | 2.4 Ac./1,000 Residents                              | 1.0 to 2.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 8.5 to 17.0         | 3.8 to 12.3 Ac. Surplus               | 100%                       |
| Neighborhood Parks (incl. potential future parks) | 59.8             | 7.0 Ac./1,000 Residents                              | 1.0 to 2.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 8.5 to 17.0         | 42.8 to 51.3 Ac. Surplus              | 100%                       |
| Community Parks                                   | 50.2             | 5.9 Ac./1,000 Residents                              | 5.0 to 8.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 42.5 to 68.0        | 17.8 to 7.7 Ac. Deficit / Ac. Surplus | 74% to 100%                |
| Community Parks (incl. potential future parks)    | 222.8            | 26.2 Ac./1,000 Residents                             | 5.0 to 8.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 42.5 to 68.0        | 154.8 to 180.3 Ac. Surplus            | 100%                       |
| Regional Parks                                    | 36.6             | 4.3 Ac./1,000 Residents                              | 5.0 to 10 Ac./1,000 Residents       | 42.5 to 85.0        | 5.9 to 48.4 Ac. Deficit               | 43% to 86%                 |
| Special Use Parks                                 | 30.4             | 3.6 Ac./1,000 Residents                              | Varies                              | N/A                 | N/A                                   | N/A                        |
| Linear Parks                                      | 10.0             | 1.2 Ac./1,000 Residents                              | Varies                              | N/A                 | N/A                                   | N/A                        |

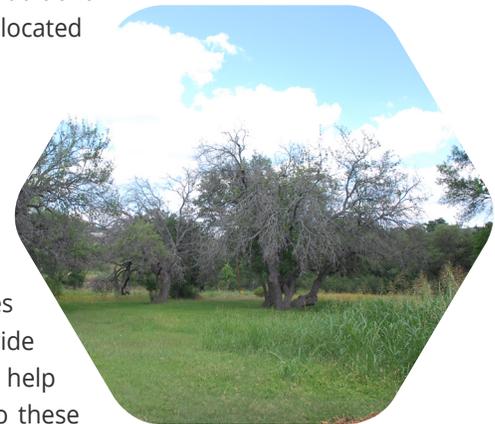
Marble Falls is five to 10 acres per 1,000 residents. Based on the target level of service, there is an existing and future need for regional parkland for resident and non-resident populations. Future regional parkland should include access to Lake Marble Falls, if at all possible. As one of the City’s greatest assets, it would greatly increase the draw of a park.

### Special Use Parks

Special use parks are areas designated for a special purpose and can include park types such as golf courses, dog parks, and even cemeteries in some cases. Since special use parks vary by size, type, and from city to city, there are no specific recommended levels of service. Marble Falls has three special use parks including Granite Mountain Park, Downtown, and the cemetery. These parks total 30.4 acres. While there are additional special use amenities in the City (e.g., Westside “Ruff Park” dog park), they are located within parks and thus their acreage is being accounted for already.

### Linear Parks

Linear parks are largely unprogrammed parks which typically follow a natural or man-made feature which is linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad right-of-ways, power line or drainage corridors, or utility easements. Linear parks, when properly developed with trail facilities to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian travel, can greatly contribute to citywide connectivity to parks, schools, and other key destinations. Linear parks also help to preserve open space. No specific level target level of service applies to these parks other than that they should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain and their distribution should ideally allow for walking or biking access by all residents. There are currently 10.0 acres of linear parks in Marble Falls with an existing level of service for residents of 1.6 acres per 1,000 people.



*The Whitman Branch Greenbelt is one of the City’s undeveloped linear parks.*

**Figure 4.6, Percent of Parkland Need Met by Existing Parks, Greater Marble Falls ISD, 2027**

| PARK CLASSIFICATION                               | EXISTING ACREAGE | CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 29,880 POPULATION <sup>1</sup> ) | RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE | RECOM-MENDED ACREAGE | SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE            | PERCENT OF NEED MET (2027) |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pocket Parks                                      | 0.8              | 0.03 Ac./1,000 Residents  | 0.25 to 0.5 Ac./1,000 Residents     | 7.5 to 14.9          | 6.7 to 14.1 Ac. Deficit              | 5% to 11%                  |
| Neighborhood Parks                                | 20.8             | 0.7 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 1.0 to 2.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 29.9 to 59.8         | 9.1 to 39.0 Ac. Deficit              | 35% to 70%                 |
| Neighborhood Parks (incl. potential future parks) | 59.8             | 2.0 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 1.0 to 2.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 29.9 to 59.8         | 0.1 to 30.0 Ac. Surplus              | 100%                       |
| Community Parks                                   | 50.2             | 1.7 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 5.0 to 8.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 149.4 to 239.0       | 99.2 to 188.8 Ac. Deficit            | 21% to 34%                 |
| Community Parks (incl. potential future parks)    | 222.8            | 7.5 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 5.0 to 8.0 Ac./1,000 Residents      | 149.4 to 239.0       | 16.2 Ac. Deficit to 73.4 Ac. Surplus | 93% to 100%                |
| Regional Parks                                    | 36.60            | 1.2 Ac./1,000 Residents   | 5.0 to 10.0 Ac./1,000 Residents     | 149.4 to 298.8       | 112.8 to 262.2 Ac. Deficit           | 12% to 24%                 |
| Special Use Parks                                 | 30.4             | 1.0 Ac./1,000 Residents   | Varies                              | N/A                  | N/A                                  | N/A                        |
| Linear Parks                                      | 10.0             | 0.3 Ac./1,000 Residents   | Varies                              | N/A                  | N/A                                  | N/A                        |

<sup>1</sup> The 2027 need is based on 60 percent of the projected population for the area. The 2027 projected population was based on projections described in the Marble Falls Independent School District Demographic Update in July, 2016 by Population and Survey Analysts.

## Access to Parkland

In addition to parkland acreage, the location of parkland is equally important. While the City owns nearly 150 acres of parkland, all of it is located north of Lake Marble Falls and all but one of the City's parks is located within a one-mile radius of Downtown. Residents who live beyond this area do not have adequate access to parkland. The maps on the following pages will analyze the location of parkland acreage throughout the community. Since they have different sizes, quantities of facilities, and service areas; neighborhood, community, and regional parks will be analyzed separately.

### Neighborhood and Pocket Park Accessibility

Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents within a one-quarter-mile (ideal) or one-half-mile (standard) radius and are commonly meant to be accessed by foot. These distances correlate to a reasonable walking distance for children and other park users. These service areas are illustrated on Map 4.1, *Neighborhood & Pocket Park Service Areas*. Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and should be accessible without requiring residents to cross major streets. Consequently, service areas for these parks do not extend beyond the City's arterial roadways (FM1431 and U.S. Highway 281).

Since the City's community and regional parks serve the function of a daily-use neighborhood park for residents in the vicinity, they are illustrated on this map with the one-quarter and one-half-mile neighborhood park service areas. The City's pocket parks are only illustrated with a one-quarter-mile service area as there is not a significant draw for residents from a further distance.

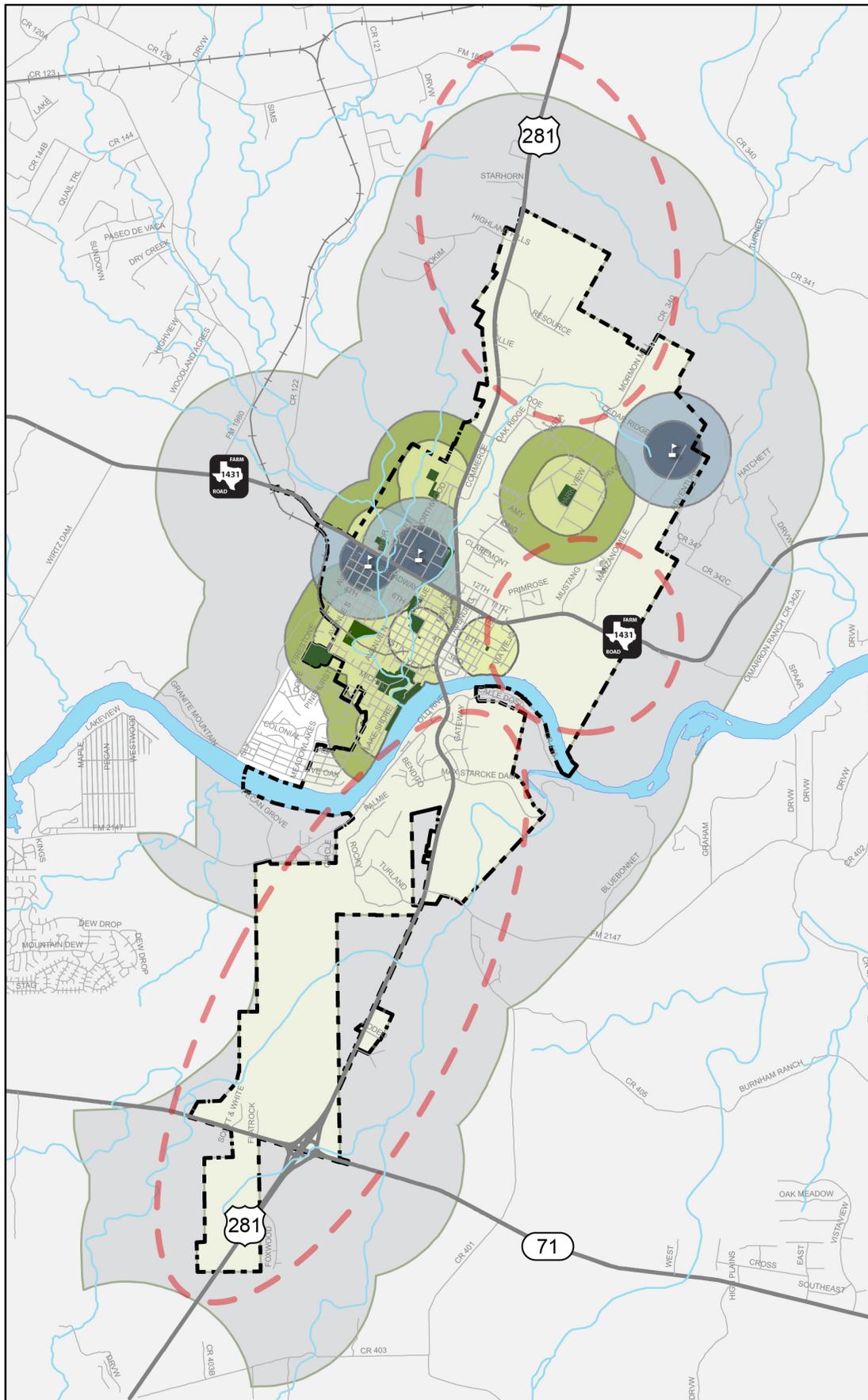
Middle and elementary schools (which oftentimes include playscapes and other recreational amenities) often also serve the function of a close-to-home park for residents in the nearby neighborhood. As such, the MFISD elementary and middle school parks are illustrated with the one-quarter and one-half-mile service areas.

### Current and Future Need Areas

As illustrated on Map 4.1, *Neighborhood & Pocket Park Service Areas*, there are many areas within the City limits which are not currently served by neighborhood parks. These areas, illustrated with red dashed lines, cover the majority of the eastern portion of the City and the entirety of the City south of Lake Marble Falls. As the City considers its need areas, it is important to distinguish between areas which are currently developed with residences versus future growth areas. Providing additional parks in the existing residential areas is a higher current need. However, the City should also consider its future growth areas and develop a plan of action for ensuring adequate future development of parkland concurrent with residential development.

If the potential parkland in the southern half of the City is developed, the City's neighborhood park need areas diminish substantially (see Map 4.2, *Potential Future Neighborhood Park Service Areas*). The potential parkland includes both neighborhood and community parkland, all of which could serve as neighborhood parks for residents in the area.

**Map 4.1, Neighborhood & Pocket Park Service Areas**



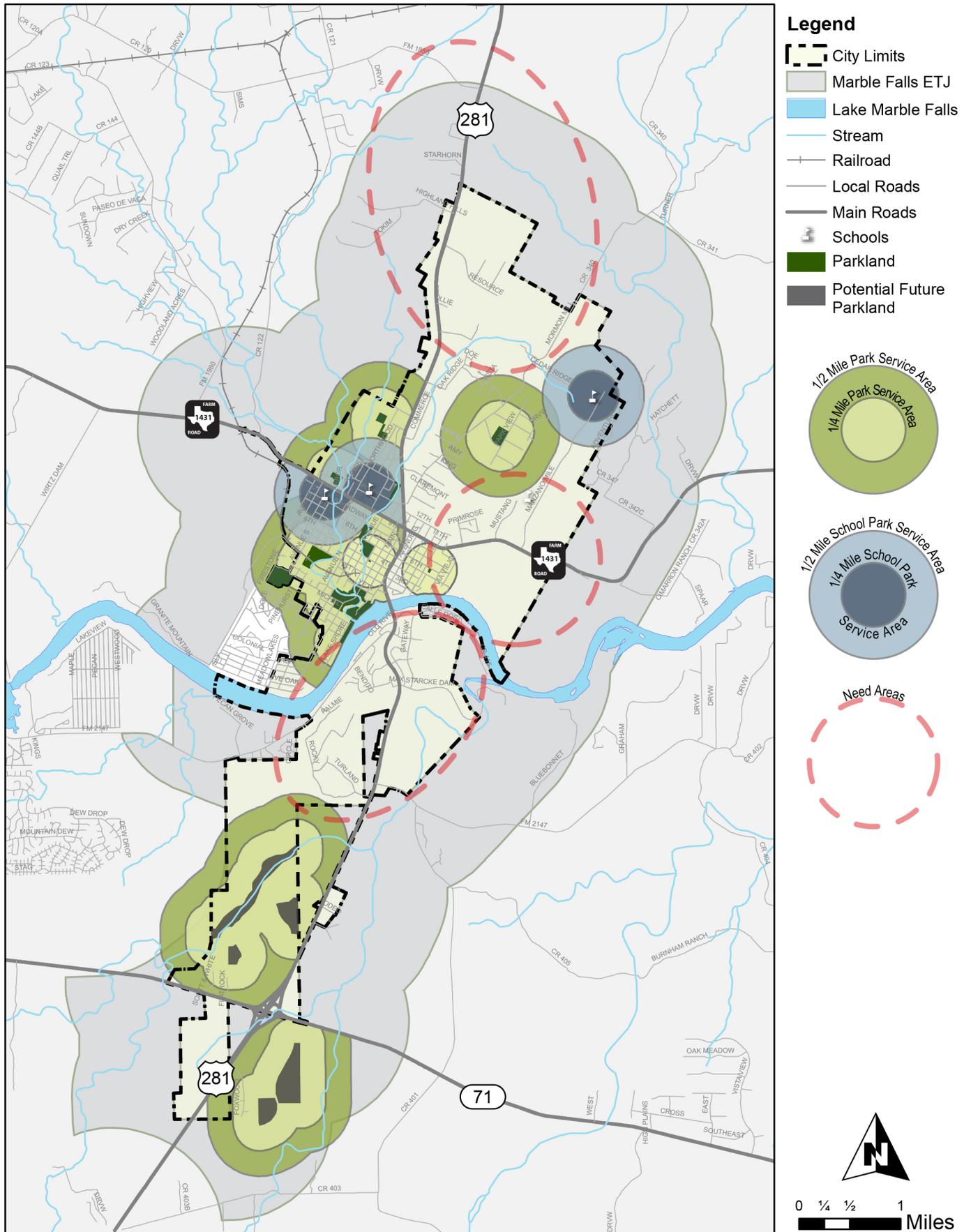
**Legend**

- City Limits
- Marble Falls ETJ
- Lake Marble Falls
- Stream
- Railroad
- Local Roads
- Main Roads
- Schools
- Parkland



MARBLE FALLS PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Map 4.2, Potential Future Neighborhood Park Service Areas



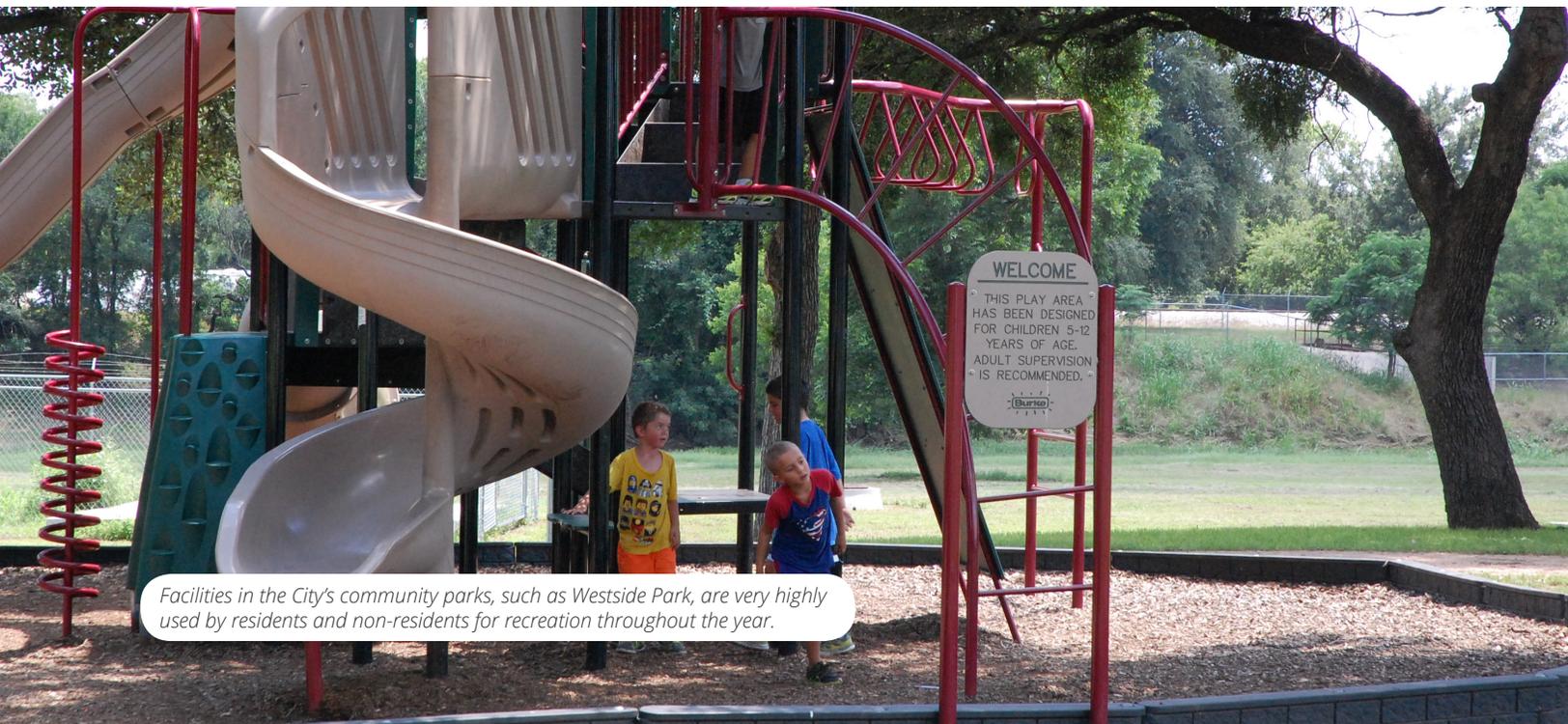
## Community Parkland

In general, community parks have a service area of one to two miles, or a reasonable one-mile walking distance and a two-mile biking distance. Similarly as with neighborhood parks, the City's regional parks fulfill the community park needs for the residents in the area. Considering this, Map 4.3, *Community Park Service Areas* (on the following page), illustrates the existing community and regional parks with one- and two-mile service areas. Once again, the red dashed lines represent the need areas.

Due to the larger community park service area, the majority of the City north of Lake Marble Falls is adequately served. However, the lack of parkland south of the lake means that any residents living in this area largely lack access to community parks.

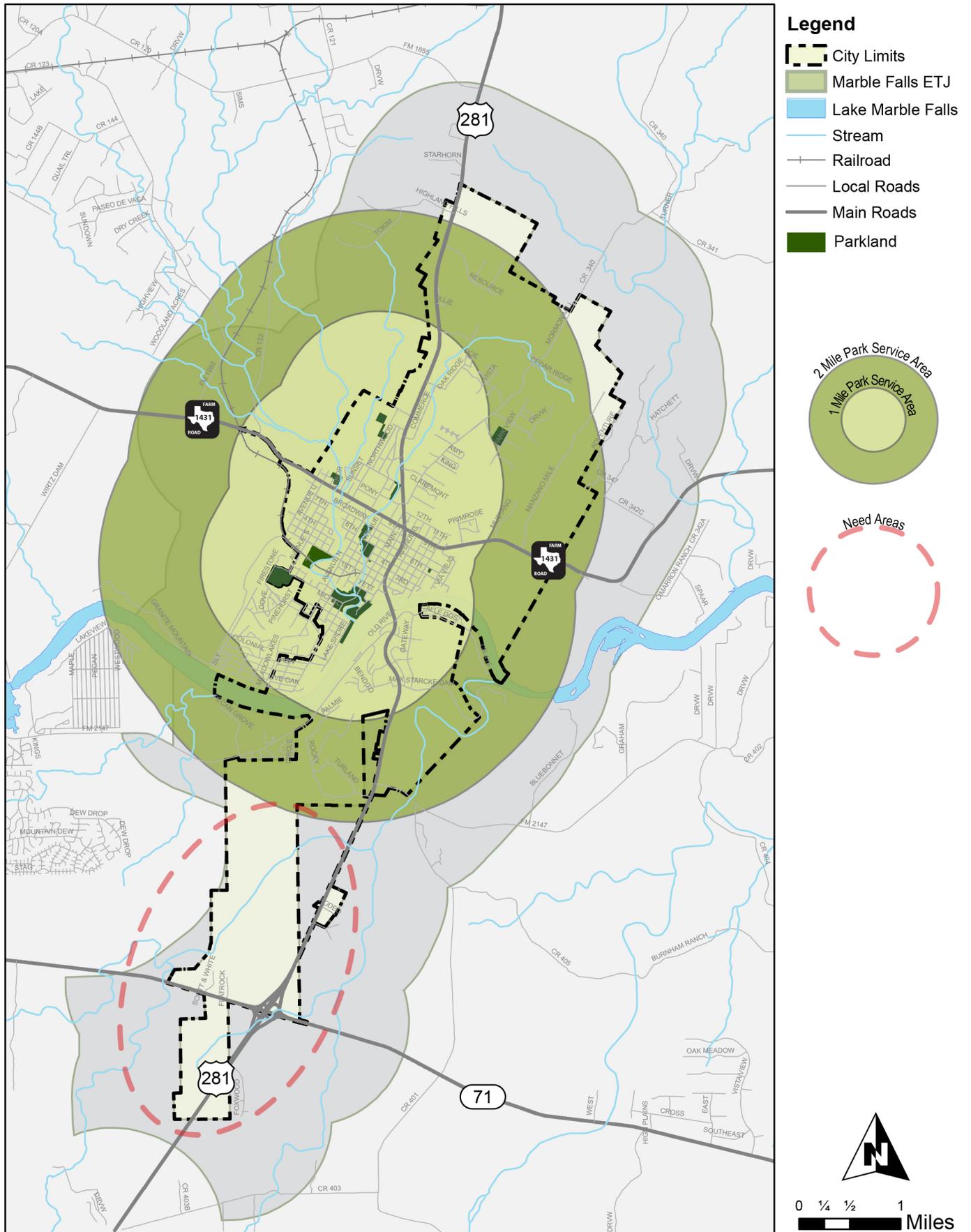
## Potential Community Parkland

While the City is currently lacking community parkland south of Lake Marble Falls, the potential future parkland in that area would provide valuable nearby access to parks for residents in the vicinity, thus meeting the identified need (see Map 4.4, *Potential Future Community Park Service Areas*). As detailed in the Flatrock Spring Planned Development District Conceptual Master Plan, parkland in the area west of U.S. Highway 281 and north of State Highway 71 is proposed to include a baseball sportsplex, soccer sportsplex, and a greenbelt and trail system. Community serving park and recreation amenities proposed as part of the 71- 281 Mixed Use Community include a recreation center, regional park, and a dog park. Development of the proposed parkland and amenities would greatly improve the City's distribution of parkland, provide athletic opportunities outside of the central core of the City, and create additional park and recreation options which would help to alleviate potential overuse of the City's existing parks.

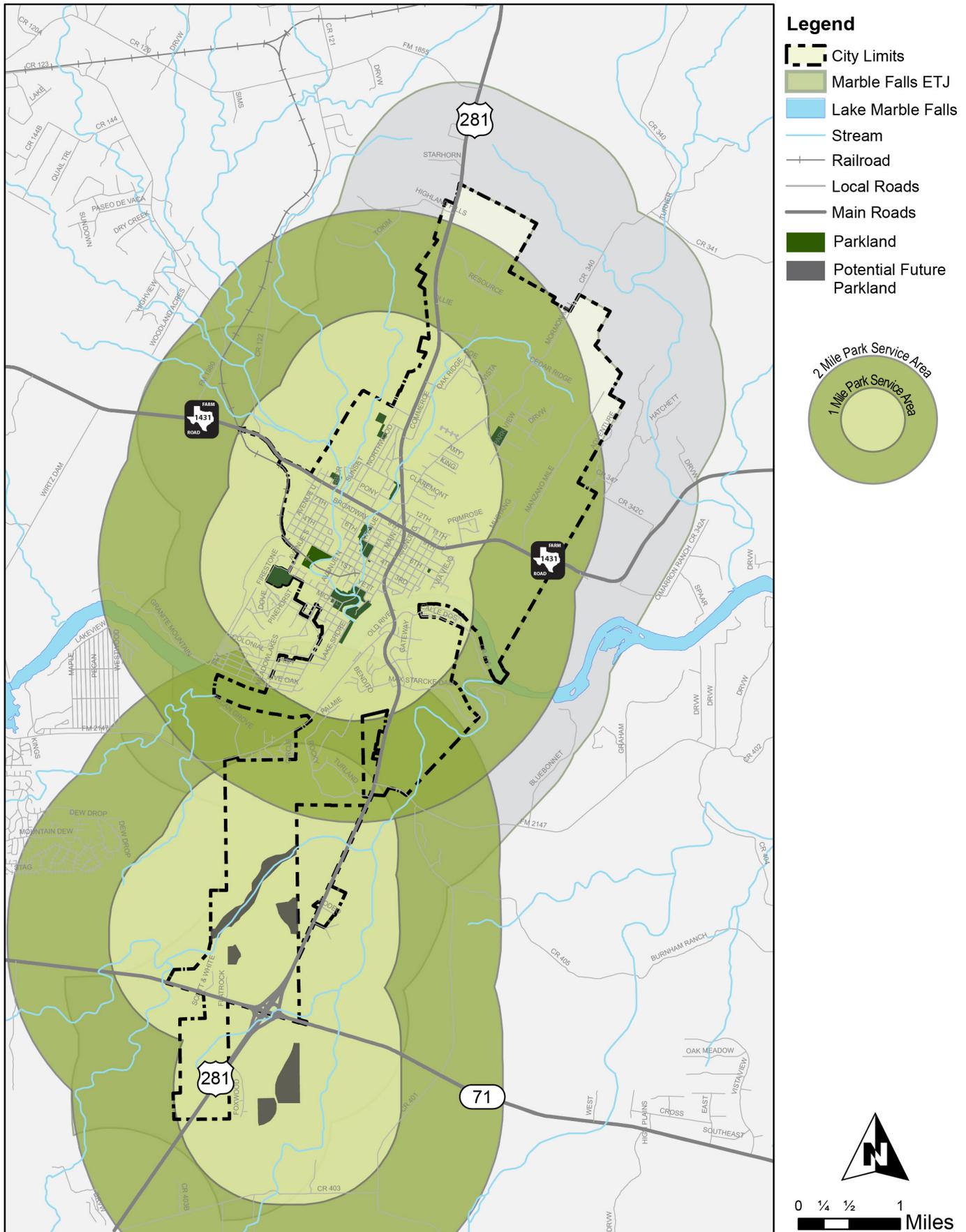


Facilities in the City's community parks, such as Westside Park, are very highly used by residents and non-residents for recreation throughout the year.

Map 4.3, Community Park Service Areas



Map 4.4, Potential Future Community Park Service Areas



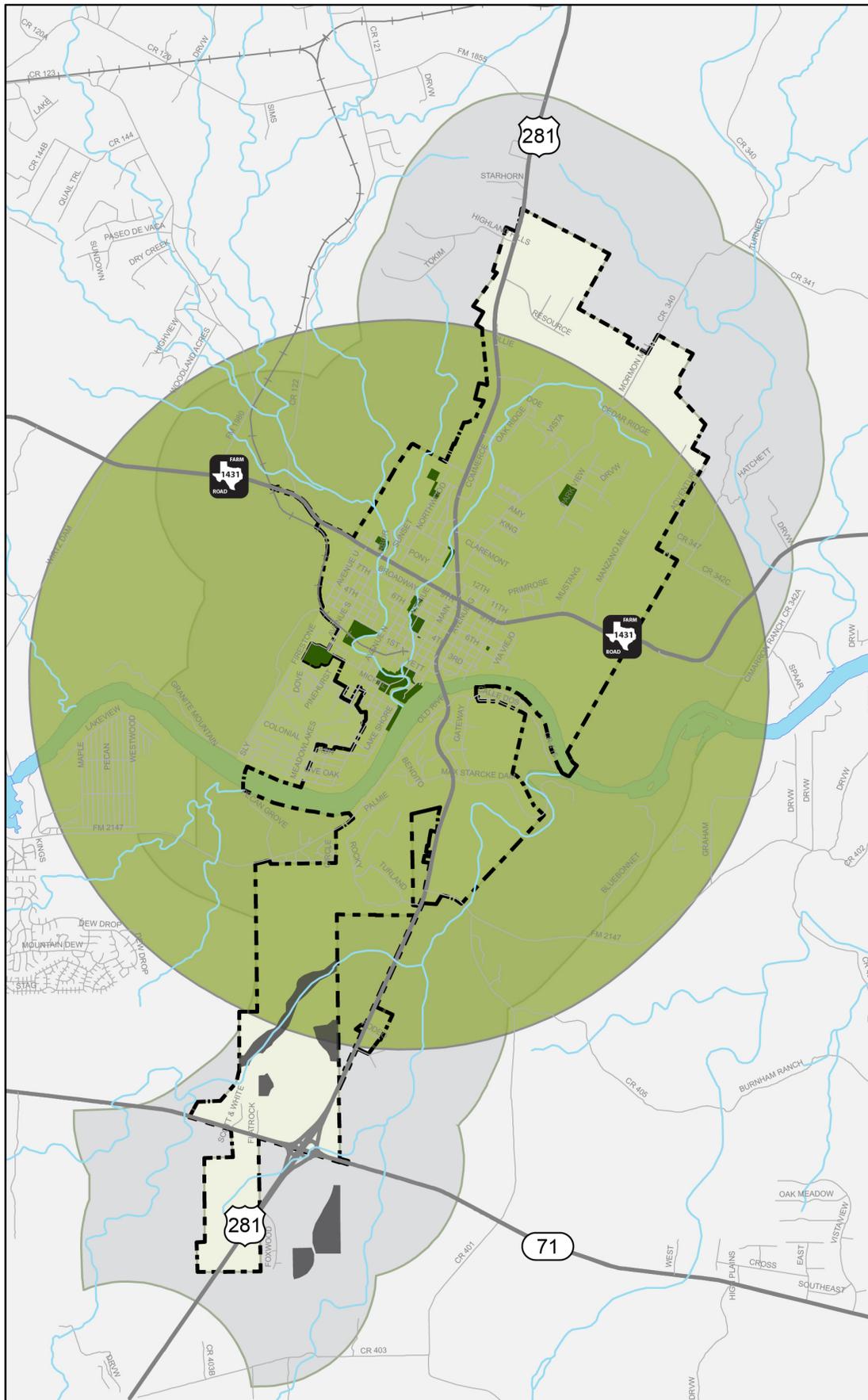
## Regional Parkland

As regional parks are intended to serve the entire City and the region beyond, their service area ranges from three up to 50 miles. In the case of Marble Falls, the City's regional parks probably serve the entire Highland Lakes area and portions of northern metropolitan Austin. Johnson Park and Lakeside Park are the City's two regional parks. It is clearly evident through visual observation, event participation numbers, and public engagement results that these two parks are the most frequented parks in Marble Falls. Providing water access, event venues, and a variety of family-friendly recreation opportunities, Johnson and Lakeside Parks are serving at least a three mile area (see Map 4.5, *Regional Park Service Areas*). While the northern and southern extents of the City are not covered by the three-mile service area, it is likely safe to assume that future residents in these areas would travel to the core of the City to access these parks, if for no other reason than to access the events and amenities related to Lake Marble Falls.



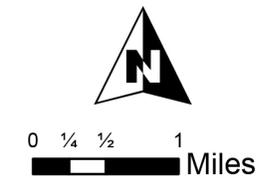
Access to events and other recreation opportunities related to Lake Marble Falls draws users from a wide service area to Lakeside Park.

Map 4.5, Regional Park Service Areas



**Legend**

- City Limits
- Marble Falls ETJ
- Lake Marble Falls
- Stream
- Railroad
- Local Roads
- Main Roads
- Parkland
- Potential Future Parkland



## Trails

As described in Chapter 3, *Existing Conditions*, the City has two trails, Backbone Creek and Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trails. Trails create opportunities for non-motorized transportation and multigenerational recreational activities. In this day in age, when more and more people are gaining an interest in health, quality of life, and alternate modes of transportation, having close access to a trail is becoming more important for communities. Indeed, during the City's Comprehensive Plan and this planning process, development of additional trails was one of the highest ranked park and recreation amenities in terms of level of need.

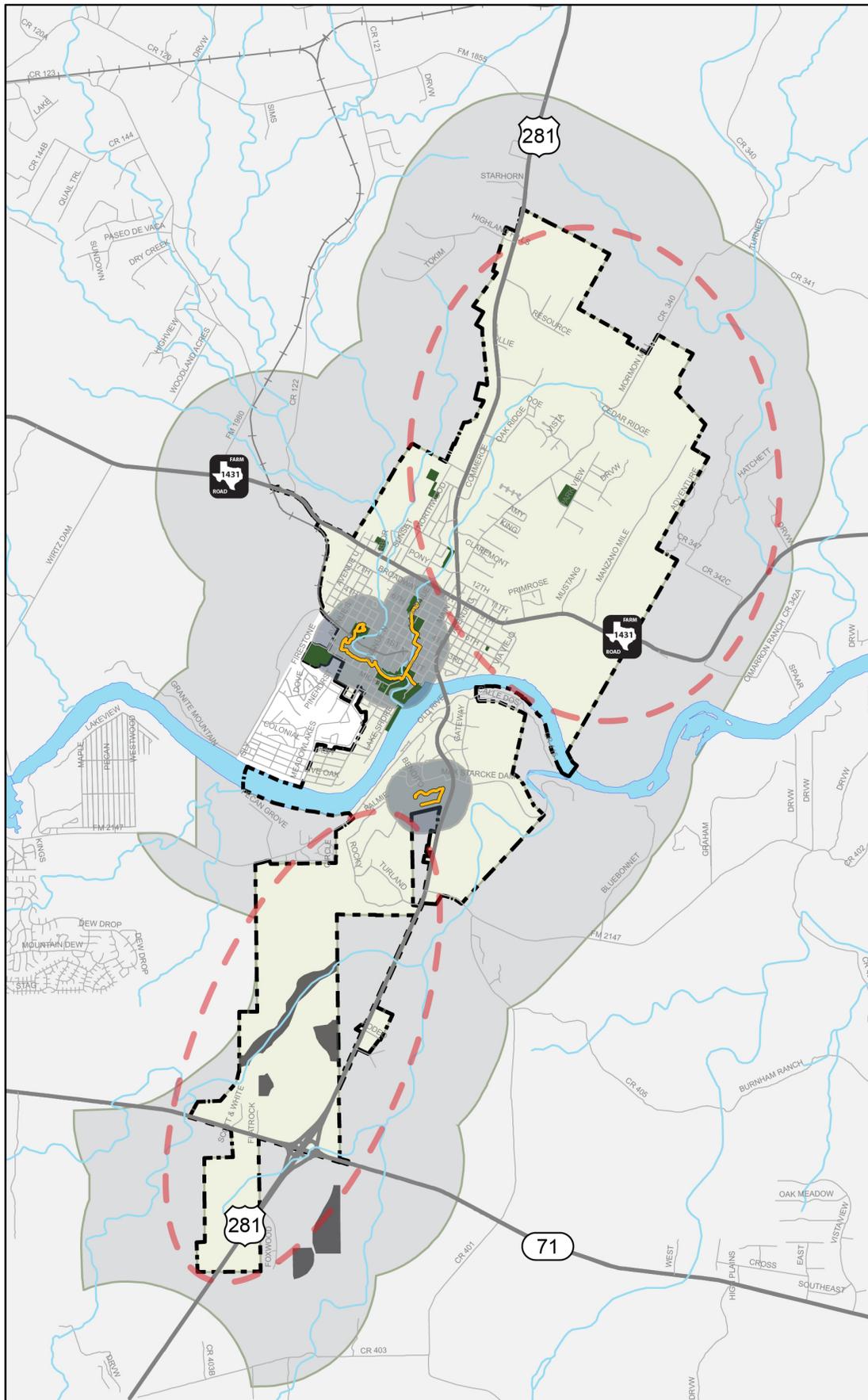
Being that access to trails is such an important element for park users, Map 4.6, *Trail Service Areas*, illustrates a one-half-mile service area around the City's existing trails. Illustrated on the map, the City's trails are largely centered near Downtown Marble Falls. While this is a good start and the destination most users would likely access via a trail, it is important for the City to expand its trail system to provide access to residents throughout the community.

The addition of select north-south and east-west connections through floodplains, drainage corridors, parks, and along select roads, could create a wider ranging trail system to provide greater community-wide connectivity.

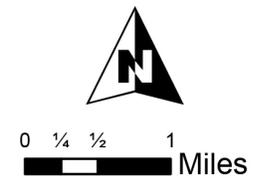
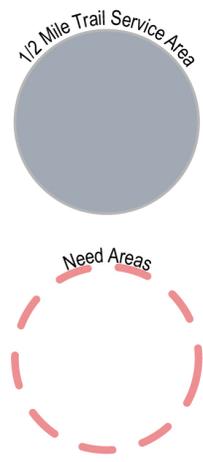
**Figure 4.7, Summary of Parkland Needs**

| Need Type                                       |  |
|---|--|
| Parkland Acreage, Development, and Distribution | The majority of the City's parkland acreage deficits can be met through development of the potential future parkland south of Lake Marble Falls.   |
| Neighborhood and Pocket Parks                   | Even though the quantity of acreage is adequate, distribution of neighborhood parkland is not equal throughout the community. Needs exist west of U.S. Highway 281 and south of Lake Marble Falls.                               |
| Community Parks                                 | Additional community serving parkland will be needed south of Lake Marble Falls as development occurs. The potential future parkland already presented to the City would adequately meet this need.                              |
| Regional Parks                                  | Regional parkland acreage is needed to meet the current and future needs. Development of regional parkland which provides access to the south side of Lake Marble Falls would likely be a large draw for residents and visitors. |
| Special Use Parks                               | Opportunities may exist to develop additional special interest amenities within existing parks.  |
| Linear Parks / Trails                           | Trail access is limited to a small area in the center of the City. Additional key segments are needed to provide greater connectivity.   |

Map 4.6, Trail Service Areas



- Legend**
- City Limits
  - Marble Falls ETJ
  - Lake Marble Falls
  - Stream
  - Railroad
  - Local Roads
  - Main Roads
  - Trail
  - Parkland
  - Potential Future Parkland



## Park Facilities

In addition to evaluating the quantity and location of parkland acreage throughout the City, comparing the current and target levels of service for recreation facilities can help evaluate the need for improvements to the parks system. This will help ensure a variety of recreation opportunities are provided throughout the City as growth occurs. These target levels of service are used to prioritize the need for different types of park facilities so that the City's resources can be better focused. Facility needs are initially based on ratios related to existing population or planning areas. These numbers were then tailored for Marble Falls to reflect the community's needs and desires, current usage, realistic feasibility, and up and coming recreation trends. The target level of service for each type of facility is used as a guide to provide the most basic recreation facilities to the community.

Description of the 2017 existing and target levels of service for each facility type are included in Figure 4.8, *Target Level of Service for Park Facilities, City of Marble Falls*. The existing level of service and need are based on the current estimated population of 6,281.<sup>1</sup> The 2027 needs are based on the projected 2027 population of 8,500. Current and projected facility deficits are highlighted in green.

In many communities, including Marble Falls, certain types of recreational facilities are more commonly provided by schools than by cities (e.g., tennis courts). Indeed, MFISD owns, operates, and maintains a variety of recreational facilities which may have the potential to meet some of the community's needs. As such, the quantity of available facilities listed in the following two figures includes MFISD facilities. The number of MFISD facilities is noted after the name of the facility, where applicable.

### Summary of Park Facility Needs

#### Active Recreation Needs

Key 2017 active recreation deficits include standalone baseball backstops to allow for non-programmed pick up games in the community; expansion of the City's disc golf course; a community recreation center to provide indoor athletic, fitness, and other programming; a fitness equipment circuit; numerous miles of trails; a multipurpose practice field; and an outdoor volleyball court. Notably, a number of these facilities include unprogrammed facilities for general community use. If no additional facilities are developed before 2027, the majority of the needs stay the same except the trail need increases by 1.5 miles.

#### Passive and Water Recreation Needs

Throughout the planning process, the desire for multigenerational, family-friendly recreation was continually voiced. Based on a target of including picnic facilities in every park, there is currently a deficit in six parks. Another family-friendly amenity that is gaining popularity across the nation, but especially in hot climates (e.g., Texas), is the splash pad. Based on community input, a target level of service of one splash pad per 6,000 people has been established. There is currently a deficit of one splash pad, which would increase to a deficit of two by 2027.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015

Figure 4.8, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities, City of Marble Falls

|                             | FACILITY   | CURRENT AVAIL. | CURRENT LOS (1 FACILITY PER # RESIDENTS) | TARGET LOS (PER RESIDENTS) | 2017 NEED BASED ON 6,281 POP. | 2017 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS | 2027 NEED BASED ON 8,500 POP. | 2027 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACTIVE RECREATION           | Baseball/Softball Fields (3 MFISD)                                     | 11             | 571                                      | 1 per 5,000                | 2                             | Surplus of 9            | 2                             | Surplus of 9            |
|                             | Backstop   | 0              | none                                     | 1 per 3,000                | 3                             | Deficit of 3            | 3                             | Deficit of 3            |
|                             | Basketball Courts (3 MFISD)  | 6              | 1,047                                    | 1 per 3,000                | 3                             | Surplus of 3            | 3                             | Surplus of 3            |
|                             | Community Recreation Center  | 0              | none                                     | 1 per city                 | 1                             | Deficit of 1            | 1                             | Deficit of 1            |
|                             | Disc Golf (18-hole)  | 0.5            | 12,562                                   | 1 per city                 | 1                             | Deficit of 0.5          | 1                             | Deficit of 0.5          |
|                             | Dog Park   | 2              | 3,141                                    | 1 per city                 | 1                             | Surplus of 1            | 1                             | Surplus of 1            |
|                             | Fitness Equipment Circuit  | 0              | none                                     | 1 per city                 | 1                             | Deficit of 1            | 1                             | Deficit of 1            |
|                             | Football Fields (2 MFISD)  | 2              | 3,141                                    | 1 per city                 | 1                             | Surplus of 1            | 1                             | Surplus of 1            |
|                             | Golf Course (public)   | 0              | none                                     | Varies                     | Varies                        | Varies                  | Varies                        | Varies                  |
|                             | Skate Park   | 1              | 6,281                                    | 1 per city                 | 1                             | No deficit              | 1                             | No deficit              |
|                             | Soccer Fields (1 MFISD)  | 10             | 628                                      | 1 per 2,000                | 4                             | Surplus of 6            | 5                             | Surplus of 5            |
|                             | Tennis Courts (12 MFISD)   | 13             | 483                                      | 1 per 5,000                | 2                             | Surplus of 11           | 2                             | Surplus of 11           |
|                             | Trails (miles)   | 2.1            | 2,991                                    | 1 per 1,000                | 7.0                           | Deficit of 4.9          | 8.5                           | Deficit of 6.4          |
|                             | Multipurpose Practice Fields (2 MFISD)                                 | 2              | 3,141                                    | 1 per 3,000                | 3                             | Deficit of 1            | 3                             | Deficit of 1            |
| Volleyball Courts (Outdoor) | 1  | 6,281          | 1 per 5,000                              | 2                          | Deficit of 1                  | 2                       | Deficit of 1                  |                         |
| PASSIVE RECREATION          | Amphitheater or Outdoor Event Space                                    | 1              | 6,281                                    | 1 large outdoor facility   | 1                             | No deficit              | 1                             | No deficit              |
|                             | Horseshoe Pits   | 2              | 3,141                                    | 2 per city                 | 2                             | No deficit              | 2                             | No deficit              |
|                             | Picnic Pavilions   | 4              | 1,570                                    | 1 per 3,000                | 3                             | Surplus of 1            | 3                             | Surplus of 1            |
|                             | Picnic Facilities (Tables, Benches, BBQ Grills, Fountains, Trash Bins) | 8 parks        | 785                                      | In all parks               | In all parks                  | Deficit in 6 parks      | In all parks                  | Deficit in 6 parks      |
|                             | Playgrounds (5 MFISD)  | 11             | 571                                      | 1 per 1,000                | 7                             | Surplus of 4            | 9                             | Surplus of 2            |
| WATER REC.                  | Canoe/Kayak Launch   | 1              | 6,281                                    | 1 per city                 | 1                             | No deficit              | 1                             | No deficit              |
|                             | Fishing Piers  | 0              | none                                     | Varies                     | Varies                        | Varies                  | Varies                        | Varies                  |
|                             | Swimming Pool (per population)   | 1              | 6,281                                    | 1 per city                 | 1                             | No deficit              | 1                             | No deficit              |
|                             | Boat Ramp  | 3              | 2,094                                    | 2 per city                 | 2                             | Surplus of 1            | 2                             | Surplus of 1            |
|                             | Splash Pad   | 0              | none                                     | 1 per 6,000                | 1                             | Deficit of 1            | 2                             | Deficit of 2            |
| MISC.                       | Restrooms/Portable   | 10             | 628                                      | Where feasible             | Where feasible                | Feasible                | Where feasible                | Feasible                |

\*LOS = Level of Service

## Facility Needs for the Greater Service Area

Similar to the parkland acreage calculations, the facility needs in Marble Falls are also being analyzed based on the greater MFISD service area. The 2017 existing level of service and need numbers are based on 60 percent of the population estimate for the MFISD area, or 14,220 people. The 2027 need is based on 60 percent of the projected population for the area, or 29,880.<sup>1</sup>

As to be expected, facility deficits increase when considering the larger service population (see Figure 4.9, *Target Level of Service for Park Facilities, Greater Marble Falls ISD Area*). Increases in facility deficits are most strongly evident for standalone backstops, trails, multipurpose practice fields, volleyball courts, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, and splash pads. By the year 2027, additional needs arise for basketball courts and soccer fields.

