

# CITY OF. LUBBIOCK

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

OPEN HOUSE | October 04, 2022



# PARKS AND OPEN SPACE IN A CITY

A hallmark of a great City is its system of parks and open space areas



Zilker Park, Austin



Central Park, New York City



Discovery Green, Houston



Audubon Park, New Orleans



Millennium Park, Chicago



The Gathering Place, Tulsa



High Line, New York City



National Mall, Washington, D.C.

# PARKS AND RECREATION: BENEFITS



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM** 



**SENSE OF PLACE AND COMMUNITY** 



Parks increase property value!



Parks increase property value 5-22% for a home within 500 feet of a well-maintained park.





**GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** 



**COMMUNITY HEALTH + PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** 



**NEED FOR OPEN SPACE** 



# **Lubbock Parks, Recreation, and Open Space MASTER PLAN**

Chapter 1, Introduction

Chapter 2, Lubbock's Parks

Chapter 3, Sports and Athletic Facilities

Chapter 4, Indoor Recreation and Aquatics

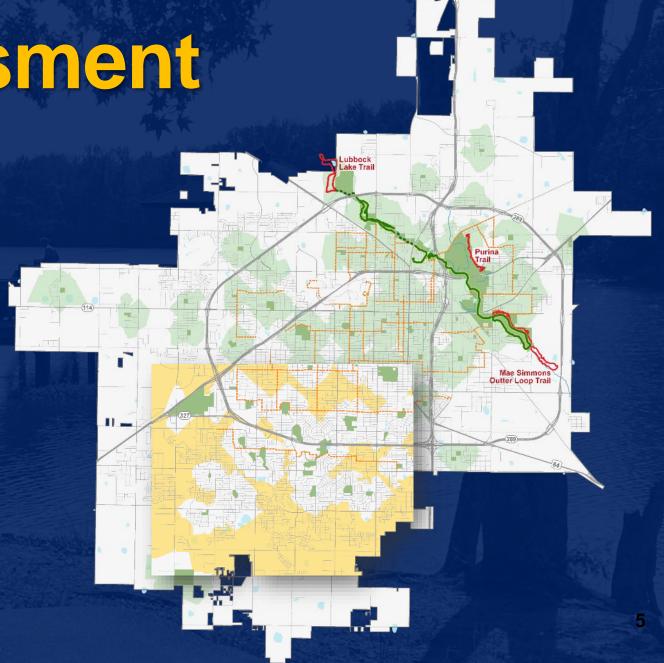
Chapter 5, Lubbock Lakes

Chapter 6, Implementation

# Needs Assessment

# FIVE TYPES OF NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

- DEMAND-BASED
- STANDARDS-BASED
- OPERATIONS-BASED
- PARK CONDITIONS
- RESOURCE-BASED





# **NRPA Facility and Equipment Standards**

- Help identify types and quantities desired for each type of park
- Ensure that parks provide adequate level of service to all community members
- Guideline for minimum goals to be achieved for park improvement and development

### Parks and Recreation Classifications and Standards

Lubbock's parkland can be classified within seven broad park classifications. Each classification may consist of several types of parks, each of which may include various types of recreational facilities. These classifications include: regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, sports facilities, civic parks, special use parks, and linear parks or greenways.

Regional **Parks** 



Park Size: Typically more than 100 acres

Service Area: Up to a 50-mile radius, depending on site

Park Size: Retween 10 and 50

Service Area: Serves populations within a one to twomile radius, with community-wide

natural areas for unstructured recreation, as well as facilities, such as athletic fields, sports courts, swimming pools, hike and bike trails, picnic pavilions, and exercise stations for structured recreational activities; intended to serve City residents

Use and Facilities: Provides open spaces and

Use and Facilities: Frequently planned to

municipalities, and locals

accommodate large numbers of visitors for events such as fairs, festivals, concerts, and

exhibitions and provide a variety of programmatic

activities; intended to serve tourists, neighboring

Neighborhood **Parks** 

Community

Parks



Park Size: Typically three to 10

Service Area: Adjacent residential areas within a onequarter to one-half mile or ten minute "walkshed"

Park Size: Varies based on the number of sports fields and

Service Area: Regional and Local

Use and Facilities: Provide active and passive recreational opportunities within walking distance of neighborhoods; ideal destinations for families; common amenities include playground equipment, picnic areas, benches, walking trails, open play areas, and, occasionally, a sports court or athletic field

Use and Facilities: Include fields, courts, and pools so that leagues can congregate at one facility for competitive play; may also incorporate indoor facilities including gymnasia and recreation centers: intended to serve traveling teams and local leagues

Civic Parks



Park Size: Varies based on park use and location, typically follows a small urban form

Service Area: Local

Use and Facilities: Principally reserved for public gathering, civic events, and community conversations: these parks include greens, squares. boulevards, plazas, and serve as focal points for community gatherings and social interaction

Special Use **Parks** 



Park Size: Less than 10 acres to several thousand acres

Service Area: Local and Regional

Use and Facilities: Reserved for unique recreational activities or specialized interests; this can include athletic complexes, swimming pools or aquatic centers, skate parks, shooting ranges, dog parks, golf courses, and natural, open space areas

Linear Parks or Greenways



Park Size: Varies based on corridor and existing urban form

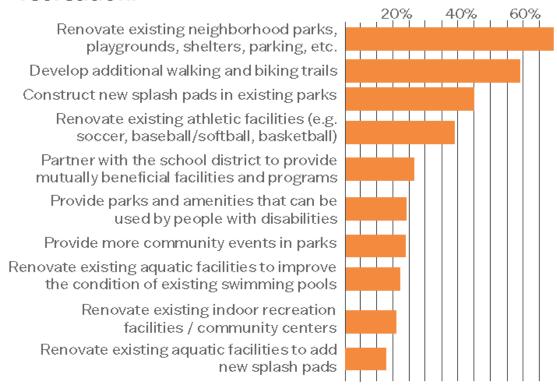
Service Area: Typically a one to two mile radius, often serves citywide populations

Use and Facilities: Generally a multi-use trail or park that follows a natural or constructed corridor such as a creek, an abandoned railroad right-of-way, drainage corridors or a utility easement; developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, animal migration, and/or create linkages with other parks, neighborhoods, civic buildings, or community destinations

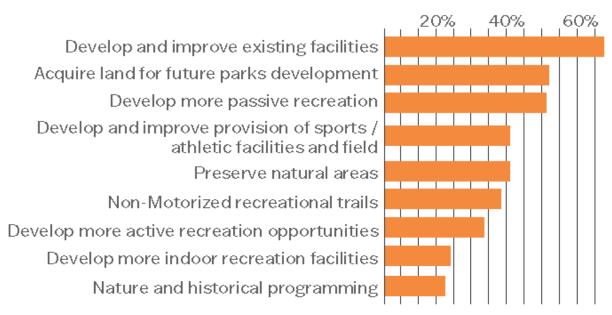


# **Demand-based Assessment**

Question 1: Please select the three (3) most important actions the Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department can take for parks and recreation.



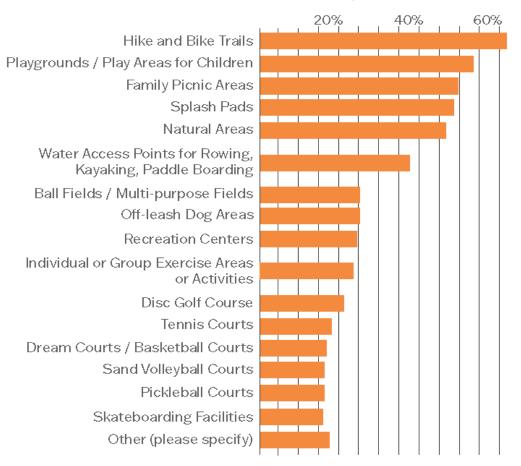
Question 2: Which initiatives should the Lubbock Parks Department prioritize for future implementation? Select all that apply.