<sup>1</sup> The 2017 estimated population and 2027 projected population was based on projections described in the Marble Falls Independent School District Demographic Update in July, 2016 by Population and Survey Analysts.



When considering target levels of service, the largest identified deficiency is related to the number of available trail miles within the City. Moving forward, development of additional segments of the proposed citywide trail system (e.g., through the Whitman Branch Greenbelt) identified on the Sidewalks and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan, would begin to address the existing and projected trail deficiency.

Figure 4.9, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities, Greater Marble Falls ISD Area

|                             | FACILITY   | CURRENT AVAIL. | CURRENT LOS (1 FACILITY PER # RESIDENTS) | TARGET LOS (PER RESIDENTS) | 2017 NEED BASED ON 14,220 POP. | 2017 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS | 2027 NEED BASED ON 29,880 POP. | 2027 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACTIVE RECREATION           | Baseball/Softball Fields (3 MFISD)                                     | 11             | 1,293                                    | 1 per 5,000                | 3                              | Surplus of 8            | 6                              | Surplus of 5            |
|                             | Backstop   | 0              | none                                     | 1 per 3,000                | 5                              | Deficit of 5            | 10                             | Deficit of 10           |
|                             | Basketball Courts (3 MFISD)  | 6              | 2,370                                    | 1 per 3,000                | 5                              | Surplus of 1            | 10                             | Deficit of 4            |
|                             | Community Recreation Center  | 0              | none                                     | 1 per city                 | 1                              | Deficit of 1            | 1                              | Deficit of 1            |
|                             | Disc Golf (18-hole)  | 0.5            | 28,440                                   | 1 per city                 | 1                              | Deficit of 0.5          | 1                              | Deficit of 0.5          |
|                             | Dog Park   | 2              | 7,110                                    | 1 per city                 | 1                              | Surplus of 1            | 1                              | Surplus of 1            |
|                             | Fitness Equipment Circuit  | 0              | none                                     | 1 per city                 | 1                              | Deficit of 1            | 1                              | Deficit of 1            |
|                             | Football Fields (2 MFISD)  | 2              | 7,110                                    | 1 per city                 | 1                              | Surplus of 1            | 1                              | Surplus of 1            |
|                             | Golf Course (public)   | 0              | none                                     | Varies                     | Varies                         | Varies                  | Varies                         | Varies                  |
|                             | Skate Park   | 1              | 14,220                                   | 1 per city                 | 1                              | No deficit              | 1                              | No deficit              |
|                             | Soccer Fields (1 MFISD)  | 10             | 1,422                                    | 1 per 2,000                | 8                              | Surplus of 2            | 15                             | Deficit of 5            |
|                             | Tennis Courts (12 MFISD)   | 13             | 1,094                                    | 1 per 5,000                | 3                              | Surplus of 10           | 6                              | Surplus of 7            |
|                             | Trails (miles)   | 2.1            | 6,771                                    | 1 per 1,000                | 14.2                           | Deficit of 12.1         | 29.9                           | Deficit of 27.8         |
|                             | Multipurpose Practice Fields (2 MFISD)                                 | 2              | 7,110                                    | 1 per 3,000                | 5                              | Deficit of 3            | 10                             | Deficit of 8            |
| Volleyball Courts (Outdoor) | 1  | 14,220         | 1 per 5,000                              | 3                          | Deficit of 2                   | 6                       | Deficit of 5                   |                         |
| PASSIVE RECREATION          | Amphitheater or Outdoor Event Space                                    | 1              | 14,220                                   | 1 large outdoor facility   | 1                              | No deficit              | 1                              | No deficit              |
|                             | Horseshoe Pits   | 2              | 7,110                                    | 2 per city                 | 2                              | No deficit              | 2                              | No deficit              |
|                             | Picnic Pavilions   | 4              | 3,555                                    | 1 per 3,000                | 5                              | Deficit of 1            | 10                             | Deficit of 6            |
|                             | Picnic Facilities (Tables, Benches, BBQ Grills, Fountains, Trash Bins) | 8 parks        | 1,778                                    | In all parks               | In all parks                   | Deficit in 6 parks      | In all parks                   | Deficit in 6 parks      |
|                             | Playgrounds (5 MFISD)  | 11             | 1,293                                    | 1 per 1,000                | 15                             | Deficit of 4            | 30                             | Deficit of 19           |
| WATER REC.                  | Canoe/Kayak Launch   | 1              | 14,220                                   | 1 per city                 | 1                              | No deficit              | 1                              | No deficit              |
|                             | Fishing Piers  | 0              | none                                     | Varies                     | Varies                         | Varies                  | Varies                         | Varies                  |
|                             | Swimming Pool (per population)   | 1              | 14,220                                   | 1 per city                 | 1                              | No deficit              | 1                              | No deficit              |
|                             | Boat Ramp  | 3              | 4,740                                    | 2 per city                 | 2                              | Surplus of 1            | 2                              | Surplus of 1            |
|                             | Splash Pad   | 0              | none                                     | 1 per 6,000                | 3                              | Deficit of 3            | 5                              | Deficit of 5            |
| MISC.                       | Restrooms/Portable   | 10             | 1,422                                    | Where feasible             | Where feasible                 | Feasible                | Where feasible                 | Feasible                |

\*LOS = Level of Service

## *Demand-Based Assessment*

Beyond just analyzing facility quantities and parkland acreage and distribution, it is also essential to identify public demand for parks and recreation opportunities. Demand is based on actual level of use of the parks where available, and the preferences expressed by citizens through stakeholder meetings, the citywide online survey, and the open house public meeting. As such, identifying the wants and needs of Marble Falls' residents allows the City to plan accordingly in order to best serve the park and recreation needs of the community.

Public input is a critical part of any planning process. In the parks planning process, public input helps identify what types of existing facilities are being used, where key deficiencies may occur, and where the residents would like to see their funding targeted.

### *Demand for Recreational Activity*

Public survey respondents were asked to identify their favorite park in Marble Falls. The top five favorite parks included Johnson Park (68.0% of survey respondents chose this park), Lakeside Park (14.0%), Westside Park (10.7%), Falls Creek Park (1.7%), and the Greens Soccer Complex (1.4%). This is important in that it potentially identifies where the community values or prioritizes future resource allocations. Not surprisingly, three of the top five parks are associated with the Downtown four-park system. This is also important in that it is likely that additional enhancements will be prioritized in these parks in conjunction with the development of the City's hotel/conference center and growing tourism outreach.

### *Summary of Stakeholder Meetings*

To start this planning process, a series of stakeholders were engaged to share their desires and concerns for moving forward. This allowed City staff and the planning team to better frame questions for the follow up online community survey and subsequent open house public workshop. Some of the key themes which were continually identified during these meetings and throughout the remainder of the planning process are listed below.

- There is a great desire to balance resident and non-resident interests when determining what priorities to focus on, what to implement, and how to fund it.
- There is a desire to proactively pursue partnerships with Marble Falls ISD, the surrounding cities, and other public and private entities to help grow the regional-serving park and recreation system.
- There is a desire for improved quality and maintenance of existing facilities over developing new properties. This necessitates adequate staffing and resources as the system grows over time.
- There is a desire to increase pedestrian access and interaction with Lake Marble Falls and the City's other waterfront areas.
- There is a desire for family-friendly, multigenerational activities.

- There is a desire for expanded and diversified recreational facilities and opportunities typically demanded of a growing city, including a community recreation center, aquatic facility, and an athletic sports complex.
- Additional stakeholder results can be found in Chapter 2, *Community Vision*.

### ***Park, Recreation, and Trail Priority Improvements Needed***

#### **Overall Priority (identified during the Comprehensive Plan process)**

Since this planning process is a follow up process to the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, it is important to understand how the Marble Falls community prioritized overall park, recreation, and trail improvements during the Comprehensive Plan. As set out in Figure 2.11, *Park, Recreation, and Trail Priority Improvements*, in the Comprehensive Plan, the top 10 community priorities included:

- Developing additional lake-based recreational opportunities
- Increasing access to Lake Marble Falls for locals
- Providing additional trails and sidewalks
- Increasing shade opportunities in existing parks
- Providing additional public recreation opportunities
- Increasing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to important destinations
- Upgrading existing facilities in existing parks
- Providing additional youth-oriented recreation classes and opportunities
- Developing a sports complex
- Providing additional passive amenities

Rather than duplicate this question during this planning process, more refined questions were developed to determine community demand for moving forward.



*Increasing the number of, and access to, hike / bike / walk trails and paths has been a long standing priority by the Marble Falls community identified as far back as the 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.*

### Top Five Athletic-Related Priorities/Facilities

As identified in Chapter 2, *Community Vision*, the highest priority athletics-related activities/facilities identified included:

- Large, multi-use sports complex for tournaments
- More athletic fields for general public use
- Multipurpose recreation fields for field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, etc.
- Soccer fields - uncovered or youth sized baseball/softball fields
- Covered basketball courts

### Top Five Passive Recreation Priorities/Facilities

As identified in Chapter 2, *Community Vision*, the highest priority passive recreation activities/facilities included:

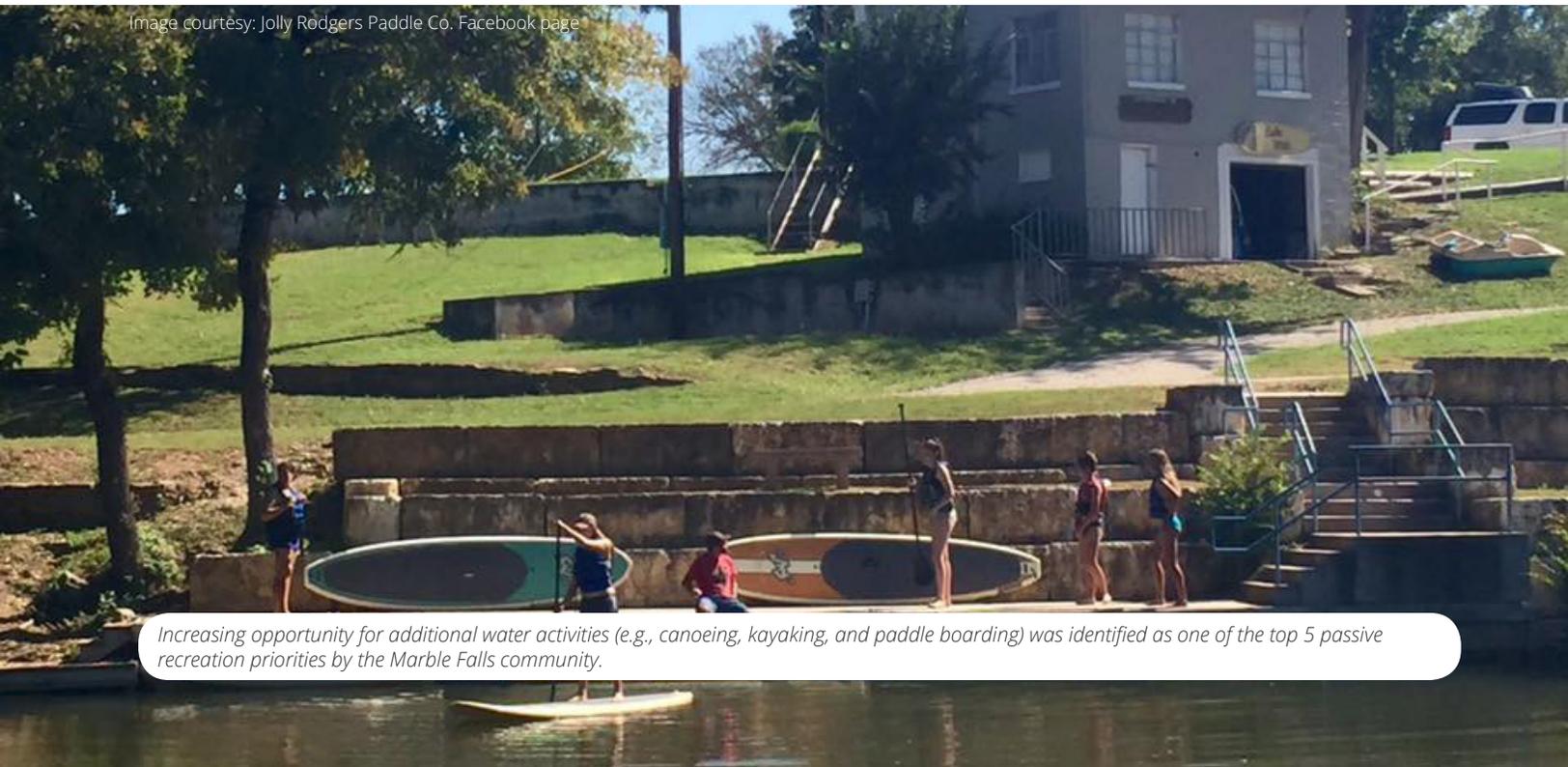
- More hike and bike trails
- Water activities (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding)
- Additional restrooms
- Adventure type/natural playscapes
- More playgrounds or pavilions for group activities

### Top Five Miscellaneous Parks and Recreation Priorities/Facilities

As identified in Chapter 2, *Community Vision*, the highest priority miscellaneous parks and recreation activities/facilities included:

- Splashpads/spray grounds
- Aquatic center/water park/swimming pools
- Additional recreational programs (e.g., summer day camps, dance, yoga, pottery, etc.) and more special events
- General lighting of parks for evening use
- Indoor recreation center

Image courtesy: Jolly Rodgers Paddle Co. Facebook page



*Increasing opportunity for additional water activities (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding) was identified as one of the top 5 passive recreation priorities by the Marble Falls community.*

### Top Five Lake Marble Falls Related Priorities/Facilities

As identified in Chapter 2, *Community Vision*, the highest priority Lake Marble Falls-based activities included:

- Swimming
- Fishing
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Pedestrian overlooks/boardwalks
- Boating (motorized)

### Top Five Downtown Parks Related Priorities/Facilities

As identified in Chapter 2, *Community Vision*, the highest priority Downtown Parks related items included:

- Aquatic center/water park
- Upgrade existing facilities, including overall quality and appearance
- Additional trails
- Public beach
- Enhance spaces for large community events/festivals

### Summary of Open House Results

An open house was held in Marble Falls in November 2016 to get feedback from the Marble Falls community on preliminary recommendations identified during the planning process. Feedback was obtained on several resident priorities and preferences. Highlights of the recreational amenities and facilities and parkland development recommendations that were most supported by the meeting attendees are listed below.

- Pursue a community-scale waterfront park south of Lake Marble Falls in the general area off of FM 2147
- Consider acquisition and development of new neighborhood parks in areas of future growth
- Conduct a study of existing restrooms
- Develop partnerships with local Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs to enhance park landscaping and maintenance
- Improve access to water-based activities (e.g., splashpads, swimming, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, and pedestrian boardwalks and overlooks)
- Identify opportunities to beautify existing parks
- Develop additional park-based events (e.g., community picnics or camp weekends)
- Evaluate the fee structure of community events to ensure it is covering costs of maintenance and clean up
- Connect the Backbone Creek and Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trails to complete a continuous loop trail system
- Consider establishing a historic trail route
- Evaluate the City's park-related fee structure
- Ensure adequate resources to provide for a well-maintained park system
- Construct a boardwalk and public beach at Lakeside Park
- Develop an aquatic center in Johnson Park
- Evaluate the feasibility of establishing a tube float/kayak challenge course as part of the development of the Creekwalk along Whitman Branch.

## ***Resource-Based Assessment***

The resource-based assessment identifies key physical features of the City that may be incorporated as potential recreational opportunities, including both natural and man-made features. Marble Falls has numerous natural features that should be preserved and/or adapted for recreational use and open space preservation where feasible. These natural features and open spaces serve a variety of important functions for the Marble Falls community, including:

- Preserving, conserving, and maintaining natural formations and features;
- Providing natural open space for recreational opportunities and programs;
- Preserving and enhancing features within areas and developments that may need protection or add to overall quality of life;
- Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and
- Conserving and reserving land that is not adequate or appropriate for residential and/or commercial development.

The various water features in Marble Falls are resources that could be utilized by the City. Obviously, Lake Marble Falls is the most prominent natural resource located within the City. Beyond just being the origin of the name of the City, the location of the lake in proximity to Downtown Marble Falls provides one of most unique opportunities for a recreation-related urban/resource interface in the entire Highland Lakes region. This interface is increasingly becoming more important as the City moves forward with the development of tourism-focused hotel/conference center in the vicinity of the lake and Downtown parks. Consequently, this interface provides one of the greatest opportunities to improve recreation resources for both locals and visitors to Marble Falls.

Other natural and man-made features in Marble Falls offer great opportunities for improving recreation resources in the City. Two developing opportunities are the Backbone Creek and Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trails. The early segments of these two trails are predominately being developed along floodplains of the City's two most important watersheds. Beyond these, there are several other natural and man-made features which warrant further protection and/or recreation-related development (as opportunities arise and funding is available). These include, but are not limited to:

- Areas that completely fall within the floodplains of creeks and significant drainageways within the City and ETJ.
- Areas that are adjacent to or include naturally occurring bodies of water with one acre or more of surface water.
- Areas that preserve, enhance, or create views or vistas adjacent to roadways, especially urban corridors and thoroughfares.
- Areas that are naturally occurring ponds and small lakes within the City and Burnet County.
- Areas that have historical, botanical, archaeological, geological, or environmental significance.
- Areas along utility easements, abandoned railroad beds, railroad right-of-ways, pipelines, and other rights-of-ways.
- Areas with slopes greater than 12 percent.
- Areas that contain wetlands at least 30 days out of the year.
- Areas that provide a linkage to open space, parks, community facilities, neighborhoods, and schools.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

# 5

## ***Introduction***

One of the most important components of any planning process is the recommendations that come out of it. Indeed, the recommendations provide the menu of options for which a city can move forward towards action.

To do this, it is essential to first understand the wants and needs of the community. In Chapter 2, *Community Vision*, an in-depth analysis was undertaken to understand where the Marble Falls community wants the parks and recreation system to go, and more importantly, what they are willing to support. In Chapter 4, *Needs Assessment*, an objective three-tiered analysis was undertaken to quantify the current and long-term needs of the system. This provides an understanding of whether the system meets the identified acreage and facility type targets set by the City (based on a per capita level of service), whether the system is equally distributed, and whether the City is both protecting and capitalizing on its most precious natural and man-made resources (e.g., Lake Marble Falls).

In this chapter, the results of these analyses are used to derive a strong and proactive community vision for moving forward supported by a series of goals and objectives to achieve that vision. Finally, each goal and objective is further refined through a series of action recommendations which could be implemented by the City to enhance and further develop the parks and recreation system.

It is understood that not every action recommendation will be achieved during the Plan horizon. With this understanding, Chapter 6, *Implementation*, will set out the Implementation Action Plan that details the community's near-, mid-, and long-term priorities for moving forward to improve the overall parks, recreation, and open space system.

## Community Vision

### Vision Statement

A parks and recreation vision statement embodies the collective aspiration for the future of a city's parks, recreation, and open space system. It identifies a foundation and a framework for moving forward in which all decisions should be evaluated against, from property acquisition; to new facility and amenity selection; to redevelopment of existing facilities and amenities; to budgeting, staffing, and programming.

Based on the analysis of existing conditions, needs, and expressed community preferences for the future, the Marble Falls parks, recreation, and open space system Vision Statement is as follows:

***By the year 2027, Marble Falls will be known for a parks, recreation, and open space system that is second to none. This includes building and maintaining parks and open spaces that are family-friendly, walkable, connected, and which maximize public access to Lake Marble Falls and other natural resources. These areas will be comprised of recreational facilities, other quality of life amenities, and programming to provide residents and visitors of all ages the opportunity to be healthy, physically fit, and socially connected.***

***Marble Falls envisions achieving this first by being forward thinking with redevelopment of its existing facilities, followed by strategic expansion and partnerships that respond to the needs of a growing community. This requires a focus not only on design, construction, and other initial capital costs, but also staffing, operations, and long-term maintenance.***

To implement this vision, the following mission statement guides daily decision making of the Marble Falls Parks and Recreation Department:

***We pledge to provide safe and accessible park and community facilities, recreational programming, and community events that will enhance the health and quality of life of our citizens and visitors; enrich the community and environment by conserving, protecting, and enhancing our cultural, historical, archaeological, and natural resources; and attract quality growth and economic development.***

### Guiding Principles

The vision statement is further refined through a series of guiding principles which establish the starting point for subsequent goals and objectives. These guiding principles include:

- **Plan and develop a parks, recreation, and open space system that is second to none.** This involves the near- and long-term pre-planning of park facilities, amenities, and activities to ensure an appropriate plan of action to better capitalize on both holistic and spontaneous opportunities. This also involves developing or redeveloping facilities and amenities using high-quality and durable design and materials and a commitment of funding and staffing to maintain and operate them over time.

- **Plan and develop a parks, recreation, and open space system that serves residents and visitors of all ages.** This involves development and redevelopment of parks and open spaces to increase distribution and connectivity, and maximize accessibility. It also includes developing facilities, amenities, and recreational programming that support multi-generational users and activities.
- **Plan and develop a parks, recreation, and open space system that capitalizes on the City's access to Lake Marble Falls and significant natural resources.** This involves a clear and intimate connection to the lake and other natural resources through the location and design of facilities, amenities, and activities that provide access to the lake's natural beauty, passive recreation, and relaxation opportunities.
- **Plan and develop a parks, recreation, and open space system that is visionary, yet realistic and 'implementable.'** This involves identifying the long-term growth and future of the park, recreation, and open space system, yet realizing that its implementation will occur as funding and other opportunities become available.
- **Plan and develop a parks, recreation, and open space system that maximizes partnerships.** This involves proactive identification of partners who share and support the City's and region's vision for the future, followed by discussions (and oftentimes compromise) as to how the collective sharing of resources benefits all parties.

## ***Goals, Objectives, & Action Recommendations***

Using the community derived vision statement and guiding principles, a series of goals, objectives, and subsequent action recommendations have been developed to guide the City towards achieving its identified vision for the future. Indeed, goals and objectives that clearly identify and define necessary actions that meet the City's needs for park and recreational facilities and programs are imperative to the success of this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. Collectively, this chapter identifies a menu of options which could be accomplished during the horizon of this Plan, and beyond. Chapter 6, *Implementation*, then examines and prioritizes all these action recommendations together to develop an Implementation Action Plan that focuses the City on the right near-, mid-, and long-term actions necessary to move forward.

### ***Action Framework***

To ensure the goals, objectives, and action recommendations are comprehensive, an organizational framework has been developed. Accordingly, each goal, objective, and action recommendation will be organized using the following seven categories (see Figure 5.1, *Action Framework*, on the next two pages).

- Park Renovations & Development;
- Connectivity;
- Recreation Facilities & Programming;
- Parkland Acquisition & Natural Resource Preservation;
- Parkland Planning, Design, & Maintenance;
- Policies & Regulations; and
- Reach Projects.

**Figure 5.1, Action Framework**

The goals, objectives, and action recommendations identified on the subsequent pages will be organized using the following organizational framework.

**Park Renovations & Development**

Making key improvements to existing parks and developing new parks throughout the City.

An icon depicting a wheelbarrow filled with soil or mulch next to a park bench, symbolizing park renovation and development.

**Connectivity**

Developing citywide connectivity and safe pedestrian use areas.

An icon showing a large tree and a person walking, representing connectivity and pedestrian use.

**Recreation Facilities & Programming**

Providing ample recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

An icon of two stylized human figures running, representing recreational activities.

### **Parkland Acquisition & Natural Resource Preservation**

Expanding the City's existing parkland and preserving/maximizing potential of the City's natural resources.



### **Parkland Planning, Design, & Maintenance**

Guidelines for the design and maintenance of parkland.



### **Policies & Regulations**

Policies developed to enhance and support the development of a high-quality parks and recreation system.



### **Reach Projects**

Developing signature facilities, amenities, and organizations to increase the City's regional draw.



## Park Renovations & Development

### GOAL 1

**Renovate, develop, and construct diversified and balanced park and recreation facilities based on the needs of the community and surrounding areas.**



The City currently owns and maintains 17 parks (both developed and undeveloped) and open spaces. Many of the parks and other areas have additional potential due to their size, location, and/or natural amenities. Since improving existing parks was such a high priority for the community, the following actions identify recommendations to improve, enhance, and in some cases, expand, existing park/open space facilities and amenities. Detailed descriptions of each action are included on subsequent pages.

***Objective 1.1. Pursue consolidation of the Downtown parks system to develop a cohesive image and brand that helps develop both a community sense of pride/ownership and a regional outreach strategy.***

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■ **Action 1.1.1. Consider consolidating and renaming the four Downtown parks as Johnson Park.**

As the City moves forward with its proactive plans for redeveloping and enhancing the four Downtown parks, the City should consider consolidating the naming of them to generate a citywide sense of pride/ownership as well as to be able to better market the Downtown park system to the greater region (e.g., Zilker Park in Austin). The entirety of the four parks could become a regional park named Johnson Park, with the lakefront portions (i.e., Lakeside and Hays Addition Parks) being referred to as Johnson Park at Lakeside.

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■ **Action 1.1.2. Consider developing consolidated design standards for development and/or enhancement of new facilities (e.g., buildings, structures, landscaping, and signage) in the Downtown parks system.**

It is envisioned that each of the four Downtown parks will be renovated and enhanced over time as part of a larger initiative to improve local amenities while increasing their regional attractiveness. It is also envisioned that a series of pedestrian/bicycle bridges and trails will be used to connect the four Downtown parks together and to the citywide trail system. As such, both locals and visitors will most likely be using more than one of these parks as part of each visit. To better brand the four Downtown parks as a single seamless experience, and to capitalize on economies of scale for purchasing, it is recommended that a series of design standards be developed to guide all decisions during subsequent design and construction of improvements to these parks. This could include such things as standard building and site palette of materials, consolidated signage and wayfinding, among other important decisions. Design standards should consider locally available resources, when feasible.

- **Action 1.1.3. Support the development of the hotel/conference center as a catalyst project to undertake park improvements in the City's Downtown park system.**

The development of the City's hotel/conference center is going to give an economic boost to development and tourism in Downtown Marble Falls. As a result, the development of the facility will act as a catalyst to park redevelopment. It is recommended that the City recognize this unique opportunity, support the development of the facility, and capitalize on the transformation momentum to continue with further development of the Downtown parks. The park concept for Lakeside Park (see Action 1.2.2) proposes a number of amenities meant to serve the community and visitors alike. These amenities will provide recreation opportunities for hotel/conference center visitors and encourage further exploration of Marble Falls, thus bringing additional economic benefit to the City. In addition, developing a synergistic relationship and outreach strategy between the Downtown parks and hotel/conference center allows increased visitation to fund continuing improvements to the entire parks system, among other priorities of the City.



*Consolidating the Downtown parks and providing pedestrian connectivity between them will help to market the greater Downtown park as a regional draw.*

**Objective 1.2. Renovate and replace existing facilities and amenities to improve and/or enhance accessibility, connectivity, facilities, amenities, and programming.**

The following pages include detailed recommendations to renovate and replace existing facilities and amenities at each existing developed or undeveloped park. The recommendations are further categorized into improvements or enhancements to accessibility, connectivity, facilities, amenities, and programming.

■ **Action 1.2.1. Redevelop Johnson Park as part of a greater Downtown park redevelopment.**

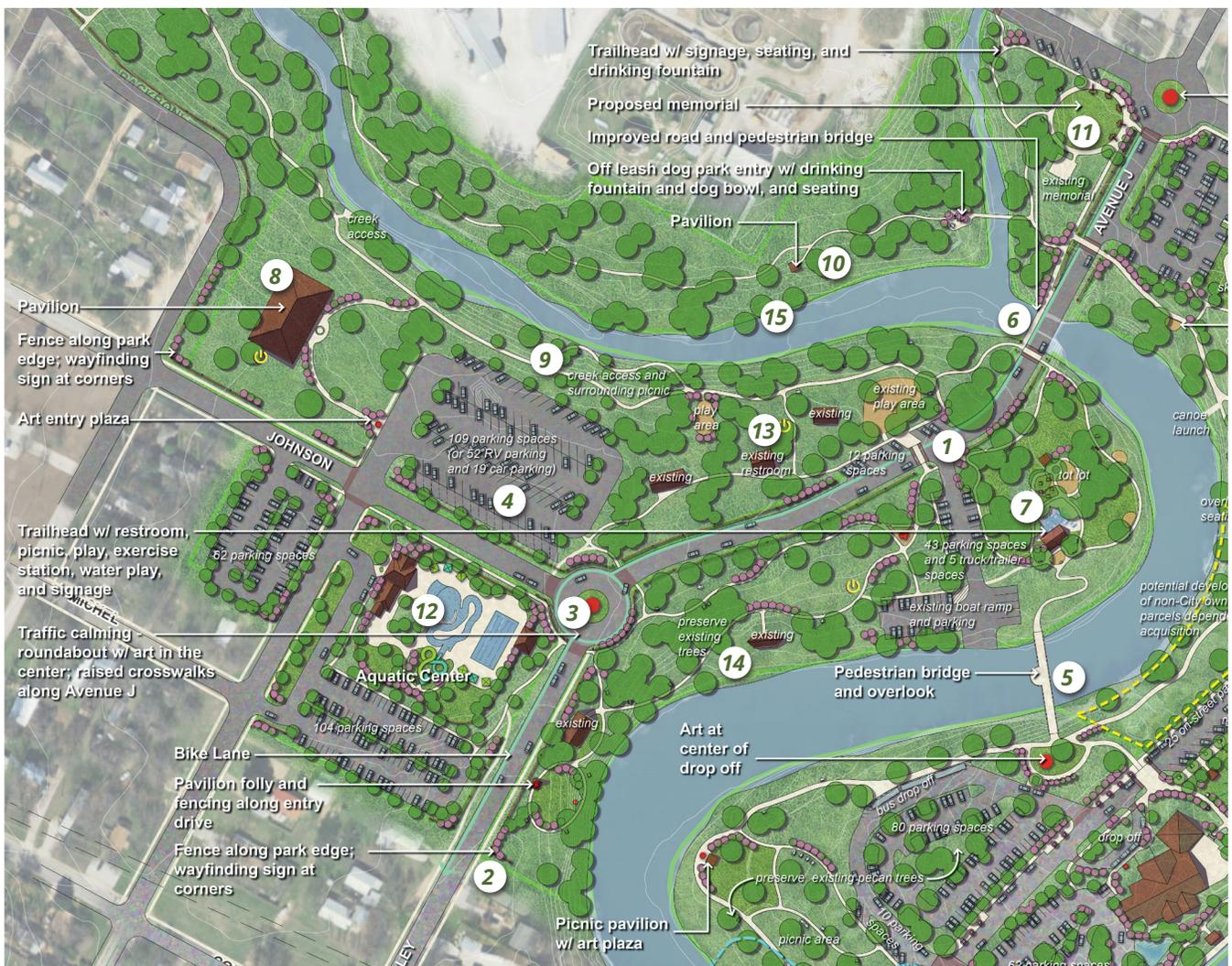
Johnson Park is one the most treasured parks in Marble Falls. As a 130-year old Lone Star Legacy Park, Johnson Park has seen a lot of use and changes in the community over the years. During the public input component of the planning process, the top 10 activities survey respondents indicated they'd like to do in the Downtown parks included passive recreation opportunities which allowed for socializing and interacting with Lake Marble Falls and the City's creeks. As part of the overall Downtown parks redevelopment, it is recommended that the area within Johnson Park be redeveloped as a passive, family-friendly park with ample space appropriate for large community events as well as more intimate family gatherings. As illustrated on the full Downtown Parks Master Plan (see Appendix B, *Downtown Parks Master Plan*), the following changes and enhancements are recommended for Johnson Park.

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

1. Construct sidewalks and a split-rail fence along Avenue J and Johnson Street to address pedestrian/bicycle and vehicular safety concerns. Include dedicated pedestrian and bicycle crossing locations to improve user safety.
2. Incorporate wayfinding signage at park entrances and along the trail to direct users to park amenities and key Downtown destinations.
3. Implement traffic calming strategies including roundabouts and raised crosswalks to reduce vehicular speed in the vicinity of the park.
4. Develop a large paved parking lot to accommodate everyday users as well as festival parking. This area could also be used as overflow festival space to minimize environmental impact on the park.
5. Construct a pedestrian bridge and overlook to connect Johnson Park to Lakeside Park. Providing pedestrian connectivity between the Downtown parks will diversify parking options for users and extend an internal loop trail to access each park.
6. Improve the Avenue J bridge over Backbone Creek to address damming and subsequent flooding issues taking place during large storm events.
7. Extend the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail to include a loop trail around and between the Downtown parks. Include shorter and longer walking loops to improve usability. Provide exercise stations at key locations along the trail. Recommended trailhead amenities include seating, signage, and drinking fountains. A trailhead near the pedestrian bridge to Lakeside Park could incorporate a restroom, exercise station, splash pad, tot lot, and picnic area.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

8. Add a large pavilion to the park to provide covered picnic facilities for large groups or events (e.g., Howdy Roo, Children's Day). It is recommended that the pavilion include picnic tables and a kitchen area with electricity and wash sinks, but no appliances. This will allow the pavilion to be used as a staging area for cooking during large festivals.
9. Provide creek access and picnic areas along the trail adjacent to Backbone Creek.
10. Add a pavilion to the off leash dog park to provide shaded seating for users.
11. Consider enhancing and expanding the existing veteran's memorial into a memorial park area with provisions for additional monuments.
12. Relocate the baseball/softball field outside of the Downtown parks. Consider developing a municipal aquatic center in the existing field's location to replace the swimming pool in Lakeside Park.
13. Replace the existing restroom and consider an outdoor hand-washing station.
14. Implement the necessary precautions to preserve the old pecan trees in the park.
15. Address streambank stabilization needs along Backbone Creek and Whitman Branch.



### ■ Action 1.2.2. Redevelop Lakeside Park as part of a greater Downtown park redevelopment.

Of all the parks in the Marble Falls parks system, Lakeside Park provides the greatest opportunities for interaction with Lake Marble Falls. However, in its current configuration, many opportunities for physical and visual connections to the lake are not being realized. Throughout the public engagement component of this Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, providing additional water-based recreation was one of the highest priorities. In order to maximize and best realize the potential of this park, it is recommended that Lakeside Park be redeveloped as a passive park equipped with amenities to enhance community and visitor interactions with the City and Lake Marble Falls. It is recommended that the existing pool, basketball court, and tennis courts be removed from the park and select amenities be relocated elsewhere. The existing boat ramp is proposed to be repurposed. Replacement options for the boat ramp are very limited by the availability of suitable property with acceptable topography and current development patterns. While there may be more optimal options in the future, current options are limited to possible acquisition of a few potential sites on the south side of Lake Marble Falls for the construction of a new public boat ramp or construction of a small boat ramp on the Lakeside Park peninsula into Backbone Creek.

The following changes and enhancements are recommended for Lakeside Park to serve residents and visitors, and help attract new families to the City (see Appendix B, *Downtown Parks Master Plan* for further detail).

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

1. Create a formal streetscape along the Buena Vista Drive to include parallel and angled parking, street trees, seating areas, and access to picnic pavilions overlooking the lake. Situated at the top of the slope, the pavilions and large pedestrian promenade on the southeast side of the road will provide excellent views of the lake.
2. Provide trail access to the hotel/conference center, adjacent hotel and restaurants, and the greater Downtown area to encourage park users to further explore the City.
3. Develop an internal loop trail throughout Lakeside Park which includes a lakefront portion and pedestrian connectivity to the other three Downtown parks. It is recommended that trailhead amenities such as seating, wayfinding signage, restroom and water fountain be constructed at key locations along the trail.
4. Construct a pedestrian bridge with overlook to connect Hays Addition Park with Lakeside Park. In order to preserve the function of the boat ramp in Johnson Park, it is essential to ensure sufficient space is provided beneath the bridge to allow for boat traffic.
5. Establish large formalized parking lots to provide parking for the Lakeside Pavilion and amenities in the Downtown parks. Access to the parking lot should include a vehicular loop to allow for convenient access to and from the peninsula. Providing pedestrian connectivity between the parks would allow users to leave their car in one park and walk to all the surrounding destinations. Precautions should be taken during design and construction to preserve existing pecan trees.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

6. Construct the Marble Falls Waterfront Development as proposed by the Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation. Proposed elements include a waterfall pavilion, boardwalk with vendor space, cliff walk, and native plant trail.
7. Develop a public beach with designated swimming area in Lake Marble Falls. The beach is recommended to provide space for approximately 225 people.

8. Construct a raised overlook plaza near the hotel/conference center drop off area. The plaza, complete with a dual purpose water feature (children's play during the day, lighted fountain display at night), seating, pavilion, and decorative railing would provide a scenic vantage point to view Lake Marble Falls, the U.S. Highway 281 bridge, and the remainder of the park.
9. Repurpose the existing boat ramp to a multipurpose event water access point. The area is intended for pedestrian use only except during boating events.
10. Construct a large amphitheater (for approximately 1,500 people) with stage area. The amphitheater terraces should have walls delineating each level and level grass areas between to allow for comfortable seating and relaxation.
11. Enhance the area outside the Lakeside Pavilion to include an arbor overlook and formal lawn and gardens. This area would provide an outdoor space associated with the Pavilion during events and could be used by the general public during all other times.
12. Create a smaller, more intimate amphitheater (for approximate 350 people) which could be used for weddings and small functions.
13. Expand the existing boat dock and provide additional boat slips along Backbone Creek.
14. Provide picnic pavilions and associated sculptural elements along the trail. The sculptural elements are recommended as an expansion of the City's Sculpture on Main effort.
15. If the non-City owned parcels near the park are acquired, develop additional trail and green space to complete the loop trail in the park.



**Action 1.2.3. Enhance Falls Creek Park as part of a greater Downtown Park redevelopment.**

Home to the City's much loved and highly used skatepark, Falls Creek Park is largely used by the City's youth. Enhancing the park as part of the greater Downtown park redevelopment would help improve user experiences. The following changes and enhancements are recommended for Falls Creek Park (see Appendix B, *Downtown Parks Master Plan* for further detail).

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

1. Install a defined paved parking lot to provide access to the skatepark and surrounding park amenities. Include an ADA accessible entrance to the skatepark from the parking lot and aesthetic improvements along the western edge of the skatepark.
2. Provide a Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail trailhead including a restroom and drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk and signage, exercise station, and seating.
3. Create a formal streetscape along Buena Vista Drive as an extension of the Main Street streetscape. The streetscape should include street trees, benches, and select parking areas. Provide flexible space to allow for temporary food truck parking during events and picnic tables the remainder of the time.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

4. Provide a covered pavilion at the skatepark to provide an enhanced entrance and a shaded seating area. Consider providing comfort amenities such as misters and wifi phone charging stations in this area.
5. Expand the skatepark amenities to include additional skateable features, spectator seating, and potential minimal lighting.
6. Develop an overlook seating area with fire pit to provide an informal gathering space for park users.



■ **Action 1.2.4. Redevelop Hays Addition Park as part of a greater Downtown Park redevelopment.**

Except for an existing boat ramp, Hays Addition Park is entirely undeveloped. It provides visual access to the lake and is vegetated as a wildflower meadow. In order to enhance its use as a passive recreation area, the following improvements are recommended for Hays Addition Park (see Appendix B, *Downtown Parks Master Plan* for further detail).

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

1. Develop a loop trail to provide pedestrian access throughout the site and connectivity to Lakeside Park. Trailhead amenities are recommended near the existing boat ramp to include a small restroom and drinking fountain, picnic areas, and wayfinding signage.
2. Provide a split rail fence along the street frontage of the park to provide safety for pedestrians on the trail.
3. Provide a small buffered parking lot for truck/boat trailer parking near the boat ramp.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

4. Construct an overlook with associated picnic area at the northern end of the park.
5. Maintain and enhance the wildflower meadow to provide increased ecological and aesthetic value to the park.
6. Incorporate the planned “Racer’s Landing” memorial near the existing boat ramp.
7. Improve the existing boat ramp.



### ■ Action 1.2.5. Improve Childers Park.

Recreation opportunities at Childers Park are currently limited to baseball and softball provided by the Marble Falls Youth Baseball/Softball Association and trail access. In order to improve user access and comfort, the following improvements are recommended.

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

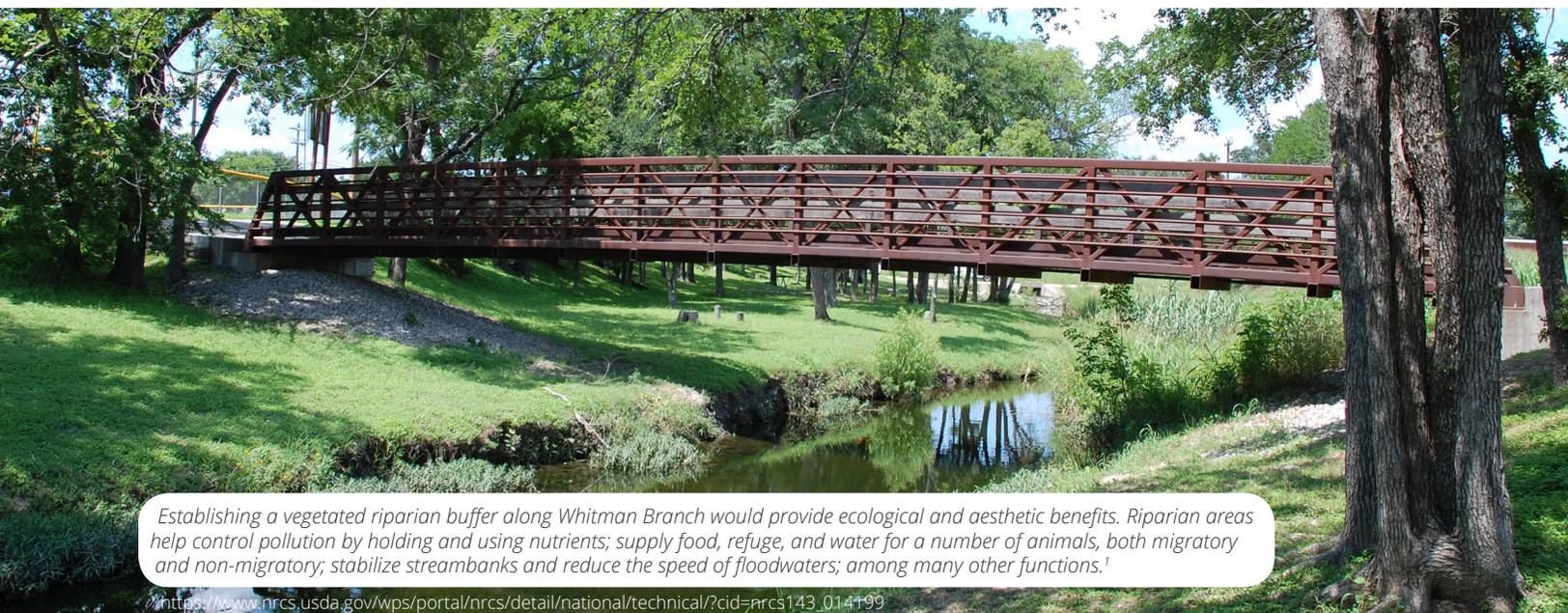
- Install sidewalks along Broadway Street to provide safe pedestrian access from the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Establish a defined parking lot with ADA accessible parking spaces to provide an organized layout for vehicles during events, visually improve the street frontage of the park, and provide trailhead parking for the Whitman Branch Trail. An ADA accessible sidewalk should be provided from the parking lot to the ballfields.
- Develop trailhead amenities including benches, a trailhead monument and trail system wayfinding kiosk, bike racks, and trash receptacles.
- Expand the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail to include ADA accessible spurs from the trail to the ballfields and the Senior Center. Ultimately plan for extension of the trail to the north per the City's Sidewalks and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map (in the Comprehensive Plan).



*Acquiring adjacent vacant land would allow for expansion of the facilities and programming in the park.*

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

- Establish a vegetated riparian buffer along the Whitman Branch to improve stormwater filtration, enhance the visual quality of the waterway, and provide habitat for flora and fauna.
- Improve spectator seating areas to include shade structures, repainted bleachers, and ADA accessibility.
- Evaluate the cost and feasibility of acquiring the vacant parcels to the east and west of the park to provide space for expanded facilities such as a soccer field for general public use, community garden, shaded playground, and other programming opportunities.



*Establishing a vegetated riparian buffer along Whitman Branch would provide ecological and aesthetic benefits. Riparian areas help control pollution by holding and using nutrients; supply food, refuge, and water for a number of animals, both migratory and non-migratory; stabilize streambanks and reduce the speed of floodwaters; among many other functions.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=prcs143\\_014199](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=prcs143_014199)

### ■ Action 1.2.6. Develop a Greens Soccer Complex Master Plan.

The Greens Soccer Complex is the largest grouping of athletic facilities in the City. The eight soccer fields in the park are leased by the Granite Country Youth Soccer Association, thus restricting public use of the fields. Over the years, the park has been developed without an overall master plan in place. In order to ensure that potential use of the park is maximized and users and the surrounding neighborhood have access to appropriate amenities, it is recommended that the City develop a redevelopment master plan for the park. Elements to consider as part of the master plan are listed below.