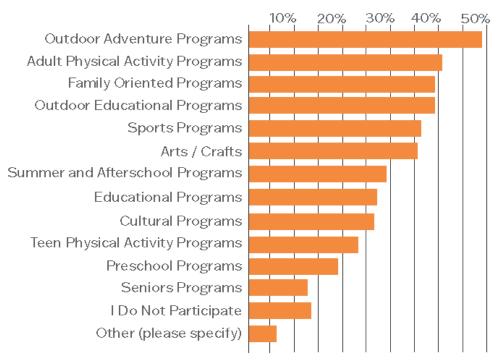


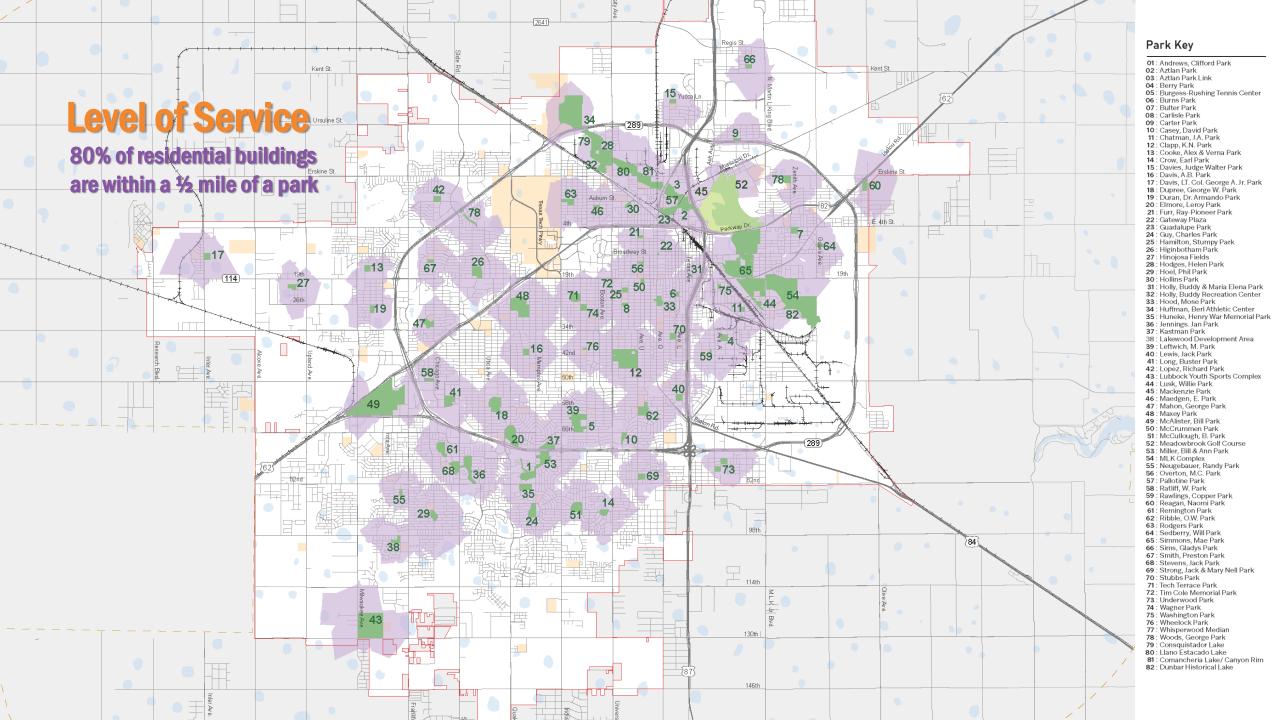
# **Demand-based Assessment**

Question 3: Please select the recreational <u>facilities</u> that you or members of your family are interested in? Select all that apply.



Question 4: Please select the recreational <u>programs</u> that you or members of your family are interested in. Select all that apply.







# **Demand-Based Assessment**

# **Regional Comparison Communities**

- Abilene, TX
- Amarillo, TX
- Brownsville, TX
- Corpus Christi, TX
- Denton, TX
- Frisco, TX
- Plano, TX

- Garland, TX
- Grand Prairie, TX
- Irving, TX
- Laredo, TX
- McKinney, TX
- Midland, TX
- San Angelo, TX



# **Departmental Operations**

Table 2.12, Operating Budget Changes, 2017-2021

Revenue	FY 16-17 (one-year change)	FY 17-18 (one-year change)	FY 18-19 (one-year change)	FY 19-20 (one-year change)	FY 20-21 (one-year change)	FY 17-21 (five-year change)
Park Maintenance	(one-year change)	(IIVe-year change)				
Indoor Recreation	2%	6%	(-16%)	3%	34%	24%
Outdoor Recreation	6%	(-3%)	(-26%)	5%	26%	(-4%)
Park Development	4%	15%	(-42%)	43%	81%	57%
Total	1%	3%	(-6%)	19%	22%	19%



The LPARD spends significantly less per acre of parkland compared to other Texas communities

Figure 2.3, Operating Budget Per Acre Managed for Regional Comparison Communities

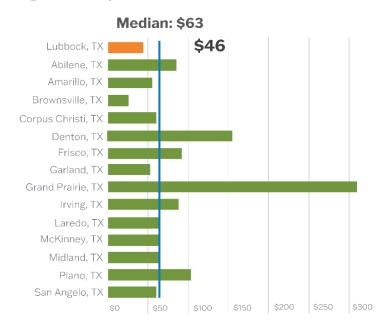
Median: \$7,098





# **Department Operations**

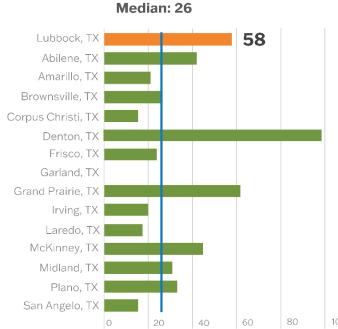
Figure 2.4, Operating Budget Per Capita for Regional Comparison Communities