*Due to lack of facilities, park users are currently providing their own shaded seating areas.*

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

- Develop defined on or off-street parking facilities to include standard and ADA accessible spaces.
- Construct sidewalks along Avenue K and 6th Street to provide safe pedestrian access from the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Construct an internal loop system providing interconnectivity between park amenities as well as access to the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

- Evaluate varying field configurations in order to determine the maximum number of league soccer fields that can be developed in the park.
- Construct shaded age appropriate play areas in the park to serve the non-soccer playing members of visiting families as well as the adjacent residents.
- Create shaded spectator seating areas adjacent to each field.
- Provide improved restroom and concessions either through renovation of the existing building or converting the concessions portion of the existing building to storage area and integrating food truck spaces into the site plan.
- Provide increase seating and picnicking areas adjacent to the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail.

### ■ Action 1.2.7. Implement a Greens Soccer Complex Master Plan.

Following preparation of a Greens Soccer Complex Master Plan, it is recommended that the City develop detailed design and construction drawings and implement the Master Plan.

### ■ Action 1.2.8. Improve VFW Park.

VFW is primarily used by the Marble Falls Youth Baseball/Softball Association. As noted by a number of league representatives during stakeholder meetings, despite the recent upgrades to the park, VFW Park is still in need of additional facility enhancements. In order to provide improved user experience, the following items are recommended.

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

- Construct a parking lot with a defined entrance, park sign, and both standard and ADA accessible parking spaces. This should also include an ADA compliant sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the park's amenities.

- Provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to the park through a northern extension of the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail from Westside Park. Extend the trail north beyond VFW Park per the City's Sidewalks and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map (in the Comprehensive Plan).
- Once a trail connection is established, develop trailhead amenities including a trailhead monument, wayfinding kiosk and sign, seating, bike racks, and trash receptacles.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

- Renovate the concession stand and bathrooms to provide a face-lift, improved accessibility, and functionality.
- Provide shade structures over the spectator seating areas.
- Consider feasibility of providing irrigation through the purple pipe program rather than potable water.
- Add a shaded playground in the southern undeveloped portion of the site to provide access to neighborhood park amenities for the nearby residences as well as recreation options for non-baseball/softball playing visitors.



*Restroom upgrades in VFW Park are recommended to include ADA accessibility.*

■ **Action 1.2.9. Improve Westside Park.**

Loved for its size, trail access, and varied amenities for different age groups, Westside Park is one of the community's favorite parks. However, the fact that the entirety of the park is located in the floodplain presents challenges to the development of additional active recreation amenities. In order to improve the park while recognizing the environmental challenges, the following elements are recommended.

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

- Establish an enhanced Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail trailhead to include a trailhead monument, wayfinding kiosk and sign, seating, bike racks, and trash receptacles.
- Develop an internal loop trail throughout the site which provides access to all park



*It is recommended that they City evaluate the feasibility of regrading the site to allow development of a sand volleyball court.*

amenities. This should include addressing maintenance needs along the existing portions of the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail.

- Connect the park to VFW Park to the north through an extension of the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail per the City's Sidewalks and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map (in the Comprehensive Plan).
- Construct an improved entrance monument.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

- Expand the disc golf course to a full 18-hole course.
- Enhance the Ruff Park Dog Park to include a water feature, wash station for dogs, and additional diversified amenities.
- Evaluate the feasibility of providing a sand volleyball court in the park to replace the court removed from Johnson Park.
- Provide an enhanced vegetated riparian buffer along Backbone Creek to improve the ecological and aesthetic benefits of the creek.
- Provide additional shaded seating areas throughout the park.

### ▪ **Action 1.2.10. Improve Rotary Park.**

In order to ensure that Rotary Park provides the maximum recreation benefits to its users and the greater community, it is recommended that a maintenance and development agreement between MFISD, the leasing youth sports associations, and the City be formalized. The agreement should determine what improvements should be made to the park and who is responsible for funding, implementing, and maintaining the improvements.

Accessibility and connectivity improvements to consider as part of the agreement include:

- Establish a formalized parking lot with standard and ADA accessible spaces.
- Provide ADA accessible sidewalks from the parking lot to all park amenities.
- Provide trail connections to the future Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail extension which will traverse properties to the west of the park.
- Construct an improved entrance monument.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations to consider as part of the agreement include:

- Shade structures for the baseball/softball spectator areas.
- Shaded seating areas near the soccer field.
- Consider the feasibility of diversifying the amenities on site.



*An ADA accessible sidewalk is recommended to provide universal access from the parking lot to all amenities in Rotary Park.*



2. Construct raised crosswalks in appropriate locations along Park View Drive and Park Ridge Drive to reduce vehicular speed in the vicinity of the park.
3. Provide a small improved parking area to allow users to park near the trail.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

4. Enhance the existing vegetation on site with appropriate native species to improve the visual appearance of the park and support habitat along bird and monarch migration routes.
5. Provide park signs at entrance points. Consider the use of stone elements to maintain the natural aesthetic of the park.
6. Develop a small bike course in the northeast corner of the park to provide agility challenges for local youth.
7. Add a small picnic pavilion with picnic tables and wildlife viewing walls at the central high point of the site.
8. Construct a small family restroom in the vicinity of the picnic pavilion and play area.
9. Maintain an open play lawn with a nature-based playscape for everyday enjoyment by local families. A perimeter fence should be provided between the lawn and adjacent roads to buffer users from vehicular traffic. Shade should be provided over the playscape to improve user comfort.



Image source: <http://sweethome days.blogspot.com/2010/08/natural-playground.html>

*Nature play creates a unique opportunity for children to interact with the natural world around them.*

■ **Action 1.2.12. Develop 4th and Avenue K Park.**

To date, 4th and Avenue K Park has remained undeveloped. It is thus recommended that the City develop the park to include pocket park amenities such as shaded age appropriate play areas, covered picnic tables with grills, benches, a perimeter fence to prohibit children from running easily into the street, and crosswalks providing pedestrian access to the Greens Soccer Complex on the opposite corner of the 4th Street and Avenue K intersection.

■ **Action 1.2.13. Improve Villa Vista Park.**

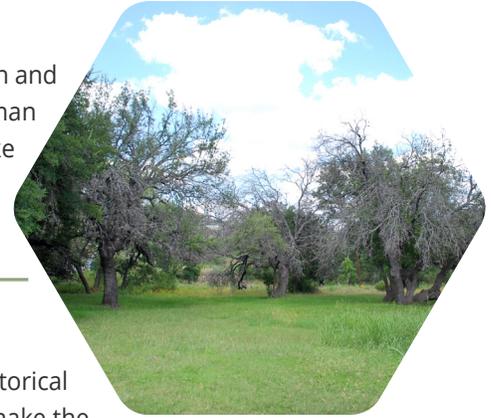
In order to enhance the recreation function of Villa Vista Park, it is recommended that the City enhance the existing features in the park and evaluation potential for park expansion. Recommended improvements include aesthetic enhancements of the drainageway running through the middle of the site, adding a second basketball net to the court area, expanding and enhancing the playground to include additional amenities and shade, providing additional picnic facilities, constructing ADA accessible sidewalks from the street to park amenities, installing a split rail fence along Villa Vista Way, and adding a park entrance monument. The City should also evaluate the feasibility of acquiring adjacent land to provide space for park expansion and increased amenities in order to fill the neighborhood parkland need in the area (see Action 4.1.2).



*Enhanced, shaded play areas would increase the usability of Villa Vista Park.*

#### ■ Action 1.2.14. Develop Whitman Branch Greenbelt.

Whitman Branch Greenbelt provides opportunities for passive recreation and nature observation. It is recommended that the City develop the Whitman Branch Greenbelt to include an extension of the Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail; an entrance monument sign; and picnicking amenities such as picnic tables, barbecue grills, and trash receptacles.



*Once a trail is established through the Whitman Branch Greenbelt, picnic facilities are recommended to provide amenities for users to stop and enjoy the park.*

#### ■ Action 1.2.15. Improve the City Cemetery.

The Marble Falls City Cemetery provides unique opportunities for historical education, passive recreation, and honoring of loved ones. In order to make the site more than just a burial place, the following elements are recommended.

- Create a Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail spur to provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to the cemetery.
- Install historic interpretive signage throughout the property to educate visitors about prominent historic figures and their roles in Marble Falls' history.
- Provide a gazebo in the historic section of the cemetery to create a space for quiet reflection. The above-mentioned signage could also be incorporated into the gazebo.
- Conduct a conditional assessment of all headstones to determine what, if any, preservation efforts need to be undertaken to maintain the integrity of the property.
- Evaluate the feasibility of providing online access to the survey of the names and locations of those buried in the cemetery.
- Evaluate the feasibility of reestablishing a "cemetery association" to manage the site.
- Establish a "friends of the cemetery" group to help address maintenance needs in the cemetery.
- Evaluate the need for families to contribute financially towards the perpetual maintenance of the cemetery.

***Objective 1.3. Provide general park upgrades throughout the parks system to improve user experiences.***

#### ■ Action 1.3.1. Improve the physical, visual, and programmatic connection to the lake.

Lake Marble Falls serves as the greatest unifying identity that people associate with Marble Falls. Currently, private development along the lakefront results in limited visual and physical access to the lake. Improving access to the lake and other water-based natural resources (e.g., Whitman Branch) will help reconnect both residents and visitors to Marble Falls' unique natural environment.

#### ■ Action 1.3.2. Provide additional shade opportunities in the parks and along trails.

When asked during the online survey, providing more trees and shade in general, was ranked as very important or important by over 80 percent of respondents. Shade greatly improves the experience of park users, especially in Texas. It is recommended that the City evaluate

opportunities to increase shade in existing parks, including providing more trees, picnic pavilions, and playscape shade structures. To allow for systematic shade improvements throughout the parks system, the City should consider allocating funding annually to provide shade improvements based on a prioritized list.



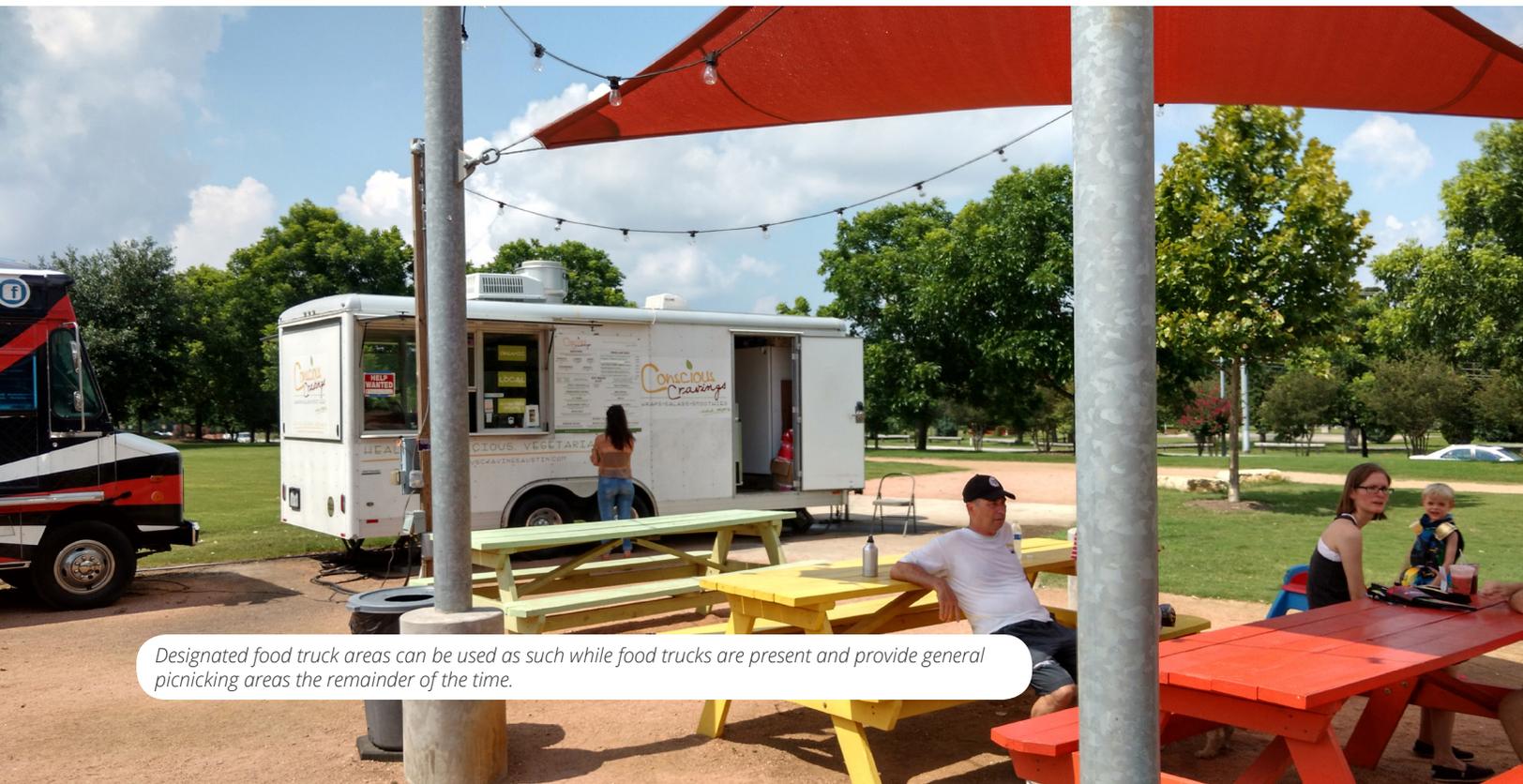
*Shaded gathering areas provide opportunities for people to enjoy the City's parks system, regardless of age or ability.*

■ **Action 1.3.3. Identify opportunities to beautify existing parks (e.g., improved park signage, enhanced landscaping, etc.).**

Beautifying existing parks would help to enhance the overall quality of Marble Falls' parks and set it apart as a second-to-none system. The City should identify opportunities to aesthetically enhance its parks through high-quality landscaping and signage, repairing and replacing amenities as needed, upgrading amenity materials (e.g., sport court surfacing), and providing public art in parks (e.g., murals, sculpture). Landscaping improvements can also provide opportunities for local organizations to volunteer (see action 5.2.2).

■ **Action 1.3.4. Evaluate opportunities to increase access to food trucks in parks and during special events.**

Four of the City's existing parks, all of which include athletic facilities, are equipped with concession stands. In order to diversify the locations in which users can purchase food and beverages, it is recommended that the City establish dedicated areas for food trucks within parks and during special events. Providing areas for food trucks minimizes the need for fixed concession stands and staffing, provides quality food to park users and visitors, and promotes local small businesses.



*Designated food truck areas can be used as such while food trucks are present and provide general picnicking areas the remainder of the time.*

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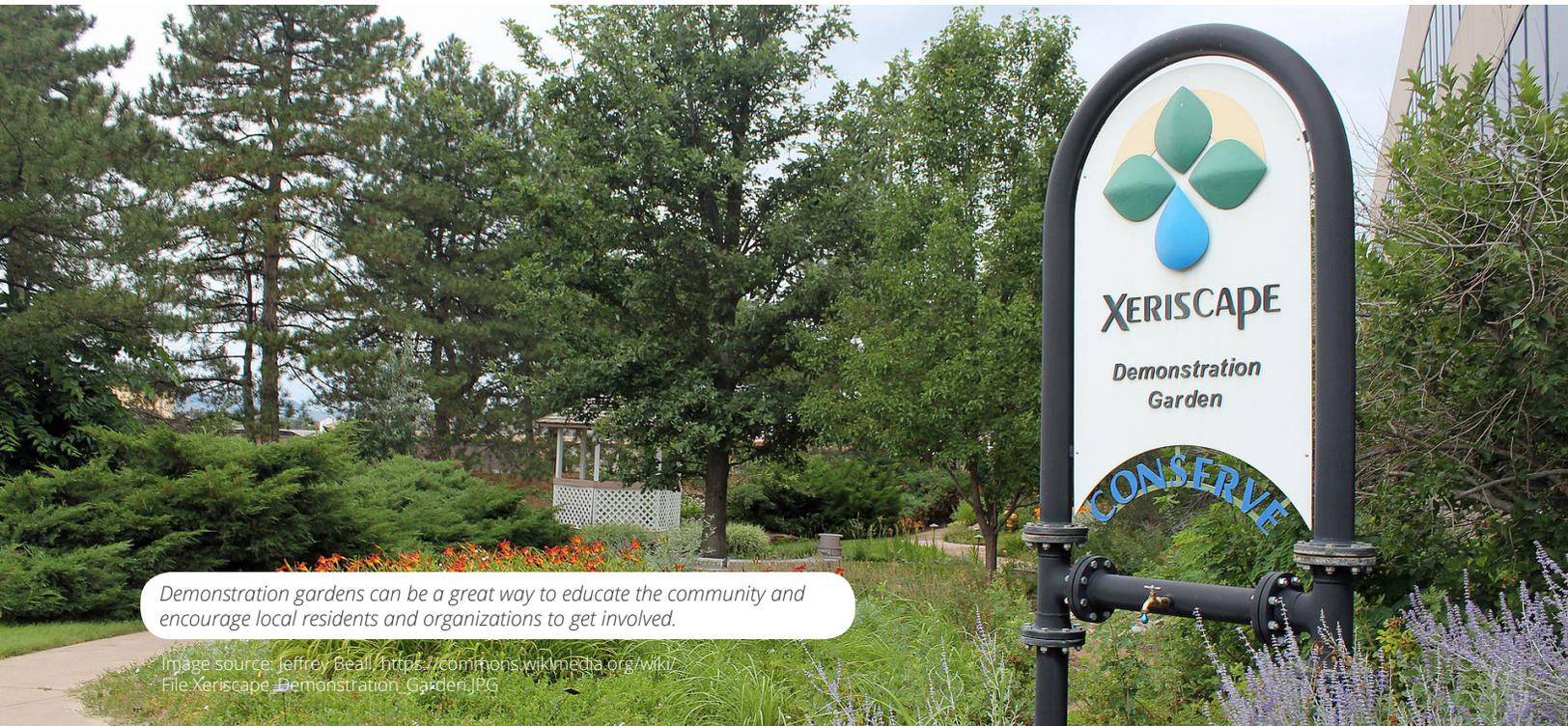
- **Action 1.3.5. Establish improved parking areas in each park where parking is provided.**

Parking is a challenging element in a number of the City's parks. It is recommended that all parking areas be paved and striped for easier, more efficient and organized vehicular access. This includes paved ADA accessible parking spaces and other accessibility improvements throughout each park in the system. Paved parking areas help to restrict vehicular access to appropriate locations within parks, thus providing protection of adjacent park amenities and natural areas.

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- **Action 1.3.6. Increase educational opportunities in parks.**

The City's parks provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and socialization. However, they can also provide valuable education about the historical, cultural, and natural resources throughout the community. In an effort to educate the public about their community and the natural world around them, the City should consider providing increased opportunities for education in the parks system. There are a multitude of educational strategies that can be used in parks such as interpretive signage, bringing school classes into the parks, fostering environmental and civic stewardship by encouraging youth to spend time maintaining the quality of City parks, providing educational classes, bringing art-based recreation programs into the parks, and demonstration gardens, among others. As a potential partner, the City should consider ways to collaborate with the Falls on the Colorado Museum to provide educational elements in the parks system.



*Demonstration gardens can be a great way to educate the community and encourage local residents and organizations to get involved.*

Image source: Jeffrey Beall, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Xeriscape\\_Demonstration\\_Garden.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Xeriscape_Demonstration_Garden.JPG)

## Connectivity

### GOAL 2

**Continue to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity throughout the City through further development and expansion of the City's trail system.**



Consistently throughout the public engagement process of both this Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, the community overwhelmingly showed strong support for trails and connectivity. Indeed, respondents to the online survey listed it as both their favorite recreational activity and highest priority passive recreation need. As such, the following action recommendations are suggested to meet demand and improve citywide connectivity.

#### **Objective 2.1. Proactively plan and prioritize a citywide trail system.**

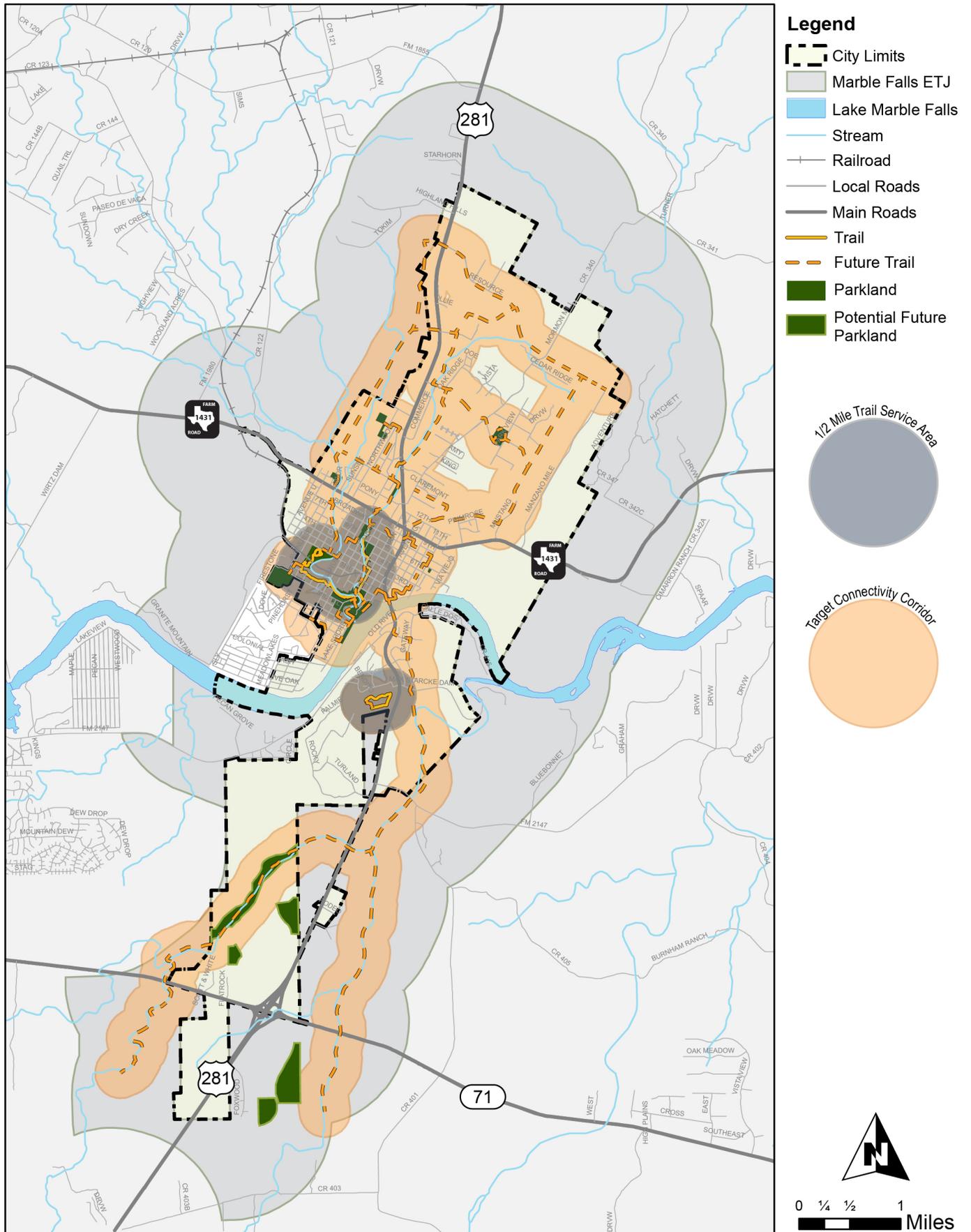
##### ▪ **Action 2.1.1. Develop a citywide Trails Master Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations.**

It is recommended that the City develop a Trails Master Plan prior to construction of any substantial portions of the proposed trail system set out the City's Sidewalk and Trail Corridor Opportunities Map, in the Comprehensive Plan. The Trails Master Plan would identify and prioritize specific trail alignments within the target connectivity corridors illustrated on Map 5.1, *Target Connectivity Corridors*, on the following page. Trail segments would include both on- and off-street sections. As part of the Trails Master Plan, it is recommended that the City consider partnership opportunities for connections to adjacent communities.



*A Trails Master Plan is recommended to determine specific trail alignments to ultimately extend the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail to connect to a greater citywide trail system.*

Map 5.1, Target Connectivity Corridors



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- Action 2.1.2. Prioritize acquisition and development of new trail segments in the northwestern portion of the City.**

As development continues to occur in Marble Falls, it is recommended that the City prioritize acquisition, design, and development of trail segments in the northwestern portion of the City (see Target Trail Area A (yellow) on Map 5.2, *Target Trail Areas*, on the next page). These efforts should follow completion of the citywide Trails Master Plan to ensure that designated trail routes flow seamlessly into other areas of the City.

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- Action 2.1.3. Prioritize acquisition and development of new trail segments in the northeastern portion of the City.**

Following completion of a Trails Master Plan, it is recommended that the City proactively prioritize acquisition, design, and development of new trail segments to provide connectivity in the northeastern portion of the City (see Target Trail Area B (orange) on Map 5.2, *Target Trail Areas*, on the next page). Trail development should be timed concurrent with development efforts.

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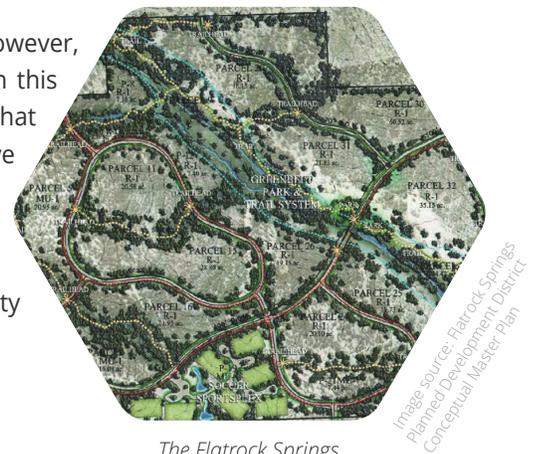
- Action 2.1.4. Prioritize acquisition and development of new trail segments near Downtown Marble Falls.**

Once the City has completed a citywide Trails Master Plan, it is recommended that trail segments near Downtown Marble Falls be developed (see Target Trail Area C (blue) on Map 5.2, *Target Trail Areas*, on the next page). This includes any necessary property acquisition, detailed design, and implementation.

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- Action 2.1.5. Prioritize acquisition and development of new trail segments south of Lake Marble Falls.**

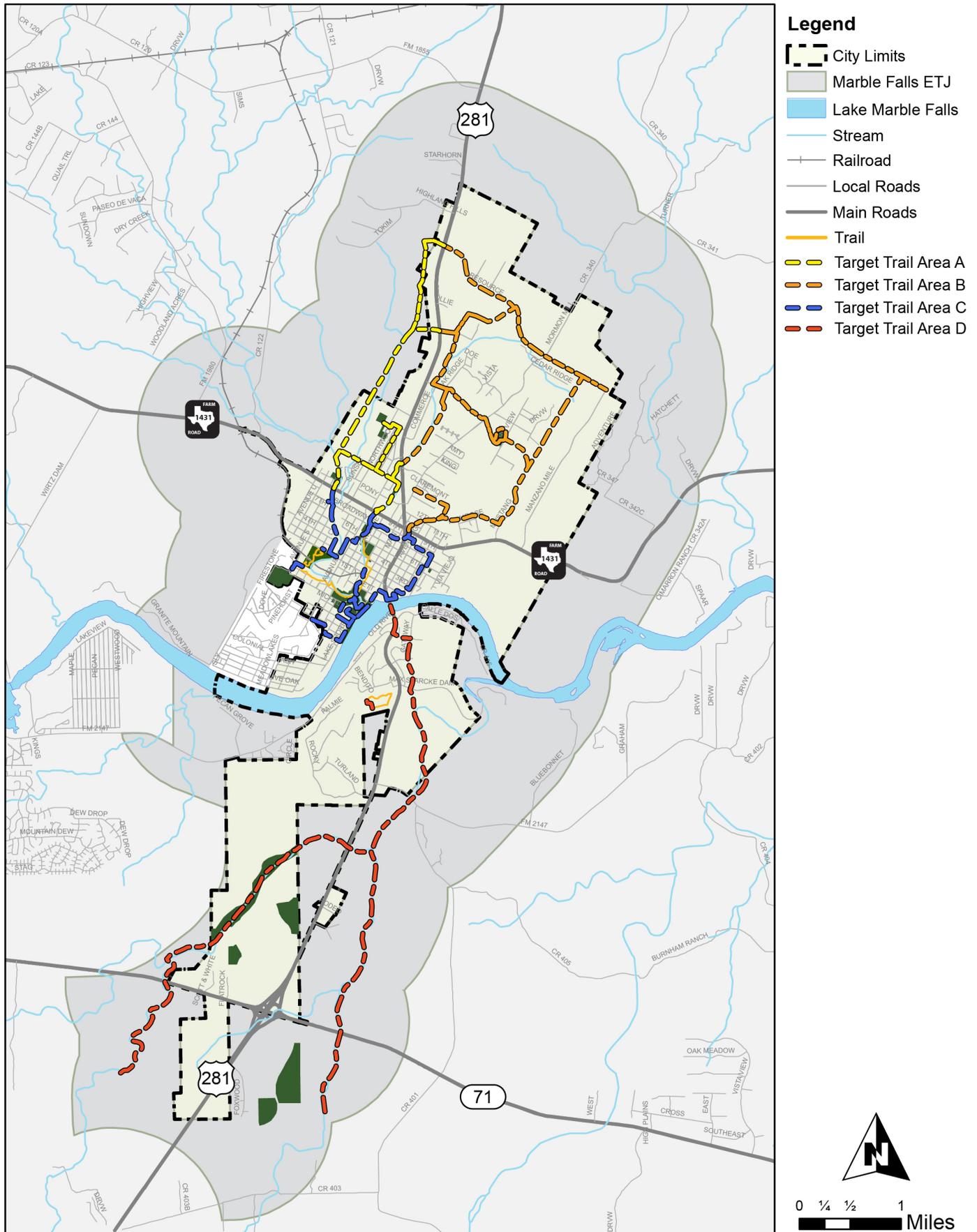
To date, residential development south of Lake Marble Falls is minimal. However, there are two approved planned development communities located in this area. As development occurs over the coming years, it is recommended that the City prioritize design and development of new trail segments to serve the residents (see Target Trail Area D (red) on Map 5.2, *Target Trail Areas*, on the next page). This includes finalizing developer agreements for the proposed planned developments to determine the responsible parties for trail design and construction. This may also include additional property acquisition and trail design and development by the City.



*The Flatrock Springs Planned Development District located south of Lake Marble Falls includes a greenbelt park and trail system.*

*Image source: Flatrock Springs Planned Development District Conceptual Master Plan*

Map 5.2, Target Trail Areas



## Objective 2.2. Develop and publicize trail segments throughout Marble Falls.

### ■ Action 2.2.1. Connect the Whitman Branch and Backbone Creek trails to create a complete and continuous loop trail in and near Downtown.

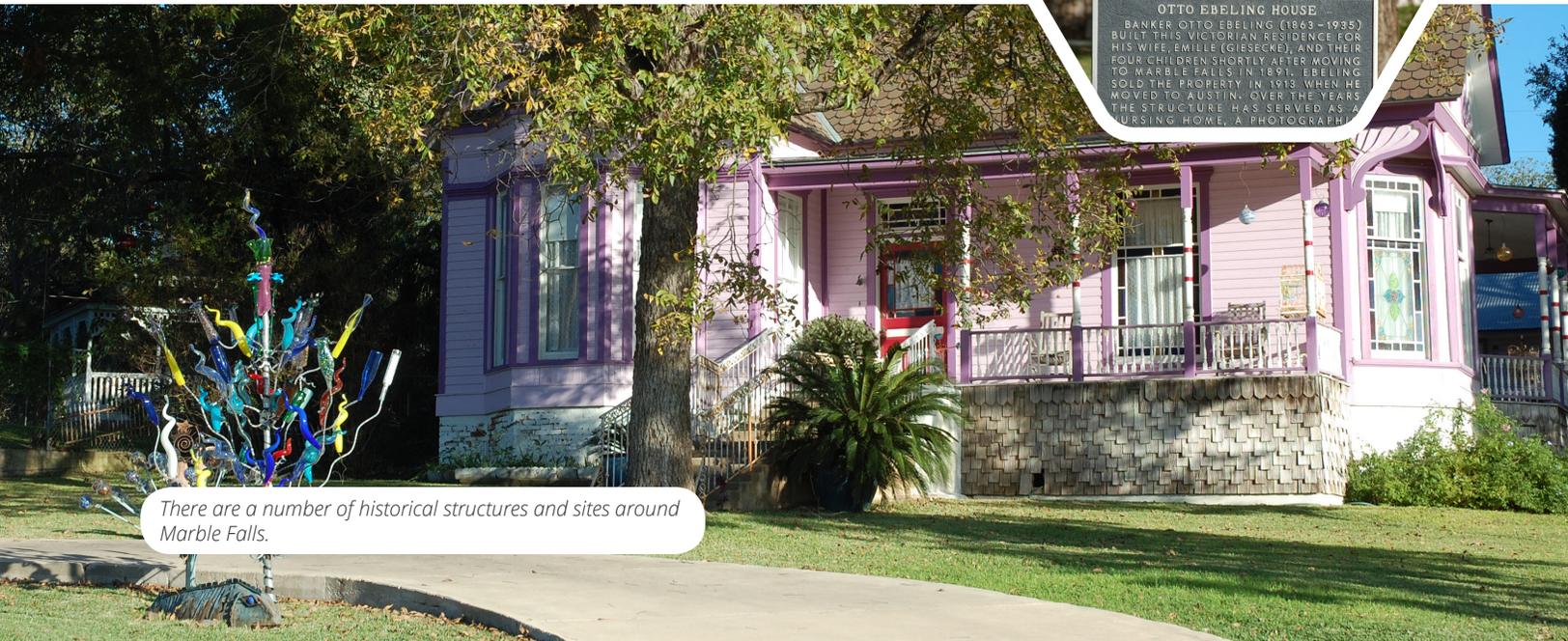
The City's two existing trails total approximately 2.6 miles and both have trailheads within the Downtown parks. It is recommended that the City develop the remaining trail segments necessary to connect the two trails and complete a continuous loop (approximately three miles long) in and near Downtown Marble Falls. Construction of a continuous loop trail would greatly improve the usability of the trail for bikers, runners, walkers, etc. by allowing users to extend their route to their desired distance.

### ■ Action 2.2.2. Develop a brochure advertising the Citywide designated trail segments.

The best developed trail system is nothing without its users. As the City develops its community-wide trail, it is recommended that a trail map be developed and provided on the City's website and at key locations in the City. The map should include the designated trail segments as well as key destinations along and near the trail. Advertisement of the trail system in brochures and on the City's website will raise awareness among residents and visitors, consequently increasing trail use.

### ■ Action 2.2.3. Consider establishing a historic trail route.

Marble Falls includes a number of historic structures and amenities, including Johnson Park, portions of the cemetery, and various structures throughout the community. However, many people do not realize that history surrounds them on a daily basis in the City. It is thus recommended that the City consider establishing a historic trail route including educational signage and wayfinding elements to direct interested users to historical landmarks. This could be done in collaboration with the Falls on the Colorado Museum.



There are a number of historical structures and sites around Marble Falls.

## Recreation Facilities & Programming

### GOAL 3

**Provide a diversified, multigenerational offering of recreational programs, events, facilities, and amenities to serve residents and attract regional users.**



Recreation programs offered in Marble Falls include activities for children, youth, and adults. While the majority of programming is offered by third-party providers, many programs take place on City parks, in the City's rental facilities, and at the City pool. The following recommendations are intended to provide a long-term plan of action to diversify the current offerings, provide increased space for programming, and plan for the future needs of the community.

**Objective 3.1. Evaluate the need for additional parks and recreation resources to ensure that adequate funding, staffing, and equipment are provided to allow for a second-to-none parks and recreation system.**

- **Action 3.1.1. Ensure adequate resources (e.g., staffing, equipment, and funding) to provide for a well-maintained park system, particularly as the park system expands.**

Ensure that programming increases and additional parkland development is accompanied by sufficient staffing and departmental funding increases to allow adequate upkeep of the parks and recreation system. A poorly maintained parks system is often viewed in a worse light by users than no park system at all.

- **Action 3.1.2. Consider hiring a Recreational Supervisor.**

Public input received during the planning process indicated that additional recreational programming and events are desired. However, in its current configuration, the Parks and Recreation Department staffing is insufficient if additional recreation coordination is to be undertaken. It is thus recommended that the City consider hiring a Recreational Supervisor. This position would be the point person for youth leagues, use agreements, senior center connections, contract coordination, and event and activity planning and publicity.

- **Action 3.1.3. Conduct a Recreational Programming and Event Assessment.**

The largest segments of the Marble Falls population are residents under the age of 29 and between the ages of 45 and 54. As the population ages over the next 10 to 20 years, the largest portions of the population will run the gamut from youth through seniors. As such, it is important for the City to continue providing opportunities for all ages. It is recommended that the City conduct an in-house recreational programming and event assessment and feasibility study to gain a comprehensive understanding of the recreational needs of the community and



*Analysis of current program participation is an important component of a Recreational Programming Assessment.*

the resource needs of the Parks and Recreation Department in order to provide a full recreation program and diversified event schedule. The Assessment should review and analyze the City's public, private, or public/private recreational program offerings and existing events. This would include an inventory of both Marble Falls' programs, services, facilities, and events, as well as those offered by other organizations within the City or ETJ. Analysis of the collected inventory data will identify gaps and overlaps. It will also identify potential additional event opportunities (e.g., Cinco de Mayo) which could have added economic benefits for the City. If hired, the Recreational Supervisor could be responsible for this analysis.

### **Objective 3.2. Identify and proactively pursue recreational partnerships.**

#### **Action 3.2.1. Consider a partnership with the YMCA.**

In an effort to provide additional diversified recreational programming, it is recommended that the City consider partnering with the YMCA to develop a recreational complex to develop activities for youth, adults, and senior populations. A partnership could allow for shared responsibility for staffing, maintenance, funding, and program development.



*A partnership with the YMCA, such as that created for the YMCA of the Highland Lakes in the City of Burnet, can increase the recreational potential of a community center.*

#### **Action 3.2.2. Consider a programming partnership for the Lakeside Pavilion.**

The City is currently finalizing design discussions for its upcoming hotel/conference center to be constructed adjacent to Lakeside Park, just north of the Lakeside Pavilion. The conference center vendor will pursue and host a variety of conferences. As such, there may be an opportunity for additional programming of the Lakeside Pavilion. It is recommended that the City evaluate the opportunity to partner with the conference center vendor to manage events at Lakeside Pavilion in coordination with overall conference events, or separately.

#### **Action 3.2.3. Consider partnership opportunities with adult athletic leagues to balance athletic facility needs and maintenance requirements.**

Throughout the planning process, it was brought to attention that a number of the adult athletic leagues would be interested in discussing partnership opportunities to ensure that athletic facilities used by them are well maintained. It is recommended that the City pursue these partnership opportunities. Use and maintenance agreements could be similar to the existing youth league agreements in that the City provides the space and facilities while the league provides the maintenance.

- **Action 3.2.4. Pursue partnerships with Burnet County, surrounding cities, and other public/private partners to develop, maintain, and operate parks and recreation facilities.**

It is well known and acknowledged that the Marble Falls parks and recreation system serves more than just City residents. Providing and maintaining high-quality parks and recreational facilities requires a continued source of funding. It is recommended that the City explore opportunities and pursue partnerships with Burnet County, the surrounding cities, and other public/private partners (e.g., the Rotarians, Falls on the Colorado Museum) to help fund park and recreation development, maintenance, operation, and programming. For example, this could include interlocal agreements where participating cities contribute annual financial assistance, staffing, or other mutually agreeable support, in exchange for a waiver of out-of-City fees for their residents.

**Objective 3.3. Develop programs and activities to meet the needs of the Marble Falls' citizens and visitors from throughout the region.**

- **Action 3.3.1. Expand youth athletic programs.**

Throughout the planning process, users of Marble Falls' parks and recreation system voiced a desire for increased youth athletic programs. It is recommended that the City expand its youth athletic programs to include additional teams and sport types to allow for increased diversity and participation. This could include additional soccer and baseball/softball teams and development of pilot lacrosse and basketball programs (dependent on the availability of indoor basketball facilities). The City should also consider pursuing third party groups to provide non-competitive athletic clinics to provide a short introduction to a variety of different sports and provide options for those who do not have the resources to participate in leagues.

- **Action 3.3.2. Expand adult athletic programs.**

Online survey respondents indicated a desire for increased adult athletic opportunities. It is recommended that the City evaluate opportunities to provide additional adult athletics such as flag football, kickball, and basketball, either as City-offered or third-party programs.

- **Action 3.3.3. Consider providing senior athletic programs.**

As the population continues to age, it is recommended that the City consider providing senior athletic programs. The City has a number of younger, active seniors who would benefit from an opportunity to interact and exercise. This programming could be provided in conjunction with the community recreation center.

- **Action 3.3.4. Expand non-athletic programming offerings.**

When asked to prioritize a variety of recreational activities the City could offer, providing additional recreational programs such as summer day camps, dance, yoga, and pottery were the third highest priority. It is recommended that the City pursue additional third



Image source: City of Killeen

*Residents have requested additional adult athletic programs.*

party vendors to provide additional multigenerational non-athletic program options such as art (e.g., painting, theater, photography), fitness (e.g., dance, zumba, fitness in the park), and passive recreation (e.g., fishing clinics, gardening club). This will provide options for current residents and help to attract new families to Marble Falls.

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■ **Action 3.3.5. Develop a marketing campaign to advertise the recreation opportunities in Marble Falls.**

It is evident based on community input, that many residents and park users do not know what recreation programs the City offers. It is thus recommended that the City develop marketing materials and maintain its website to clearly advertise all recreational programming offered.

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■ **Action 3.3.6. Consider pursuing a vendor for bicycle rentals.**

As the City continues to develop its trail system, consideration should be given to pursuing a vendor to locate in Downtown to provide bicycle rentals. This arrangement could be similar to the one with Jolly Rodgers Paddle Co. and would encourage greater use of the hike and bike trails.



*A local bicycle rental shop located near the City's trail system can allow a greater usership of the parks and trails.*

Image source: <http://www.bamboboblog.com/company.com/>

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■ **Action 3.3.7. Provide multigenerational, family-friendly, passive recreation opportunities (e.g., picnicking facilities, small event spaces, etc.) throughout the parks system.**

Both resident and non-resident park users indicated a strong desire for family-friendly passive recreation opportunities in the parks. The provision of additional picnicking facilities, event spaces, unprogrammed open space, fishing areas, and safe water access is recommended to provide additional non-athletic recreation options in the City's parks system. These amenities would serve current park users and help to attract new, younger residents to Marble Falls.

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■ **Action 3.3.8. Improve access to water-based activities.**

Time and again residents and park users have indicated that improved access to water-based activities is one of their highest priorities. Through redevelopment and reprogramming of the Downtown parks, residents would be provided significantly greater access to water-based recreation (e.g., splashpads, swimming, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, and pedestrian boardwalks and overlooks, etc.). It is recommended that the City continue to pursue additional opportunities for recreation access to the City's waterways.

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■ **Action 3.3.9. Partner to establish a formal paddling trail along Lake Marble Falls and Backbone Creek.**

In an effort to expand access to water-based activities in the City and provide increased recreational programming of the lake, the City should consider coordinating with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to create a designated paddling trail along Lake Marble Falls and Backbone Creek. As such, canoe/kayaking routes would be designated with defined entry and exit points.

**Objective 3.4. Provide a well-rounded, sustainable event calendar to engage the public and meet the needs of the community.**

■ **Action 3.4.1. Develop additional park-based events to encourage greater use of the parks system.**

Providing additional park-based events would draw additional users into parks and create opportunities for community interaction and enjoyment of the wonderful natural resources in Marble Falls. Some events to consider include art in the park (e.g., painting in the park), outdoor movies, live concerts, community picnics, community camping events, triathlons, and fun runs, among others. A Recreation Supervisor would be responsible for developing and coordinating these events. A number of these events also provide opportunities for residents to volunteer and local artists to showcase their craft.



Image source: <http://impactpe.org/event/painting-in-the-park-2-2/>

*Regularly scheduled events, such as paint-in-the-park days, can bring the community together for social events they can look forward to.*

■ **Action 3.4.2. Conduct a cost/benefit/impact analysis to determine whether the long-term continuation of LakeFest contributes to the overall vision and goals for the community.**

The LakeFest drag boat races are a long-standing event in Marble Falls. They draw upwards of 10,000 people to the City for a weekend. Over the years, as the event has grown in size and popularity, residents have more often begun to leave town for the weekend so as to avoid the crowds and congestion created by the influx of festival goers. As the City plans its future events, it should analyze all components and impacts of LakeFest to determine if its continuation remains in the best interest of Marble Falls.

■ **Action 3.4.3. Conduct an event parking study for large community events.**

Consider undertaking a study to evaluate a framework for public/private parking for large-scale community-wide events. This study could help to establish a permit system and program for private land owners to accommodate overflow parking for large, citywide events. This could include minimum qualifications for registration, access, staffing, spaces, etc. Permitted participants could be appropriately advertised on the



*LakeFest 2016 marked the 25th year of the event. It draws thousands of people from the region and beyond to Marble Falls for a weekend.*

City website prior to the event, and a fee could be collected to offset transportation buses to and from parking to Downtown. This may include an interlocal agreement with the MFISD to rent, lease, or otherwise utilize their buses during these events.

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■ **Action 3.4.4. Ensure adequate utilities are available during community-wide special events.**

As the City plans for a variety of events in its parks, it is important to consider adequate facilities for each event. It is recommended that the City provide additional hand washing stations and electrical and water hook ups in the Downtown parks to improve health and safety during festivals and events.

**Objective 3.5. Provide additional recreational amenities which serve the needs of the community and take advantage of unique opportunities.**

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■ **Action 3.5.1. Evaluate opportunities for additional canoe/kayak launch points along the City's waterways.**

Water-based recreation is one of the greatest opportunities provided in Marble Falls. In order to maximize the potential of the City's waterways, the City should evaluate opportunities to provide additional canoe/kayak launch points along Backbone Creek and Whitman Branch. This could include near the intersection of Avenue N and Backbone Creek and along the future Creekwalk.

■ **Action 3.5.2. Evaluate the feasibility of providing athletic fields on the City's irrigation farm.**

The City's irrigation farm, located northwest of the City, includes approximately 83 acres of land which provides an excellent opportunity for the development of additional adult soccer and softball fields. As a replacement for the field being removed from Johnson Park and as an expansion to the field offerings currently available, it is recommended that the City evaluate the feasibility of constructing athletic fields on the site. If future demands warrant it, the City could also considering approaching LCRA to determine if athletic use of their adjacent land would also be a possibility.



*The City's irrigation farm includes over 80 acres of land that has potential to serve the athletic needs of the community.*

■ **Action 3.5.3. Provide additional baseball/softball fields for public use.**

Based on the needs assessment, the City has sufficient baseball/softball fields when considering quantity alone. However, there are no fields in the City which are not under contract by a league. It is thus recommended that the City develop and maintain a minimum of one, but preferably more, baseball/softball fields which can be used by the general public.

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- **Action 3.5.4. Provide additional soccer/multipurpose fields for public use.**

Similar to baseball/softball fields, it is recommended that the City provide soccer/multipurpose fields which can be used by the general public. While there are currently nine City-owned soccer fields, none of them are available for general use. The City should continue to pursue potential locations for additional fields (see also Action 4.1.6). Due to the increasing popularity of soccer, it is recommended that a number of potential locations be identified.

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- **Action 3.5.5. Evaluate opportunities for community gardens in the parks system.**

Community input during the planning process indicated that gardening programs and access to community gardens would be valued. As such, the City should evaluate opportunities to promote and allow community gardens to be developed in City parks. Similarly, this could include establishing more formalized “butterfly” gardens on City property. This could include developing minimum program, application, and maintenance requirements. The establishment of community gardens would provide an opportunity for a strategic partnership with the local Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs.

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- **Action 3.5.6. Provide at least one “all abilities playground.”**

As the existing playgrounds are retrofitted and new playscapes are designed and installed, the City should consider providing at least one “all abilities playground” in the community. An “all abilities playground” provides equipment and experiences which can be enjoyed by children of all abilities, including those with physical disabilities, autism, sensory disorders, vision impairments, etc.

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- **Action 3.5.7 Provide at least one adventure type/natural playscape.**

When asked to prioritize a list of potential passive recreation amenities, online survey respondents chose an adventure type/natural playscape as their third highest priority. An adventure type/natural playscape is intended to provide unique play components which encourage children and youth to explore, address acceptable risk issues, practice team-building, and interact with the natural world around them. The unique playscape will likely draw users from throughout the City. Due to its greater draw than a standard playscape, it is recommended that the City consider including the adventure type/natural playscape in the Downtown parks.



*An adventure type/natural playscape can provide unique play elements which will attract citywide users.*

*Image source: <http://landscapeonline.com/research/article.php?id=14714>*

## Parkland Acquisition & Natural Resource Preservation

### GOAL 4

**Provide an even and adequate distribution of parkland throughout the City and proactively protect valuable natural resources for public use.**



Though Marble Falls has nearly 150 acres of parkland, it is all located north of Lake Marble Falls and the majority is within one mile of Downtown. The City currently has adequate coverage of community-scale parks north of Lake Marble Falls. When considering more accessible, neighborhood-scale parks, the City could pursue parkland acquisition in current areas of need. As the population grows in numbers and distribution, parkland acreage should expand proportionally to allow for equal access to parks across the community. The following action recommendations address current and future parkland needs.

**Objective 4.1. Pursue additional community- and neighborhood-scale park acquisition and development to fill current need areas.**

#### ■ Action 4.1.1. Pursue a community-scale waterfront property south of the lake.

Lake Marble Falls is the City's greatest natural asset. Today, Lakeside and Hays Addition Parks are the only locations where the public can enjoy lakefront recreation. As was made evident during this planning process and the Comprehensive Plan, additional opportunities for water-based activities is one of the community's top recreation priorities. In order to provide additional lakefront recreation, and capitalize on otherwise undevelopable land (due to floodplain restrictions), it is recommended that the City pursue acquisition of a community-scale waterfront property on the south side of the lake (see area A on Map 5.3, Target Parkland Acquisition Areas, on the next page). Dependent on the size of the property, potential amenities could include an additional boat ramp, canoe/kayak launch, large and small picnicking facilities, trails, RV hookups, and camping areas, among others.



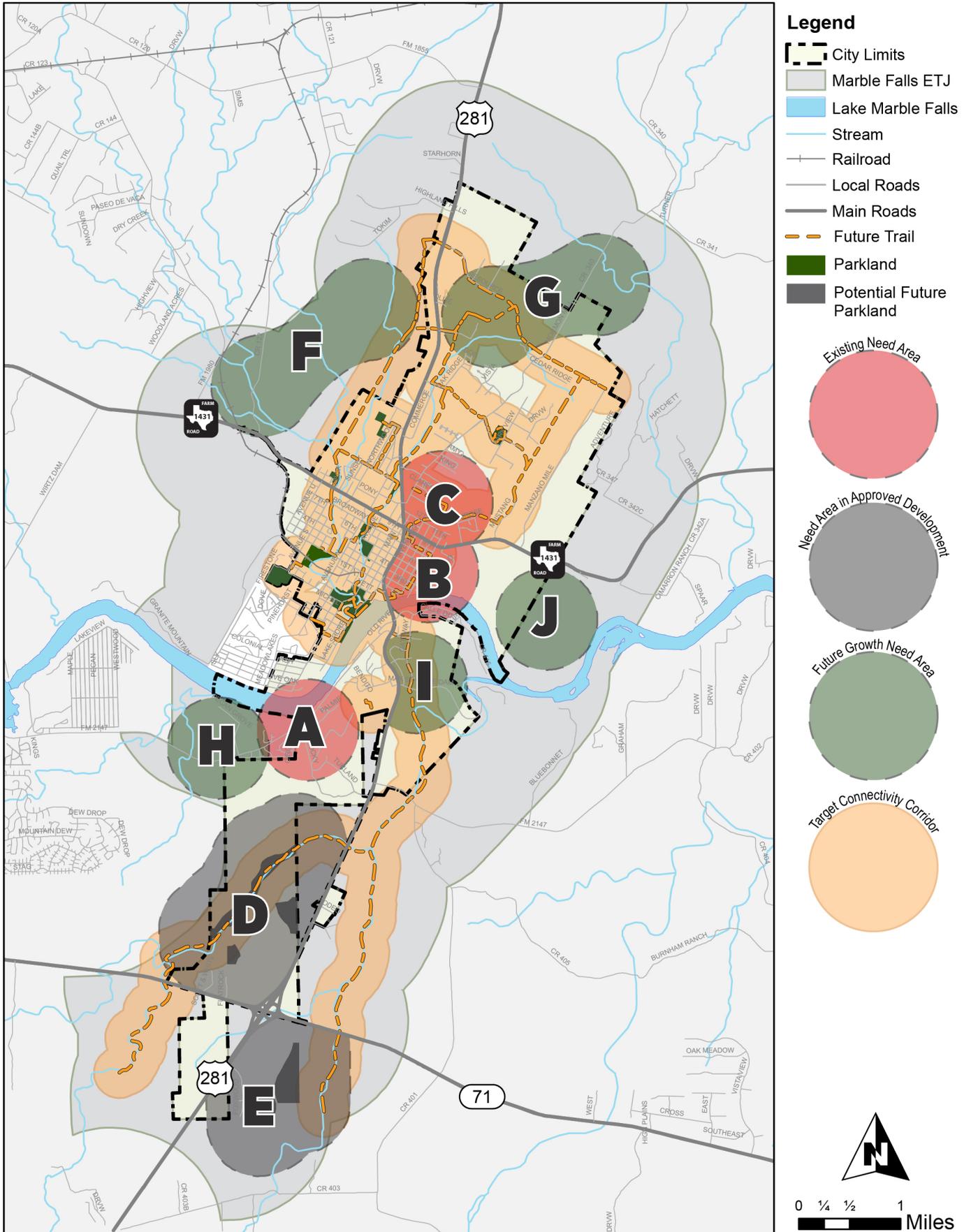
*A waterfront park on the south side of the lake has potential to greatly increase public access to Lake Marble Falls.*

Image source: <http://www.city-data.com/picfiles/vipic03019.jpg>

#### ■ Action 4.1.2. Pursue acquisition and development of a neighborhood-scale park east of U.S. Highway 281 and south of FM 1431.

The City's developed neighborhood parks are all located on the west side of U.S. Highway 281. Neighborhood parks are intended to provide recreation to nearby residents and are often accessed on foot or bicycle by children and adults. As one of the City's primary arterials, U.S. Highway 281 restricts safe pedestrian access to the existing developed neighborhood parks. It is thus recommended that the City pursue additional parkland east of U.S. Highway 281 and south of FM 1431 (another primary arterial) (see area B on Map 5.3, Target Parkland Acquisition Areas, on the next page). This parkland would serve an existing need area and could either be a new property or an expansion of the amenities offered at Villa Vista Park.

Map 5.3, Target Parkland Acquisition Areas



■ **Action 4.1.3. Pursue acquisition and development of a neighborhood-scale park east of U.S. Highway 281 and north of FM 1431.**

The existing residential area located east of U.S. Highway 281 and north of FM 1431 is another current need area for neighborhood parkland. It is recommended that the City pursue acquisition and development of parkland in this area (see area C on Map 5.3, Target Parkland Acquisition Areas, on the previous page). While this is an existing need, there may be an opportunity for parkland dedication by a future subdivision proposed for this area.

■ **Action 4.1.4. Pursue a joint City/MFISD venture to develop a neighborhood park in the eastern portion of Marble Falls.**

As previously noted, the City has a deficit of publicly accessible ballfields (soccer, baseball, multipurpose). There is currently a potential opportunity for a joint partnership between the City and MFISD to develop publicly accessible athletic fields. The property, located between Marble Falls High School and Colt Elementary School, has potential to provide a variety of field types and associated amenities. Recreational development of this site would greatly help to meet an existing need for athletic facilities.



- **Action 4.1.5. Continue to pursue parkland near Downtown which is appropriate for athletic recreation opportunities.**

As part of the consolidation of the existing Downtown parks, athletic facilities are proposed to be relocated elsewhere. It is recommended that the City continue to pursue and evaluate the feasibility of acquiring additional parkland in the vicinity of Downtown on which to site the relocated fields. Potential areas to consider include near the wastewater treatment plant and near Childers Park.

**Objective 4.2. Pursue additional community- and neighborhood-scale park acquisition concurrent with new residential development.**

- **Action 4.2.1. Continue to pursue acquisition and development of the two proposed community parks concurrent with development of the proposed residential subdivisions south of Lake Marble Falls.**

Two planned communities, Flatrock Springs Planned Development District and the 71 - 281 Mixed Use Community, have been approved for areas south of Lake Marble Falls (see areas D and E, respectively, on Map 5.3, *Target Parkland Acquisition Areas*, on page 148). As part of the developments, the City has potential to gain over 200 acres of additional parkland. This parkland would serve the needs of residents in those areas and can also help to balance parkland distribution in the City. It is recommended that the City continue to pursue acquisition and development of these parks as the residential subdivisions begin construction.



Image source: EV Studio

- **Action 4.2.2. Consider acquisition and development of new neighborhood-serving parks in areas of future need as new residential development occurs.**

Concentrated residential development has not yet expanded to the City's extents and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). However, as development occurs over the coming years, it is recommended that the City consider parkland needs for these areas and acquire and develop neighborhood parks concurrent with development (see areas F, G, H, I, and J on Map 5.3, *Target Parkland Acquisition Areas*, on page 148).

*The approved 71 - 281 Mixed Use Community was proposed to include a large-scale park.*

**Objective 4.3. Conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, historical, and natural resources of the City of Marble Falls and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) lands.**

- **Action 4.3.1. Designate appropriate City-owned natural resource areas as parkland.**

As part of its flood mitigation buy-out program, the City has acquired a number of parcels along the floodplain areas in the City. Where feasible and appropriate, it is recommended that the City consider designating these parcels as parkland. These properties could be used as in-kind match on a Texas Parks and Wildlife or other grant application. Being located in the floodplain, many of these parcels have potential as passive recreation areas and can contribute to citywide trail connectivity.

■ **Action 4.3.2. Identify important natural space corridors and lands, and prioritize preservation of key areas.**

In the City's previous Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plans (2003 and 2012), a series of open space criteria was considered, reviewed, and established to identify areas suitable for open space acquisition, preservation, and planning. The City should continue to acquire, preserve, and make publicly accessible for recreation purposes, where appropriate, key natural and man-made lands which fall within the identified criteria (see below). This could also include preparation of a conservation plan and designation of conservation areas for the protection of plant and wildlife habitat (e.g., Monarch butterflies, Texas Tortoise).

- Areas that completely fall within the floodplains of creeks and significant drainageways within the City and ETJ.
- Areas that are adjacent to or include naturally occurring bodies of water with one acre or more of surface water.
- Areas that preserve, enhance, or create views or vistas adjacent to roadways, especially urban corridors and thoroughfares.
- Areas that are naturally occurring ponds and small lakes within the City and Burnet County.
- Areas that have historical, botanical, archaeological, geological, or environmental significance.
- Areas along utility easements, abandoned railroad beds, railroad right-of-ways, pipelines, and other rights-of-ways.
- Areas with slopes greater than 12 percent.
- Areas that contain wetlands at least 30 days out of the year.
- Areas that provide a linkage to open space, parks, community facilities, neighborhoods, and schools.



*The City's floodplain areas provide a multitude of benefits including space for flood mitigation, habitat for wildlife and native vegetation, and passive recreation.*

## Parkland Planning, Design, & Maintenance

### GOAL 5

**Maintain, update, and enhance existing park and recreation facilities, providing quality resources for the citizens of the City of Marble Falls.**



The Council's vision for the future of the Marble Falls parks and recreation system is that it is second to none. Achieving this requires proper planning and design of new parks and renovations to existing parks. It also means ensuring adequate resources for park maintenance.

***Objective 5.1. Plan for a high-quality, well-maintained parks system which meets the needs of its users.***

- **Action 5.1.1. Update the Parks Recreation, and Open Space Plan by 2022 to continue project planning and development for parks, recreation, and facilities consistent with resident and visitors values and objectives; and, remain competitive for grant funding.**

Parks and recreation needs shift as populations grow and change over time. In order to ensure that the City continues to provide the parks and recreation opportunities and facilities to best serve its residents, the City should update the Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan periodically. As suggested by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Plan should be updated after a five-year period, or before any major developments occur which significantly impact the recreation needs of the City. While the TPWD does not require a parks master plan update, it does place a higher point value (during grant funding evaluation) on submittals that demonstrate that a plan has been updated within the past five years.

The following steps are recommended for periodic review of this Plan:

- An annual review by City staff should be conducted to review progress and successes.
  - An annual report should be provided to the City Council.
  - More frequent updates may be required if special needs or occurrences require modifications to the Plan.
  - In all cases, public involvement through citizen meetings, interviews, and workshops should be included in any update process.
- 
- **Action 5.1.2. Develop and implement park and trail design guidelines to set a minimum base standard for all new and redeveloped parks and trails.**

In order to develop a cohesive park network with unifying and sustainable design elements, the City should consider adopting a series of park design guidelines. The guidelines should steer the design and construction of new and improved parks and recreation facilities and amenities. The guidelines should establish minimum programming and amenity elements to be included in each park classification and

be geared towards high-quality, low maintenance design. The guidelines should indicate that new and improved park facilities and amenities be:

- designed and constructed of durable and long-lasting materials;
- designed to maximize shade opportunities;
- designed and constructed using water- and energy-efficient fixtures;
- designed and constructed with an emphasis on low maintenance requirements;
- designed for flexibility of use; and
- designed with a cohesive system of styles and materials to create a “brand” within all City parks.



*Including drought tolerant landscaping in park design guidelines would help the City reduce water requirements in parks.*

Image source: www.pinterest.com

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▪ **Action 5.1.3. Conduct a park accessibility assessment to identify, prioritize, and address accessibility issues in the existing park system.**

A number of the City’s parks include elements which may be inaccessible to those who are feeble-footed or use a wheelchair or walking aid. In order to ensure that all residents and park users have equal access to park facilities and amenities, the City should conduct a park accessibility assessment of parking areas, picnic facilities, playgrounds, trails, seating areas, etc. Following a system-wide assessment, the required accessibility improvements should be funded and implemented based on a prioritized list.

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▪ **Action 5.1.4. Conduct a study of the restrooms in existing parks to determine the need for system-wide additions and replacement.**

The need for well-maintained public restrooms in parks is oftentimes greatest in larger parks, in high traffic areas, and for amenities that take longer to use (e.g., picnic pavilions, athletic events, etc.). A poorly maintained restroom may reduce the amount of time one uses the park, or may result in users going to the bathroom not in a restroom. Consequently, the City should evaluate the restrooms in each park to determine the need for system-wide additions and replacement. The evaluation should also determine, based on use, which additional parks and amenities need restrooms and where they should be located.

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▪ **Action 5.1.5. Fund restroom projects.**

Based on the survey of which areas need new or upgraded restrooms, identify grants, capital funding, or other sources of funding to implement these identified improvements.

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▪ **Action 5.1.6. Consider establishing a formalized schedule of athletic field use to rest and restore fields when necessary.**

The City’s existing athletic fields are heavily used and require a substantial amount of time and resources to maintain, either by the City or athletic leagues. Maintenance time and costs increase when fields are overused. It is thus recommended that the City coordinate with the athletic leagues to establish a formalized schedule of field use which provides opportunities to rest and restore overused fields. Coordination and management of the athletic field schedule would fall under the Recreation Supervisor’s responsibilities.

**Objective 5.2. Make key enhancements and upgrades to parks and trails to improve safety and aesthetics, and reduce maintenance costs.**

■ **Action 5.2.1. Consider adding security cameras, call boxes, and lighting to key locations in parking lots and along the citywide trail system.**

Residents have expressed concern about public safety in parking areas and along the City's trails. In order to improve user confidence and discourage vandalism and other potential crimes, it is recommended that the City evaluate the need for establishing minimal trail lighting and installing strategically located security cameras for the community-wide trail system.



*Strategically located lights and security cameras can help to reduce undesirable activities in parking lots and along trails.*

■ **Action 5.2.2. Develop partnerships with local organizations to provide enhanced landscaping in parks.**

During the planning process, the local Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs indicated an interest with helping to beautify the landscaping in City parks. The City should develop partnerships with these organizations to encourage participation in the design, installation, and maintenance of park landscaping in key areas. These areas could include around monument signage, in and around parking lots, and other key prominent and visible locations.

■ **Action 5.2.3. Enhance landscaping in Downtown.**

In previous years, businesses in Downtown Marble Falls helped to maintain the landscaping in the vicinity of their property. It is recommended that the City coordinate with Downtown business and land owners to re-institute those agreements in order to improve the maintenance of landscaping in the Downtown area and reduce the burden on the Parks and Recreation Department.

■ **Action 5.2.4. Consider providing permanent ground sleeves for temporary fencing to reduce irrigation repair costs.**

Based on staff reports, temporary fencing erected in parks for events often damages underground irrigation components. In order to minimize repair costs, the City should consider installing permanent ground sleeves in parks with frequent events. The subsurface sleeves would remain covered and flush with the ground until the caps were removed for installation of temporary fencing.

■ **Action 5.2.5. Consider paving key portions of the existing trail to reduce washout and improve accessibility.**

The entirety of the City's existing trail system within parks is currently surfaced with decomposed granite. During large rain events, particular portions of the trail often need resurfacing. To reduce maintenance time and costs, the City should evaluate the need to pave trail segments which experience frequent washout during rain events. The City should also consider paving select areas of the trail to allow those who need more sure-footing to enjoy the trail system.

## Policies & Regulations

### GOAL 6

**Ensure that parks and related facilities are considered an integral part of the infrastructure of the City. A well planned, funded, and operated parks and recreation system will serve to attract quality growth, enhance the health and quality of life of all citizens, and enrich the environment.**



Although the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan includes numerous recommendations to improve parks and recreation resources in the City, there are also higher level, non-locational recommendations which can have a dramatic impact on the City's park and recreation system.

These broader level recommendations includes such things as developing partnerships, improving regulations, etc.

**Objective 6.1. Develop policies and regulations that contribute to a comprehensive, well planned and maintained parks and recreation system.**

- **Action 6.1.1. Develop a parkland dedication and development ordinance to incentivize park and recreation development as part of private development.**

While the City has a relatively large quantity of parkland for a community its size, distribution of this land is limited. In order to meet with current and future park needs as additional private sector development occurs, it is recommended that the City develop a parkland dedication and development ordinance. While not the result of an ordinance requirement, the proposed development plan for the Flatrock Springs Planned Development District shows how the design of new residential developments can set aside new park and trail property concurrent with development.

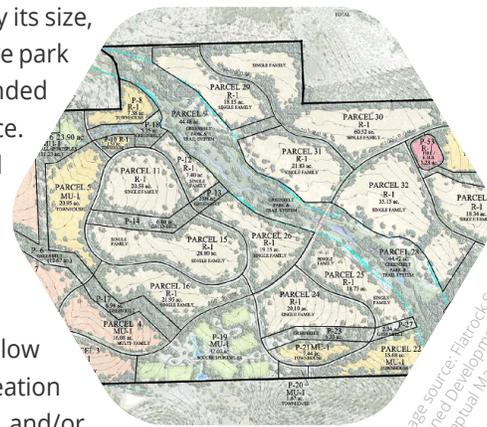


Image source: Flatrock Springs Planned Development District Conceptual Master Plan

The purpose of a parkland dedication and development ordinance is to allow new growth to contribute their fair share to the overall park and recreation system. In this regard, the ordinance allows for the dedication of land and/or the collection of money for the acquisition, development, and improvement of neighborhood parks within respective park benefit zones. The ordinance should also provide for allocating resources across all park benefit zones for such things as establishing or improving community parks which serve a greater area than just individual park zones.

*Formalizing a parkland dedication and development ordinance allows new development to contribute to the City's overall park system as growth occurs.*

In addition, a portion of the collected funds (if required instead of dedication) should also be able to be used for the revitalization and/or enhancement of any existing parks which may be located within the same park benefit zone.

The following components should be considered when developing a parkland dedication and development ordinance as part of the City's subdivision regulations:

### *Establishment*

- Adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance which integrates this requirement as part of the City's overall new residential development review and approval process.
- Establish a park benefit zone map that includes zones made up of both developed and undeveloped areas. This allows fee-in-lieu resources to be used for the expansion and/or improvement of other existing parks within the same park benefit zone. The park benefit zone map should be developed with the intent of providing equitable distribution of resources over time.
- Establish different dedication and development requirements for single-family and multifamily residential development. In this regard, separate requirements would be created for per dwelling unit land dedication, fee-in-lieu of land dedication, and fee for parkland development.
- Establish an independent Parkland Dedication and Development Fund in which all received monies are placed. Criteria should be developed indicating how the funds can be spent. In addition, there should be a requirement which specifies that all funds must be spent within a specified maximum number of years of being received.

### *Dedication*

- Establish minimum criteria for determining suitable sites for dedication (e.g., at least 50% of the site being dedicated must be able to accommodate active recreation such as sports fields). This includes ensuring adequate public access. It should also provide for the right of refusal by the City Council.
- Establish requirements which apply both within City limits and in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). For proposed dedication within the ETJ, the City should be given first right of refusal, followed by dedication to a public and/or non-profit receiving entity, followed by fee-in-lieu dedication.
- Establish different dedication requirements for single-family and multifamily residential developments.
- Adopt provisions which allow private amenities to account for only a portion of the requirements. In other words, a new development cannot fulfill all of its requirements solely by providing private amenities to just its own residents.
- Accept the dedication of undevelopable floodplain as a prorated component of the overall dedication (e.g., it takes X acres of floodplain to equal 1 acre of dedication).

### *Development*

- Establish minimum design criteria for park, trail, or other public use improvements which are used to satisfy the requirements of the parkland dedication and development ordinance. In this regard, City staff will need to review and approve all proposed improvements during the planning and design stage of development.
- Ensure that all proposed off-site improvements are located within the same park benefit zone.

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- **Action 6.1.2. Establish a Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program.**

Formalize a Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program to be able to set minimum standards and process for donations. This could include creation of a long-term park donation and endowment program for both financial and land donation offerings. It could also include the programmatic identification of specific park amenity needs (e.g., shade structures, benches, water fountains, trees, monument signs, etc.) which could be advertised on the City's website for solicitation of volunteers. This could include the request for a specific need and location and cost for purchasing and installation. For example, the need for a playscape shade structure could be advertised showing the project location and costs. A volunteer could donate the money for materials and installation so that the City could get it installed. Small donations could be recognized on the City's website, on a small plaque on site, and during an annual recognition program. Large donations (e.g., entire parks) could be given the opportunity for naming rights. This could also be used for solicitation of other community park wish lists, e.g., community service clean up day volunteers, materials, and equipment, etc.

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- **Action 6.1.3. Evaluate the City's park-related fee structure to ensure non-City users and private organizations (e.g., athletic leagues) are adequately offsetting cost of maintenance.**

In order to ensure that parks are maintained in a cost-effective, adequate manner, it is recommended that the City evaluate its park-related fee structure to ensure that non-City users and organizations are sufficiently covering the cost of maintenance required by their use of the property. This includes both large (e.g., Howdy Roo) and small (e.g., pavilion rental) events, as well as athletic league uses. In particular, this should include evaluating the cost of reestablishing or re-sodding certain parks after large community-wide events.

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- **Action 6.1.4. Formalize an "Adopt a Park" program to solicit neighborhood and other volunteer groups to help with park and trail maintenance.**

Residents and users of Marble Falls parks and trails treasure them and have expressed a desire for a higher level of maintenance. Many have also expressed willingness to help with maintenance tasks. It is recommended that the City formalize an "Adopt a Park" program to encourage neighborhood and volunteer groups to help with maintenance. The program would also help to develop community buy-in and ownership of the parks system.



*Establishing a formalized adopt a park program can help with park maintenance and develop community buy-in and ownership.*

- Action 6.1.5. Pursue development of a joint use agreement with Marble Falls ISD (MFISD) to maximize sharing of mutually beneficial park amenities (e.g., playscapes, basketball courts).**

As set out in Figure 4.8, *Target Level of Service for Park Facilities, City of Marble Falls*, in Chapter 4, a variety of the MFISD recreation facilities generally serve the greater public during non-school hours. In order to maximize the potential of a relationship between the City of Marble Falls and MFISD, it is recommended that the City pursue development of an interlocal agreement for joint use of facilities which have mutually beneficial park amenities. This could include playscapes, athletic facilities, and general open space.



*Formalizing partnerships with MFISD and other public/private organizations (e.g., LCRA, Burnet County) can help to maximize limited resources and leverage investments.*

- Action 6.1.6. Evaluate the City's development regulations to ensure adequate protection of natural resources and open space.**

The City's natural resources and open space are invaluable areas providing the community with social, environmental, and recreation benefits. While there are still a number of undeveloped areas in the City and ETJ, development will continue to increase over the coming years. The City should evaluate its development regulations to ensure that these important assets (see Action 4.3.2) are adequately protected for the perpetual benefit of the community.



*The City's natural resources include a number of areas, but the City's waterways are one of the most visible components of the system.*

## Reach Projects

### GOAL 7

**Support community efforts to expand recreational activities, events, and facilities that are conducive to Marble Falls becoming a regional destination hub.**



The following actions are recommended to provide recreation opportunities for residents and increase the tourism potential of the City. These projects are considered “reach projects,” some of which are high-cost endeavors which would greatly improve the City’s recreation offerings and provide larger economic opportunities. Many of these projects would likely require bond funding, partnerships, and many years to complete.

**Objective 7.1. Develop signature recreation amenities to increase the regional draw of the parks and recreation system.**

#### ■ Action 7.1.1. Develop an aquatic complex.

As described earlier, the City’s existing pool is recommended to be removed from Lakeside Park. As a replacement, it is recommended that the City develop an aquatic complex which can serve both the needs of citizens and visitors to Marble Falls. The complex is recommended to include a lap pool, leisure pool, lazy river, slides, and a water play area. Picnic areas are proposed to provide group gathering spaces. According to respondents of the online community survey, this was identified as one of the highest resident priorities for improving recreation within the City. Development of an aquatic complex can be implemented in phases as usage grows and budget becomes available.



*A municipal scale aquatic complex is recommended to replace the existing City pool.*

#### ■ Action 7.1.2. Develop a sports park to accommodate tournament play.

Despite past efforts which were unsuccessful in garnering enough support to establish a sports park, the need and demand for such a facility still exists. Over time, the City should consider identifying additional partnerships to support implementation of this project. This could include establishing a widely distributed committee or foundation to determine the need and potential funding source for such a project.

#### ■ Action 7.1.3. Pursue partnerships to create a regional youth sports association.

Begin to pursue partnerships to consider the establishment of a regional non-profit youth sports association with Marble Falls being the anchor city. Partnerships could include the cities of Granite Shoals, Meadowlakes, Cottonwood Shores, the MFISD, and others. Each partner could pay an annual fee to support regional consolidated youth sports organization and programming.

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- **Action 7.1.4. Establish a tourism train route.**

As the City's regional tourism draw increases, the City should continue to pursue establishing a tourism train extension to Marble Falls. If a market study determines this to be an economically viable endeavor, this could provide a unique opportunity to establish a tourism amenity and to increase visitation to Marble Falls without the need for a vehicle. This should include establishing a train depot in or near the Downtown parks.



*A tourism train route would bring additional visitors to town and provide a unique experience in the City and greater Hill Country region.*

Image source:  
www.trekaroo.com

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- **Action 7.1.5. Establish a community recreation center.**

Improving recreational programming and establishing an indoor recreation center were identified as very important or important by over two-thirds of respondents to the online community survey. It is recommended that the City establish a community recreation center to provide a variety of indoor multipurpose facilities and increased recreational programming. This could include pursuing a partnership with the YMCA (see Action 3.2.1) or another third-party organization.

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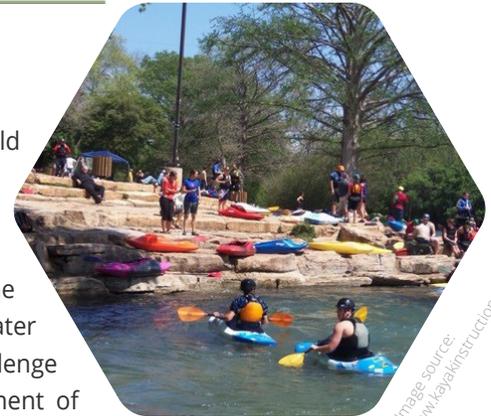
- **Action 7.1.6. Develop the Creekwalk Trail.**

As identified in the 2011 Downtown Master Plan, the Creekwalk Trail and associated improvements have been proposed along the Whitman Branch. It is recommended that the City move forward with detailed design and implementation of the trail to provide a unique trail amenity in the City, floodway improvements, and additional connectivity between parks.

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- **Action 7.1.7. Develop a canoe/kayak challenge course along the Whitman Branch.**

In conjunction with the development of the Creekwalk Trail, the City should consider creating a canoe/kayak challenge course along the Whitman Branch. The Creekwalk is proposed to provide users with visual access to the creek through the trail and associated seating and outdoor dining areas. Developing a water challenge course could take this feature one step further as a regional draw by providing physical access to the water and entertainment for boaters and viewers alike. Development of a challenge course would involve modifying the creek channel geometry, placement of boulders and obstacles to create riffles and pools for kayak play areas, dredging the creek, enhancing streambanks, and the piping of water to ensure a continuous flow.



*As evident by the popularity of the canoeing and kayaking opportunities in many other cities in the region, development of a canoe/kayak challenge course in Marble Falls would be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.*

Image source:  
www.kayakinstruction.org

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- **Action 7.1.8. Develop a tube float along Backbone Creek.**

As both a local amenity and tourist attraction, the City could consider developing a tube float along Backbone Creek. This unique feature, always well-loved by Texans, would provide much desired water access and opportunities for relaxation and relief from the Texas heat. Development of a tube float would involve dredging the creek, enhancing streambanks, and the piping of water to ensure a continuous flow.

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

# 6

## *Introduction*

Previous chapters of this Plan have facilitated the development of a vision for Marble Falls' parks, recreation, and open space by evaluating the needs and preferences of the community and analyzing existing conditions and levels of service. The resulting recommendations include a number of actions which can be implemented during the horizon of this Plan and beyond. In order to guide implementation of the recommended actions, this chapter identifies the City's priorities for moving forward with the recommendations found throughout the Plan. Although it identifies the City's highest priorities today, it also provides guidance towards achieving its longer-term priorities. In this regard, these longer-term priorities may require further prioritization before implementation.

This chapter further provides a framework for Plan administration, to inform staff and elected and appointed officials of what updates to expect over the coming years. This includes guidelines for future Plan updates to ensure the proposed vision for the parks and recreation system remains aligned with that of the Marble Falls community.

In order to efficiently implement the Plan, this chapter also provides potential funding recommendations and partnership opportunities to maximize the parks and recreation offerings provided in Marble Falls while best leveraging the City's limited resources.

## *Coordinated Implementation*

A coordinated effort on part of the City and community leaders, such as citizens, elected and appointed officials, and outside agencies, is essential to the successful implementation of Plan recommendations. This also involves the recognition that the City has a responsibility to partner with all local, state, and federal entities that can be of assistance in diversifying and improving Marble Falls' park and recreation system now and in the future. At a minimum, this includes

- Marble Falls elected and appointed officials;
- City Administration and staff;
- Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation (EDC);
- Burnet County;
- Texas Department of Transportation;
- Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce & CVB;
- Marble Falls Independent School District (MFISD);
- Adult and youth athletic leagues;
- YMCA;
- Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA);
- Abutting local municipalities (on projects that benefit both jurisdictions);
- Area land and business owners and the development community;
- Interested community volunteers and stakeholders; and
- Other affected agencies and entities.

An important consideration for the success and cost-efficiency of implementing the projects proposed in this Plan is establishing important interdepartmental coordination. Coordinating improvement plans with projects from other departments, such as planning, water or wastewater projects, right-of-way acquisition, drainage improvement, etc., will reduce overall capital costs to the City and speed up implementation.

A substantial, synergistic relationship exists between high quality parks and trails, visible and accessible greenspace, and healthy economic development. More specifically, equitably distributed, high-quality, well-maintained parks, recreation, and trail facilities are indicative of economic prosperity and a high quality of life. This, in turn, contributes to attraction of new residents and businesses, thus providing potential new funding for parks and recreation. Additionally, increased sales and property tax revenues generated through sustainable economic development provide increased potential funding for parks and recreation. To capitalize on this symbiotic relationship, it is highly recommended that the City's Parks and Recreation Department continue to coordinate with the Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce and the Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation. These are mutually beneficial relationships that will increase quality of life for Marble Falls' citizens while supporting additional economic development efforts to create a sustainable, prosperous economy.

# Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Compliance

One of the ancillary purposes of this Plan is to serve 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 the City’s competitiveness when applying for TPWD grant funding.

## High Priority Needs

Top priorities for parks, recreation, open space, and trails, listed in Figure 6.1, *Summary of High Priority Needs in Marble Falls* on the following page, are consistent with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) requirements. Priorities have been determined based on community input, needs assessments, site visits, and input from City staff and elected and appointed officials. An effective set of actions, informed by the identified needs, have been recommended to enhance quality of life in the community for purposes of grant applications. The identified priorities have been categorized into two lists: outdoor facilities/amenities and indoor facilities/amenities.



Publicly accessible soccer fields are one of the City’s high priority outdoor needs.



Stakeholder listening sessions, among other methods, were conducted to gather information regarding the desires and concerns of the public.

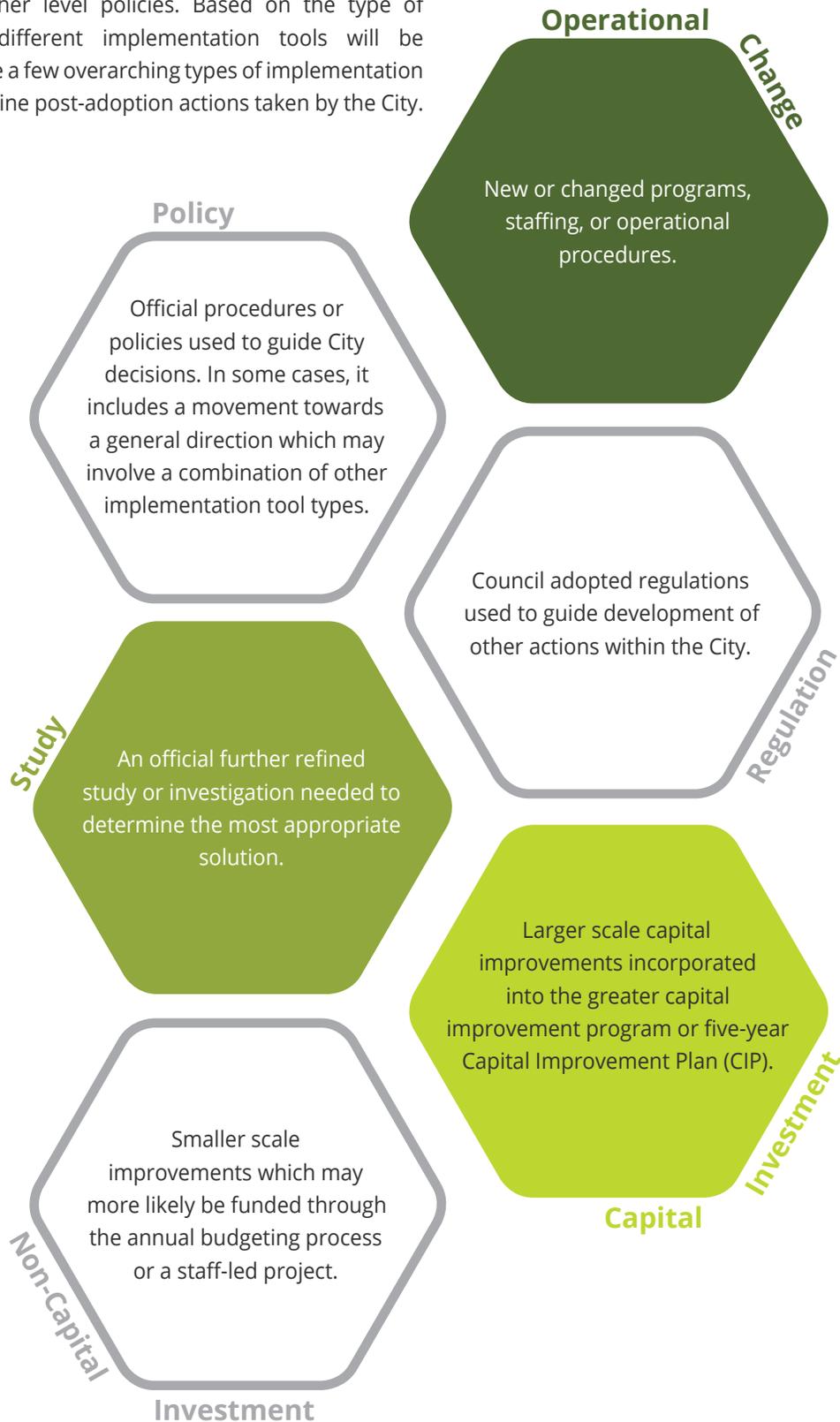
**Figure 6.1, Summary of High Priority Facility Needs in Marble Falls**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>NEW OR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED BASED ON <u>CITIZEN INPUT</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Large, multi-use sports complex</li> <li>2. Splash pads / aquatic center</li> <li>3. Trails</li> <li>4. Athletic fields for public use</li> <li>5. Restrooms in parks</li> </ol>  |   |
| <p><b>NEW OR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED BASED ON <u>LEVEL OF SERVICE</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trails</li> <li>2. Picnic facilities</li> <li>3. Soccer/multipurpose fields for public use</li> <li>4. Splash pad</li> <li>5. Baseball/softball fields for public use</li> </ol>   | <p><b>UPGRADED FACILITIES NEEDED BASED ON <u>EXISTING CONDITION</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Restrooms in parks</li> <li>2. Upgraded, covered playscapes</li> <li>3. Shade structures/trees</li> <li>4. Soccer/multipurpose fields for public use</li> <li>5. Baseball/softball fields for public use</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>TOP 10 CUMULATIVE <u>OUTDOOR FACILITY</u> NEEDS BASED ON ABOVE SUMMARIES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Splash pads</li> <li>2. Trails</li> <li>3. Picnic facilities</li> <li>4. Aquatic center</li> <li>5. Large, multi-use sports complex</li> <li>6. Soccer/multipurpose fields for public use</li> <li>7. Baseball/softball fields for public use</li> <li>8. Restrooms in parks</li> <li>9. Upgraded, covered playscapes</li> <li>10. Shade structures/trees</li> </ol> | <p><b>TOP CUMULATIVE <u>INDOOR FACILITY</u> NEEDS BASED ON ABOVE SUMMARIES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community recreation center</li> </ol>   |

## Prioritized Action Plan

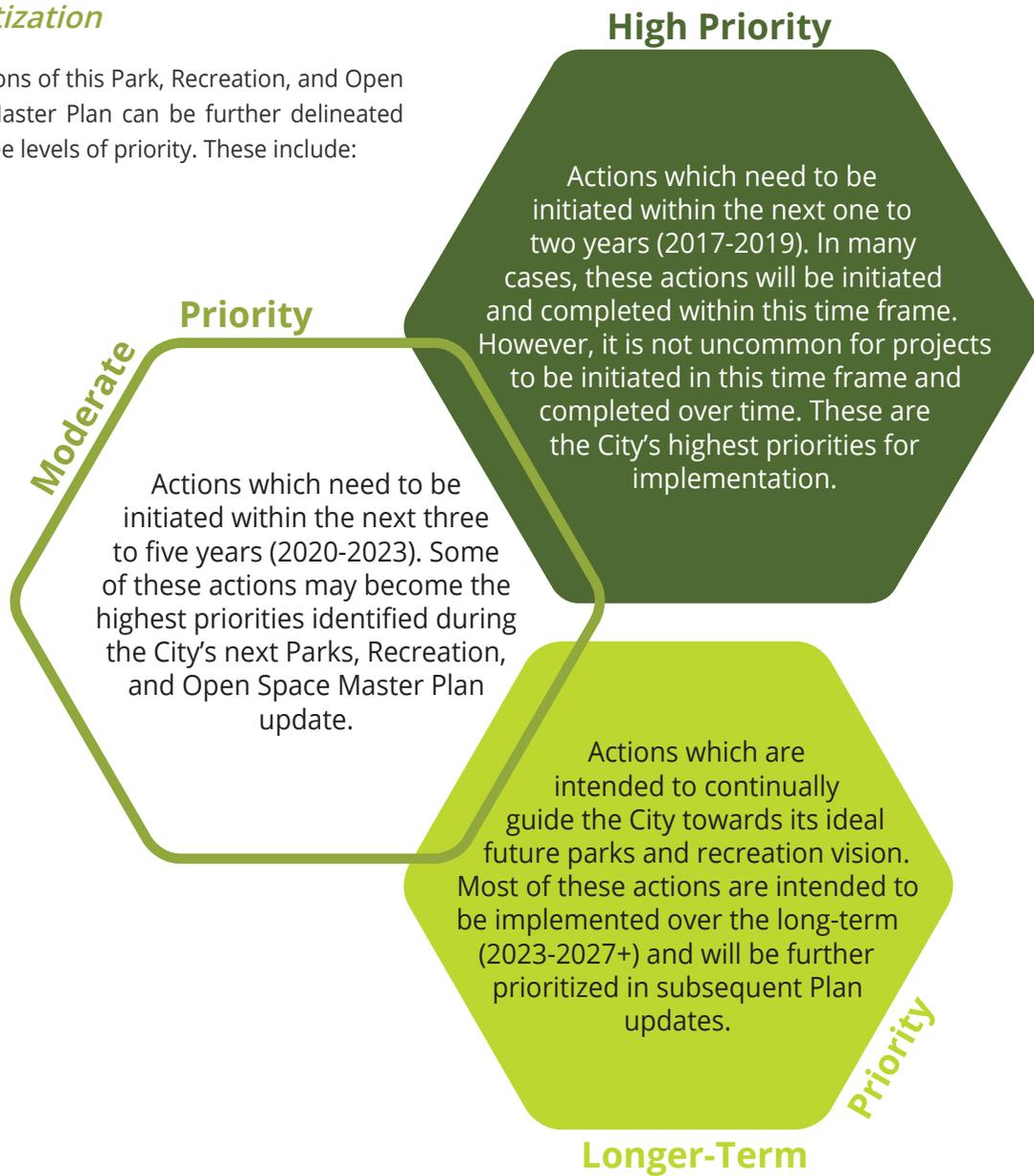
### Implementation Tools

Recommended actions address a wide variety of items from recreational programming, to amenity upgrades, increased resources, and higher level policies. Based on the type of recommendation, different implementation tools will be necessary. There are a few overarching types of implementation tools which help define post-adoption actions taken by the City. These include:



## Prioritization

The actions of this Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan can be further delineated into three levels of priority. These include:



## Prioritization Criteria

Note that the prioritization shown in this Plan is intended to guide staff and Council actions, and any item may be initiated sooner than recommended if unique circumstances or opportunities arise. Prioritization of the action items is presented in Figure 6.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, using the following criteria:

- Level of need based on citizen input (online survey results, stakeholder interviews, public open house meeting, etc.);
- Level of need based on the needs assessment; and
- Site assessments of existing park facilities in the City.

The City's high, moderate, and longer-term priorities are summarized in Figure 6.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, starting on the next page. Elements meeting all of the criteria were ranked as very high priority elements and are to receive the greatest level of attention over the next one to two years. High and moderate priorities are ranked while longer-term priorities are not as they would be prioritized in subsequent Plan updates.