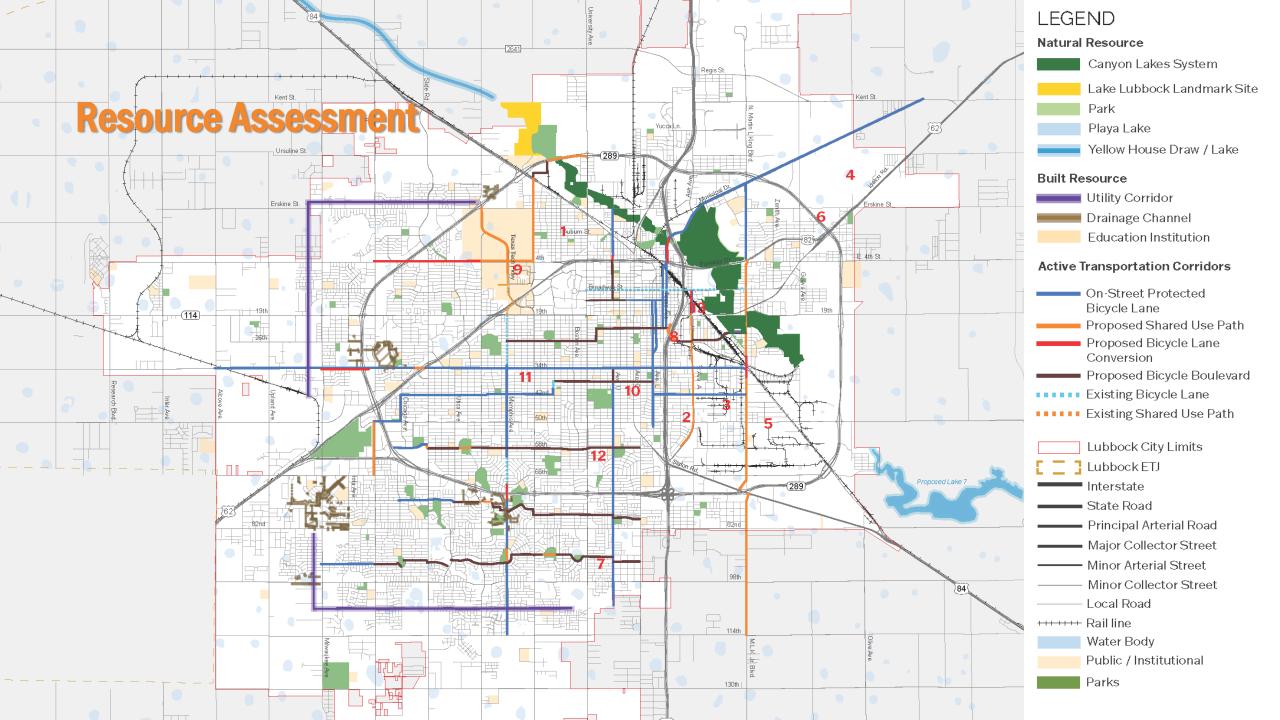


The LPARD spends less on a per capita basis when evaluated against regional comparison communities



Figure 2.9, Parkland Acres Per Maintenance Full-time Equivalent for Regional Comparison Communities







# **CHAPTER 2, LUBBOCK PARKS Objectives and Strategies -**

Objective 1.1: Ensure an equitable distribution of connected and accessible parks, facilities, and open spaces throughout the community.

Objective 1.2: Improve the ecological function and environmental character of Lubbock's parks.

- Enhance ecological and functional character of park playas
- Implement prairie enhancements to some of Lubbock's parks



# Playa Lakes in Lubbock













# **Playa Restoration Program**

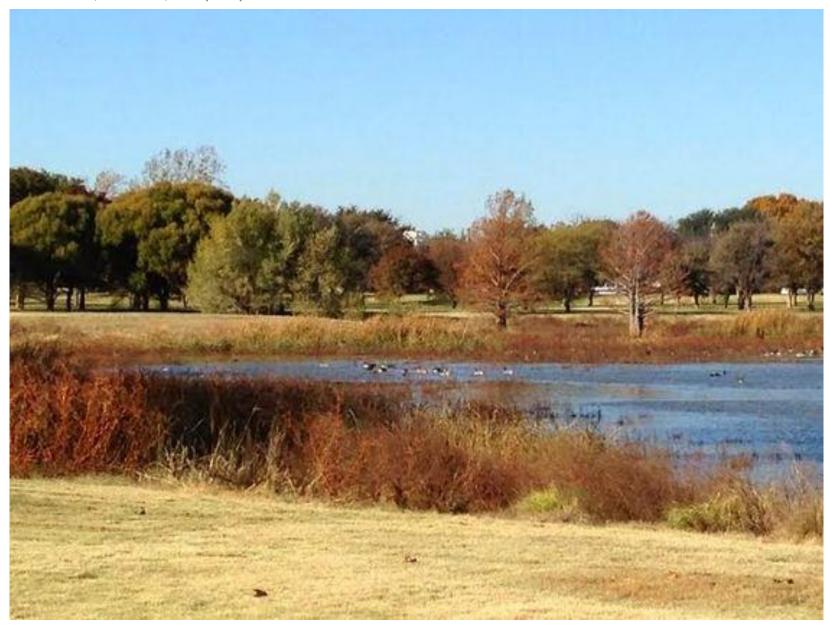
Figure K.24, Shoreline Restoration



Figure K.26, Playa Edge Functions Variable Margin Wet/dry cycles promote high germination rates of plants for nesting, forage, sediment filtration, and biomass production and carbon sequestration High Potential Evaporation Short-term Long-term High groundwater flow High groundwater flow Low Negligible until cracks swell closed while basin is filled groundwater flow groundwater flow High groundwater Low groundwater Negligible groundwater groundwater contribution volume contribution