Figure 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan

| RANK  | ACTION ID | ACTION   | TIME FRAME |     |       | POTENTIAL COST RANGE        | ACTION TYPE                                 |
|---|-----------|--|------------|-----|-------|-----------------------------|---|
|   |           |  | 1-2        | 3-5 | 6-10+ |                             |   |
| <b>PARK RENOVATIONS &amp; DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS</b> |           |  |            |     |       |                             |   |
| 1   | 1.1.3     | Support the development of the hotel/ conference center as a catalyst project to undertake park improvements in the City's Downtown park system.   | ■          |     |       | TBD                         | Policy / Capital Investment                 |
| 2   | 1.2.2     | Redevelop Lakeside Park as part of a greater Downtown park redevelopment.  | ■          |     |       | \$11,500,000 - \$15,000,000 | Capital Investment                          |
| 3   | 1.1.1     | Consider consolidating and renaming the four Downtown parks as Johnson Park.   | ■          |     |       | By Staff                    | Policy / Operational Change                 |
| 4   | 1.1.2     | Consider developing consolidated design standards for development and/or enhancement of new facilities (e.g., buildings, structures, landscaping, and signage) in the Downtown parks system. | ■          |     |       | By Staff                    | Policy                                      |
| 5   | 1.3.1     | Improve the physical, visual, and programmatic connection to the lake.   | ■          |     |       | TBD                         | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
| 6   | 1.3.3     | Identify opportunities to beautify existing parks (e.g., improved park signage, enhanced landscaping, etc.).   | ■          |     |       | TBD                         | Non-Capital Investment                      |
| 7   | 1.2.1     | Redevelop Johnson Park as part of a greater Downtown park redevelopment.   |            | ■   |       | \$6,100,000 - \$8,000,000   | Capital Investment                          |
| 8   | 1.3.5     | Establish improved parking areas in each park where parking is provided.   |            | ■   |       | TBD                         | Non-Capital Investment                      |
| 9   | 1.2.11    | Develop Park View Park.  |            | ■   |       | \$500,000 - \$750,000       | Capital Investment                          |
| 10  | 1.2.3     | Enhance Falls Creek Park as part of a greater Downtown Park redevelopment.   |            | ■   |       | \$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000   | Capital Investment                          |
| 11  | 1.3.2     | Provide additional shade opportunities in the parks and along trails.  |            | ■   |       | TBD                         | Non-Capital Investment                      |
| 12  | 1.2.6     | Develop a Greens Soccer Complex Master Plan.   |            | ■   |       | \$30,000 - \$40,000         | Study / Non-Capital Investment              |
| 13  | 1.2.7     | Implement a Greens Soccer Complex Master Plan.   |            | ■   |       | TBD                         | Capital Investment                          |
| 14  | 1.3.6     | Increase educational opportunities in parks.   |            | ■   |       | TBD                         | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |

**Figure 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)**

| RANK                        | ACTION ID | ACTION  | TIME FRAME |     |       | POTENTIAL COST RANGE      | ACTION TYPE                                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---|------------|-----|-------|---------------------------|---|
|                             |           |   | 1-2        | 3-5 | 6-10+ |                           |   |
| 15                          | 1.3.4     | Evaluate opportunities to increase access to food trucks in parks and during special events.                              |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
|                             | 1.2.4     | Redevelop Hays Addition Park as part of a greater Downtown Park redevelopment.  |            |     | ■     | \$2,500,000 - \$3,000,000 | Capital Investment                          |
|                             | 1.2.9     | Improve Westside Park.  |            |     | ■     | \$550,000-\$750,000       | Non-Capital Investment                      |
|                             | 1.2.5     | Improve Childers Park.  |            |     | ■     | \$350,000 - \$500,000     | Non-Capital Investment                      |
|                             | 1.2.8     | Improve VFW Park.   |            |     | ■     | \$450,000 - \$550,000     | Non-Capital Investment                      |
|                             | 1.2.10    | Improve Rotary Park.  |            |     | ■     | \$450,000 - \$650,000     | Non-Capital Investment                      |
|                             | 1.2.12    | Develop 4th and Avenue K Park.  |            |     | ■     | \$250,000 - \$400,000     | Non-Capital Investment                      |
|                             | 1.2.13    | Improve Villa Vista Park.   |            |     | ■     | \$150,000 - \$250,000     | Non-Capital Investment                      |
|                             | 1.2.14    | Develop Whitman Branch Greenbelt.   |            |     | ■     | \$75,000 - \$150,000      | Capital Investment                          |
|                             | 1.2.15    | Improve the City Cemetery.  |            |     | ■     | \$125,000 - \$200,000     | Policy / Non-Capital Investment             |
| <b>CONNECTIVITY ACTIONS</b> |           |   |            |     |       |                           |   |
| 1                           | 2.1.1     | Develop a citywide Trails Master Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations.           | ■          |     |       | \$75,000 - \$125,000      | Study                                       |
| 2                           | 2.1.4     | Prioritize acquisition and development of new trail segments near Downtown Marble Falls.                                  | ■          |     |       | \$2,500,000 - \$3,500,000 | Capital Investment                          |
| 3                           | 2.2.2     | Develop a brochure advertising the Citywide designated trail segments.  | ■          |     |       | By Staff                  | Operational Change                          |
| 4                           | 2.2.1     | Connect the Whitman Branch and Backbone Creek trails to create a complete and continuous loop trail in and near Downtown. |            | ■   |       | \$500,000 - \$750,000     | Capital Investment                          |
| 5                           | 2.1.2     | Prioritize acquisition and development of new trail segments in the northwestern portion of the City.                     |            | ■   |       | \$4,000,000 - \$5,500,000 | Capital Investment                          |
| 6                           | 2.1.3     | Prioritize acquisition and development of new trail segments in the northeastern portion of the City.                     |            | ■   |       | \$5,500,000 - \$8,000,000 | Capital Investment                          |

**Figure 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)**

| RANK   | ACTION ID | ACTION  | TIME FRAME |     |       | POTENTIAL COST RANGE       | ACTION TYPE                                 |
|--|-----------|---|------------|-----|-------|----------------------------|---|
|  |           |   | 1-2        | 3-5 | 6-10+ |                            |   |
| 7  | 2.1.5     | Prioritize acquisition and development of new trail segments south of Lake Marble Falls.  |            | ■   |       | \$7,500,000 - \$10,000,000 | Capital Investment                          |
| 8  | 2.2.3     | Consider establishing a historic trail route.   |            | ■   |       | By Staff                   | Operational Change / Capital Investment     |
| <b>RECREATION FACILITIES &amp; PROGRAMMING ACTIONS</b> |           |   |            |     |       |                            |   |
| 1  | 3.1.1     | Ensure adequate resources (e.g., staffing, equipment, and funding) to provide for a well-maintained park system, particularly as the park system expands.         | ■          |     |       | By Staff                   | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
| 2  | 3.1.2     | Consider hiring a Recreational Supervisor.  | ■          |     |       | TBD                        | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
| 3  | 3.3.8     | Improve access to water-based activities.   | ■          |     |       | TBD                        | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
| 4  | 3.1.3     | Conduct a Recreational Programming and Event Assessment.  | ■          |     |       | By Staff - \$25,000        | Study                                       |
| 5  | 3.2.4     | Pursue partnerships with Burnet County, surrounding cities, and other public/private partners to develop, maintain, and operate parks and recreation facilities.  | ■          |     |       | TBD                        | Policy / Operational Change                 |
| 6  | 3.4.2     | Conduct a cost/benefit/impact analysis to determine whether the long-term continuation of LakeFest contributes to the overall vision and goals for the community. | ■          |     |       | By Staff                   | Study                                       |
| 7  | 3.2.2     | Consider a programming partnership for the Lakeside Pavilion.   | ■          |     |       | By Staff                   | Operational Change                          |
| 8  | 3.4.4     | Ensure adequate utilities are available during community-wide special events.   | ■          |     |       | \$150,000 - \$250,000      | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
| 9  | 3.2.1     | Consider a partnership with the YMCA.   | ■          |     |       | TBD                        | Operational Change / Capital Investment     |
| 10   | 3.5.4     | Provide additional soccer/multipurpose fields for public use.   | ■          |     |       | \$200,000 per field        | Study / Capital Investment                  |

**Figure 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)**

| RANK | ACTION ID | ACTION  | TIME FRAME |     |       | POTENTIAL COST RANGE      | ACTION TYPE  |
|------|-----------|---|------------|-----|-------|---------------------------|--|
|      |           |   | 1-2        | 3-5 | 6-10+ |                           |  |
| 11   | 3.5.1     | Evaluate opportunities for additional canoe/kayak launch points along the City's waterways.   | ■          |     |       | \$30,000 per launch       | Study / Non-Capital Investment                       |
| 12   | 3.3.6     | Consider pursuing a vendor for bicycle rentals.   | ■          |     |       | By Staff                  | Operational Change                                   |
| 13   | 3.3.1     | Expand youth athletic programs.   |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment          |
| 14   | 3.3.7     | Provide multigenerational, family-friendly, passive recreation opportunities (e.g., picnicking facilities, small event spaces, etc.) throughout the parks system. |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Policy / Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
| 15   | 3.4.3     | Conduct an event parking study for large community events.  |            | ■   |       | By Staff                  | Study  |
| 16   | 3.5.7     | Provide at least one adventure type/natural playscape.  |            | ■   |       | \$100,000 - \$250,000     | Non-Capital Investment                               |
| 17   | 3.5.2     | Evaluate the feasibility of providing athletic fields on the City's irrigation farm.  |            | ■   |       | \$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000 | Study / Capital Investment                           |
| 18   | 3.5.3     | Provide additional baseball/softball fields for public use.   |            | ■   |       | \$250,000 per field       | Study / Capital Investment                           |
| 19   | 3.5.5     | Evaluate opportunities for community gardens in the parks system.   |            | ■   |       | \$20 per SF               | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment          |
| 21   | 3.2.3     | Consider partnership opportunities with adult athletic leagues to balance athletic facility needs and maintenance requirements.                                   |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Operational Change                                   |
| 22   | 3.3.2     | Expand adult athletic programs.   |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment          |
| 23   | 3.3.3     | Consider providing senior athletic programs.  |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment          |
| 24   | 3.3.4     | Expand non-athletic programming offerings.  |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment          |

Figure 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

| RANK  | ACTION ID | ACTION  | TIME FRAME |     |       | POTENTIAL COST RANGE      | ACTION TYPE  |
|---|-----------|---|------------|-----|-------|---------------------------|--|
|   |           |   | 1-2        | 3-5 | 6-10+ |                           |  |
|   | 3.3.9     | Partner to establish a formal paddling trail along Lake Marble Falls and Backbone Creek.  |            |     | ■     | By Staff                  | Study / Non-Capital Investment                       |
|   | 3.4.1     | Develop additional park-based events to encourage greater use of the parks system.  |            |     | ■     | TBD                       | Policy / Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
|   | 3.3.5     | Develop a marketing campaign to advertise the recreation opportunities in Marble Falls.   |            |     | ■     | By Staff                  | Policy / Operational Change                          |
|   | 3.5.6     | Provide at least one "all abilities playground."  |            |     | ■     | \$200,000 - \$1,000,000   | Non-Capital Investment                               |
| <b>PARKLAND ACQUISITION &amp; NATURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION ACTIONS</b> |           |   |            |     |       |                           |  |
| 1   | 4.1.4     | Pursue a joint City/MFISD venture to develop a neighborhood park in the eastern portion of Marble Falls.  | ■          |     |       | \$3,000,000 - \$6,000,000 | Policy / Capital Investment                          |
| 2   | 4.1.5     | Continue to pursue parkland near Downtown which is appropriate for athletic recreation opportunities.   | ■          |     |       | TBD                       | Capital Investment                                   |
| 3   | 4.3.2     | Identify important natural space corridors and lands, and prioritize preservation of key areas.   | ■          |     |       | By Staff                  | Policy / Regulation                                  |
| 4   | 4.1.1     | Pursue a community-scale waterfront property south of the lake.   |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Capital Investment                                   |
| 5   | 4.2.1     | Continue to pursue acquisition and development of the two proposed community parks concurrent with development of the proposed residential subdivisions south of Lake Marble Falls. |            | ■   |       | TBD                       | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment          |
| 6   | 4.3.1     | Designate appropriate City-owned natural resource areas as parkland.  |            | ■   |       | N/A                       | Policy / Operational Change                          |
|   | 4.2.2     | Consider acquisition and development of new neighborhood-serving parks in areas of future need as new residential development occurs.   |            |     | ■     | TBD                       | Capital Investment                                   |
|   | 4.1.2     | Pursue acquisition and development of a neighborhood-scale park east of U.S. Highway 281 and south of FM 1431.  |            |     | ■     | TBD                       | Capital Investment                                   |
|   | 4.1.3     | Pursue acquisition and development of a neighborhood-scale park east of U.S. Highway 281 and north of FM 1431.  |            |     | ■     | TBD                       | Capital Investment                                   |

**Figure 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)**

| RANK  | ACTION ID | ACTION  | TIME FRAME |     |       | POTENTIAL COST RANGE         | ACTION TYPE                                 |
|---|-----------|---|------------|-----|-------|------------------------------|---|
|   |           |   | 1-2        | 3-5 | 6-10+ |                              |   |
| <b>PARKLAND PLANNING, DESIGN, &amp; MAINTENANCE ACTIONS</b> |           |   |            |     |       |                              |   |
| 1   | 5.1.4     | Conduct a study of the restrooms in existing parks to determine the need for system-wide additions and replacement.   | ■          |     |       | By Staff                     | Study                                       |
| 2   | 5.1.5     | Fund restroom projects.   | ■          |     |       | TBD                          | Capital Investment                          |
| 3   | 5.1.2     | Develop and implement park and trail design guidelines to set a minimum base standard for all new and redeveloped parks and trails.   | ■          |     |       | By Staff                     | Policy                                      |
| 4   | 5.2.3     | Enhance landscaping in Downtown.  | ■          |     |       | By Staff                     | Policy / Operational Change                 |
| 5   | 5.2.5     | Consider paving key portions of the existing trail to reduce washout and improve accessibility.   | ■          |     |       | TBD                          | Non-Capital Investment                      |
| 6   | 5.2.2     | Develop partnerships with local organizations to provide enhanced landscaping in parks.   | ■          |     |       | By Staff                     | Policy / Operational Change                 |
| 7   | 5.2.4     | Consider providing permanent ground sleeves for temporary fencing to reduce irrigation repair costs.  | ■          |     |       | \$1,500 - \$2,000 per 100 LF | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |
| 8   | 5.1.6     | Consider establishing a formalized schedule of athletic field use to rest and restore fields when necessary.  | ■          |     |       | By Staff                     | Policy / Operational Change                 |
| 9   | 5.1.1     | Update the Parks Recreation, and Open Space Plan by 2022 to continue project planning and development for parks, recreation, and facilities consistent with resident and visitors values and objectives; and, remain competitive for grant funding. |            | ■   |       | \$75,000 - \$125,000         | Study                                       |
| 10  | 5.1.3     | Conduct a park accessibility assessment to identify, prioritize, and address accessibility issues in the existing park system.  |            | ■   |       | By Staff                     | Study / Non-Capital Investment              |
|   | 5.2.1     | Consider adding security cameras, call boxes, and lighting to key locations in parking lots and along the citywide trail system.  |            |     | ■     | TBD                          | Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment |

**Figure 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)**

| RANK                                   | ACTION ID | ACTION   | TIME FRAME |     |       | POTENTIAL COST RANGE       | ACTION TYPE                         |
|--|-----------|--|------------|-----|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  |           |  | 1-2        | 3-5 | 6-10+ |                            |                                     |
| <b>POLICY &amp; REGULATION ACTIONS</b> |           |  |            |     |       |                            |                                     |
| 1                                      | 6.1.5     | Pursue development of a joint use agreement with Marble Falls ISD (MFISD) to maximize sharing of mutually beneficial park amenities (e.g., playscapes, basketball courts). | ■          |     |       | By Staff                   | Policy / Operational Change         |
| 2                                      | 6.1.1     | Develop a parkland dedication and development ordinance to incentivize park and recreation development as part of private development.                                     | ■          |     |       | By Staff                   | Regulation                          |
| 3                                      | 6.1.4     | Formalize an "Adopt a Park" program to solicit neighborhood and other volunteer groups to help with park and trail maintenance.  | ■          |     |       | By Staff                   | Policy / Operational Change         |
| 4                                      | 6.1.6     | Evaluate the City's development regulations to ensure adequate protection of natural resources and open space.   | ■          |     |       | By Staff                   | Regulation                          |
| 5                                      | 6.1.3     | Evaluate the City's park-related fee structure to ensure non-City users and private organizations (e.g., athletic leagues) are adequately offsetting cost of maintenance.  |            | ■   |       | By Staff                   | Study / Policy / Operational Change |
| 6                                      | 6.1.2     | Establish a Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program.  |            | ■   |       | By Staff                   | Policy                              |
| <b>REACH PROJECTS ACTIONS</b>          |           |  |            |     |       |                            |                                     |
| 1                                      | 7.1.3     | Pursue partnerships to create a regional youth sports association.   | ■          |     |       | TBD                        | Policy / Operational Change         |
| 2                                      | 7.1.6     | Develop the Creekwalk Trail.   |            | ■   |       | \$750,000 - \$1,500,000    | Capital Investment                  |
| 3                                      | 7.1.1     | Develop an aquatic complex.  |            | ■   |       | included in Action 1.2.1   | Capital Investment                  |
| 4                                      | 7.1.8     | Develop a tube float along Backbone Creek.   |            | ■   |       | TBD                        | Capital Investment                  |
|  | 7.1.2     | Develop a sports park to accommodate tournament play.  |            |     | ■     | \$5,000,000 - \$20,000,000 | Capital Investment                  |
|  | 7.1.5     | Establish a community recreation center.   |            |     | ■     | \$4,500,000 - \$12,000,000 | Capital Investment                  |
|  | 7.1.7     | Develop a canoe/kayak challenge course along the Whitman Branch.   |            |     | ■     | TBD                        | Capital Investment                  |
|  | 7.1.4     | Establish a tourism train route.   |            |     | ■     | TBD                        | Study / Capital Investment          |

## Plan Update

A long-term vision for the City, which includes a 10-year strategy of prioritized implementation actions, was established through a robust public engagement process. If implemented, the City will achieve its envisioned future. Implementation by priority ensures that the City is responding incrementally to the community's needs and desires.

This, however, does not mean that this Plan will serve every need and desire of the community for the entirety of the next 10 years. On the contrary, it is designed to specify guidance for implementation actions prioritized in the near- and mid-term future. In this regard, the following recommendations are intended to keep this Plan current and up to date:

- **Annual Progress Report and Update.** Prior to the start of the annual budget process, City staff should prepare and present an annual progress report on the status of the actions identified in the 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 remain eligible for grant funding, undertaking an official plan update every five years helps the City to remain competitive in a very competitive grant process as TPWD places a higher point value (during grant funding evaluation) on submittals that demonstrate a plan update has been done within the past five years. Plan updates can be published in short report format and attached to this Parks, Recreation, and Open Master Plan for easy use.



*Similar to this planning process, future Plan updates should include multiple public involvement strategies*

## 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 (see Appendix D, *Potential Funding Opportunities*). Outside sources include grants, partnerships with public agencies (e.g., MFISD, MFEDC), 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.

#### Municipal Bonds

Debt financing through the issuance of municipal bonds is the most common way to fund park and open space projects. This type of funding is a strategy wherein a city issues a bond, receives an immediate cash payment to finance projects, and must repay the bond with interest over a set period of time ranging from a few years to several decades. General obligation bonds – the most common form of municipal bond – are the primary bond type for park and open space projects.

#### Tax Increment Financing/Public Improvement Districts

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

#### Electric Utility Partnerships

This type of partnership can be established for the purpose of providing and enhancing linear parks and trails along utility easements. This partnership typically does not involve monetary contributions. However, through use agreements and/or easements, it makes land for trail corridors accessible at little or no cost to the community.

#### Park Improvement Fee Funds

For many cities, this funding received from developers is a very helpful revenue source for park development. The requirement for such a fee needs to be written into the City's Parkland Dedication and Development Ordinance.

#### Cash in Lieu of Conveyance of Land

As part of many cities' Parkland Dedication and Development Ordinance, subject to specific prescribed conditions, a cash amount may be accepted in lieu of the conveyance of land. The goal is for the city to have the option to purchase land of an equal amount that was to be conveyed, elsewhere in the city.

### Utility Bill Contributions

In many cities, residents are allowed to electively add a small amount to their utility collection bills to fund park improvements. As an example, the City of Colleyville has a Voluntary Park Fund, which allows citizens to donate \$2.00 per month contribution through their water utility bills. This results in approximately \$150,000 per year, which is used to fund park improvements throughout their community.

### Tree Restoration Funds

The source of this type of fund is typically derived from cities that levy fines against developers for removing quality trees for development. The revenue generated is used to plant trees and to irrigate city properties.





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Prepared by:  
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Austin, TX 78729

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***APPENDIX A:  
SUPPLEMENTAL  
INFORMATION***



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**Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan**

*Stakeholder Meeting*

Date: 6/6/16 1:30pm



**Sign-In Sheet**

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME               | EMAIL ADDRESS                    | ORGANIZATION |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| John Packer        | jpacker@marblefalls.gov          | Mayor        |
| Lewis Fincher      | lfincher@marblefallstx.gov       | Parks Super. |
| CALEB KRENZEL      | CKRENZEL@MARBLEFALLSTX.GOV       | Assistant CM |
| Mike Hodge         | mhodge@marblefallstx.gov         | CM           |
| Robert Moss        | rmoss@marblefallstx.gov          | PARO         |
| ERIC Belaj         | ebelaj@marblefallstx.gov         | Eng.         |
| Penny Matkems      | pmatkems " " "                   | Public Works |
| Midge Dockery      | mdockery@marblefallseconomy.com  | EDC          |
| CHRISTIAN FLETCHER | cfletcher@marblefallseconomy.com | EDC          |
|                    |                                  |              |
|                    |                                  |              |
|                    |                                  |              |
|                    |                                  |              |
|                    |                                  |              |
|                    |                                  |              |

MARBLE FALLS PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

# Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

## Stakeholder Meeting

Date: 6-6-16 2:30



### Sign-In Sheet

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME              | EMAIL ADDRESS            | ORGANIZATION            |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| John Padgett      | jpadgett@marblefalls.gov | MF - Mayor              |
| MARY ANN RAESENER | marinctx@nctx.com        | Meadowcreek - mayor     |
| Olav Kelley       | HKcity@TSTAR.net         | Mayor - Highland Haven  |
| Rex Holloway      | rex.holloway@gmail.com   | CWS PARKS<br>Cottonwood |
|                   |                          |                         |
|                   |                          |                         |
|                   |                          | NOT PRESENT             |
|                   |                          | Horseshoe Bay           |
|                   |                          | Granite Shoals          |
|                   |                          |                         |
|                   |                          |                         |
|                   |                          |                         |
|                   |                          |                         |
|                   |                          |                         |
|                   |                          |                         |

# Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

## Stakeholder Meeting

Date: 6/6/16 3:30



## Sign-In Sheet

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME                                   | EMAIL ADDRESS                             | ORGANIZATION             |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Darlene Rostermeyer                    | dr@nctv.com                               | P&Z                      |
| Misty Smith                            | msmith@burnetcountylibrary.org            | Marble Falls Library     |
| Steve Parsons<br><i>michele parson</i> | Stevenpars2002@yahoo.com                  | Chocolatife's            |
| Larry & Carice Kinnison                | caricekinnison@gmail.com<br>drk@tstar.net | The Highland Lakes Child |
| George Russell                         | 1202GRUSSELL@GMAIL.COM                    | <del>CITIZEN</del> LORA  |
| Judy Miller                            | jmillier@outbackunlimited.com             | EDC                      |
| Mark Mayfield                          | mmayfield@txhf.org                        | EDC                      |
| CHRISTIAN FLETCHER                     | cfletcher@marblefallseconomy.com          | EDC                      |
| DAVID RODGERS                          | david@jollyrodgerstx.com                  | JOLLY RODGERS            |
| Heather Rodgers                        | heather@jollyrodgerstx.com                | Jolly Rodgers Paddle Co. |
| Craig Magerkorth                       | cmagerkorth@marblefallstx.gov             | MF City Council          |
| Fred Zagst                             | FZagst@gmail.com                          | P&Z                      |
|  |   |                          |
|  |   |                          |

## Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

### Stakeholder Meeting

Date: 6/7/16 9am



### Sign-In Sheet

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME             | EMAIL ADDRESS                          | ORGANIZATION                                 |
|------------------|--|--|
| Jennifer Kenson  | jkenson@ymcagwc.org                    | YMCA   |
| Larye Carlson    | ccarlson@custicr.com                   | County Historical Commission                 |
| Aran Mispadden   | pmispadd@star.net                      | The Falls on the Colorado Museum             |
| Sammye Childers  | sammue.wrike@yahoo.com                 | Nature Plant Society of T.                   |
| Todd Gibson      | toddgibsontag@gmail.com                | Granite Country Youth Soccer                 |
| EVODIO BERNABE   | evodiobernabe@massage@aol.com          | La Liga - Adult Soccer                       |
| June Lemon       | junemlemon@gmail.com                   | Smoking for Jesus Ministry<br>Youth Minister |
| Rebecca Nunnally | rnunnal@gmail.com                      |  |
| Brenda MORRIS    | BMorris@NEXTV.COM                      |  |
| JOE DON DICKERY  | COMMISSIONERPCT4@BURNETCOUNTYTEXAS.ORG | BURNET COUNTY                                |
| DAVE PLANTE      | daveplante@yahoo.com                   |  |
| Kyle Strippling  | Kyle@gallowayinsurance.com             | TAX Increment<br>Reinvestment                |
| CAMEIAN BAHK     | cbahr@ymcagwc.org                      | YMCA   |
| Racheal Frazier  | rachealsavedbygrace@yahoo.com          | Smoking for Jesus Ministry                   |
| Sam Stacks       | Kercookers@yahoo.com                   | BSA TROOP 284                                |

# Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

## Stakeholder Meeting

Date: 6/7/16 9am/10am



## Sign-In Sheet

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME                           | EMAIL ADDRESS            | ORGANIZATION                                  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Roxanne Dunegan                | roxdunegan@gmail.com     | Highland Lakes<br>master Gardener             |
| Bisley Sutherland              | bsandsp@hotmail.com      | Home owned                                    |
| <sup>Rev</sup><br>George Perry | RevGeorgePerry@yahoo.com | StFrede church                                |
| Jim Coursey                    | jim.coursey@yahoo.com    | MOSAIC COMMUNITY CHURCH<br>HL HELP FOR HEROES |
| Chris Allen                    | callene@mbpd.txd.net     | Marble Falls ISD                              |
| Robert Moss                    | rmoss@marblefalls.tx.gov | City of Marble Falls                          |
| Ely Banuet Rodriguez           | elybanuet@gmail.com      | Children's Day<br>Celebration                 |
|                                |                          |   |
|                                |                          |   |
|                                |                          |   |
|                                |                          |   |
|                                |                          |   |
|                                |                          |   |
|                                |                          |   |
|                                |                          |   |

MARBLE FALLS PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

***Your City, Your Parks. Your Opinion Matters!***



***Parks, Recreation, & Open  
Space Master Plan***

***All who live, work, or play in Marble Falls are invited to take a  
survey to provide your feedback on the future of  
Marble Falls parks and recreation!***

Visit the City of Marble Falls website or  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparkspan>  
to take our online survey by August 31, 2016



Completing the survey enters you in a drawing to win two (2) FiestaJAM 2016 VIP Tickets or an iPhone 5s 16GB (Verizon)

Hard copies of the survey are available at the Parks and Recreation Department (1808 2nd Street)



For more information please contact the Parks and Recreation Department, PARD@marblefallstx.gov



**We want to hear  
your input.**

**Share your thoughts and  
opinions about the future  
of Marble Falls parks!**



City of Marble Falls  
800 Third Street  
Marble Falls, Texas 78654  
Contact: Robert Moss, Director of Parks and Recreation  
830-798-6250

August 2, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

The City of Marble Falls is in the process of updating its Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. One of the most important components of the update process is assessing what the wants and needs of the community are and what is important to the community through public participation.

This is your opportunity to express your thoughts and opinions about the facilities and programs provided by the City of Marble Falls in a quick and easy way. Simply use the link provided to take the electronic survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparkspan>

The survey is available now and it must be completed no later than Wednesday, August 31. As an incentive, those who complete the survey may sign up for a drawing to win two (2) FiestaJAM 2016 VIP Tickets ([www.fiestajam.org](http://www.fiestajam.org)) or an iPhone 5s.

As part of the public process, staff from the City and Halff Associates have already met with various stakeholder groups with a total attendance of over 40 people. This included representatives from Downtown businesses, the Economic Development Corporation, the Planning & Zoning Commission, the TIRZ Board, City of Marble Falls staff and City Council, Novak Cobalt Partners, GCYSA, MFYBSA, YMCA, MFISD, Falls on the Colorado Museum, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society, Howdy-Roo, local churches, Mayors from surrounding cities, and others. These meetings were followed with a meeting with the Parks Advisory Committee; who will provide input, review findings, provide guidance and direction, and approve the final draft of the Plan.

The next opportunity for public input will be at an Open House to be held in November to solicit feedback on Master Plan recommendations, modified plan concepts, Parks Advisory Committee direction and guidance, and survey results. Final approval of the Plan by the Marble Falls City Council is scheduled for January 2017.

“The purpose of the plan is to develop a Park and Recreation Master Plan that will create a clear set of objectives and provide direction for development and enhancement of the City’s parks and recreation system for a short-term, midterm, and long term range system for the next several years.” Mayor John Packer

Christina McDonald  
City Secretary/Public Information Officer  
[cmcdonald@marblefallstx.gov](mailto:cmcdonald@marblefallstx.gov)  
(830) 798-7060

## City Website

## Facebook

**Your City, Your Parks. Your Opinion Matters!**



**Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan**

*All who live, work, or play in Marble Falls are invited to take a survey to provide your feedback on the future of Marble Falls parks and recreation!*

Visit the City of Marble Falls website or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan> to take our online survey by August 31, 2016

Completing the survey enters you in a drawing to win two (2) FiestaJAM 2016 VIP Tickets or an iPhone 5s 16GB (Verizon)

Hard copies of the survey are available at the Parks and Recreation Department (1808 2nd Street)



For more information please contact the Parks and Recreation Department, [PARD@marblefallstx.gov](mailto:PARD@marblefallstx.gov)



marblefalls\_tx Follow

20 likes 2w

marblefalls\_tx The City of Marble Falls, Texas is in the process of updating its Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. One of the most important components of the update process is assessing what the wants and needs of the community are. This is your opportunity to express your thoughts and opinions about the facilities and programs provided. Simply use the link provided to take the electronic survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan>

Log in to like or comment. ...

**We Want  
YOUR  
OPINION  
(Please take our Survey)**



marblefalls\_tx Follow

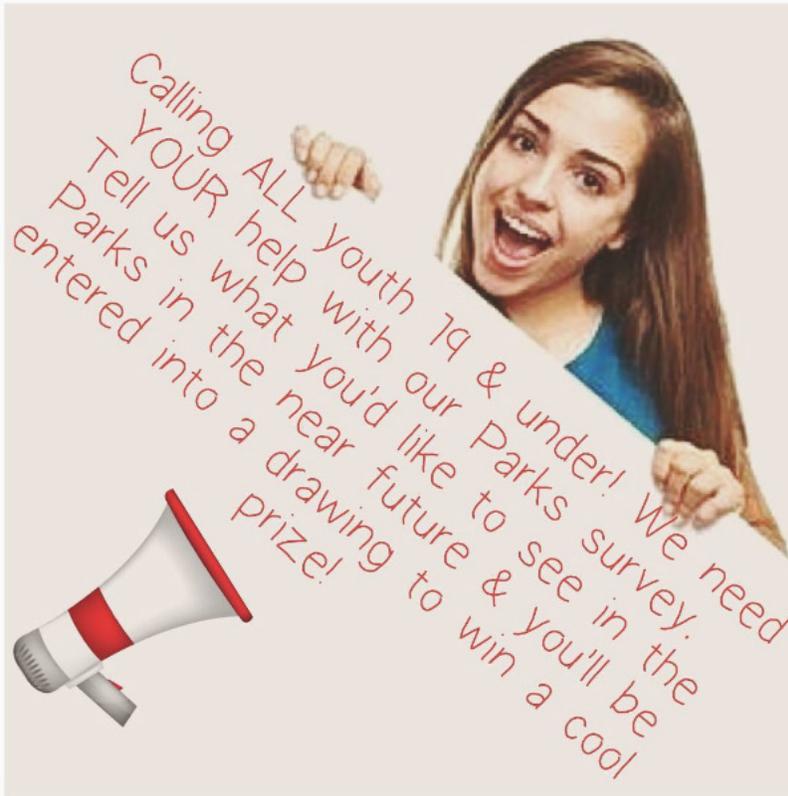
16 likes 2w

marblefalls\_tx The City of Marble Falls, Texas is in the process of updating its Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. One of the most important components of the update process is assessing what the wants and needs of the community are. This is your opportunity to express your thoughts and opinions about the facilities and programs provided. Simply use the link provided to take the electronic survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan>

#HelpUs #Survey #WeNeedYou #Opinion #MarbleFalls #Texas #MarbleFallsTX #TexasToDo #HighlandLakes #ATX #SanAntonio #Burnet #HorseshoeBay #Parks #ParksAndRec #Recreation #Outdoors #GoPlay

aludesign Aww nice  
bestmoneyonline Really nice!

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marblefalls\_tx

Follow

24 likes

3d

marblefalls\_tx Calling ALL youth 19 and under!! We NEED your help. The City of Marble Falls, Texas is in the process of updating its Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. One of the most important components of the update process is assessing what the wants and needs of the community are. This is your opportunity to express your thoughts and opinions about the facilities and programs provided. Simply use the link provided to take the electronic survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan)

Ask your parents' permission first; and then tell all your friends, coaches, and teammates about the survey.

#HelpUs #Survey  
#MarbleFallsHighSchool  
#MarbleFallsMiddleSchool #GCYSA  
#MFYBSA #MFISD #MFHS #MFMS

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...



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marblefalls\_tx Take our Parks survey! Simply use the link provided to take the electronic survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan)

#HelpUs #Survey #WeNeedYou #Opinion  
#MarbleFalls #Texas #MarbleFallsTX  
#TexasToDo #HighlandLakes #ATX  
#SanAntonio #Burnet #HorseshoeBay  
#Parks #ParksAndRec #Recreation  
#Outdoors #GoPlay

Log in to like or comment.

...



# The Highlander



## Marble Falls park survey offers prize drawing

Submitted by highlander1 on Fri, 08/12/2016 - 9:24am

By Glynis Crawford Smith

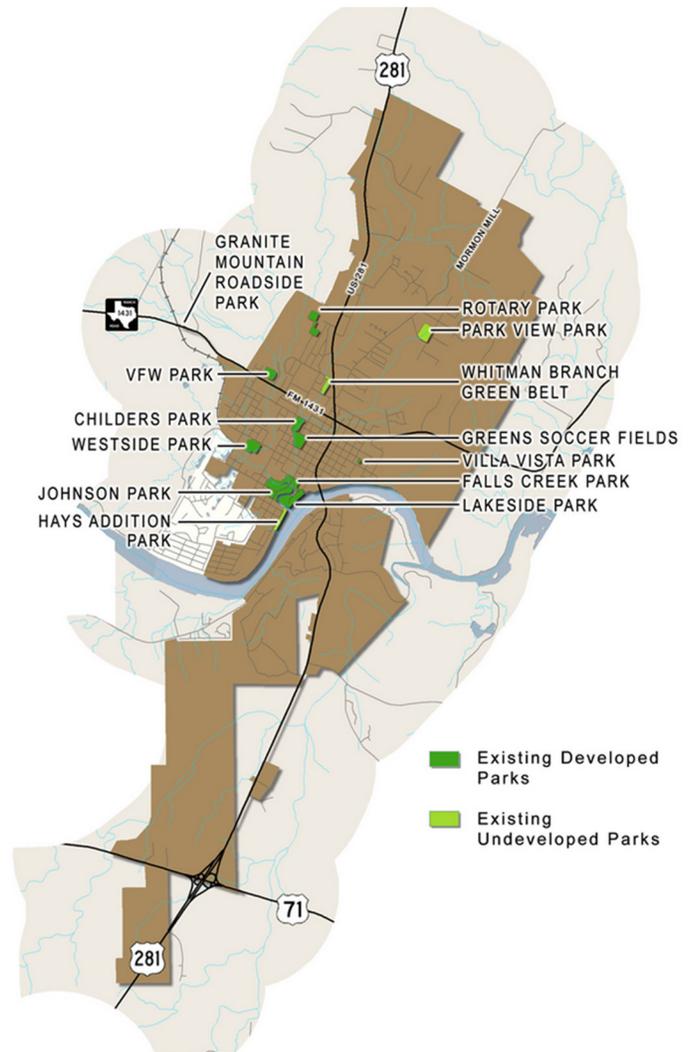
The Highlander

No matter where you are from, the Marble Falls Parks & Recreation Department wants your ideas for their facilities and programs.

An online survey is being conducted to collect the information that will make its way into the process going on to update the city's Park, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan. The document will help Marble Falls set priorities for parks, recreation facilities, trails and open spaces for the next 10 years.

As an incentive for the effort, those who complete the survey by Aug. 31 will be able to enter a drawing for a chance to win two VIP tickets to FiestaJAM 2016 to be held Sept. 23-24 at Lakeside Park and Pavilion or a 16GB Verizon iPhone 5s.

“Anyone who works or shops here or who just enjoys coming to Marble Falls is invited to take the survey,” said Monique Breaux, administrative assistant for Parks & Recreation. “The city takes everyone's views seriously.”



In addition to information about park resources you already enjoy, the survey will ask what features and programs you would like to see in future, Breaux explained.

Link to the survey from the City of Marble Falls website, [www.ci.marble-falls.tx.us](http://www.ci.marble-falls.tx.us), or go directly to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan).

If a spouse or other family member wants to complete a questionnaire it can be done online or additional copies can be printed off the city website and delivered to city hall.

For each question, check the one box closest to your opinion unless instructions say, “Check all that apply.” All survey answers will remain confidential and the city promises information will not be sold or used for solicitation.

This is an important time for parks planning. The Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation is poised to move forward with a new multi-million dollar downtown hotel and conference center development that will include changes and additions to central city parks. New housing and residential development may expand parkland and almost certainly will increase demands for park use in some areas.

The survey alone may surprise you and spark some new, critical thinking. The questions are an out growth of those the Marble Parks & Recreation Commission and department staff wrestle with. A map included in the survey shows the extent of city park land.

The Marble Falls Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining 130 acres of parkland, trails and special use areas, including both city-owned and privately owned land. The existing parks system includes one pocket park, three neighborhood and seven community parks. The two linear parks in the are the well-used 1.3-mile Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail, extending from Lakeside Park to Westside Park, and Whitman Branch Hike and Bike Trail, eight-tenths of a mile from Johnson Park to Childers Park that mainly parallels city streets. Special use areas maintained by the department include Marble Falls City Cemetery, the Granite Mountain Roadside Park and the downtown area.

Falls Creek Park at 120 Main Street, home to the Highland Lakes Farmers Market, also features a skateboard and BMX bike facility and the Jolly Rodgers Paddle Company concession on Backbone Creek.

Johnson Park at 230 South Avenue J is a Lone Star Legacy Park with the largest variety of features in a single park and access to Backbone Creek. The Hays Addition Park on Lakeshore Drive follows Lake Marble Falls and has a boat ramp. Lakeside Park & Pavilion on Buena Vista Drive offer a panoramic view of the lake, the city pool, tennis courts and a boat ramp.

Westside Park on Second Street offers disc golf and an off-leash dog park and the newly renovated Westside Community Center.

Villa Vista Park is located on Villa Vista Way (Seventh Street) and is the city's only developed neighborhood pocket park. Parks View Park on Park View Drive off Mormon Mill Road is completely undeveloped. Whitman Branch Greenbelt, located north of Ranch to Market Road 1431 near the Marble Falls Middle School encompasses almost 17 acres of undeveloped park land.

Enter search keyword

Search

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August 19, 2016, 9:21 am

Covering Marble Falls, Burnet, Kingsland, Llano, Spicewood, Horseshoe Bay, and ALL of the Highland Lakes - Your News - Your Hill Country

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## Survey to help shape future of Marble Falls parks

Posted on 10 August 2016. Tags: [government](#), [lakeside park](#), [Marble Falls parks](#), [news](#)

1

JENNIFER FIERRO • STAFF WRITER



<http://www.dailytrib.com/2016/08/10/survey-help-shape-future-marble-falls-parks/>

8/19/2016

Residents can give their input on Marble Falls' parks and recreation outlook plan, which will help determine changes to local facilities such as Lakeside Park. Staff photo by David Bean

**MARBLE FALLS** — Marble Falls leaders are asking Highland Lakes residents to share their opinions on the city's parks and recreation outlook plan.

Mayor John Packer said the plan's purpose is to create a clear set of objectives and provide direction for the parks and recreation system for the short term, mid-term and long term.

The city council hired Halff Associates to create a park, recreation and open space master plan a couple of months ago. Since then, the city's Parks and Recreation Commission and stakeholders such as sports leagues, Falls on the Colorado Museum, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists have met to share thoughts about the parks system.

Now it's time for residents and non-residents to do the same.

Simply visit [surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan](http://surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparksplan) to participate. There's also a place for people to write in responses.

Parks and Recreation Director Robert Moss said city hall already has received more than 200 completed surveys. Those who take the survey by Aug. 31 are put into a drawing for two VIP passes to FiestaJAM on Lake Marble Falls on Sept. 24.

"It's being distributed far and wide on our website," Moss said of the survey. "It's out to whomever."

The survey will ask respondents to state whether or not they are Marble Falls residents. The reason staff members are asking for all Highland Lakes residents to participate is because 94 percent of the city's sales tax comes from non-residents.

Moss noted that, as the area grows, more people will be using the parks system.

"The community is changing," he said. "Every day, we have people moving in and moving out. As that changes, the wants and needs are going to change with it."

The next opportunity for public input is in November at an open house for feedback on the master plan recommendations, modified plan concepts, direction and guidance to the parks advisory committee, and survey results. The city council is expected to give final approval on the plan in January 2017.

Moss said he hopes people will make the time to take the survey.

"This is an opportunity for every individual to have their opinion considered," he said. "This is that opportunity; it's valuable. Every one of them are considered."

*[jfierro@thepicayune.com](mailto:jfierro@thepicayune.com)*

# City of *Meadowlakes*

August 10, 2016



"Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy"

~ Anne Frank

## Mayor's Corner

Greetings!

Meadowlakes is surrounded by the City of Marble Falls. Since I expect much of our purchasing happens in Marble Falls stores, a lot (maybe the majority) of the sales taxes paid by Meadowlakes residents each year go to Marble Falls. Marble Falls recognizes the importance of the sales taxes paid by Meadowlakes residents, and they are including us in a survey



they will use to prepare for the future, especially about their parks. I found the process to be educational, especially the maps of the various parks. If you can spare 30 to 45 minutes, please respond to their survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/marblefallsparkspan> For more information concerning the "Marble Falls Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update" see [www.marblefallstx.gov](http://www.marblefallstx.gov).

As an additional incentive, if you complete this survey by August 31, 2016, you will be able to enter a drawing for the chance to win two (2) FiestaJAM 2016 VIP Tickets or an iPhone 5s 16GB (Verizon). All survey answers will remain confidential and your information will not be sold or used for solicitation.

If you need me (or maybe a dog to add to your family) this coming Friday between 9:00 AM and noon, you can find both at the Highland Lakes SPCA's adoption event at Hope Animal Clinic (go south on Hwy 281 - Hope is on the left/east side just before the Hwy 71 intersection). HLSPCA will have a few of their wonderful adoptable dogs available for the public to meet. Please tell your family and friends in the local area about the event! It actually is relatively cool in the breezeway between the clinic and the barn for large animals.

The next City Council meeting will be next week - Tuesday, August 16th - 5:00 PM at City Hall.

*Mary Ann Raesener*  
Mayor

## Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan Public Survey

The City of Marble Falls needs your help and input!

The City is updating its Park, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan. This document helps Marble Falls set priorities for parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open spaces for the next 10 years. As part of the parks planning process, the City is also developing concept plans for improvements to the Downtown parks (i.e., Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, Lakeside Park) and the currently undeveloped Parks View Park along Park View Drive. 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 Marble Falls. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes. Encourage your family members and neighbors 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, additional copies can be printed off the City's website, or 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."

As an incentive for your efforts, if you complete this survey by August 31, 2016 you will be able to enter into a drawing for the chance to win two (2) FiestaJAM 2016 VIP Tickets or an iPhone 5s 16GB (Verizon).

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

### Demographics

1. Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female

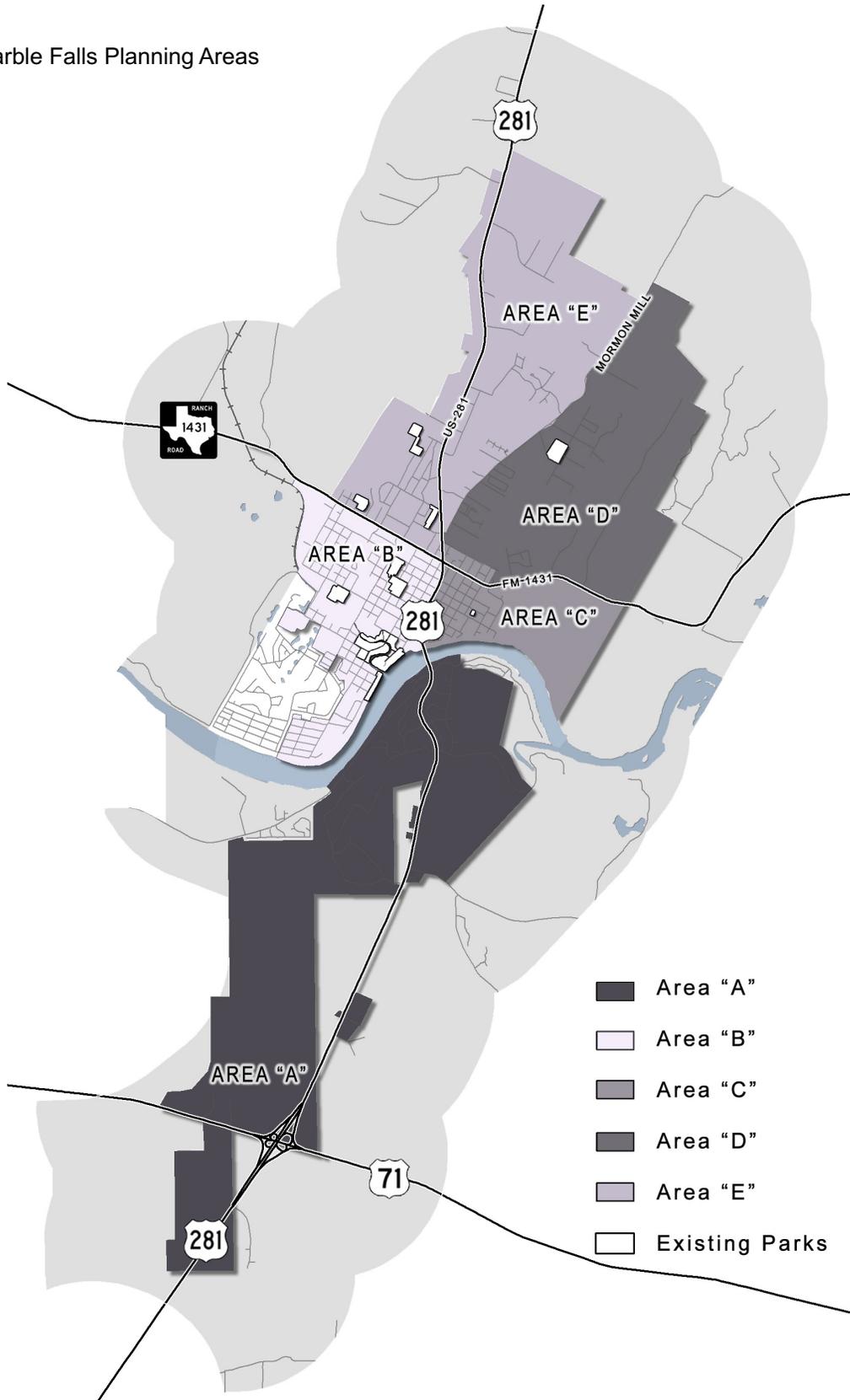
2. What is your approximate age?