**Lubbock** Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan



Clapp Park. Lubbock, Texas

# **Playa Restoration Program**





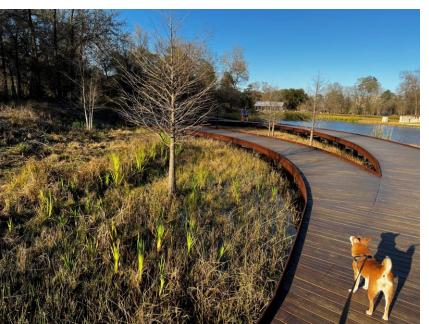


**Lubbock** Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan













**Lubbock** Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

# Park Prairie Enhancement Program









# **HALFF**

# **Quality Enhancements**





















# **Objectives and Strategies (Cont.)**

Objective 1.3: Enhance maintenance practices to ensure a network of high-quality parks and recreational facilities.

 Develop an asset management program to address operations and maintenance requirements

Objective 1.4: Enhance visitor experience through expanded parks programming

Objective 1.5: Utilize third-party resources to optimize Lubbock's system of parks and recreational facilities.

Maintenance





# **TEXAS TECH** UNIVERSITY.

### **Existing Park Conditions** Landscape Architecture Not Safe. **Excellent, New** Compliant, Heathy, Poor Good or Performing 0 Hazard Risk Concern High for... Concern Moderate for... Concern Low for... No Low for... Unsafe, Unfit · Safety, Use, · Safety, Use, Safety, Use, Safety, Use, for use Not Function Function Function Function Functioning Accessibility Accessibility Accessibility Accessibility Non-Compliant Plant Health Plant Health Plant Health Plant Health Accessibility Performance Performance Performance Performance Major Plant Health of Design or of Design or of Design or of Design or Issue System System System System Not-Performing or Aesthetics Aesthetics Aesthetics Aesthetics Failed Design or Major Repair • Moderate Repair No repair Minor Repair System Required to Required to Required required Unacceptable return to return to Typical and Prescribed Aesthetic Prescribed Typical and Typical and Maintenance Restoration. Prescribed Prescribed Maintenance Removal. Maintenance Maintenance Replacement Required Major Repair Required Minor Repair Required Moderate Repair No repair required to return to Typical Required to return to to return to Restoration, Removal, Prescribed Typical and Prescribed and Prescribed Typical and Prescribed Replacement Required Maintenance

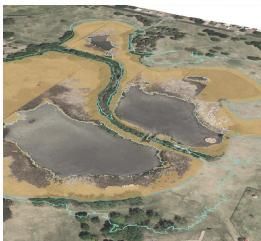
Maintenance

Maintenance



### Clapp Park Water Levels





### **Clapp Water Levels**

The playa at Clapp Park has varying water elevation of up to 665 feet from the low water line to high water line. The low water line depicts the lowest historical level the playa has reached, while the high water line is the highest level the water has reached. Park facilities are not placed in any historic flood zone, although the historic high water line does get within ten feet of the Safety City fence line and the utility zone on the northeast corner of the site.

### Clapp Park Elements





### Clapp Park Elements

A majority of park elements are placed in the northwest and southeast corners of the park. Both corners of the park have asphalt paved parking facilities and signage.

### **Clapp Park Element and Material**





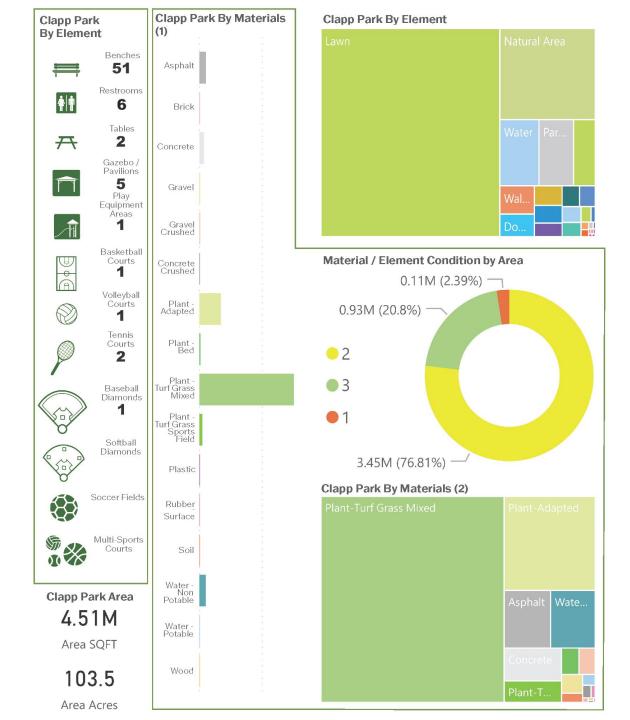
### Clapp Park Conditions

A majority of elements and matereals at Clapp Park are ranked as 1, 'poor' condition, or as 2, 'fair' condition. A majority of turf grass at Clapp Park is ranked a 'fair' and in need or moderate improvements. Plant beds and landscaping around Hodges Community Center and the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum scored a 1, 'poor' condition, noting poor quality of plant health, poor grass conditions, poor and planter material conditions.