- 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 Marble Falls?

- Yes
- No, but live in Burnet County
- No, live outside Burnet County

Map A: Marble Falls Planning Areas



4. If you are a city resident, in which area of Marble Falls do you live (based on Map A above)?

- Area A (South of Lake Marble Falls)
- Area B (West of US 281, South of FM 1431)
- Area C (East of US 281, South of FM 1431)
- Area D (East of Mormon Mill, North of FM 1431)
- Area E (West of Mormon Mill, North of FM 1431)
- I do not live in the city limits of Marble Falls

5. How long have you lived in Marble Falls?

- Under 1 year
- 1-3 years
- 4-7 years
- 8-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20 years
- I do not live in Marble Falls

6. Do you have any children under the age of 19 living in your home? Check all that apply.

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

**Parks & Recreation**

7. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the quality, appearance, and maintenance of the following parks and recreation elements in Marble Falls?

|  | Very Satisfied        | Satisfied             | Dissatisfied          | Very Dissatisfied     | No Opinion            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Overall parks and recreation             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Trails                                   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Nature areas                             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sports fields (e.g., baseball, softball) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sports courts (e.g., basketball, tennis) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Playgrounds                              | <input type="radio"/> |
| Swimming pool (water amenities)          | <input type="radio"/> |
| Classes and programs                     | <input type="radio"/> |

8. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current athletic or other recreational programming provided in Marble Falls for people in the following age groups?

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

9. 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"/> |
| Children, ages 5-8           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Children, ages 9-12          | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teens, ages 13-19            | <input type="radio"/> |
| Adults, ages 20-55           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Seniors over the age of 55   | <input type="radio"/> |

10. Regarding your answers to questions #8 and #9, what athletic or other recreational programs (e.g., art, gardening, music, etc.) do you think the City of Marble Falls should sponsor or support which are not currently offered? For which age group(s)?

11. In the past five years, do you feel that the quality of parks and recreation in Marble Falls has improved, stayed the same, or declined?

- Improved
- Stayed the same
- Declined

12. 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"/> |
| Better parks will help to improve our city image.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel that parks help strengthen our city economically.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| I believe that the City needs a greater amount of park land or open space.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| I believe that the City should more fully develop the park land and open space that it already owns.                   | <input type="radio"/> |
| I'm willing to pay additional City taxes to see the quality of existing parks and recreational amenities upgraded.     | <input type="radio"/> |
| I'm willing to pay additional City taxes to see new parks and recreational amenities developed.                        | <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"/> |

13. Using the list below, choose you and your family's top five favorite recreation activities. Choose one choice per column.

|  | 1st Choice            | 2nd choice            | 3rd Choice            | 4th Choice            | 5th Choice            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Art / crafts classes                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Band                                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Baseball                                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Basketball                               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Bicycling                                | <input type="radio"/> |
| BMX biking                               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Boating                                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Canoeing / Kayaking /<br>Paddle boarding | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cheerleading                             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Dance / yoga                             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Disc golf / Frisbee golf                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Exercising at a private<br>gym           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fishing                                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Flag / tackle football                   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Going to festivals or<br>special events  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Going to a dog park                      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Golfing                                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Group exercise / fitness<br>classes      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gymnastics                               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Horseback riding                         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Pickleball                               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Picnicking                               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Playing in a youth<br>athletic league    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Playing in a youth<br>athletic league    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Playing in an adult<br>athletic league   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Playing on playgrounds                   | <input type="radio"/> |

|                                | 1st Choice            | 2nd choice            | 3rd Choice            | 4th Choice            | 5th Choice            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Running / jogging              | <input type="radio"/> |
| Skateboarding                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Soccer                         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Softball                       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Swimming competitively         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Swimming for leisure / fitness | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tennis                         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Viewing nature / wildlife      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Volleyball                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Walking / hiking on trails     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Walking your dog               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Working out / lifting weights  | <input type="radio"/> |
| I/we do not recreate           | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify)

14. If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in Marble Falls, 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)

15. In the past year, how frequently have you used the following park and recreation facilities or attended events in Marble Falls?

|   | Daily                 | At Least Weekly       | Few Times Per Month   | Few Times Per Year    | Very Rarely or Never  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Gone to Childers Baseball Park                                      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Falls Creek Park  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Granite Mountain Roadside Park                              | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Greens Soccer Fields  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Hays Addition Park  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Johnson Park  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Lakeside Park & Pavilion                                    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Park View Park (undeveloped)                                | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Rotary Park   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to VFW Baseball Field  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Villa Vista Park  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Westside Park   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to Whitman Branch Green Belt (undeveloped)                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Visited the public pool   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Visited the library   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Visited the downtown area   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gone to an area adjacent to Lake Marble Falls (e.g., Lakeside Park) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Used a private boat ramp or dock to get out on Lake Marble Falls    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Used a public boat ramp to get out on Lake Marble Falls             | <input type="radio"/> |

|   | Daily                 | At Least Weekly       | Few Times Per Month   | Few Times Per Year    | Very Rarely or Never  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Swam in Lake Marble Falls   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ran / walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Rode a bicycle for fitness or to get somewhere in the City  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Attended events in the City (e.g., Children's Day, Fourth of July celebration, Howdy-Roo, Lakefest, Mayfest, Walkway of Lights) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Participated in a youth athletic league   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Participated in an adult athletic league  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Utilized a City facility for a meeting  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Visited a school park in the evenings, on the weekends, or during the summer  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Used a private gym or fitness center  | <input type="radio"/> |

16. Do you go outside of the City of Marble Falls to participate in recreational activities, sports, or fitness programs?

- Yes
- No

17. If yes to question #16 above, to what city do you primarily travel for recreational activities?

18. If yes to question #16 above, what recreational activity or sport do you primarily participate in outside of Marble Falls?

19. If you do not live in Marble Falls, what brings you into the City of Marble Falls? Choose all that apply. Leave blank if you live in Marble Falls.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Marble Falls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth athletics       | <input type="checkbox"/> School            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult athletics       | <input type="checkbox"/> Work              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City events           | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment     |

Other (please specify)

20. Do you or someone in your family participate in an athletic association or recreation program in the City of Marble Falls?

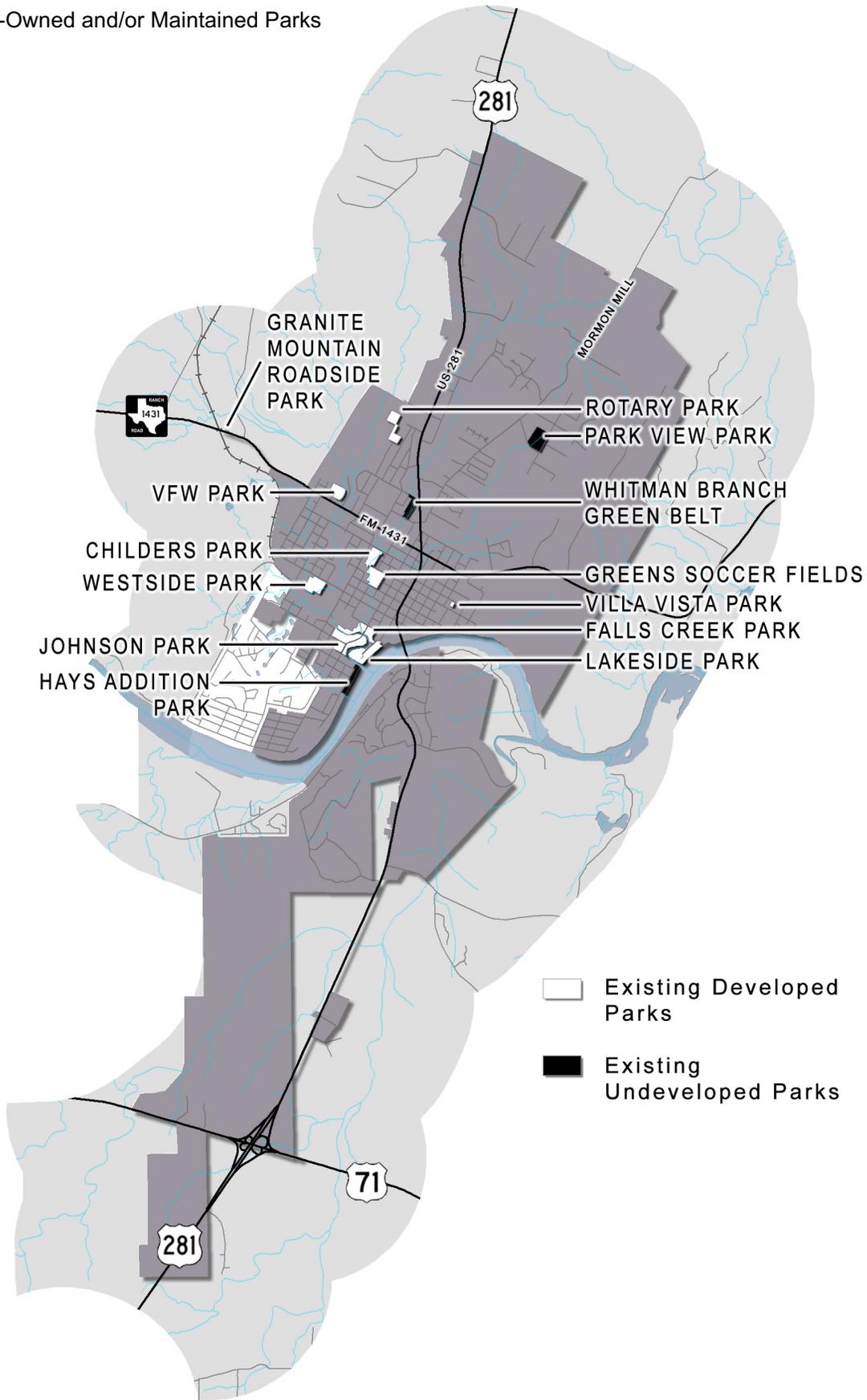
- Yes
- No

21. If yes to question #20 above, in which one(s) do you participate? Check all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marble Falls Youth Baseball/Softball Association | <input type="checkbox"/> La Liga Adult Soccer                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marble Falls Youth Football/Cheer.               | <input type="checkbox"/> Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Granite Country Youth Soccer Association         | <input type="checkbox"/> YMCA of the Highland Lakes                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marble Falls Adult Softball Association          |  |

Other (please specify)

Map B: City-Owned and/or Maintained Parks



22. Considering the options in Map B above, what is your favorite park in Marble Falls?

23. What do you like about the park you chose in question #22?

24. What do you NOT like about the park you chose in question #22?

25. What would you change about the park you chose in question #22 to make it better?

26. 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 feel safe when I use a trail in Marble Falls.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would like to see more trails developed as an alternative means of transportation in Marble Falls.               | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would like to see more trails near where I live.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| I prefer soft surface crushed granite trails over concrete trails.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would use exercise stations if placed along trails.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| There are sufficient amenities along trails in Marble Falls such as benches, lighting, etc.                        | <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"/> |
| I would allow my children to use their bicycle to get to school if trails were more accessible in my neighborhood. | <input type="radio"/> |
| I prefer riding my bicycle on streets and roads instead of off-street trails.                                      | <input type="radio"/> |

**Marble Falls needs to know where to direct its efforts as it strives to meet the City's park and recreational needs.**

27. Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following ATHLETICS-RELATED items to be provided or added in Marble Falls parks.

|  | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Adult-size baseball / softball fields                                      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Athletic fields for general public use                                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Basketball courts – covered  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Basketball courts - uncovered  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Football fields  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Large, multi-use sports complex for tournaments                            | <input type="radio"/> |
| More lighted practice fields for baseball/softball and soccer/football     | <input type="radio"/> |
| More practice fields   | <input type="radio"/> |
| More tennis courts   | <input type="radio"/> |
| More youth-size baseball / softball fields                                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Multi-purpose recreation fields for field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, etc. | <input type="radio"/> |
| Pickleball courts  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Racquetball or handball courts   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Soccer fields – covered  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Soccer fields – uncovered  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Volleyball courts – sand   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Volleyball courts – indoor   | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify)

28. 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)

29. Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following PASSIVE RECREATION items to be provided or added in Marble Falls parks.

|   | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Additional restrooms in parks                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Adventure type / natural playscapes           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Bocce and/or horseshoe courts                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Community gardens                             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Dog parks (off-leash areas)                   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Equestrian trails                             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fishing                                       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Internal loop trails within parks             | <input type="radio"/> |
| More hike and bike trails throughout the city | <input type="radio"/> |
| More landscaping in parks                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| More pavilions for group activities / picnics | <input type="radio"/> |
| More picnic tables                            | <input type="radio"/> |
| More playgrounds                              | <input type="radio"/> |
| More preserved open space                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| More trees / shade                            | <input type="radio"/> |
| Nature viewing facilities                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Outdoor fireplaces                            | <input type="radio"/> |

|   | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Special needs playground  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Shade structures over existing playgrounds                            | <input type="radio"/> |
| Water activities (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding) | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify)

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

Facility/Activity

Most Needed

Other (please specify)

31. Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following MISCELLANEOUS PARKS AND RECREATION items to be provided or added in Marble Falls parks.

|   | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Additional recreational programs such as summer day camps, dance, yoga, pottery, etc. | <input type="radio"/> |
| Additional activities for seniors   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Additional public swimming pools  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Amphitheater  | <input type="radio"/> |
| BMX biking course   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Extended disc golf / Frisbee golf course  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Exercise stations along trails or in parks  | <input type="radio"/> |

|  | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| General lighting of parks for evening use  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increased accessibility at City facilities | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improved skate park                        | <input type="radio"/> |
| Indoor recreation center                   | <input type="radio"/> |
| More special events / festivals at parks   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Municipal aquatic center / water park      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Outdoor fitness park                       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Paintball                                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Public art in parks and along trails       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Splash pads / spray grounds                | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify)

32. Using the list above, what is the ONE miscellaneous parks and recreation facility/activity you or your family feel is most needed?

Facility/Activity

Most Needed

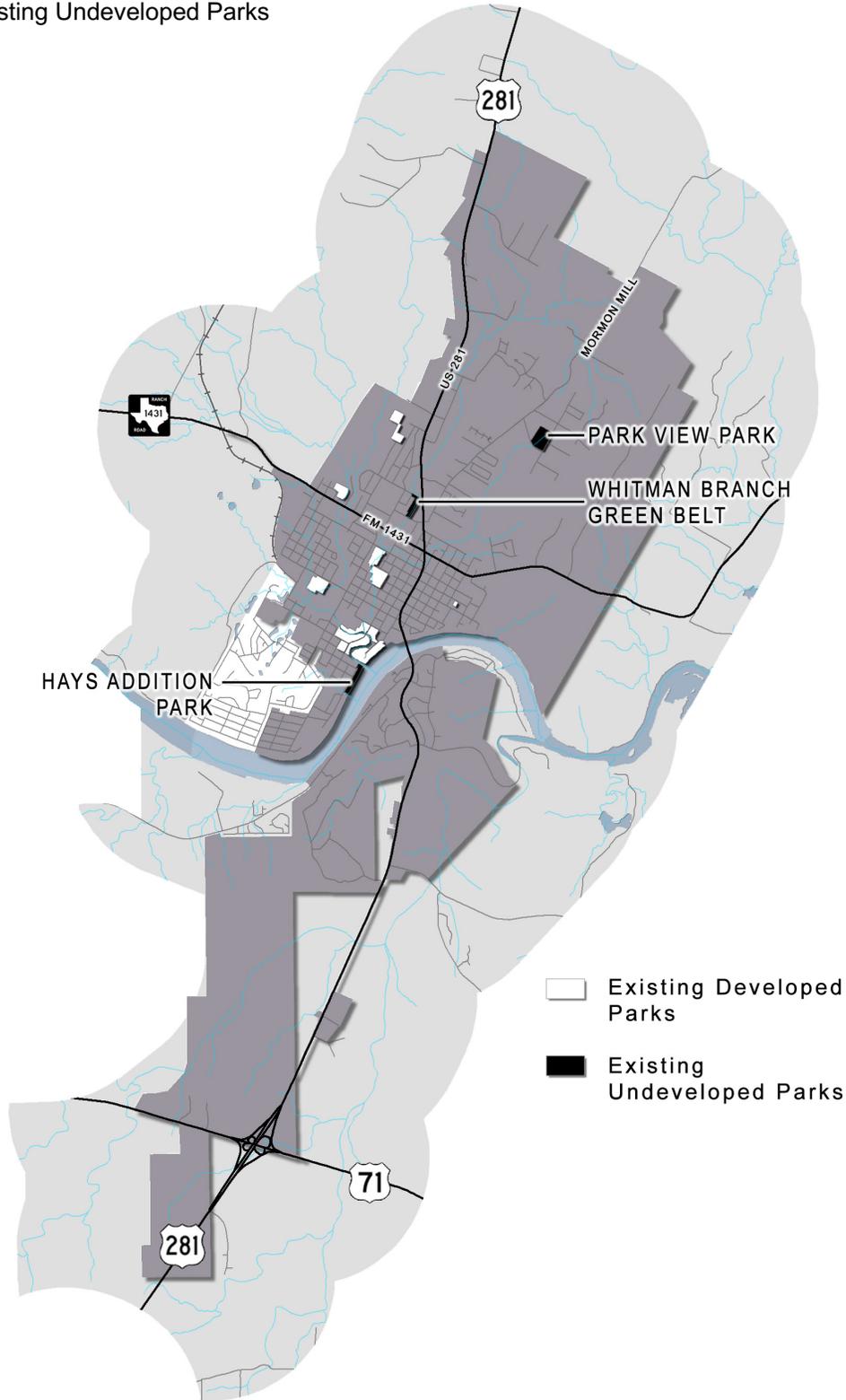
Other (please specify)

33. Indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following activities to be provided on Lake Marble Falls.

|   | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Swimming                                    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Canoeing / Kayaking                         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Paddle boating                              | <input type="radio"/> |
| Boating (motorized)                         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Stand up paddle boarding                    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fishing                                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Large events (e.g., boat races, triathlons) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Pedestrian overlooks / boardwalk            | <input type="radio"/> |
| Light and fountain shows                    | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify)

Map C: Existing Undeveloped Parks



34. The City owns a number of properties reserved for future park development. Which of the undeveloped park properties shown in Map C above should be the City's highest priority for development?

35. Why did you select the undeveloped park property in question #34?

36. What types of facilities should the park property selected in question #34 include?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports courts (e.g., basketball, tennis) | <input type="checkbox"/> Open space        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports fields (e.g., soccer, baseball)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds       |

Other (please specify)

### Downtown Parks

As part of City's parks master planning process, a closer look is being taken at the Downtown parks (i.e., Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, and Lakeside Park) in order to improve and re-imagine them as one large, cohesive Downtown park. While the parks in Downtown are intended to be programmed using a consolidated vision as a single Downtown park, there may be areas within the park geared towards a particular use or theme such as active recreation (e.g., baseball, skatepark), passive recreation (e.g., trail, open space), special events (e.g., festivals), etc. With this in mind, please answer the questions below.



37. In the past year, how frequently have you used the following existing park and recreation facilities in the Downtown parks (i.e., Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, Lakeside Park)?

|   | Daily                 | At Least Weekly       | Few Times Per Month   | Few Times Per Year    | Very Rarely or Never  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Falls Creek Park:<br>Picnic table and/or grills | <input type="radio"/> |
| Falls Creek Park:<br>Skatepark                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Falls Creek Park:<br>Canoe launch               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson Park:<br>Picnic table and/or grills     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson Park:<br>Covered pavilion               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson Park:<br>Playgrounds                    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson Park:<br>Amphitheater                   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson Park:<br>Baseball field                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson Park:<br>Volleyball court               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson Park:<br>Horseshoe pits                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson Park:<br>Boat ramp                      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lakeside Park:<br>Picnic table                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lakeside Park:<br>Boat ramp                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lakeside Park:<br>Basketball court              | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lakeside Park:<br>Tennis court                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Hays Addition Park:<br>Boat ramp                | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lakeside Pavilion                               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Whitman Branch Hike<br>and Bike Trail           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Backbone Creek Hike<br>and Bike Trail           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Participated in a youth<br>athletic league      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Participated in an adult<br>athletic league     | <input type="radio"/> |

38. Thinking ahead to the future of the Downtown parks (i.e., Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, Lakeside Park), how important is it for the City to address the following parks, recreation, and trails issues in the near future?

|   | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Add a splash pad  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Add a municipal water park  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Add more parking at parks   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improve the existing parking areas  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Add or enhance outdoor space for community special events (e.g., an outdoor amphitheater)                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide additional public recreation opportunities in the parks such as summer concerts and/or outdoor movies | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase access to Lake Marble Falls for locals   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide increased opportunities for canoeing / kayaking   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Add a public beach  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide day docks for boats   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to the parks  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Relocate and improve the existing pool  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improve the overall quality and appearance of the existing parks  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Upgrade the existing facilities (e.g., playscapes, restrooms)   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase shade opportunities (e.g., trees, pavilions, playscape shade structures)                             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide additional playscapes   | <input type="radio"/> |

|   | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Provide additional picnicking facilities (e.g., picnic tables, grills, pavilions)   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide exercise equipment  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improve the Johnson Park off-leash dog park   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improve the Johnson Park baseball field   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide a soccer field in the parks   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Remove athletic fields and relocate elsewhere   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide temporary or permanent spaces for food trucks   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Address pedestrian safety in Johnson Park by closing part of Avenue J permanently   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Address pedestrian safety in Johnson Park by closing part of Avenue J temporarily during peak use hours   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Address pedestrian safety in Johnson Park by implementing traffic calming strategies (e.g., road narrowing, speed humps) and improving pedestrian crossings | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, and Lakeside Park                               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide a pedestrian bridge between Lakeside Park and Hays Addition Park over Backbone Creek  | <input type="radio"/> |

|  | Very Important        | Important             | Undecided             | Not Important         | Not Important at All  |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Provide a pedestrian bridge between Lakeside Park and Johnson Park over Backbone Creek | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide additional trails within parks   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide additional historical / interpretive signage                                   | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify)

39. What activities would you like to do in the Downtown parks (i.e., Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, Lakeside Park)? Check all that apply.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bocce and/or horseshoe courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Socializing with friends / community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing nature / wildlife            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing / Kayaking           | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf / Frisbee golf      | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking / hiking on trails           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking your dog                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flag / tackle football        | <input type="checkbox"/> Working out using exercise equipment |

Other (please specify)

- Going to festivals or special events
- Going to regularly scheduled recreation programs
- Going to a dog park
- Pickleball
- Picnicking
- Playing in a youth athletic league
- Playing in an adult athletic league
- Playing on playgrounds
- Running / jogging
- Skateboarding
- Soccer

40. Please rank the following items for Downtown Parks (i.e., Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, Lakeside Park) in order of priority (1 being the highest).

Provide a municipal aquatic center / water park

Provide more and improved parking areas

Enhance spaces for large community events / festivals

Provide additional public recreation opportunities in the parks such as summer concerts and/or outdoor movies

Increase access to Lake Marble Falls (e.g., canoe/kayak launches, trails and gathering spaces adjacent to water)

Provide a public beach

Improve or relocate the existing pool

Improve the overall quality and appearance of the existing parks

Upgrade the existing facilities (e.g., playscapes, restrooms)

Increase shade opportunities (e.g., trees, pavilions, playscape shade structures)

Provide additional picnicking facilities (e.g., picnic tables, grills, pavilions)

Improve the Johnson Park off-leash dog park

Improve the Johnson Park baseball field

Provide a soccer field in the parks

Develop the creekwalk along the Whitman Branch

Provide temporary or permanent spaces for food trucks

Address pedestrian safety in Johnson Park

Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to the parks

Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between Falls Creek Park, Hays Addition Park, Johnson Park, and Lakeside Park

Provide additional trails within parks

Provide additional historical / interpretive signage

Map E: Park View Park

**Park View Park includes approximately 12 acres of natural land at the northwest corner of Park View Drive and Park Ridge Drive. As the only parkland in the northeast quadrant of the Marble Falls, this currently undeveloped park has potential to provide recreation opportunities for a currently underserved area. As part of the parks master planning process, the City is developing a concept plan for this site. As such, please let us know your thoughts about the potential for this park.**

Park View Park



41. How do you envision using this park?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports courts (e.g., basketball, tennis)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic facilities         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports fields (e.g., soccer, baseball)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking / jogging trails                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing nature / wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unprogrammed open space (e.g., grass areas for Frisbee, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> I would not use this park |

Other (please specify)

## Parks & Recreation Citywide Priorities

42. The City is establishing a series of priorities to direct future Parks and Recreation Department actions. Please rank the priority of the following items (1 being the highest).

|   |
|---|
| Expand adult athletic leagues.  |
| Expand youth recreation programs.   |
| Renovate and add to existing developed parks in the City.   |
| Make improvements to existing undeveloped parks.  |
| Have smaller parks with fewer amenities within walking distance of residences.                    |
| Have larger parks with more amenities within driving distance of residences.                      |
| Offer large regional parks with a wide variety of facilities.                                     |
| Provide parks that can be used by people with disabilities.                                       |
| Work to preserve environmentally sensitive areas such as natural creek corridors.                 |
| Develop major trails for transportation and recreation in each sector of the City.                |
| Develop an aquatics center  |
| Develop a large, multi-use sports parks for tournaments   |
| Develop signature park facilities such as a botanical garden, festival grounds, or downtown park. |
| Develop an indoor recreation center   |
| Acquire and develop additional parkland   |
| Develop the creekwalk along the Whitman Branch  |
| Improve the city cemetery   |

43. To meet the needs of its growing population, the Parks and Recreation Department may require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the City considering the following financing strategies to increase the amount of funding available for parks and recreation facilities and programs?

|  | Strongly Support      | Support               | Undecided             | Oppose                | Strongly Oppose       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Increase fees for those who utilize specialized or maintenance intensive recreation facilities.                                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase fees for those who participate in recreation programming.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase rental fees for park facilities.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase the Department's annual budget.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tax increase to fund bond issuance.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Pursue partnerships with Burnet County and surrounding cities to develop, maintain, and operate parks and recreation facilities. | <input type="radio"/> |

## Parks & Recreation Design

44. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The City of Marble Falls SHOULD design and build park facilities that are...

|  | Strongly Agree        | Agree                 | Disagree              | Strongly Disagree     | No Opinion            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| visually appealing and of high quality.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| designed to maximize shade opportunities.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| designed and constructed of durable and long-lasting materials.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| designed and constructed using water-efficient and native landscaping.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| designed and constructed using water-efficient fixtures.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| designed and constructed using energy-efficient fixtures.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| designed and constructed using low impact development (LID) techniques (e.g., using landscaping versus detention ponds to filter and store rainwater). | <input type="radio"/> |
| designed and constructed with an emphasis on low maintenance requirements.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| designed for flexibility of use.   | <input type="radio"/> |

45. From which of the following sources do you get information about parks and recreation activities in Marble Falls? Check all that apply.

- City website
- School brochures/flyers
- Word of mouth
- Parks/Recreation Office
- Recreation brochures
- Email blasts
- Social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.)
- Signs

Other (please specify)

Thank You!

46. Thank you for participating in the Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan public survey. To be entered into a drawing for the chance to win two (2) FiestaJAM 2016 VIP Tickets or an iPhone 5s 16GB (Verizon), please provide your email address below.

47. Would you like to receive updates on the City's parks master planning process?

- Yes
- No

***Your City, Your Parks. Your Opinion Matters!***



**Marble Falls Parks, Recreation,  
& Open Space Master Plan**

All who live, work, or play in Marble Falls are invited to participate in a public open house to review the progress of the Plan. Attendees will gain an understanding of the planning process and provide feedback on preliminary recommendations. Come help us improve and further develop a parks and recreation system built for you!

*Please Join Us! Come to our meeting November 29th, 2016  
@ Lakeside Pavilion, 307 Buena Vista Drive, Marble Falls, TX  
Open House from 6:00 to 9:00 pm (stop by any time)*



**Your city, your parks!**

**Come review preliminary  
recommendations for the  
future of Marble Falls'  
parks.**

**Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan**  
**Open House Public Meeting**

November 29, 2016



**Sign-In Sheet**



Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME            | EMAIL ADDRESS                  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| TERRY EVANS     | TEVANS_@/@yahoo.com            |
| Dobbie Brown    | mainstreetfudgequeen@gmail.com |
| Bob Brown       | BOB@RD/ENTER.COM               |
| Maggie Venour   | maggiemae3bus@gmail.com        |
| Annie Boy       | Parks & Rec Board              |
| Elizabeth Yeh   | Dev. Serv. Staff               |
| Kendra Lewis    | rlewis69@austin.tx.com         |
| Ruby Ross       | ross@actv.com                  |
| CHARLES WATKINS | charlwath@austin.tx.com        |
| Ryan Moore      | moore.ryan@gmail.com           |
| Evan Kitchens   | evan.kitchens96@gmail.com      |
| Gregory Tamaseu | tamaseu1@gmail.com             |
| Erin Burks      | Erin@MarbleFalls.org           |
| Alex Castelan   |                                |

# Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

## Open House Public Meeting

November 29, 2016



### Sign-In Sheet

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME              | EMAIL ADDRESS             |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Syble Moore       | mfc.syble@netr.com        |
| Reed Norman       |                           |
| Patti Zinsmeyer   | pattic@marblefalls.org    |
| Elizabeth Maynard | elizabeth@marblefalls.org |
| Carrie Kinnison   | carriekinnison@gmail.com  |
| Donavm Sanchez    |                           |
| Mike Hodge        |                           |
| Donna L Greer     | hladonna1@netv.com        |
| Monique Breaux    |                           |
| BRIAN SHIRLEY     | bshirley@zeecan.com       |
| Stacy Ewartowski  | stacyewartowski@gmail.com |
| Jash Lash Lase    |                           |
| Alicia Evans      | aliciasemail11@yahoo.com  |
| Diane Packer      | ladydi4441@yahoo.com      |

# Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

## Open House Public Meeting

November 29, 2016



### Sign-In Sheet



Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME                | EMAIL ADDRESS             |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| TRISTAN TRUAND      | TwistedNBAD@gmail.com     |
| Zoe Griffin         |                           |
| MIKE WIGGALS        | CITY STAFF                |
| Amanda Grubbs       | jimmyandmardy@hotmail.com |
| H. STEPHEN JACKSON  | stephen@hsj-architect.com |
| SCHLAUDRAFF, JUSTIN | .                         |
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# Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

## Open House Public Meeting

November 29, 2016



### Sign-In Sheet

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME       | EMAIL ADDRESS        |
|------------|----------------------|
| Elle Tyler | ellat Tyler@jung.com |
|            |                      |
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**Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan**

**Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #1**

Date: 6/6/16 5:30pm



**Sign-In Sheet**

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME            | EMAIL ADDRESS                 | ORGANIZATION             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| STEVE HURST     | steve@hurstlawllc.com         | The Hurst Law Firm, PLLC |
| JOHN PACKER     | jpacker@marblefalls.gov       | City/EDC                 |
| CHARLES WATKINS | charles.watkins@austin.rr.com | PARKS COMMISSION         |
| Jane Knapik     | knap@NETV.com                 | Parks                    |
| Kendra Lewis    | rlewis69@austin.rr.com        | Parks                    |
| Annie Berg      | annieberg53@gmail.com         | Parks + Rec              |
| Leta Gannon     | leta36@yahoo.com              | Park + Rec               |
|                 |                               |                          |
|                 |                               |                          |
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|                 |                               |                          |

MARBLE FALLS PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

## Marble Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

### Stakeholder Meeting

Date: 9/13/16



### Sign-In Sheet

Please Sign in Below (PLEASE PRINT)

| NAME   | EMAIL ADDRESS                | ORGANIZATION |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| Jason Coleman                                    | jason@colemanteamrealty.com  |              |
| Leslie Coleman<br>Lilly, Gentry, Perce           | leslie@colemanteamrealty.com |              |
| Stacy Huartauski<br><del>Stacy &amp; Brian</del> | stacyhuartauski@gmail.com    |              |
| Craig Magerkurth                                 | cmmagerkurth@yahoo.com       | neighbor     |
| Lee Beershausen                                  | leebeu71@gmail.com           |              |
| Judy Baugh                                       |                              |              |
| Annie Berg                                       | Parks & Rec                  |              |
| Mike Hodge                                       |                              | COMF         |
| Calli Curran                                     | calliCurran@gmail.com        |              |
| Kari Hatfield                                    | Karih252@yahoo.com           |              |
| Darlene Costermeyer                              |                              |              |
| CHRISTIAN FLETCHER                               |                              |              |
|  |                              |              |
|  |                              |              |

***APPENDIX B:  
DOWNTOWN PARKS  
MASTER PLAN***



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# INTRO

## INTRODUCTION

The Marble Falls Downtown parks include Lakeside, Johnson, and Falls Creek Park. While Hays Addition Park is not located with the Downtown area, it is being included in the Downtown Parks Master Plan due to its proximity to the other parks. Description of the Downtown parks in this appendix refer to all four of the parks in the planning area. The Downtown parks are, by far, the most popular and heavily used parks in the City. Comprising approximately 46 acres, the Downtown parks represent over 30 percent of the City's existing parkland. Providing access to the existing hike and bike trails; the greater Downtown area; and physical, visual, and programmatic access to Lake Marble Falls, the Downtown parks draw users from the City and greater region.

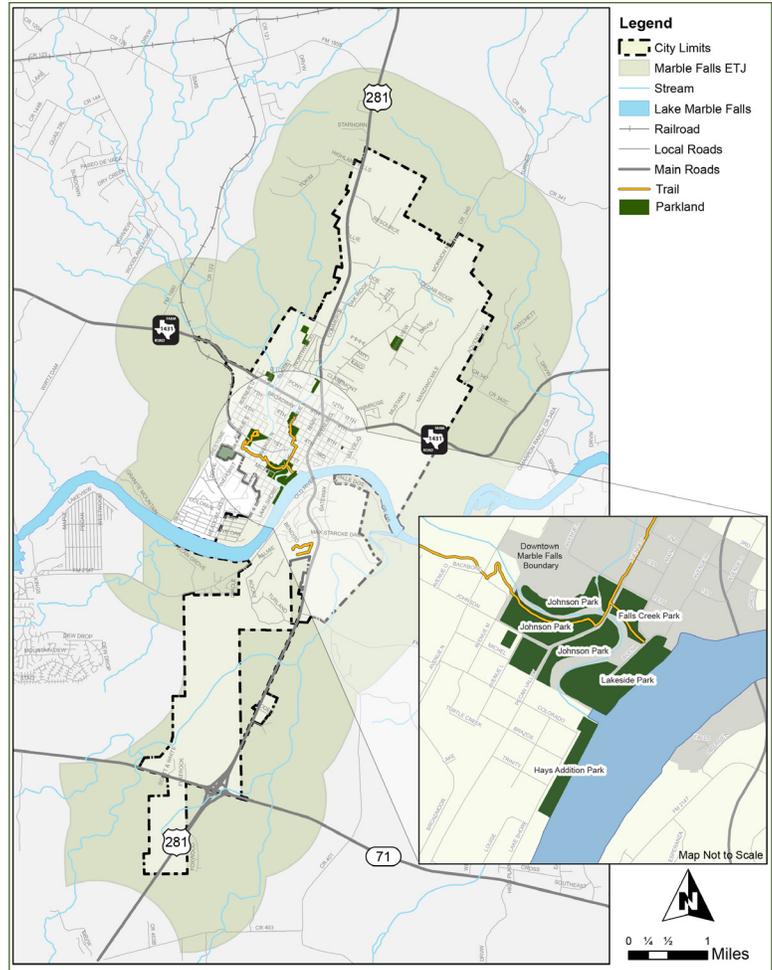
## PURPOSE

In an effort to increase the vitality and unique character of Downtown Marble Falls, the parks are being re-imagined as a single destination park. This includes physical and visual interconnectivity, and programming appropriate uses in each park. With a re-imagined Downtown park network, Marble Falls can shine as a stand-out community providing access to commerce, natural resources, high-quality recreation, and a unique Downtown environment.

## PARK CONTEXT & STAKEHOLDERS

The Downtown parks are all located directly adjacent to each other, and are separated only by roads or creeks. In their current state, pedestrian connectivity between the parks is inhibited by Backbone Creek.

## LOCATION MAP



In an effort to develop a Parks Master Plan which is supported by the community, City staff, and elected and appointed officials, stakeholder meetings were held at the beginning of the overall Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROSMP) planning process to solicit feedback on redevelopment opportunities in the Downtown parks.

# DESIGN PROCESS

## DOWNTOWN PARKS MASTER PLAN DESIGN PROCESS

The parks design process starts with an inventory and analysis of the existing conditions. Through site visits, analysis of inventory data, and engagement with the public, an understanding is developed of the existing challenges and opportunities available in the parks.

When approaching the redesign of the Marble Falls Downtown parks, the process started with a parks tour with City staff to gather data on existing challenges. In June of 2016, a Downtown charrette process was then conducted with the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC). The charrette, overseen by consultant staff, went through a series of exercises to identify considerations, recreation programming, and themes to be included in the development of the Downtown parks. This process included activities to identify, discuss, and ultimately illustrate their ideas for a Downtown concept plan.

Working as a large group, the PAC discussed and identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the Marble Falls Downtown parks and greater parks system, as they related to the citizens and visitors of Marble Falls. The results of the SWOT analysis (see page B-6) helped to define the vision and conceptual design of the Downtown parks.

Following the charrette process, the online public survey conducted as part of the PROSMP planning process included numerous questions designed to gain public feedback on how the parks are currently used, existing issues with the parks, and how the community ultimately wants to use the parks. The survey received 588 responses and provided a greater understanding that respondents' primary desire for the Downtown parks is passive recreation opportunities which allow for socializing and interacting with Lake Marble Falls and the City's creeks.

Following the initial public engagement phase, a series of three schematic park concepts were developed to illustrate a variety of potential options for the Downtown parks (see page B-6). City staff reviewed the concepts and provided feedback on which elements they felt most appropriate to include in the final concept plan.

A consolidated Downtown Parks Preliminary Master Plan was subsequently presented to City staff, the PAC, overall community (during the Open House), and elected and appointed officials for comments. Through a series of modifications, a final Downtown Parks Master Plan was developed (see page B-7). The final plan will be described in further detail throughout this appendix.



Stakeholders included representatives from Downtown businesses, the Marble Falls Library, EDC, Planning and Zoning Commission, City Council, among others.



The Downtown charrette process provided valuable input to help steer the development of three potential Downtown park concepts.



The public provided feedback on the Downtown Parks Preliminary Master Plan at the public open house.

# EXISTING PARKS

## JOHNSON PARK



Johnson Park is a 23.6-acre regional park. It is the City's oldest park, and was designated as a Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) in 2016. The park includes a baseball field, boat ramp, and a number of other passive recreation amenities (e.g., picnic pavilions, playgrounds). Being used for both daily and event-based activities, the park is in need of upgrades, safety improvements, and reprogramming.

## FALLS CREEK PARK



Falls Creek Park is 3.8-acre neighborhood park which is primarily comprised of the Marble Falls skate park. The skate park is used on a daily basis by local youth and an expansion and diversification of spectator and skating amenities has been requested.

## LAKESIDE PARK



Lakeside Park is a 13.0-acre regional park located directly along Lake Marble Falls. It includes both passive (e.g., picnic pavilions) and active (e.g., basketball and tennis courts) amenities. The City's largest boat ramp is located in the park and is in the process of being decommissioned. The park is used throughout the year for large events but its current programming does not take full advantage of the opportunities provided on the lake-front property.

## HAYS ADDITION PARK



Hays Addition Park is 5.1-acre neighborhood park. Aside from a public boat ramp, the site remains undeveloped. Due to its location directly adjacent to residences, development of the site needs to carefully consider potential impact on the residents.

## OVERALL PARKS SWOT ANALYSIS RESULTS

### STRENGTHS

- Lake Marble Falls – clean water due to water constantly flushing
- Backbone Creek & Whitman Branch corridors
- Positive, family-friendly spaces, picnicking
- Relatively safe parks, policing
- Large right-of-ways, numerous alleyways
- Johnson Park (1887) – Legacy Park (1 of 29 statewide)
- Destinations within walking distance
- Skate park highly used
- Tourism / non-resident opportunities

### WEAKNESSES

- Unightly adjacent uses
- Low number of residents limits revenue
- Little representation by non-English speakers
- Minimal engagement by certain user groups (time constraints, education, lack of understanding of how this could benefit them)
- Lakeside Park infrequently used
- No city transportation and few safe pedestrian connections
- Tax base smaller than service area
- Insufficient designed parking (needs better efficiency)
- Not many museums to interest youth
- Few cultural amenities to interest youth
- Housing and amenities not attracting new residents

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Paddle boarding, kayaking, increased water access
- Potential to increase use of Backbone Creek
- Hotel/conference center brings additional park usage
- Let community's desires guide the plan
- Potential use of ROW and alleys for connectivity
- Increase use and programming of Lakeside Park
- Consider legacy of Johnson Park
- Event pricing to supplement park maintenance funding
- Development south of Lake Marble Falls – fee-in-lieu instead to allow for use in downtown parks? Or ensure park is built to set standard
- Chance to involve the youth with history, science, nature education
- Partnership with adjacent cities (Meadowlakes for golf amenities)
- Allowing non-resident use to keep local businesses viable
- Healthcare industry could evolve user-base
- Christmas Trail of Lights – 50 thousand participants
- Evolving events over time

### THREATS

- Make sure parks and recreation serve residents as well as tourists – some uses need tourist use to remain viable
- Staffing
- Events as threat to parks system (Howdy-Roo, Mayfest, Boat races)
- Threat to water quality in Lake Marble Falls and Backbone Creek
- Heavy use could degrade parks, negatively impact tree health, etc.
- Droughts and flooding
- Vandalism
- Lack of money

## PRELIMINARY PARK CONCEPT PLANS

### PEDESTRIAN-FOCUSED CONCEPT PLAN



### EVENT-FOCUSED CONCEPT PLAN



### WATER-FOCUSED CONCEPT PLAN



A series of three potential concept plans represented different themes that could be incorporated into the Downtown parks. Key design elements in the pedestrian-focused concept plan included pedestrian promenades, sculptural landmarks, creek and lake front views, and a continuation of the Main Street pedestrian experience through to the Lakeside Pavilion. The event-focused concept created defined entry points into and throughout the parks for pedestrians and vehicles and included entrance gateways, large open lawns, and transitional parking. The water-focused concept accentuated views of and access to the water and included fire pits, a boardwalk, formal creek edge, and formal water play. Based on feedback, the final consolidated plan started with the pedestrian-focused concept and incorporated key elements of the other concepts. The final Downtown Parks Master Plan can be viewed on the following page.



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# PROGRAM AREAS

## PARK PROGRAMMING AREAS

While the Downtown parks are intended to be programmed using a consolidated vision as a single Downtown destination park, there are areas geared towards particular uses or themes such as passive recreation (e.g., trail, open space), special events (e.g., festivals), water front access, etc.

The Downtown Parks Master Plan will be broken down on subsequent pages into five sub-areas (see map below) to allow for each area to be described in greater detail. The sub-areas can be generally described as:

- **Area 1:** Lakeside and Falls Creek Parks, Downtown hotel/conference center planning area, and the EDC waterfront development
- **Area 2:** Johnson Park north and west of Johnson Street and Avenue J
- **Area 3:** Johnson Park west of Avenue J and Pecan Valley Drive
- **Area 4:** Johnson Park south and east of Johnson Street and Pecan Valley Drive
- **Area 5:** Hays Addition Park





PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.FITTRAIL.COM/STATION\_PHOTOS  
 Exercise stations established along the existing trail could provide a good opportunity to diversify trail uses and increase health and fitness.



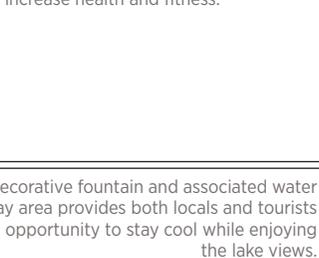
A small multi-table picnic pavilion could provide convenient passive recreation access along the waterfront.



PHOTO SOURCE: HAVINGFUNINTHESUN.COM  
 Establishing a lakeside beach provides both locals and tourists with a unique water-based amenity.



PHOTO SOURCE: ASLA.ORG, ATLANTA FOURTH WARD PARK  
 DIMITRI MENCIBOGLAS  
 A waterfront amphitheater provides essential seating and gathering places for large lake-based events.



A decorative fountain and associated water play area provides both locals and tourists the opportunity to stay cool while enjoying the lake views.



IMAGE COURTESY OF LOCAL ARCHITECT MARLEY PORTER WITH LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Creating a lake front boardwalk provides an opportunity to connect the park's passive recreation uses with the active tourism activities of the proposed hotel/conference center.

Area 1 includes the entirety of Lakeside and Falls Creek Parks, the previously proposed EDC waterfront development, and the connection to the incoming hotel/conference center. The area is proposed to be redeveloped as a passive park equipped with amenities to enhance community and visitor interactions with Downtown and Lake Marble Falls. Key amenities include a public beach; large and small amphitheatres; a raised overlook plaza with water play elements; an interior and perimeter loop trail system, including a water front portion and connectivity beneath U.S. Highway 281; a pedestrian bridge providing access to Johnson Park; an enhanced parking area; integration of sculptural elements into the park; a skate park expansion; and re-purposing of the existing boat ramp to a multipurpose event water access point with access restricted to pedestrian use except during events. The City needs to continue to evaluate potential future boat ramp locations, one of which is in this area.



A large pavilion could provide a dedicated central gathering space for the City's large community events.

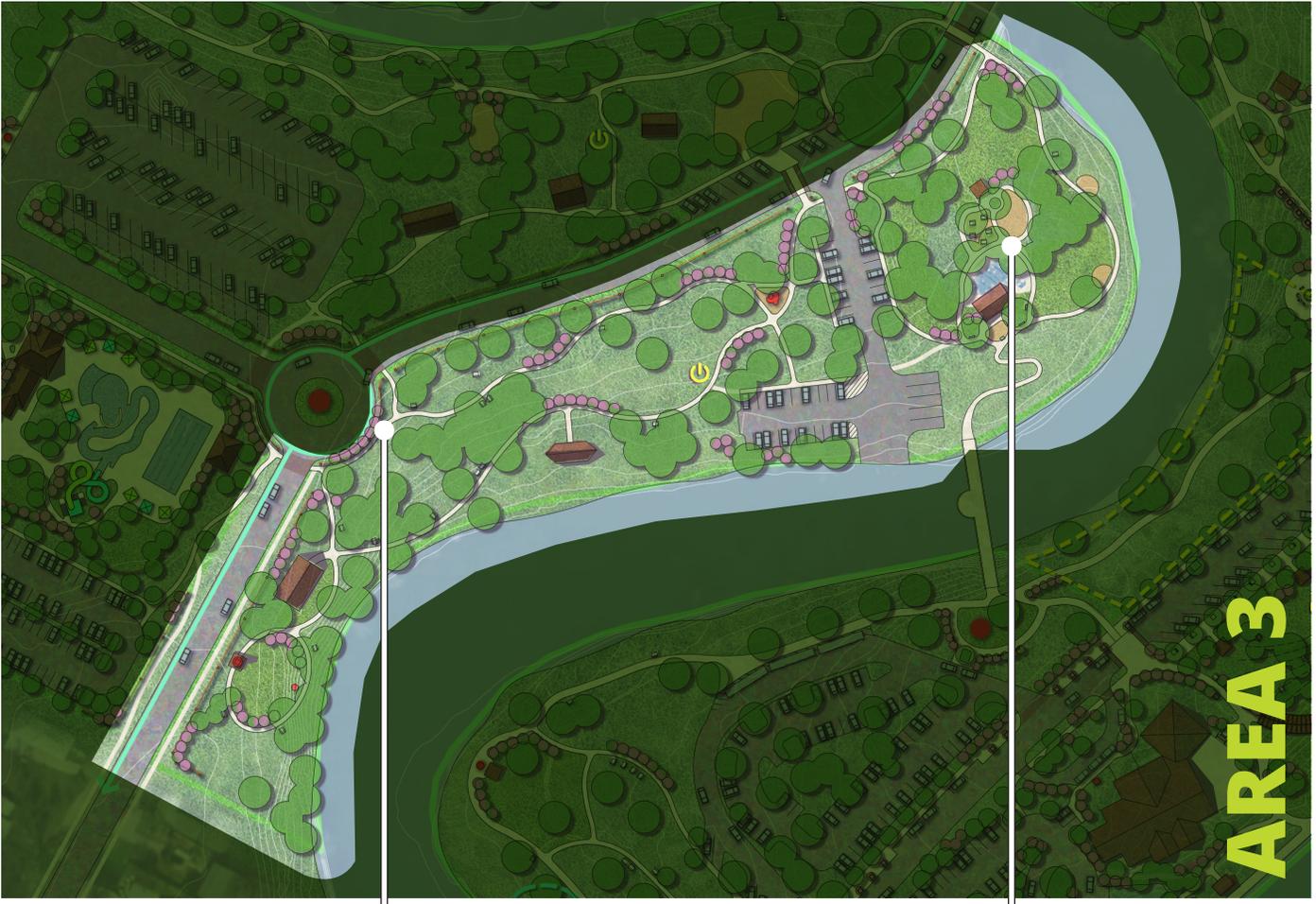


A roundabout could be used as a grand entrance into Johnson Park.



Adding seating and a drinking fountain could enhance the amenities of the existing off-leash dog park.

Johnson Park is one of the most treasured parks in Marble Falls and is used for daily activities as well as many large community events. Based on the public response about their desired use for the parks, it is recommended that the area within Johnson Park be redeveloped as a passive, family-friendly park with ample space appropriate for large community events as well as more intimate family gatherings. Key amenities proposed in this area include a large paved parking lot to accommodate daily users and provide overflow festival space, thus reducing the environmental impact of large events; a large picnic pavilion suitable for large groups and events; an extension of the Backbone Creek Hike and Bike Trail; developing additional creek access points; replacing the existing restroom; using roundabouts for traffic calming purposes and signature gateway entrances; integrating sculptural elements at key areas in the park; creating dedicated pedestrian crossing areas to reduce pedestrian/vehicular conflicts; and making significant improvements to streambanks and the Avenue J bridge over Backbone Creek to address flooding issues. Addressing the Avenue J bridge will need to be a high priority in the implementation of the Johnson Park improvements as unchecked flooding could decimate other envisioned park amenities.



Established trailheads and trail wayfinding adds character to the trail and helps visitors navigate the City's trail system to key destinations.



An improved tot lot can increase excitement and provide additional opportunities for improving health and fitness.

Area 3 includes the eastern and southern portion of Johnson Park. This area will include the continuation of family-friendly amenities which emphasize user safety, creek access, and passive spaces for daily use. The existing boat ramp and parking in this area is maintained as part of the Downtown Parks Master Plan. Key amenities proposed in this area include a loop trail providing shorter and longer loops throughout this area and the overall Downtown parks system; an enhanced trailhead near the pedestrian bridge to Lakeside Park including seating, signage, restroom, exercise stations, a tot lot, picnic pavilion, and splash pad; integration of sculptural elements at key locations; and split-rail fencing along Avenue J and Johnson Street to address pedestrian/vehicular safety concerns (to be provided along all roads through Johnson Park).



PHOTO SOURCE: CITY OF ROUND ROCK



PHOTO SOURCE: CITY OF ROUND ROCK

Relocate the baseball/softball field outside of the Downtown parks. Consider developing a municipal aquatic center in the existing field's location to replace the swimming pool in Lakeside Park.

Area 4 includes the area where the existing baseball/softball field is located. Due to the clear indication that park users primarily want to engage in passive recreation in the Downtown parks, the baseball/softball field is proposed to be relocated out of the Downtown parks system. A municipal aquatic complex and associated parking areas are proposed to replace the City-owned swimming pool in Lakeside Park. More and more frequently cities are developing enhanced aquatic complexes which provide activities above and beyond the typical swimming pool. The Marble Falls aquatic complex could include elements such as a lap pool, leisure pool, lazy river, water play areas, slides, picnic areas, and concessions.

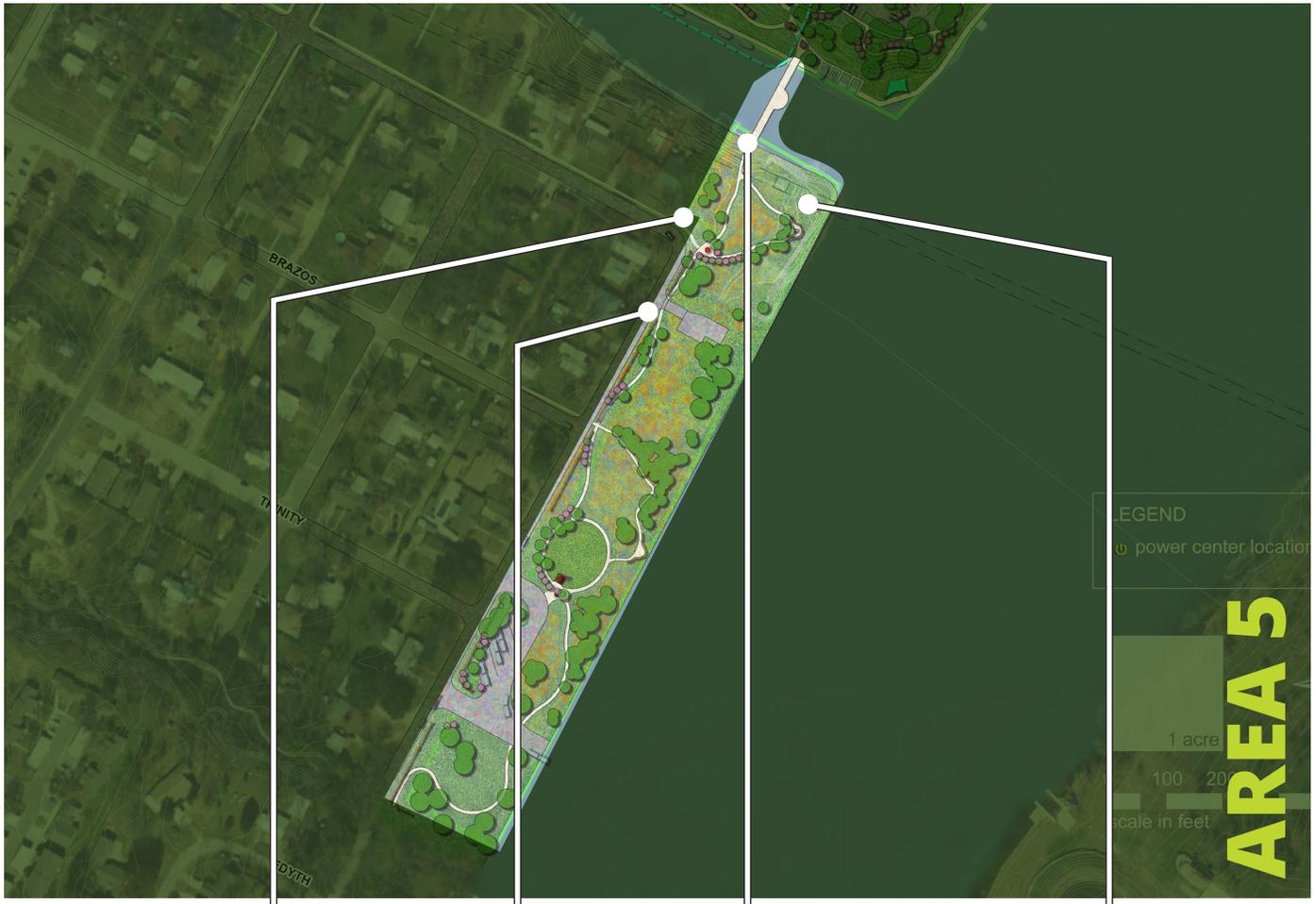


PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://WAYOUTWESTAUSTIN.COM/BEE-CAVE-SCULPTURE-PARK/](http://wayoutwestaustin.com/bee-cave-sculpture-park/)

Sculptural elements placed throughout the parks system can contribute to a “sense of place,” create memorable experiences, and provide locals with an opportunity to showcase their craft.

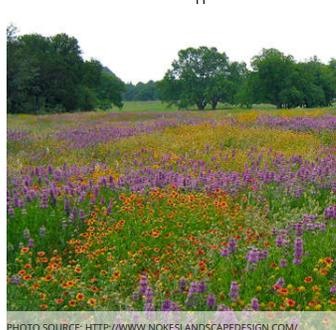


PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.NOKESLANDSCAPEDESIGN.COM/](http://www.nokeslandscapedesign.com/)

Wildflower meadows provide habitat for birds and butterflies, provide stormwater filtration, and create places of year-round natural beauty.



PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.KEYWORD-SUGGESTIONS.COM/](http://www.keyword-suggestions.com/)

A bridge and overlook connecting Lakeside to Hays Addition and Johnson Parks will create a continuous Downtown park system.



PHOTO SOURCE: [WWW.LYONS-LAKE.COM/LAWN\\_PICNIC.HTML](http://www.lyons-lake.com/lawn_picnic.html)

Picnic areas located adjacent to the lake provide visual connection with the water, relaxation, and passive recreation opportunities.

Area 5 includes Hays Addition Park. The area is proposed as an enhanced passive recreation space with visual and boat access to the lake. Key amenities proposed in this area include a pedestrian bridge providing connectivity to Lakeside Park; integration of sculptural elements; a loop trail with trailhead amenities such as a small restroom, drinking fountain, picnic area, and signage; a small parking lot for truck/boat trailer parking which would be buffered from residences by a vegetated area; an overlook at the northern point of the park; enhancing the wildflower meadow; and improving the existing boat ramp.

# PHASING & COSTS

## PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

Redeveloping the Downtown parks is a large and long-term endeavor which, once completed, will completely transform Downtown Marble Falls. As with the majority of large, complex park plans, implementation of the Downtown Parks Master Plan is proposed to take place in phases. Phased implementation will allow the City to fund the final design and implementation of the plan in a logical order. Phasing is recommended to correlate with the areas previously described.

- **Phase 1** would be designed and constructed concurrent with the hotel/conference center to consolidate the construction activities. Unless the municipal aquatic complex is constructed as part of Phase 1, the swimming pool in Lakeside Park would likely need to remain until Phase 4 is constructed.
- **Phase 2** would next be designed and constructed to accommodate the many public events held in the park and address the Avenue J bridge.
- **Phase 3** would be implemented following the Avenue J bridge improvements to ensure that flooding potential has been addressed prior to development of amenities in this area.
- **Phase 4** would include development of the aquatic complex and parking areas as well as removing the pool from Lakeside Park.
- **Phase 5** would include the Hays Addition Park improvements.



The probable costs included in this Master Plan are preliminary estimates and are subject to change based on the final design concept. Preliminary order of magnitude cost estimates presented on the following pages are grouped based on the above listed phasing.

OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST

| <b>City of Marble Falls - Downtown Parks</b>                               |   |       |           |                  |                  |
|--|---|-------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Phase 1 Conceptual Plan Opinion of Probable Construction Cost</b>       |   |       |           | January 18, 2017 |                  |
|  | Quantity  | Units | Unit Cost | Total            |                  |
| <b>Overall Lakeside Park - Site work, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage</b>    |   |       |           |                  |                  |
| A1   | Grading   | 1     | Allow     | \$ 350,000.00    | \$ 350,000       |
| A2   | Utilities upgrade and additions (includes new restroom buildings)   | 1     | Allow     | \$ 250,000.00    | \$ 250,000       |
| A3   | Lighting (at new pavilions, parking lots, stages/amphitheaters, streetscape connection from hotel conference center to pavilion, and area lighting) | 1     | Allow     | \$ 900,000.00    | \$ 900,000       |
| A4   | Power center  | 2     | Allow     | \$ 90,000.00     | \$ 180,000       |
| A5   | Wayfinding signs (does not include monument signs or trailheads)  | 1     | Allow     | \$ 90,000.00     | \$ 90,000        |
| A6   | SWPPP   | 1     | Allow     | \$ 95,000.00     | \$ 95,000        |
| <b>Overall Phase 1 - Site work, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage Subtotal</b> |   |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>1,865,000</b> |
| <b>Lot 5</b>   |   |       |           |                  |                  |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>   |   |       |           |                  |                  |
| B1   | Trailhead Signage   | 2     | Allow     | \$ 3,500.00      | \$ 7,000.00      |
| B2   | Concrete walk, 8' wide including connection under 281   | 7550  | SF        | \$6.50           | \$ 49,075        |
| B4   | Covered Bridge and Restrooms  | 1     | Allow     | \$575,000        | \$ 575,000       |
| B5   | Boardwalk including site furnishings  | 1     | Allow     | \$ 750,000.00    | \$ 750,000       |
| B6   | Waterfall Pavilion including site furnishings   | 1     | Allow     | \$ 850,000.00    | \$ 850,000       |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>                                    |   |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>2,231,075</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>  |   |       |           |                  |                  |
| B8   | Trash Receptacles   | 5     | EA        | \$ 850.00        | \$ 4,250         |
| B9   | Benches   | 10    | EA        | \$ 1,200.00      | \$ 12,000        |
| B10  | Drinking Fountain   | 1     | EA        | \$ 3,500.00      | \$ 3,500         |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>   |   |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>19,750</b>    |
| <b>Landscaping</b>   |   |       |           |                  |                  |
| B12  | Botanical garden (15,000 sf)  | 5000  | SF        | \$ 45.00         | \$ 225,000       |
| B13  | Ornamental Tree   | 35    | EA        | \$ 200.00        | \$ 7,000         |
| B14  | Shade Tree  | 25    | EA        | \$ 375.00        | \$ 9,375         |
| B16  | Irrigation  | 1     | Allow     | \$ 100,000.00    | \$ 100,000       |
| B17  | Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer)  | 1     | Allow     | \$ 25,000        | \$ 24,138        |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>  |   |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>365,513</b>   |
| <b>Total Lot 5</b>   |   |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>2,616,338</b> |

| <b>Lakeside Park Creekside Picnic Area and Small Amphitheatre</b>       |  |       |       |               |                   |
|---|--|-------|-------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>  |  |       |       |               |                   |
| C1  | Trailhead Signage  | 1     | Allow | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 3,500.00       |
| C2  | Concrete walk, 8' wide   | 13500 | SF    | \$6.50        | \$ 87,750         |
| C3  | Concrete walk, 6' wide   | 2058  | SF    | \$6.50        | \$ 13,377         |
| C4  | Concrete walk, 5' wide   | 4670  | SF    | \$6.50        | \$ 30,355         |
| C5  | New Boat Slips   | 1     | Allow | \$25,000      | \$ 25,000         |
| C6  | Pavilion folly w/ restroom, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site | 1     | Allow | \$ 95,000.00  | \$ 95,000         |
| C7  | Pavilion, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site                   | 1     | Allow | \$ 30,000.00  | \$ 30,000         |
| C8  | Covered Stage  | 1     | Allow | \$ 35,000.00  | \$ 35,000         |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>                                 |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 319,982</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>   |  |       |       |               |                   |
| C9  | Trash Receptacles  | 9     | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 7,650          |
| C10   | Benches  | 12    | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 14,400         |
| C11   | Drinking Fountain  | 2     | EA    | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 7,000          |
| C12   | Picnic Tables w/ concrete pad  | 16    | EA    | \$ 3,000.00   | \$ 48,000         |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>  |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 77,050</b>  |
| <b>Landscaping</b>  |  |       |       |               |                   |
| C13   | Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)   | 5000  | SF    | \$ 12.50      | \$ 62,500         |
| C14   | Ornamental Tree  | 56    | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 11,200         |
| C15   | Shade Tree   | 12    | EA    | \$ 375.00     | \$ 4,500          |
| C16   | Terraced Lawn (includes grading, turf, and subsurface soil stabilization)                            | 1     | Allow | \$ 125,000.00 | \$ 125,000        |
| C17   | Irrigation   | 1     | Allow | \$ 30,000.00  | \$ 30,000         |
| C18   | Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer)                 | 1     | Allow | \$ 7,820      | \$ 7,820          |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>   |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 241,020</b> |
| <b>Total Lakeside Park Creekside Picnic Area and Small Amphitheatre</b> |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 638,052</b> |
| <b>Lakeside Park Parking and Drop-Offs</b>                              |  |       |       |               |                   |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>  |  |       |       |               |                   |
| D1  | Concrete Sidewalk 6' wide  | 2720  | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 17,680         |
| D2  | Concrete Parking   | 9245  | SY    | \$ 55.00      | \$ 508,475.00     |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>                                 |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 526,155</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>   |  |       |       |               |                   |
| D3  | Trash Receptacles  | 4     | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 3,400          |
| D4  | Benches  | 4     | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 4,800          |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>  |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 8,200</b>   |

| <b>Landscaping</b>                          |  |       |       |               |                     |
|---|--|-------|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| D5  | Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod   | 4200  | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 18,900           |
| D6  | Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)   | 1500  | SF    | \$ 12.50      | \$ 18,750           |
| D7  | Ornamental Tree  | 50    | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 10,000           |
| D8  | Shade Tree   | 25    | EA    | \$ 375.00     | \$ 9,375            |
| D9  | Irrigation   | 37800 | SF    | \$ 0.60       | \$ 22,680           |
| D10   | Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer)             | 1     | Allow | \$ 7,971      | \$ 7,971            |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>                 |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 87,676</b>    |
| <b>Total Lakeside Parking and Drop-Offs</b> |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 622,031</b>   |
| <b>Along Buena Vista Drive</b>              |  |       |       |               |                     |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>              |  |       |       |               |                     |
| E1  | Concrete Sidewalk 14' wide   | 11200 | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 72,800           |
| E2  | Concrete Sidewalk 12' wide   | 3840  | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 24,960           |
| E3  | Concrete Sidewalk 8' wide  | 2040  | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 13,260           |
| E4  | Concrete Sidewalk 6' wide  | 5200  | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 33,800           |
| E5  | Raised Crosswalk   | 1     | EA    | \$ 9,500.00   | \$ 9,500            |
| E6  | Concrete Parking   | 781   | SY    | \$ 55.00      | \$ 42,955.00        |
| E7  | Decomposed Granite Parking w/ concrete roll over curb, 4,250 SF                                  | 1     | Allow | \$ 90,000.00  | \$ 90,000.00        |
| E8  | Pedestrian Bridge 160' long, 15' wide including abutments  | 1     | Allow | \$ 600,000.00 | \$ 600,000          |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>     |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 887,275</b>   |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>                     |  |       |       |               |                     |
| E9  | Trash Receptacles  | 11    | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 9,350            |
| E10   | Benches  | 22    | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 26,400           |
| E11   | Picnic Tables  | 6     | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 7,200            |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>            |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 42,950</b>    |
| <b>Landscaping</b>                          |  |       |       |               |                     |
| E12   | Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod along sidewalk and disturbed areas  | 403   | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 1,814            |
| E13   | Shade Tree w/ tree grate and engineered soil and drain, and irrigation                           | 26    | EA    | \$ 8,500.00   | \$ 221,000          |
| E14   | Shade Tree   | 45    | EA    | \$ 375.00     | \$ 16,875           |
| E15   | Ornamental Tree  | 23    | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 4,600            |
| E16   | Ornamental Tree w/ planter box (includes irrigation, soil medium, planter with anchor, and tree) | 10    | EA    | \$ 1,250.00   | \$ 12,500           |
| E17   | Irrigation   | 1     | Allow | \$ 15,000.00  | \$ 15,000           |
| E18   | Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer)             | 1     | Allow | \$ 3,829      | \$ 3,829            |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>                 |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 275,617</b>   |
| <b>Total Along Buena Vista Drive</b>        |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 1,205,842</b> |

| <b>Lakeside Park South of Buena Vista Drive</b>       |   |       |       |               |                     |
|---|---|-------|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>                        |   |       |       |               |                     |
| F1  | Concrete Sidewalk 8' wide   | 16000 | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 104,000          |
| F2  | Concrete Sidewalk 6' wide   | 2400  | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 15,600.00        |
| F3  | Covered Stage   | 1     | Allow | \$ 95,000.00  | \$ 95,000           |
| F4  | Raised Overlook, 5500 SF, includes special paving, interactive fountain, 3 shade structures, and decorative railing | 1     | Allow | \$ 425,000.00 | \$ 425,000          |
| F5  | Pavilion folly, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site                            | 1     | Allow | \$ 55,000.00  | \$ 55,000           |
| F6  | Pavilion, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, picnic tables, and shipping to site                   | 6     | Allow | \$ 38,000.00  | \$ 228,000          |
| F7  | Restroom Building under arbor   | 1     | Allow | \$ 65,000.00  | \$ 65,000           |
| F8  | Arbor 1,800 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site                                    | 2     | Allow | \$ 105,000.00 | \$ 210,000          |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>               |   |       |       |               | <b>\$ 1,197,600</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>                               |   |       |       |               |                     |
| F9  | Trash Receptacles   | 14    | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 11,900           |
| F10   | Benches   | 4     | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 4,800            |
| F11   | Drinking Fountain   | 3     | EA    | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 10,500           |
| F12   | Picnic Tables   | 28    | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 33,600           |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>                      |   |       |       |               | <b>\$ 60,800</b>    |
| <b>Landscaping</b>                                    |   |       |       |               |                     |
| F13   | Terraced Lawn (includes grading, turf, subsurface soil stabilization, and concrete seat walls)                      | 1     | Allow | \$ 300,000.00 | \$ 300,000          |
| F14   | Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod along sidewalk and disturbed areas   | 5800  | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 26,100           |
| F15   | Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)  | 9500  | SF    | \$ 12.50      | \$ 118,750          |
| F16   | Shade Tree  | 60    | EA    | \$ 375.00     | \$ 22,500           |
| F17   | Ornamental Tree   | 67    | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 13,400           |
| F18   | Irrigation  | 95000 | SF    | \$ 0.60       | \$ 57,000           |
| F19   | Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer)                                | 1     | Allow | \$ 18,075     | \$ 18,075           |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>                           |   |       |       |               | <b>\$ 555,825</b>   |
| <b>Total Lakeside Park South of Buena Vista Drive</b> |   |       |       |               | <b>\$ 1,814,225</b> |
| <b>Lakeside Park Beach</b>                            |   |       |       |               |                     |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>                        |   |       |       |               |                     |
| G1  | Concrete Steps into Lake, 220 LF  | 1     | Allow | \$ 80,000.00  | \$ 80,000           |
| G2  | Concrete Beach Edge, 18" wide   | 344   | LF    | \$ 25.00      | \$ 8,600            |
| G3  | Concrete Seat Wall includes footing   | 90    | LF    | \$ 90.00      | \$ 8,100            |
| G4  | White Sand, 5' deep, does not include shipping  | 1     | Allow | \$ 150,000.00 | \$ 150,000          |
| G5  | Shade Structures  | 6     | Allow | \$ 15,000.00  | \$ 90,000           |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>               |   |       |       |               | <b>\$ 336,700</b>   |

| <b>Site Furnishings</b>                 |  |       |       |               |                   |
|---|--|-------|-------|---------------|-------------------|
| G6                                      | Trash Receptacles  | 3     | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 2,550          |
| G7                                      | Picnic Tables  | 25    | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 30,000         |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>        |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 32,550</b>  |
| <b>Landscaping</b>                      |  |       |       |               |                   |
| G8                                      | Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod along sidewalk and disturbed areas                                  | 533   | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 2,399          |
| G9                                      | Shade Tree   | 10    | EA    | \$ 375.00     | \$ 3,750          |
| G10                                     | Ornamental Tree  | 6     | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 1,200          |
| G11                                     | Irrigation   | 1     | Allow | \$ 9,500.00   | \$ 9,500          |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>             |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 16,849</b>  |
| <b>Total Lakeside Park Beach</b>        |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 386,099</b> |
| <b>Falls Creek Parcel</b>               |  |       |       |               |                   |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>          |  |       |       |               |                   |
| H1                                      | Trailhead Signage  | 1     | Allow | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 3,500.00       |
| H2                                      | Restroom Building at trailhead (update and addition to existing structure)               | 1     | Allow | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 100,000        |
| H3                                      | Perimeter Fence, split rail cedar  | 275   | LF    | \$15          | \$ 4,125          |
| H4                                      | Perimeter Fence, stone column  | 9     | EA    | \$250         | \$ 2,250          |
| H5                                      | Concrete Sidewalk 6' wide  | 10500 | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 68,250         |
| H6                                      | Concrete Parking Lot and Entry Drive   | 3109  | SY    | \$ 55.00      | \$ 170,995.00     |
| H7                                      | Fire Pit (includes stone seat wall around pit, flagstone paving, rule si                 | 1     | Allow | \$ 28,000.00  | \$ 28,000.00      |
| H8                                      | Pavilion folly, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site | 1     | Allow | \$ 55,000.00  | \$ 55,000         |
| H9                                      | Skatepark addition   | 5000  | SF    | \$40          | \$ 200,000        |
| H10                                     | Exercise Equipment   | 2     | EA    | \$3,500       | \$ 7,000          |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b> |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 639,120</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>                 |  |       |       |               |                   |
| H11                                     | Trash Receptacles  | 3     | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 2,550          |
| H12                                     | Benches  | 17    | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 20,400         |
| H13                                     | Drinking Fountain  | 1     | EA    | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 3,500          |
| H14                                     | Picnic Tables  | 2     | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 2,400          |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>        |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 28,850</b>  |
| <b>Landscaping</b>                      |  |       |       |               |                   |
| H15                                     | Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod along sidewalk and disturbed areas                                  | 10333 | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 46,499         |
| H16                                     | Shade Tree   | 44    | EA    | \$ 375.00     | \$ 16,500         |
| H17                                     | Ornamental Tree  | 42    | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 8,400          |
| H18                                     | Ornamental Tree w/ planter box (includes irrigation, soil medium, p                      | 8     | EA    | \$ 1,250.00   | \$ 10,000         |
| H19                                     | Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)   | 3500  | SF    | \$ 12.50      | \$ 43,750         |
| H20                                     | Irrigation   | 93000 | SF    | \$ 0.60       | \$ 55,800         |
| H21                                     | Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer)     | 1     | Allow | \$ 18,095     | \$ 18,095         |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>             |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 199,043</b> |
| <b>Total Falls Creek Parcel</b>         |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 867,013</b> |

|  |      |               |                      |           |
|--|------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Phase 1 Subtotal</b>                |      |               | <b>\$ 10,014,599</b> |           |
| Mobilization (8% of construction cost) | 1 LS | \$ 801,167.94 | \$                   | 801,168   |
| Contingency                            |      | 15%           | \$                   | 1,502,190 |
| Demolition including boat ramp         |      | 9%            | \$                   | 901,314   |
| Professional fees                      |      | 14%           | \$                   | 1,402,044 |
| <b>Phase 1 Total</b>                   |      |               | <b>\$ 12,317,957</b> |           |

Notes:

1. This is opinion of probable construction costs is based on the consultant's familiarity with the construction industry and are provided only to assess initial construction costs; such opinions shall not be construed to provide a guarantee or warranty of the actual construction costs at the time construction bids are solicited or construction contracts negotiated.
2. Does not include permits, coordination with hotel conference center, traffic control or other regulatory requirements; water quality / runoff improvements and detention; ; art or structural foundations; tree protection or protection of existing structures.

| <b>City of Marble Falls - Downtown Parks</b>                         |  |       |           |                  |                  |
|--|--|-------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Phase 2 Conceptual Plan Opinion of Probable Construction Cost</b> |  |       |           | January 18, 2017 |                  |
|  | Quantity   | Units | Unit Cost | Total            |                  |
| <b>Overall - Sitework, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage</b>             |  |       |           |                  |                  |
| 11   | Grading (6% of site hardscape elements)  | 1     | Allow     | \$ 97,012.50     | \$ 97,013        |
| 12   | Utilities upgrade and additions (includes RV hook-ups, and new restroom building)          | 1     | Allow     | \$ 70,000.00     | \$ 70,000        |
| 13   | Lighting (at new pavilion, crosswalks and entry monuments, parking lot, and area lighting) | 1     | Allow     | \$ 150,000.00    | \$ 150,000       |
| 14   | Power center   | 2     | Allow     | \$ 90,000.00     | \$ 180,000       |
| 15   | Replace Avenue J bridge, improve creek flow access, and stabilize bank                     | 1     | Allow     | \$ 1,000,000.00  | \$ 1,000,000     |
| 16   | Wayfinding signs (does not include monument signs or trailheads)                           | 1     | Allow     | \$ 25,000.00     | \$ 25,000        |
| 17   | SWPPP  | 1     | Allow     | \$ 40,000.00     | \$ 40,000        |
| <b>Overall - Sitework, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage Subtotal</b>    |  |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>1,562,013</b> |
| <b>Dog Park</b>  |  |       |           |                  |                  |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>                                       |  |       |           |                  |                  |
| J1   | Park Rules Sign  | 1     | EA        | \$2,000          | \$ 2,000         |
| J2   | Concrete walk, 5' wide, and entry plaza  | 1075  | SY        | \$45             | \$ 48,375        |
| J3   | Perimeter Fence (protects creek edge and buffers view from across the creek)               | 2000  | LF        | \$15             | \$ 30,000        |
| J4   | Creek Access (rock stabilization along bank at single access point)                        | 1     | Allow     | \$12,000         | \$ 12,000        |
| J5   | Pavilion, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site         | 1     | Allow     | \$ 30,000.00     | \$ 30,000        |
| J6   | Challenge Course Equipment   | 1     | Allow     | \$ 6,500.00      | \$ 6,500         |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>                              |  |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>128,875</b>   |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>  |  |       |           |                  |                  |
| J7   | Trash Receptacles  | 2     | EA        | \$ 850.00        | \$ 1,700         |
| J8   | Benches  | 2     | EA        | \$ 1,200.00      | \$ 2,400         |
| J9   | Dog Waste Station  | 2     | EA        | \$ 500.00        | \$ 1,000         |
| J10  | Drinking Fountain w/ Dog Bowl  | 1     | EA        | \$ 3,500.00      | \$ 3,500         |
| J11  | Picnic Tables  | 3     | EA        | \$ 1,500.00      | \$ 4,500         |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>                                     |  |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>13,100</b>    |
| <b>Landscaping</b>   |  |       |           |                  |                  |
| J12  | Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)   | 110   | SF        | \$ 12.50         | \$ 1,375         |
| J13  | Wetland fringe seed mix, between bank and perimeter fence (14,250 SF)                      | 7     | LB        | \$ 44.00         | \$ 308           |
| J14  | Ornamental Tree  | 5     | EA        | \$ 200.00        | \$ 1,000         |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>  |  |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>2,683</b>     |
| <b>Total Park Dog Park</b>   |  |       |           | <b>\$</b>        | <b>144,658</b>   |

| <b>Road Improvements</b>                |  |       |       |               |                     |
|---|--|-------|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>          |  |       |       |               |                     |
| J15                                     | Park Sign Walls includes footing, wall, and lettering                                | 2     | EA    | \$15,000      | \$ 30,000           |
| J16                                     | Raised Crosswalk   | 3     | EA    | \$ 5,000.00   | \$ 15,000           |
| J17                                     | Concrete Round-About   | 1500  | SY    | \$ 70.00      | \$ 105,000          |
| J18                                     | Bike Lane  | 1     | Allow | \$ 75,000.00  | \$ 75,000           |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b> |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 225,000</b>   |
| <b>Landscaping in Round-About</b>       |  |       |       |               |                     |
| J19                                     | Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod   | 292   | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 1,314            |
| J20                                     | Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)                                     | 1608  | SF    | \$ 12.50      | \$ 20,100           |
| J21                                     | Irrigation   | 2638  | SF    | \$ 0.60       | \$ 1,583            |
| J22                                     | Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer) | 1     | Allow | \$ 2,300      | \$ 2,300            |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>             |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 25,296</b>    |
| <b>Road Improvements</b>                |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 250,296</b>   |
| <b>North Side of Avenue J</b>           |  |       |       |               |                     |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>          |  |       |       |               |                     |
| K1                                      | Armed Forces Memorial (includes structures, lighting, and planting)                  | 1     | Allow | \$120,000     | \$ 120,000          |
| K2                                      | Perimeter Fence, split rail cedar  | 2000  | LF    | \$15          | \$ 30,000           |
| K3                                      | Perimeter Fence, stone column  | 61    | EA    | \$250         | \$ 15,250           |
| K4                                      | Concrete Sidewalk 6' wide  | 15850 | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 103,025          |
| K5                                      | Concrete Parking Lots  | 11295 | SY    | \$ 55.00      | \$ 621,225.00       |
| K6                                      | Trailhead Signage  | 1     | Allow | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 3,500.00         |
| K7                                      | Renovate and update existing pavilion  | 1     | Allow | \$ 45,000.00  | \$ 45,000           |
| K8                                      | Restroom with 8 stalls and concession area   | 1     | Allow | \$ 30,000.00  | \$ 30,000           |
| K9                                      | Pavilion, 10,400 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and wash sink       | 1     | Allow | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 250,000          |
| K10                                     | Play area including fall surface, shipping and installation, 3,000 square feet       | 1     | Allow | \$ 45,000.00  | \$ 45,000           |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b> |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 1,263,000</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>                 |  |       |       |               |                     |
| K11                                     | Trash Receptacles  | 9     | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 7,650            |
| K12                                     | Benches  | 6     | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 7,200            |
| K13                                     | Drinking Fountain  | 2     | EA    | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 7,000            |
| K14                                     | Picnic Tables (includes tables for large pavilion)                                   | 45    | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 54,000           |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>        |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 75,850</b>    |
| <b>Landscaping</b>                      |  |       |       |               |                     |
| K15                                     | Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod along sidewalk and disturbed areas                              | 3350  | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 15,075           |
| K16                                     | Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)                                     | 5500  | SF    | \$ 12.50      | \$ 68,750           |
| K17                                     | Shade Tree   | 67    | EA    | \$ 375.00     | \$ 25,125           |
| K18                                     | Ornamental Tree  | 105   | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 21,000           |
| K19                                     | Irrigation   | 1     | Allow | \$ 35,000.00  | \$ 35,000           |
| K20                                     | Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer) | 1     | Allow | \$ 12,995     | \$ 12,995           |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>             |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 177,945</b>   |
| <b>North Side of Avenue J</b>           |  |       |       |               | <b>\$ 1,516,795</b> |

|  |   |    |                     |
|--|---|----|---------------------|
| <b>Phase 2 Subtotal</b>                |   |    | <b>\$ 3,473,762</b> |
| Mobilization (8% of construction cost) | 1 | LS | \$ 277,900.96       |
| Contingency                            |   |    | 15% \$ 521,064      |
| Demolition                             |   |    | 3% \$ 104,213       |
| Professional fees                      |   |    | 14% \$ 486,327      |
| <b>Phase 2 Total</b>                   |   |    | <b>\$ 4,863,267</b> |

Notes:

1. This is opinion of probable construction costs is based on the consultant's familiarity with the construction industry and are provided only to assess initial construction costs; such opinions shall not be construed to provide a guarantee or warranty of the actual construction costs at the time construction bids are solicited or construction contracts negotiated.
2. Does not include permits, traffic control or other regulatory requirements; water quality / runoff improvements and detention; art or structural foundations; tree protection or protection of existing structures and play structures.

# City of Marble Falls - Downtown Parks

## Phase 3 Conceptual Plan Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

January 18, 2017

|  | Quantity | Units | Unit Cost     | Total             |
|--|----------|-------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>Overall - Sitework, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage</b>   |          |       |               |                   |
| L1 Grading (6% of site hardscape elements)   | 1        | Allow | \$ 33,877.50  | \$ 33,878         |
| L2 Utilities upgrade and additions   | 1        | Allow | \$ 40,000.00  | \$ 40,000         |
| L3 Power center  | 1        | Allow | \$ 90,000.00  | \$ 90,000         |
| L4 Lighting (at new pavilion, and area lighting)   | 1        | Allow | \$ 40,000.00  | \$ 40,000         |
| L5 Wayfinding signs (does not include monument signs or trailheads)                                | 1        | Allow | \$ 25,000.00  | \$ 25,000         |
| L6 SWPPP   | 1        | Allow | \$ 40,000.00  | \$ 40,000         |
| <b>Overall - Sitework, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage Subtotal</b>                                  |          |       |               | <b>\$ 268,878</b> |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>   |          |       |               |                   |
| M1 Trailhead Signage   | 1        | Allow | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 3,500.00       |
| M2 Perimeter Fence, split rail cedar   | 1100     | LF    | \$15          | \$ 16,500         |
| M3 Perimeter Fence, stone column   | 30       | EA    | \$250         | \$ 7,500          |
| M4 Decomposed Granite at group picnic/tot lot  | 2000     | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 13,000         |
| M5 Concrete Sidewalk 6' wide   | 20250    | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 131,625        |
| M6 Pavilion at play area, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site | 1        | Allow | \$ 30,000.00  | \$ 30,000         |
| M7 Pavilion folly, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site        | 1        | Allow | \$ 55,000.00  | \$ 55,000         |
| M8 Renovate and update existing pavilion and amphitheater  | 1        | Allow | \$ 50,000.00  | \$ 50,000         |
| M9 Restroom Building at trailhead  | 1        | Allow | \$ 140,000.00 | \$ 140,000        |
| M10 Splash Pad, 1500 SF  | 1        | Allow | \$ 52,000.00  | \$ 52,000         |
| M11 Tot play area including fall surface, shipping and installation, 1500 square feet              | 1        | Allow | \$ 55,000.00  | \$ 55,000         |
| M12 Exercise Equipment   | 3        | EA    | \$3,500       | \$ 10,500         |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>  |          |       |               | <b>\$ 564,625</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>  |          |       |               |                   |
| M13 Trash Receptacles  | 7        | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 5,950          |
| M14 Benches  | 10       | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 12,000         |
| M15 Drinking Fountain  | 3        | EA    | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 10,500         |
| M16 Picnic Tables  | 25       | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 30,000         |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>   |          |       |               | <b>\$ 58,450</b>  |
| <b>Landscaping</b>   |          |       |               |                   |
| M17 Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod along sidewalk and disturbed areas  | 3150     | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 14,175         |
| M18 Native Wildflower Seed Mix (30,000 sf)   | 1        | Allow | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 1,200          |
| M19 Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)   | 7000     | SF    | \$ 12.50      | \$ 87,500         |
| M20 Ornamental Tree  | 89       | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 17,800         |
| M21 Irrigation   | 1        | Allow | \$ 20,000.00  | \$ 20,000         |
| M22 Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer)           | 1        | Allow | \$ 12,068     | \$ 12,068         |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>  |          |       |               | <b>\$ 152,743</b> |

|  |   |    |              |                     |
|--|---|----|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>Phase 3 Subtotal</b>                |   |    |              | <b>\$ 1,044,695</b> |
| Mobilization (8% of construction cost) | 1 | LS | \$ 83,575.60 | \$ 83,576           |
| Contingency                            |   |    | 15%          | \$ 156,704          |
| Demolition                             |   |    | 3%           | \$ 31,341           |
| Professional fees                      |   |    | 14%          | \$ 146,257          |
| <b>Phase 3 Total</b>                   |   |    |              | <b>\$ 1,462,573</b> |

Notes:

1. This is opinion of probable construction costs is based on the consultant's familiarity with the construction industry and are provided only to assess initial construction costs; such opinions shall not be construed to provide a guarantee or warranty of the actual construction costs at the time construction bids are solicited or construction contracts negotiated.
2. Does not include permits, traffic control or other regulatory requirements; erosion control, water quality / runoff improvements and detention; art or structural foundations; tree protection or protection of existing structures and play structures.

# City of Marble Falls - Downtown Parks

## Phase 4 Conceptual Plan Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

January 18, 2017

|   | Quantity | Units | Unit Cost       | Total               |
|---|----------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Overall - Sitework, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage</b>  |          |       |                 |                     |
| N1 Grading  | 1        | Allow | \$ 150,000.00   | \$ 150,000          |
| N2 Utilities upgrade and additions  | 1        | Allow | \$ 75,000.00    | \$ 75,000           |
| N3 Lighting at parking lot  | 1        | Allow | \$ 60,000.00    | \$ 60,000           |
| N4 Wayfinding signs (does not include monument signs or trailheads)   | 1        | Allow | \$ 5,000.00     | \$ 5,000            |
| N5 SWPPP  | 1        | Allow | \$ 25,000.00    | \$ 25,000           |
| <b>Overall - Sitework, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage Subtotal</b>   |          |       |                 | <b>\$ 315,000</b>   |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>  |          |       |                 |                     |
| O1 Park Sign Walls includes footing, wall, and lettering  | 1        | EA    | \$5,000         | \$ 5,000            |
| O2 Perimeter Fence, split rail cedar  | 500      | LF    | \$15            | \$ 7,500            |
| O3 Perimeter Fence, stone column  | 17       | EA    | \$250           | \$ 4,250            |
| O4 Concrete Sidewalk 6' wide  | 555      | SY    | \$ 45.00        | \$ 24,975           |
| O5 Concrete Parking Lot, Entry Drive and Drop-off   | 4790     | SY    | \$ 55.00        | \$ 263,450.00       |
| O6 Main building, bath house, water slide, recreation pool, lap pool, tot pool, perimeter fence and landscaping | 1        | Allow | \$ 3,000,000.00 | \$ 3,000,000        |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>   |          |       |                 | <b>\$ 3,305,175</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>   |          |       |                 |                     |
| O7 Trash Receptacles  | 3        | EA    | \$ 850.00       | \$ 2,550            |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>  |          |       |                 | <b>\$ 2,550</b>     |
| <b>Landscaping</b>  |          |       |                 |                     |
| O8 Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod   | 2222     | SY    | \$ 4.50         | \$ 9,999            |
| O9 Shade Tree   | 45       | EA    | \$ 375.00       | \$ 16,875           |
| O10 Ornamental Tree   | 24       | EA    | \$ 200.00       | \$ 4,800            |
| O11 Irrigation  | 20000    | SF    | \$ 0.60         | \$ 12,000           |
| O12 Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire, Meter/Backflow Preventer)                        | 1        | Allow | \$ 4,367        | \$ 4,367            |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>   |          |       |                 | <b>\$ 48,041</b>    |
| <b>Phase 4 Subtotal</b>   |          |       |                 | <b>\$ 3,670,766</b> |
| Mobilization (8% of construction cost)  | 1        | LS    | \$ 293,661.31   | \$ 293,661          |
| Contingency   |          |       | 15%             | \$ 550,615          |
| Demolition including existing pool in Lakeside Park   |          |       | 9%              | \$ 330,369          |
| Professional fees   |          |       | 14%             | \$ 513,907          |
| <b>Phase 4 Total</b>  |          |       |                 | <b>\$ 5,359,319</b> |

## Notes:

1. This is opinion of probable construction costs is based on the consultant's familiarity with the construction industry and are provided only to assess initial construction costs; such opinions shall not be construed to provide a guarantee or warranty of the actual construction costs at the time construction bids are solicited or construction contracts negotiated.
2. Does not include permits, traffic control or other regulatory requirements; water quality / runoff improvements and detention; or tree protection.