### Clapp Park (City Council District 2) Conditions Assessment

### Clapp Park By Element

69.2 Acres, or 66 percent, of Clapp Park is lawn, while natural areas consist of 15.7 acres, or 15 percent, of Clapp Park. The largest non-landscape elements in Clapp Park include 4.1 acres of parking, 2.6 acres of baseball fields, 1.8 acres of walking paths, and 1.4 acres of dog park. Clapp park has over 51 benches, 6 restrooms, and five gazebo/pavilion gathering spaces.

### Clapp Park by Materials

As depicted in Clapp Park By Materials (1) and Clapp Park By Materials (2), 85 percent of Clapp Park consist of planting materials such as turf grass and plant beds. Other common matereals include asphalt, mainly due to the parking lots, non potable water, mainly due to the playa lake, and concrete, due to the walking paths through the park.

### Material / Element Condition by Area

Over 75 percent of the materials / elements in Clapp Park are ranked as 'fair,' in need of moderate repair. A notable 20 percent of park materials / elements are ranked as 'good' condition. No facilities in Clapp Park scored a zero.

### Clapp Park Conditions Score by Element

A majority of elements in Clapp Park scored a two, ranked as 'fair.' Benches, tables, pavilions, and restrooms scored the best, as either 'fair' or 'good.'







### Clapp Park Conditions Score By Element

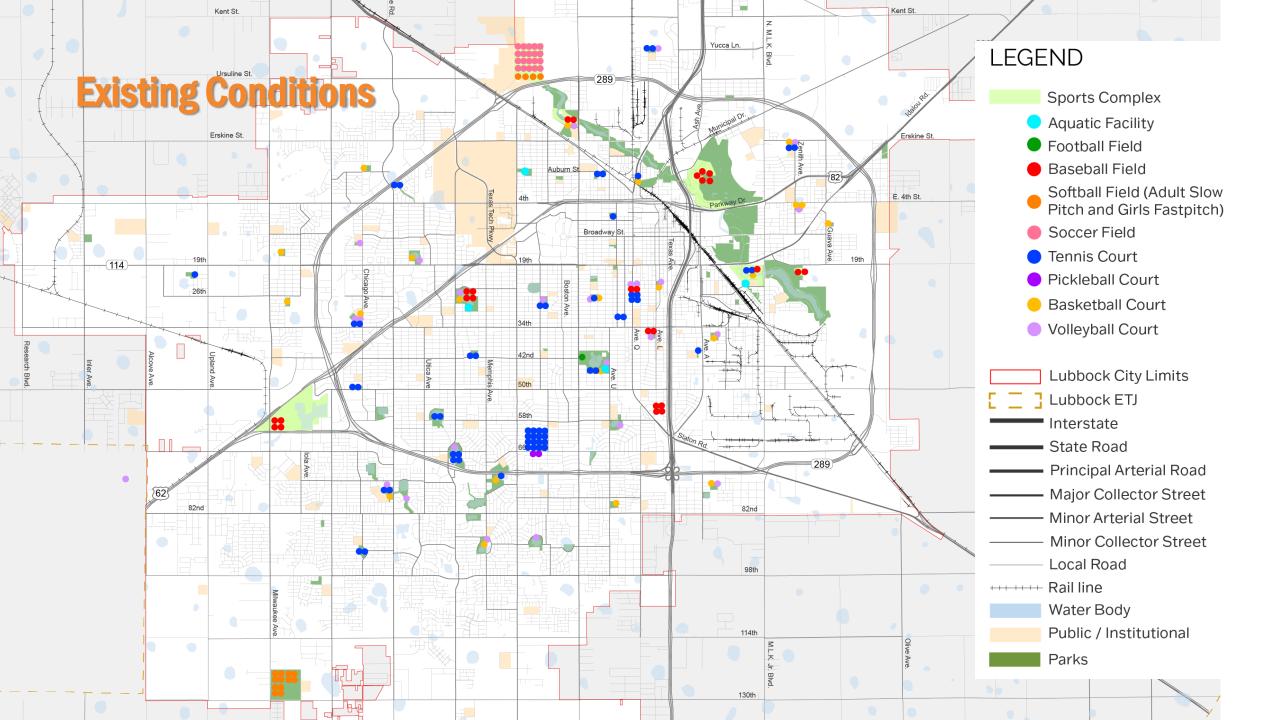
	Park	Walk Route / Trail Route	Restroom	Parking Lot	Signage	Drain Inlet / Culvert	Water Fountain	Waste / Trash / Recycle	Bench	Table	Grill	Gazebo / Pavillion	Shade Strucure	Play Eugiptment Area	Lawn	Natural Area	Planting Bed	Soccer Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Base-Softball Diamond	Volleyball Court	Park Average Score
42	K.N. Clapp Park	2.2	2.6	2.5	2	2	_	2	3	2.6	2	3	-	3	2.2	2	1.2	_	1	2	2	1	2.0



# Chapter 3, Sports and Athletic Facilities

Goal 2:

Sports and Athletic Facilities and programs that meet the recreational, practice, game, and tournament objectives of a growing community.





# **Level of Service**

## **Facilities Needs Assessment**

	tellities liceus Asse		2021 - Popul	ation 260,993	2032 - Population 345,000			
Ou	tdoor Amenity	Existing Number of City of Lubbock Fields	Recommended Level of Service for the City of Lubbock	Number of Total Amenities Needed	Number of Additional Amenities Needed	Number of Total Amenities Needed	Number of Additional Amenities Needed	
Dia	mond Baseball, Youth, Game	23	1:10,000	27	4	35	12	
Dia	mond Baseball, Teen/ Adult	3	1:88,000	3	0	4	1	
Dia	mond Softball, Girls Fast Pitch	17	1:12,000	22	5	29	12	
Dia	mond Softball, Adult	7	1:20,000	14	7	18	11	
Red	ctangle Fields, Soccer	49	1:5,000	53	4	69	20	
Red	ctangle Fields, Football/ Lacrosse	1	1:100,000	3	2	4	3	
Pic	kleball Courts	0	1:16,500	16	16	21	21	
Ten	nis Courts	16	1:16,500	16	0	21	5	
Sar	nd Volleyball Courts	2	1:25,000	11	9	14	12	

### **Third Party Athletic Programming Participation**

Total	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Participation	10,067	8,915	10,095	9,524	8,933	5,976	10,213



Sports league participation rebounded after the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic to levels of attendance higher than in 2015 and 2017.



# **Recommendations**

## **Need for**

- A. Additional practice, game, and tournament quality facilities across the City
- B. Improving, replacing, and upgrading facilities to accommodate tournaments
- C. Indoor sports facilities such as gyms, pools, running tracks, and flexible recreational spaces
- D. Municipal strategic initiatives for enhanced quality of life and sports tourism





# Chapter 4, Indoor Recreation and Aquatics

# Goal 3:

Facilities which provide a range of diverse indoor recreational programs and activities for residents of all ages.

# Goal 4:

A variety of aquatic facilities to address the demand for water-based recreational programs and activities.



# **Existing Conditions**

# **5 Community Centers/ 4 Senior Centers**

- Increasing attendance at Hodges & Lubbock Adult; Decreasing attendance at Maggie Trejo Senior and Maxey
- All facilities in need of updates/renovations due to age

Table 4.1, Lubbock Indoor Community And Adult Activity Centers

Facility Name	Address	Average Annual Attendance (2017-2020)	Square Feet	Year Built
Copper Rawlings Community Center	213 40th Street	11,728	5,241*	1973
Copper Rawlings Adult Activity Center	213 40th Street	16,083	5,241*	1973
Hodges Community Center	4011 University Avenue	55,612	8,500	1957
Lubbock Adult Activity Center	2001 19th Street	57,307	16,186	1951
Mae Simmons Community Center	2004 Oak Avenue	11,992	8,454	1960
Mae Simmons Adult Activity Center	2004 Oak Avenue	17,988	3,951	1960
Maggie Trejo Community Center	3200 Amherst Street	15,404	12,850*	1965
Maggie Trejo Adult Activity Center	3200 Amherst Street	11,274	12,850*	1965
Maxey Community Center	4020 30th Street	35,282	5,802	1959

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates Community Center and Adult Activity Center combined

### **Lubbock** Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan







**HALFF** 









# **Demand-Based Assessment**

# **Indoor Community/Senior Centers**

- 28% of respondents have never been to an indoor recreation facility
- Respondents most interested in fitness and wellness classes, least interested in social services (tax preparation, etc.)
- Lack of desired programs and facilities are main barriers to participation
- Concerns over the age and quality of facilities



# **Indoor Recreation Objectives and Strategies**

Objective 3.1: Ensure that existing community centers and senior centers serve the social and civic needs of the communities they serve.

- Prepare renovation and expansion plans for existing centers
- Construct new community centers to accommodate growth in south and west-central Lubbock
- Expand educational programs and field trips for senior citizens

Objective 3.2: Focus the functions of the community centers and adult activity centers on programmatic activities other than the use of fitness equipment.

- Consolidate physical fitness equipment at one community center and one adult activity center.
- Provide shuttle service between centers.