# City of Marble Falls - Downtown Parks

## Phase 5 Conceptual Plan Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

January 18, 2017

|  | Quantity | Units | Unit Cost     | Total               |
|--|----------|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Sitework, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage</b>   |          |       |               |                     |
| P1 Clearing and grubbing (3% of site hardscape elements)   | 1        | Allow | \$ 30,734.10  | \$ 30,734           |
| P2 Grading (5% of site hardscape elements)   | 1        | Allow | \$ 51,223.50  | \$ 51,224           |
| P3 Bank stabilization (sheet piles with concrete cap)  | 1        | Allow | \$ 450,000.00 | \$ 450,000          |
| P4 Utilities upgrade and additions (includes new restroom building)                                    | 1        | Allow | \$ 35,000.00  | \$ 35,000           |
| P5 Lighting (at pedestrian bridge, overlook, and pavilion)   | 1        | Allow | \$ 50,000.00  | \$ 50,000           |
| P6 Wayfinding signs (does not include monument signs or trailheads)                                    | 1        | Allow | \$ 7,500.00   | \$ 7,500            |
| P7 SWPPP   | 1        | Allow | \$ 24,000.00  | \$ 24,000           |
| <b>Sitework, Utilities, Wayfinding Signage Subtotal</b>  |          |       |               | <b>\$ 648,458</b>   |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>   |          |       |               |                     |
| Q1 Trailhead Signage   | 1        | Allow | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 3,500.00         |
| Q2 Perimeter Fence, split rail cedar   | 725      | LF    | \$15          | \$ 10,875           |
| Q3 Perimeter Fence, stone column   | 24       | EA    | \$250         | \$ 6,000            |
| Q4 Pedestrian Bridge 220' long, 15' wide including abutments   | 1        | Allow | \$ 750,000.00 | \$ 750,000          |
| Q5 Concrete Parking  | 79       | SY    | \$ 55.00      | \$ 4,345.00         |
| Q6 Concrete Sidewalk 6' wide   | 16000    | SF    | \$ 6.50       | \$ 104,000          |
| Q7 Overlook, 500 SF (includes ramp, rails, and piers)  | 1        | Allow | \$ 35,000.00  | \$ 35,000           |
| Q8 Pavilion folly w/restroom, 300 square feet, includes footings, concrete floor, and shipping to site | 1        | Allow | \$ 95,000.00  | \$ 95,000           |
| Q9 Perimeter Fence (protects creek and river edge)   | 1050     | LF    | \$15          | \$ 15,750           |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>  |          |       |               | <b>\$ 1,024,470</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>  |          |       |               |                     |
| Q10 Trash Receptacles  | 5        | EA    | \$ 850.00     | \$ 4,250            |
| Q11 Benches  | 7        | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 8,400            |
| Q12 Drinking Fountain  | 2        | EA    | \$ 3,500.00   | \$ 7,000            |
| Q13 Picnic Tables  | 5        | EA    | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 6,000            |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>   |          |       |               | <b>\$ 25,650</b>    |
| <b>Landscaping</b>   |          |       |               |                     |
| Q14 Bermuda 'Tif419' Sod along sidewalk and disturbed areas  | 4150     | SY    | \$ 4.50       | \$ 18,675           |
| Q15 Native Wildflower Seed Mix (60,000 sf)   | 1        | Allow | \$ 2,400.00   | \$ 2,400            |
| Q16 Plant Bed (includes soil mix, plants, and mulch)   | 1500     | SF    | \$ 12.50      | \$ 18,750           |
| Q17 Shade Tree   | 20       | EA    | \$ 375.00     | \$ 7,500            |
| Q18 Ornamental Tree  | 43       | EA    | \$ 200.00     | \$ 8,600            |
| Q19 Wetland fringe seed mix, between bank and perimeter fence (10,500 SF)                              | 5.5      | LB    | \$ 44.00      | \$ 242              |
| Q20 Irrigation   | 37350    | SF    | \$ 0.60       | \$ 22,410           |
| Q21 Miscellaneous Irrigation Allowance (Sleeves, Valves, Wire,   | 1        | Allow | \$ 5,617      | \$ 5,617            |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>  |          |       |               | <b>\$ 84,194</b>    |

|  |   |    |                     |               |
|--|---|----|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>Phase 5 Subtotal</b>                |   |    | <b>\$ 1,782,771</b> |               |
| Mobilization (8% of construction cost) | 1 | LS | \$ 142,621.70       | \$ 142,621.70 |
| Demolition                             |   |    | 3%                  | \$ 53,483     |
| Contingency                            |   |    | 15%                 | \$ 267,416    |
| Professional fees                      |   |    | 14%                 | \$ 249,588    |
| <b>Phase 5 Total</b>                   |   |    | <b>\$ 2,495,880</b> |               |

Notes:

1. This is opinion of probable construction costs is based on the consultant's familiarity with the construction industry and are provided only to assess initial construction costs; such opinions shall not be construed to provide a guarantee or warranty of the actual construction costs at the time construction bids are solicited or construction contracts negotiated.

2. Does not include permits, traffic control or other regulatory requirements; erosion control, water quality / runoff improvements and detention; art or structural foundations; tree protection, or proposed memorial.

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***APPENDIX C:  
PARK VIEW PARK  
MASTER PLAN***



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# INTRO

## INTRODUCTION

As a large undeveloped parcel, Park View Park has the potential of meeting parkland acreage needs for residents in the adjacent neighborhoods. In order to ensure that the surrounding community supports the park development, a master planning process was undertaken to take steps forward towards a developed neighborhood park.

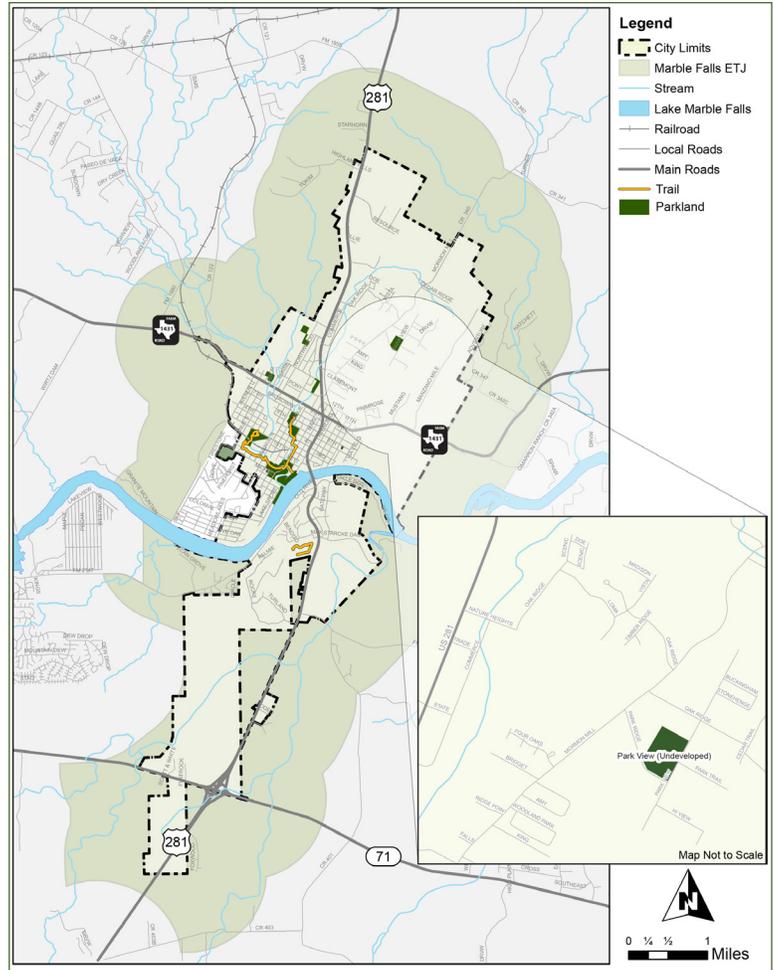
## PURPOSE

Park View Park has been dedicated as City-owned parkland for a number of years. Despite previous conceptual park discussions with the surrounding community, no consensus was found and implementation of park improvements never progressed. This planning process once again identified the community and City preferences for the ultimate use of the site which resulted in the Park View Park Master Plan being supported by all parties.

## PARK CONTEXT & STAKEHOLDERS

Park View Park is situated in a residential area in northeastern Marble Falls. In its current state, the City minimally maintains it through routine mowing throughout the year. As an undeveloped park, it receives less maintenance than other parks in the City. Nearby residents have expressed the desire for a passive park as well as concerns about drawing greater traffic to the area. Through numerous public engagement strategies, this Park View Park Master Plan strives to balance the desires and concerns of the surrounding residents, the greater public, City staff, and elected and appointed officials.

## LOCATION MAP



# DESIGN PROCESS

## PARK VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN DESIGN PROCESS

The park design process starts with an inventory and analysis of the existing conditions. Through site visits, analysis of inventory data, and engagement with the public, an understanding is developed of the existing challenges and opportunities available in the park.

Following a parks tour with City staff in June of 2016, a design charrette was held in September of 2016. The charrette included the participation of 16 nearby residents and the results (see page C-6) helped to guide development of the Preliminary Master Plan.

Following the charrette process, the online public survey conducted as part of the PROSMP planning process included a question designed to gain public feedback on how the community would use this park. The majority of respondents envisioned using the park primarily for passive recreation with such elements as trails, playgrounds, and picnic facilities.

A Park View Park Preliminary Master Plan was subsequently developed and presented to City staff, the PAC, overall community (during the Open House), and elected and appointed officials for comments. Through a series of modifications, the Park View Park Master Plan was developed (see page C-7). The final plan will be described in further detail throughout this appendix.



The public provided feedback on the Park View Park Preliminary Master Plan at the public open house.

# EXISTING PARK

## PARK VIEW PARK



Park View Park is an 11.9-acre neighborhood park. It is the City's largest undeveloped park and is situated in the northeastern section of the City in an area completely unserved by parks. The park is surrounded by residences and is home to sensitive natural resources and a wetland ecosystem. This area is prime habitat for bird, insect, and aquatic species. As programming and development of the park was considered, impact on the adjacent residences needed to be evaluated.

## PARK VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN CHARRETTE RESULTS

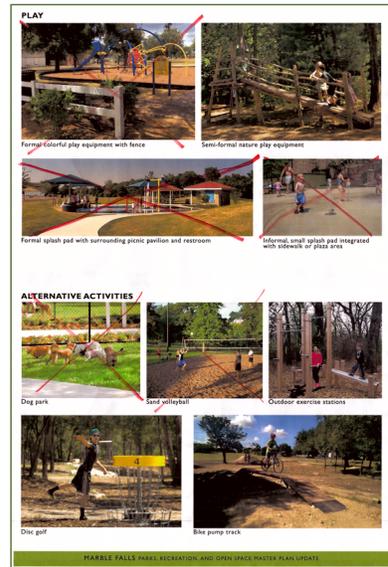
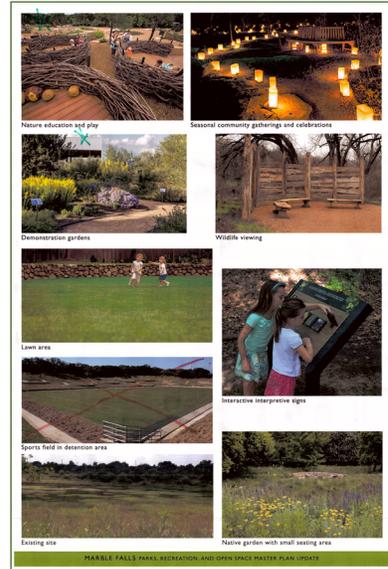
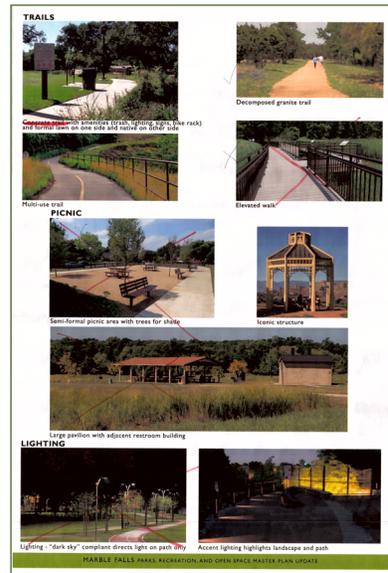
The Park View Park design charrette used an image preference approach for engaging participants to think critically about the space. The group was asked to comment and provide feedback on a series of photos related to potential park uses and amenities.

Highlights from the resident feedback are listed below.

- Low impact only, not high activity area
- No nighttime use
- No permanent water in pond
- Interested in education component – garden, interpretive signage, small natural playscape
- No lit walking trail or boardwalk desired
- Desire to make the park a family activity area with a trail, picnic area with shade, and trees.
- Potential interest in exercise stations along the trail
- Interest in small bicycle obstacles along trail
- Use neutral colors
- Do not want a restroom
- Want to keep the area as parkland



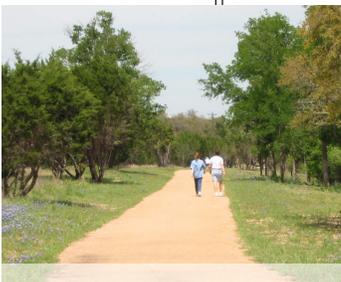
Residents helped to direct sketching of conceptual programmatic ideas for the park during the Park View Park charrette.



Park View Park visual preference boards



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A decomposed granite trail would create a natural walking loop around the park.



An open lawn area can provide safe, family-friendly recreation space.



Nature play creates a unique opportunity for children to interact with the natural world around them.



Strategically placed wildlife viewing areas can allow users a closer view of the natural inhabitants of the park.

Park View Park is recommended to be developed as a passive park to provide neighborhood access to nature and family-oriented recreation. Key amenities proposed in the park include a crushed granite loop trail with shorter and longer loops; exercise stations along the trail; a small improved parking area; enhanced native vegetation; an open play lawn with nature-based playscape and perimeter fence; a small picnic pavilion and wildlife viewing walls; a small family restroom; a bike challenge course for local youth; park entrance signs; and raised crosswalks at key locations along the adjacent roads to reduce traffic speed in the vicinity of the park.

## OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST

The probable costs included in this Master Plan are preliminary estimates and are subject to change based on the final design concept.

| Conceptual Plan Opinion of Probable Construction Cost |          |          |              | January 10, 2017  |
|---|----------|----------|--------------|-------------------|
|   | Quantity | Units    | Unit Cost    | Total             |
| <b>Sitework/Utilities</b>                             |          |          |              |                   |
| 1   |          | 1 LS     | \$ 38,266.00 | \$ 38,266         |
| 2   |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 10,000         |
| 3   |          | 1 LS     | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 12,500         |
| <b>Sitework / Utilites Subtotal</b>                   |          |          |              | <b>\$ 60,766</b>  |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements</b>                        |          |          |              |                   |
| 4   |          | 2 EA     | \$5,000      | \$ 10,000         |
| 5   |          | 4 EA     | \$1,250      | \$ 5,000          |
| 6   |          | 60 LF    | \$75         | \$ 4,500          |
| 7   |          | 470 LF   | \$15         | \$ 7,050          |
| 8   |          | 4 EA     | \$ 4,250.00  | \$ 17,000         |
| 9   |          | 3293 LF  | \$ 30.00     | \$ 98,790         |
| 10  |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 3,500.00  | \$ 3,500          |
| 11  |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 8,500.00  | \$ 8,500.00       |
| 12  |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 35,000         |
| 13  |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 30,000         |
| 14  |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 15,000         |
| 15  |          | 1 EA     | \$9,500      | \$ 9,500          |
| <b>Site Hardscape Elements Subtotal</b>               |          |          |              | <b>\$ 243,840</b> |
| <b>Site Furnishings</b>                               |          |          |              |                   |
| 16  |          | 1 EA     | \$ 850.00    | \$ 850            |
| 17  |          | 2 EA     | \$ 1,200.00  | \$ 2,400          |
| <b>Site Furnishings Subtotal</b>                      |          |          |              | <b>\$ 3,250</b>   |
| <b>Electrical</b>                                     |          |          |              |                   |
| 18  |          | 1 LS     | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 20,000         |
| <b>Electrical Subtotal</b>                            |          |          |              | <b>\$ 20,000</b>  |
| <b>Landscaping</b>                                    |          |          |              |                   |
| 19  |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 15,000         |
| 20  |          | 6750 SY  | \$ 4.50      | \$ 30,375         |
| 21  |          | 6 AC     | \$ 195.00    | \$ 1,170          |
| 22  |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 60.00     | \$ 60             |
| 23  |          | 45 EA    | \$ 325.00    | \$ 14,625         |
| 24  |          | 34 EA    | \$ 200.00    | \$ 6,800          |
| 25  |          | 60750 SF | \$ 0.60      | \$ 36,450         |
| 26  |          | 1 Allow  | \$ 8,948     | \$ 8,948          |
| <b>Landscaping Subtotal</b>                           |          |          |              | <b>\$ 98,428</b>  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                       |          |          |              | <b>\$ 426,284</b> |
| <b>Contingency</b>                                    |          |          | 15%          | 21,314            |
| <b>Professional fees</b>                              |          |          | 10%          | 42,628            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                    |          |          |              | <b>\$ 490,227</b> |

**Notes:**

1. This opinion of probable construction costs is based on the consultant's familiarity with the construction industry and are provided only to assess initial construction costs; such opinions shall not be construed to provide a guarantee or warranty of the actual construction costs at the time construction bids are solicited or construction contracts negotiated.

2. Does not include permits, traffic control or other regulatory requirements; professional fees; erosion control or water quality / runoff improvements and detention; tree protection.

# **APPENDIX D: POTENTIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

## ***Introduction***

Appendix D, Potential Funding Opportunities, includes a comprehensive list of federal, state, and privately-funded grant programs which support local park system or recreational program development. These funding sources may be structured to support direct investment into municipal parks and recreation systems, or to allow for the indirect development of park and recreation opportunities to support other principal grant objectives. For instance, federal and state grants focused on residential development or redevelopment may also allow for the inclusion of recreational amenities as part of an eligible project. Similarly, transportation funding sources may support multi-use trail and sidepath development.

The parameters of the funding sources referenced in this appendix are always changing. Be sure to contact administering agencies/organizations directly to receive the most up-to-date grant program information.

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## ***Federal Funding Sources***

### ***Corporation For National And 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.

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

**Deadline:** January 18, 2017

**Website:** <http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2017/americorps-state-and-national-grants-fy-2017>

### ***Department of Agriculture — Agricultural Marketing Service***

#### **FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) is to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets by developing, improving, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to, or assisting in the development, improvement, and expansion of, domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

**Website:** <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>

**Amount:** Varies

**Deadline:** 2016 grants closed; 2017 grants pending

**Contact:**

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 4534-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-0269

**E-mail:** [USDAFMPPQuestions@ams.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFMPPQuestions@ams.usda.gov)

**Phone:** 202-720-0933

**Fax:** 202-690-4152

**Grants Management Specialists:**

Earlene Henderson-Samuels, [Earlene.Henderson-Samuels@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Earlene.Henderson-Samuels@ams.usda.gov)  
Theresa (Teri) Davis, [Theresa.Davis@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Theresa.Davis@ams.usda.gov)  
Camia (Mia) Lane, [Camia.Lane@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Camia.Lane@ams.usda.gov)  
Christy Wipperfurth, [Christy.Wipperfurth@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Christy.Wipperfurth@ams.usda.gov)

## Department of Agriculture — Food Nutrition Service

### CHILD NUTRITION-TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION GRANT

The 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 114-113 December 18, 2015, authorized funding to be used for grants to States for the purpose of developing or improving current automated information systems used to operate and manage the Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has approximately \$4.4 million available in fiscal year (FY) 2017 to be used for grants under this funding. This Request for Applications (RFA) invites State agencies that administer the CNPs to apply for grant funding to implement innovative technology solutions that will improve program accountability, data accuracy, program performance measurement, and the capacity to identify and target error-prone areas (locations or program functions) within and across the CNPs at the State and Local Educational Agency (LEA) or Sponsor Organization (SO) levels. The Child Nutrition Technology Innovation Grant (CN TIG) funds will be available on a competitive basis to State agencies administering the CNPs (i.e., National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program). FNS is offering two types of CN TIGs: Planning Grants and Implementation Grants. States may apply for either a Planning Grant or an Implementation Grant, as described within this RFA, but not both under this 2017 RFA solicitation.

**Website:** <http://www.fns.usda.gov/child-nutrition-technology-innovation-grant-cn-tig>

**Amount:** \$100,000 to \$2 million

**Deadline:** January 25, 2017

**Contact:** Carla Garcia, Grant Officer: [Carla.garcia@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Carla.garcia@fns.usda.gov)

### 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, please visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program>.

**National website:** <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

**Website:** <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.

**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.

**Deadline:** December 8, 2016

**Contact:** farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov

## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Summer Food Service Program is a federally-funded, state-administered 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. For more information on the program, go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>.

Contact the state administering agency: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sfsp-contacts>

### Texas Office:

Administered by Texas Department of Agriculture  
1700 N. Congress Ave., 11th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

**Phone:** 877-839-6325

**Website:** <http://www.squaremeals.org>

## *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

**Deadline:** November 30, 2016

**Contact:** Jana Clary Loveless, National Program Leader,

**Email:** [jclary@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:jclary@nifa.usda.gov)

**Location:** 2322 Waterfront Centre

**Phone Number:** (202) 720-3891

**Fax Number:** (202) 401-4888

#### BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BFRDP)

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provides grants to organizations for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers. According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service's most recent Ag Census data, the number of young people entering farming continues to decline, but the number of new farmers and ranchers over the age of 35 rises, as does the number of smaller farms and ranches nationwide. Ensuring there will be a "new generation" of beginning farmers and ranchers—regardless of age or production choice—is especially important to the continuation of agricultural production in the United States.

In accordance with the authorizing legislation, priority will be given to partnerships and collaborations led by or including nongovernmental, community-based organizations and school-based agricultural educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach. At least 5 percent of the funds will support programs and services that address the needs of limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers; socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers; and farm workers desiring to become farmers or ranchers. At least 5 percent of the funds will support programs and services that address the needs of veteran farmers and ranchers. The term "farmer" is used in the broadest sense and should be interpreted to include traditional agricultural farmers, ranchers, and tree farmers. As far as possible, geographical diversity will also be ensured.

A 25% match is required.

**Website:** <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp>

**Amount:** Maximum of \$200,000 for 3-year program; estimated total program funding: \$17.7 million

**Deadline:** December 8, 2016

**Contact:** Jill Auburn, National Program Leader, Division of Agricultural Systems

**Email:** [jauburn@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:jauburn@nifa.usda.gov)

**Location:** 3430 Waterfront Centre

**Phone Number:** (202) 720-2635

**Fax Number:** (202) 401-1782

## 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.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1242633>

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

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

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

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** [Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov)

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** [Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov](mailto: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.

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

**Texas 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

**Phone:** (202) 720-1895

Melleny Cotton, CIG Program Analyst

**Phone:** (202) 720-7412

**Email:** Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

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

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

RCPP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program. Assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, ACEP and HFRP; and in certain areas the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.

Funding for RCPP is allocated to projects in three different categories:

- Critical Conservation Areas receive 35% of the funding. These are projects in eight geographic areas chosen by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Nationwide and multistate projects receive 40 percent of funding.
- Projects in a single state receive 25 percent of funding.

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

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

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

## 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.

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

**Texas office:**

Texas State Office  
 101 S Main St.  
 Temple, TX 76501-7602  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9800  
**Fax:** (254) 742-9819  
**Website:** <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.

**National 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

**Deadline:** 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.

**Texas office:**

Texas State Office  
 101 S Main St.  
 Temple, TX 76501-7602  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9800  
**Fax:** (254) 742-9819  
**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

**Contact:**

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 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/>

### Texas office:

Texas State Office  
101 S Main St.  
Temple, TX 76501-7602  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9800  
**Fax:** (254) 742-9819  
**Website:** <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.

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

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

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

**National contact:**

National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager

**Phone:** 202-690-0793

**Texas contact:**

Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager

claude.ross@tx.usda.gov

**Phone:** 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.

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

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

**Contact:**

Kevin Farmer

**Phone:** 202-720-3413

kevin.farmer@wdc.usda.gov

## WATERSHED SURVEYS AND PLANNING (WSP)

The purpose of the program is to assist Federal, State, and local agencies and tribal governments to protect watersheds from damage caused by erosion, floodwater, and sediment and to conserve and develop water and land resources. Resource concerns addressed by the program include water quality, opportunities for water conservation, wetland and water storage capacity, agricultural drought problems, rural development, municipal and industrial water needs, upstream flood damages, and water needs for fish, wildlife, and forest-based industries.

Types of surveys and plans include watershed plans, river basin surveys and studies, flood hazard analyses, and flood plain management assistance. The focus of these plans is to identify solutions that use land treatment and nonstructural measures to solve resource problems.

No funding has been authorized since 2008.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wsp/>

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

## WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their 50-year design lives. This rehabilitation addresses critical public health and safety concerns. Since 1948, NRCS has assisted local sponsors in constructing more than 11,900 dams.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wr/>

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

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The RC&D Program was established in the Agriculture Act of 1962, with responsibility for the administration of the program placed within the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Successive Farm Bills have provided for the further development of the program, including deepening the partnership between RC&D Councils and the NRCS.

RC&D Councils are 501(C)3 non-for-profit corporations. They are not governmental entities, so the typical policies and constraints of local, state, and federal government programs do not limit the types of issues they address or the means they use. Within their respective areas (typically covering 5-8 counties), RC&D Councils have a high degree of independence to carry out activities that will achieve their most important goals. RC&D Council volunteers are leaders and community stakeholders involved in multiple roles in local government, school boards, churches, and other civic activities. At RC&D Council meetings, they draw from their professional expertise and community connections to determine the needs of their RC&D Council areas, address those needs, and make their communities better places to live, work, and play. Nationwide, over 25,000 volunteers serve on local RC&D Councils.

Collaborators and financial supporters of the RC&D Council include: Ensave, International Code Council, USDA-National Resource Conservation Service, USDA-Forest Service, US Department of Homeland Security, and US Government Grant.

**National Association of RC&D Areas:** <http://narcdc.org/rcd-program.html>

**Texas Association of RC&D Programs:** <http://www.texasrcd.org/>

## *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  
Phone: 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

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted year round.

**Contact:**

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

## Department of Agriculture — US Forest Service

### COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM

The Community Forest Program (CFP) protects forests that are important for people and the places they call home. Community forests provide many benefits such as places to recreate and enjoy nature; they protect habitat, water quality and other environmental benefits, and they can provide economic benefits through timber resources. Community Forests have also long been sites for environmental and cultural education.

50% match is required.

**Website:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>

**Amount:** Proposed Administration funding for community forest project is \$2 million for fiscal year 2017. Individual grant applications may not exceed \$400,000.

**Deadline:** January 13, 2017

**Contact:** [http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/library/cfp\\_regional\\_contact.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/library/cfp_regional_contact.pdf)

#### Southern Regional Office:

Mike Murphy  
U.S. Forest Service  
1720 Peachtree Rd., NW  
Suite 700B North  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
**Phone:** 404-347-5214  
**Fax:** 404-347-2776  
mwmurphy@fs.fed.us  
communityforest@fs.fed.us

### 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 – 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

**Deadline:** 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

Phone: 512-381-8150

Fax: 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

**Deadline:** 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  
**Phone:** 512-381-8150  
**Fax:** 512-499-0478  
jayala@eda.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

**Phone:** 512-463-6022

**Website:** <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/ccinfo.html>

#### **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](mailto: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:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs>

### Contact:

#### Texas Head Start Collaboration Office

Alferma Giles, Director

**Phone:** 713-500-3835

**Fax:** 713-500-3820

**Email:** [alferma.crawford@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:alferma.crawford@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas Head Start Collaboration Office

Tracy Jones, Program Coordinator

**Phone:** 713-500-3832

**Fax:** 713-500-3820

**Email:** [tracy.a.jones@uth.tmc.edu](mailto: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:** <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/thssco>

#### 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

**Phone:** 512-463-6022

**Website:** <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/ccinfo.html>

#### 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](mailto: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/csbg>

**Administered in Texas by:** Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: [www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us)

**Contact:**

Tim Irvine, Executive Director  
Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
Texas Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs  
221 East 11th, PO Box 13941  
Austin, Texas 78711-3941

**Phone:** 512- 475-3897

**Fax:** 512-475-4624

**Email:** [tim.irvine@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:tim.irvine@tdhca.state.tx.us)

Rita Gonzales-Garza, Project Manager for Planning and Contracts  
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
221 East 11th, PO Box 13941  
Austin, Texas 78711-3941

**Phone:** (512) 475-3905

**Fax:** (512) 475-3539

**Email:** [rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us)

Federal Staff by Region- Region VI

**Program Specialist:** Isaac Davis

**Phone:** (202) 401-5335

**Email:** [Isaac.Davis@acf.hhs.gov](mailto: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

**Email:** [CED@acf.hhs.gov](mailto: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:**

Region VI

Program Specialist: Edwin Patout

Phone: (202) 401-4838

Email: [Edwin.Patout@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Edwin.Patout@acf.hhs.gov)

## *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.

**Website:** [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa2017/gensec](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](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail)

**Award:** Varies

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:**

### 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](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6)

## HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM

The HBCU Program helps HBCUs expand their role and effectiveness in helping their communities with neighborhood revitalization, housing, and economic development. HUD views HBCUs as key partners in rebuilding America's neighborhoods, and annually invites HBCUs to compete for funds to assist in revitalization efforts. This program awards grants to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to address community development needs in their localities.

Website: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/programdescription/hbcu>

To identify funding opportunities through HUD, visit the following website: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail)

**Award:** Closed

**Deadline:** Closed

**Contact:**

### Houston Regional Office:

Sandra H. Warren  
 Director, CPD  
 1301 Fannin Street  
 Suite 2200  
 Houston, TX 77002  
**Phone:** 713-718-3279  
**Email:** 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  
**Phone:** 817-978-5951  
**Email:** 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  
**Phone:** 210-475-6866  
**Email:** Elva.Garcia@hud.gov

## *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

**Phone:** 505-248-7457

**Email:** [Kelly\\_oliver-amy@fws.gov](mailto:Kelly_oliver-amy@fws.gov)

**Website:** <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>

Southwest Regional Office

Buddy Fazio

**Phone:** 505-248-7461

**Email:** [Buddy\\_Fazio@fws.gov](mailto:Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## 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>

Southwest Regional Office

Buddy Fazio

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**Email:** [Buddy\\_Fazio@fws.gov](mailto:Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## 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>

Southwest Regional Office

Buddy Fazio

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**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## 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.

**National website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CIAP/CIAP.htm>

**State website:** <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

**Phone:** 505-248-7476

**Email:** Susan\_MacMullin@fws.gov

**Website:** <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:** <http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/grant-projects/ciap/index.html>

Southwest Regional Office

Andrew Ortiz

**Phone:** 505-248-7459

**Email:** Andrew\_Ortiz@fws.gov

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

### 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.

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](https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid)

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

**Phone:** 505-248-7476

**Email:** Susan\_MacMullin@fws.gov

**Website:** <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](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

**Website:** <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>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

**Phone:** 505-248-7476

**Email:** [Susan\\_MacMullin@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_MacMullin@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## 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>

Southwest Regional Office

Kelly Oliver-Amy

**Phone:** 505-248-7457

**Email:** [Kelly\\_oliver-amy@fws.gov](mailto:Kelly_oliver-amy@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## 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

**Phone:** 505-248-7452

**Email:** [Vanessa\\_Martinez@fws.gov](mailto:Vanessa_Martinez@fws.gov)

**Website:** <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

**Phone:** 505-248-7466

**Email:** [Nicole\\_Jimenez@fws.gov](mailto:Nicole_Jimenez@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## 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)

**Deadline:** July 1, 2016 (FY2017)

**Contact:**

National office:

National Coordinator

Stephan Nofield

**Email:** [Stephan\\_nofield@nps.gov](mailto:Stephan_nofield@nps.gov)

Southeast Region:

John Barrett

National Park Service

100 Alabama Street, SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

**Phone:** 404-507-5689

**Fax:** 404-562-3282

**Email:** [nps\\_flpsouth@nps.gov](mailto:nps_flpsouth@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 Deadline:** 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](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

**Phone:** 202-354-6915  
**Fax:** 202-371-5179  
**Email:** nps\_flpnational@nps.gov

Southeast Region:

John Barrett  
National Park Service  
100 Alabama Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
**Phone:** 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 Deadline:** 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>

## 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 Deadline:** 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

Marta de la Garza Newkirk  
**Email:** [marta\\_newkirk\\_de\\_la\\_garza@nps.gov](mailto:marta_newkirk_de_la_garza@nps.gov)  
**Phone:** (512) 784-3134

Erich Melville  
**Email:** [erich\\_melville@nps.gov](mailto:erich_melville@nps.gov)  
**Phone:** (512) 688-0652

Justin Bates  
**Email:** [justin\\_bates@nps.gov](mailto:justin_bates@nps.gov)  
**Phone:** (512) 878-7463

Intermountain Region:

Alan Ragins  
**Phone:** 303-969-2855  
**Email:** [alan\\_ragins@nps.gov](mailto:alan_ragins@nps.gov)

## URBAN PARKS & RECREATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was authorized in November 1978 by Public Law 95625, 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.

**Amount:** Currently unfunded.

Information about the program: <https://www.nps.gov/uparr/>

**Contact:** <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/uprr/contact.html>

National Office:

National Park Service

1849 C Street NW, Org-2225

Washington, D.C. 20240

**Phone:** 202-354-6900

**Website:** <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1600/index.htm>

Midwest Region:

National Park Service

601 Riverfront Drive

Omaha, NE 68102

**Phone:** 402-661-1540

## *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>

**Deadline:** 2016 grant deadlines have passed.

**Contact:**

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

**Email:** 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

**Deadline:** Sep 30, 2020; Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.

**Contact:**

Mr. Thomas Harman, Director  
Center for Accelerating Innovation, Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Washington, DC 20590  
**Phone:** (202) 366-6377

Ewa Flom, Program Coordinator, AID Demonstration

**Phone:** (202) 366-2169

**Email:** Ewa.Flom@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/](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

**Deadline:** February 1, 2017

**Program website:** [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/)

**Website:** <http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/nationalrecreationtrails>

**Texas 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](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  
**Phone:** 512-389-8743  
**Fax:** 512-389-8242  
**Email:** [trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto: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/](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

**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 stormwater 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

**Website:** <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalternativesfs.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>

## *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.

Information about the program is available at: <http://www.uscgboating.org/grants/index.php>

**Amount:** In 2016, Texas received approximately \$3.8 million in state grant funding

**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.

**Website:** <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  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**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 or (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.epa.gov/grants/fy17-guidelines-brownfields-assessment-grants>

**Award:** varies \$200,000 to \$600,000, cost sharing not required, but encouraged

**Deadline:** December 20, 2016

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**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 or (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.epa.gov/grants/fy17-guidelines-brownfields-cleanup-grants>

**Award:** varies \$200,000; 20% cost share required.

**Deadline:** December 20, 2016

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**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 or (800) 887-6063

## BROWNFIELDS AREA-WIDE PLANNING GRANT

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 Area-Wide Planning Grant, the EPA solicits proposals from eligible entities to conduct research and/or technical assistance activities that culminate in an area-wide plan for brownfields assessment, cleanup and subsequent reuse. Grant-funded activities must be directed to one or more catalyst, high priority brownfield site(s) located within a specific project area, such as a neighborhood, downtown, business or arts district, a local commercial or industrial corridor, a community waterfront, one or more city blocks, etc. Each recipient that receives a grant under this funding opportunity must develop an area-wide plan for the brownfield(s) within the project area, and include in that plan specific implementation strategies for assessing, cleaning up and reusing the brownfield(s) and related project area revitalization strategies.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/fy2017-brownfields-area-wide-planning-grant>

**Award:** varies \$200,000; cost sharing not required, but encouraged.

**Deadline:** FY2017 grant deadline has passed.

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**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 or (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>

**Award:** closed

**Deadline:** closed

**Contact:**

## National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
 Office of Grants and Debarment  
 Mail Code: 3901  
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
 N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

## Region 6 Office:

Bonnie King  
 1445 Ross Avenue  
 Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Email:** king.bonita@epa.gov  
**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>

**Award:** closed

**Deadline:** closed

**Contact:**

## National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
 Office of Grants and Debarment  
 Mail Code: 3901  
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
 N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

## Region 6 Office:

Israel Anderson  
 1445 Ross Avenue  
 Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Email:** anderson.israel@epa.gov  
**Phone:** 214-665-3138

## MULTIPURPOSE GRANTS TO STATES AND TRIBES

For states and territories, this funding is available to support implementation of air and state-led climate activities and other state-defined high priority activities. Funding is also available to tribes that have obtained authorization to develop water quality standards.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/multipurpose-grants-states-and-tribes>

**Award:** closed

**Deadline:** closed

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**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 or (800) 887-6063

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (TAG) 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, US. Virgin Island, Northern Mariana Islands, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. Recipients must match 25 percent of the grant funds (including in-kind services).

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>

**Award:** up to \$50,000, 20% match required

**Deadline:** closed

**Contact:** Region 6 Office:

Janetta Coats, Regional TAG Coordinator  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Phone:** (214) 665-7308  
**Email:** coats.janetta@epa.gov

## 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

**Deadline:** Continuous

**Contact:**

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator  
 Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept  
 4200 Smith School Road  
 Austin TX 78744-3291  
**Phone:** 512-389-8743  
**Fax:** 512-389-8242  
**Email:** trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

#### 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

**Deadline:** October 1, 2016

**Contact:**

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator  
 Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept  
 4200 Smith School Road  
 Austin TX 78744-3291  
**Phone:** 512-389-8743  
**Fax:** 512-389-8242  
**Email:** trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

### 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

**Deadline:** February 1, 2017

**Contact:**

Cappy Smith, Program Manager

**Phone:** (512) 389-8254

**Email:** [cappy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto: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

**Deadline:** October 1, 2016

**Contact:**

Dana Lagarde, Program Manager

**Phone:** (512) 389-8175

**Email:** [dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov)

## RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

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

**Deadline:** February 1, 2017

**Contact:**

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator  
 Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept  
 4200 Smith School Road  
 Austin TX 78744-3291  
**Phone:** 512-389-8743  
**Fax:** 512-389-8242  
**Email:** [trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us)

## *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](mailto: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:**

### 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

**Deadline:** 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.

**Texas Office:**

Texas State Office  
101 S Main St.  
Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

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

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-  
Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** 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:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/ewp/>

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

**Contact:**

National office:

National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager  
Phone: 202-690-0793

Texas office:

Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager  
Email: [claudio.ross@tx.usda.gov](mailto:claudio.ross@tx.usda.gov)  
Phone: 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/>

### Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, , TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

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

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** 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

### ADVOCACY ADVANCE, RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

Advocacy Advance is a dynamic partnership of the Alliance for Biking & Walking and the League of American Bicyclists to boost local and state bicycle and pedestrian advocacy efforts. With support from SRAM Cycling Fund, the Every Body Walk Collaborative, REI, and New Belgium Brewing, Advocacy Advance provides targeted trainings, reports, grants and assistance to equip advocates with the specific tools they need to increase biking and walking in their communities.

Rapid Response Grants help state and local organizations take advantage of unexpected opportunities to win, increase, or preserve funding for biking and walking. Applications are not currently being accepted for Rapid Response Grants.

BIG Idea Grants are available to organizations that are pushing forward on some of the most important areas of bicycling and walking advocacy in the areas of equity; safety / Vision Zero; health / walking; and innovative local or state funding campaigns. "Big Idea" Grants are intended to help with unforeseen opportunities, short-term campaigns or to push campaigns into the end zone to win funding for biking and walking infrastructure and programs.

**Website:** <http://www.advocacyadvance.org/grants>

**\*Note:** Web and social media activity has been silent since 2014/2015.

### 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

**Email:** greg.tucker@transamerica.com

Margaret Sherry,

**Email:** margaret.sherry@transamerica.com

2700 West Plano Parkway

Plano, TX 75075

**Phone:** (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:** In 2016, grant RFPs closed on April 15, 2016. Information for the 2017 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/foundation\\_overview.html](https://www.allstatefoundation.org/foundation_overview.html)

**Contact:** grants@allstate.com

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY, SHADE STRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM**

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

**Website:** <https://www.aad.org/ssp/>

**Award:** Up to \$8,000

**Timeframe:** The application process runs from September through November, with winners announced in February. The 2016 deadline is November 28, 2016.

**Contact:** ShadeStructure@aad.org

**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](mailto: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:** Grant applications accepted from March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017

**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

### BUILD-A-BEAR FOUNDATION GRANT

The Build-A-Bear Foundation mission is to add a little more to life by providing opportunities for children of all ages to better their communities and share their heart with others.

**Website:** <http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/workshop/Charitable%20Donations/3100023/10500018>

**Timeframe:** The 2016 application period is closed.

### 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:**

**Email:** QoL@christopherreeve.org

**Phone:** 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

**Email:** Jennifer.Leigh@cvshealth.com

**Phone:** 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

**Phone:** +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:**

Heather Esping, President  
Esping Family Foundation  
2828 Routh St., Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75201

**Phone:** 214.849.9808

**Fax:** 214.849.9807

**Email:** [hesping@espingfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:hesping@espingfamilyfoundation.org)

Jenny Kirtland, Vice-President

**Email:** [jkirtland@espingfamilyfoundation.org](mailto: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:** <https://www.generalmills.com/en/Responsibility/general-mills-foundation/grants>

### 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:**

875 SE 3rd Street

Suite #240, Bend, OR 97702

**Phone:** 541-508-3966

**Fax:** 541-639-3645

**Email:** [info@kidsinthegame.org](mailto: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

### HOUSTON ENDOWMENT

Houston Endowment works to help create a vibrant community where all people have the opportunity to thrive.

Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones established Houston Endowment in 1937 to improve life for the people of greater Houston. Since its creation the Foundation has focused on our community's most compelling needs.

Today, the Foundation's mission encompasses two overarching and interconnected areas:

- Enhancing the vibrancy of greater Houston
- Advancing equity of opportunity for the people who live here

Houston Endowment invests in sound organizations, proven programs and innovative approaches that align with our mission and vision. Houston Endowment accepts applications from eligible organizations through five programs: Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Health and Human Services.

Houston Endowment makes six general types of investments. Most commonly, applications to the Foundation are for General Operating Support or toward Project Support for a specific project or onetime event. Houston Endowment also considers grants toward Capital Improvement, Building Capacity, Public Policy and Engagement, and Research. Applying organizations will need to select the application that fits the type of grant they seek.

**Website:** <http://www.houstonendowment.org/GrantGuidelines/Overview.aspx>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:** Houston Endowment accepts applications throughout the year and has no designated deadlines for the submission of requests.

**Contact:**

Houston Endowment  
600 Travis, Suite 6400  
Houston, TX 77002-3000

**Phone:** 713-238-8100

**Fax:** 713-238-8101

**Email:** info@houstonendowment.org

### 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  
**Phone:** (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](mailto: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:

**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](#).

**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.

**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.

**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](http://www.llbean.com/customerService/aboutLLBean/charitable_giving.html)

**Amount:** varies

**Timeframe:** Ongoing.

**Contact:** [donationrequest@llbean.com](mailto: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://www.lowes.com/cd_Corporate+Citizenship_674540029_)

**Website:** <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

**Phone:** 704-758-2917

**Email:** 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

**Phone:** 704-758-2917

**Email:** 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:** <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/index.html>; <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

**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

**Phone:** 704-758-2917

**Email:** Community@Lowes.com

**Email:** [info@toolboxforeducation.com](mailto: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](https://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-responsibility/metlife-foundation/index.html?WT.ac=GN_about_corporate-responsibility_metlife-foundation)

**Contact:** [metlifefoundation@metlife.com](mailto: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

### 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.musclemlkrecoverygrant.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

**Email:** 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:** 2016-2017 deadline has ended.

**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 2016 grant cycles have closed.

**Contact:**

Zoe Kircos, Director of Grants and Partnerships

**Phone:** 303-449-4893 x106

**Email:** [zoe@peopleforbikes.org](mailto: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

**Email:** [mail@rwjf.org](mailto:mail@rwjf.org)

**Phone:** 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:** <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2015/evidence-for-action-investigator-initiated-research-to-build-a-culture-of-health.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.

**Contact:**

Erin Hagan, MBA, PhD, deputy director

**Email:** [evidenceforaction@ucsf.edu](mailto:evidenceforaction@ucsf.edu)

**Phone:** 415-502-3490

### 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

**Email:** [runforgood@saucony.com](mailto: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/>

**Award:**

**Timeframe:** ongoing

**Contact:**

Brad Thornton,

**Phone:** 818-988-5676

**Email:** brad@shanesinspiration.org

### USA SWIMMING MAKE A SPLASH GRANT

One of the guiding principles of Make a Splash is to spread the word and mission of the USA Swimming Foundation to every community in the nation. In order to reach the widest audience possible, Make a Splash will partner with learn to swim providers across the country that are willing to promote water safety education to their communities and or provide scholarships for children to participate in their swim lesson programs.

The USA Swimming Foundation awards grants on an annual basis to Make a Splash Local Partners who provide services to young people who, otherwise, would not have the opportunity to participate in water safety instructional programs and/or swimming lessons.

**Website:** <http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=2092&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

**Award:** Up to \$4,000

**Timeframe:** November 2, 2016

**Contact:**

Shweta Shreyarathi

**Email:** sshreyarathi@usaswimming.org

**Phone:** 719-866-3546

### 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, 2017.

**Contact:**

**Email:** unsungheroes@scholarshipamerica.org

**Phone:** 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:** The 2016 grant cycle begins Feb. 1, 2016 and the application deadline is Dec. 31, 2016.

### 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://corporate.walmart.com/\\_foundation\\_/apply-for-grants/state-giving-program](http://corporate.walmart.com/_foundation_/apply-for-grants/state-giving-program)

**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.

### WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY FOUNDATION

The Weyerhaeuser Company is deeply connected to the communities where we operate and have a long history of doing our part to help them thrive. Through the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, awards are made to programs in the communities where the company operates. The majority of their funding focuses on affordable housing and shelter, education and youth development, environmental stewardship, and human services, civic, and cultural growth.

**Website:** <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/sustainability/communities/community-investment/giving-fund/>

**Timeframe:** The 2016 grant cycle has closed. Information on the 2017 grant cycle will be available January 2017

**Contact:** Anne.Leyva@weyerhaeuser.com

## 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](http://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>