# **Indoor Recreation Objectives and Strategies**

# Objective 3.3: Provide facilities to meet the indoor recreational and physical fitness interests of the community.

- Conduct a feasibility analysis for developing a recreation center and natatorium
- Utilize recreation center/natatorium facility to support regional sports tourism objectives









## **Existing Conditions**

#### **Four Pools**

- Clapp is most popular pool
- All four pools in need of major updates/renovations due to age

Table 4.23, Aquatic Facility Overview

	Size (gallons)	Year Built	Location	Average Annual Attendance (2016-2019)
Clapp Pool	351,000	1953	Central	19,947
Maxey Pool	230,000	1958	West	9,408
Mae Simmons Pool	225,000	1953	East	5,648
Montelongo Pool	230,000	1957	North	13,373



























### **Demand-Based Assessment**

### **Pools**

- 66% of respondents do not use the pools
- Overcrowding, lack of amenities, and inconvenient location are main barriers
- 69% of respondents want splash pads, located in existing parks not at aquatic centers



## **Recommendations**

### **Aquatics**

- A. Build new splash pads
  - Replace existing pools with splash pads and construct additional splash pads at existing parks (this is the more popular option)
- B. Construct a centralized recreation center/natatorium









## **Aquatics Facilities Objectives and Strategies**

Objective 4.1: Ensure the balanced provision of aquatics programs and variety of aquatic facilities to meet the diverse recreational needs of Lubbock's residents.

- Develop a phased program to replace the City's swimming pools with splash pads
- Reconstruct Clapp Pool
- Consider constructing a centralized, full-service natatorium/recreation center
- Develop and implement a range of aquatics program offerings

# Objective 4.2: Ensure that the administration, operations, and maintenance of LPARD aquatics facilities is fiscally sustainable.

- Expand LPARD's administration of aquatics
- Evaluate options for cost recovery



## Chapter 5, Lubbock Lakes

## Goal 5:

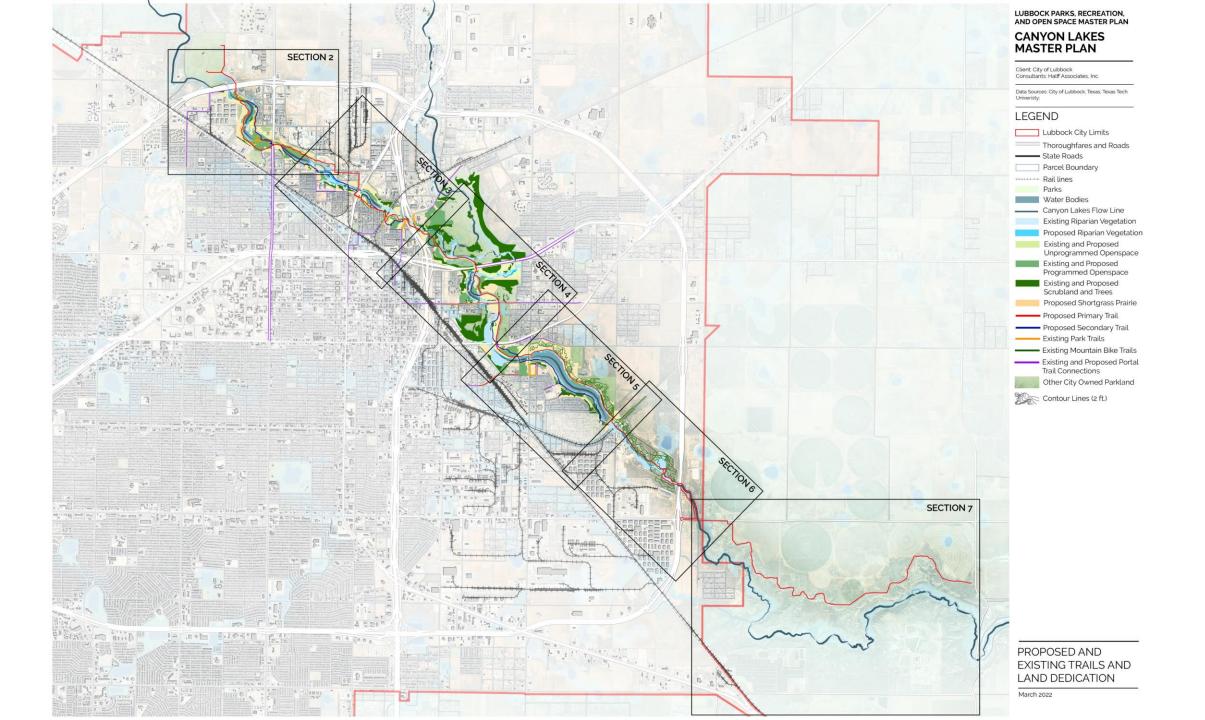
The Canyon Lakes are a regional destination for adventure and nature-based recreation in the heart of the Llano Estacado.



# **Function and Existing Character**









**Function and Existing Character** 





## **Function and Existing Character**



Visible buildings -

Gravel and limited vegetative buffers around dam edges



















Examples of shortgrass prairie vegetation

Brush mattress erosion control

Stream clearing and widening



Shortgrass prairie restoration



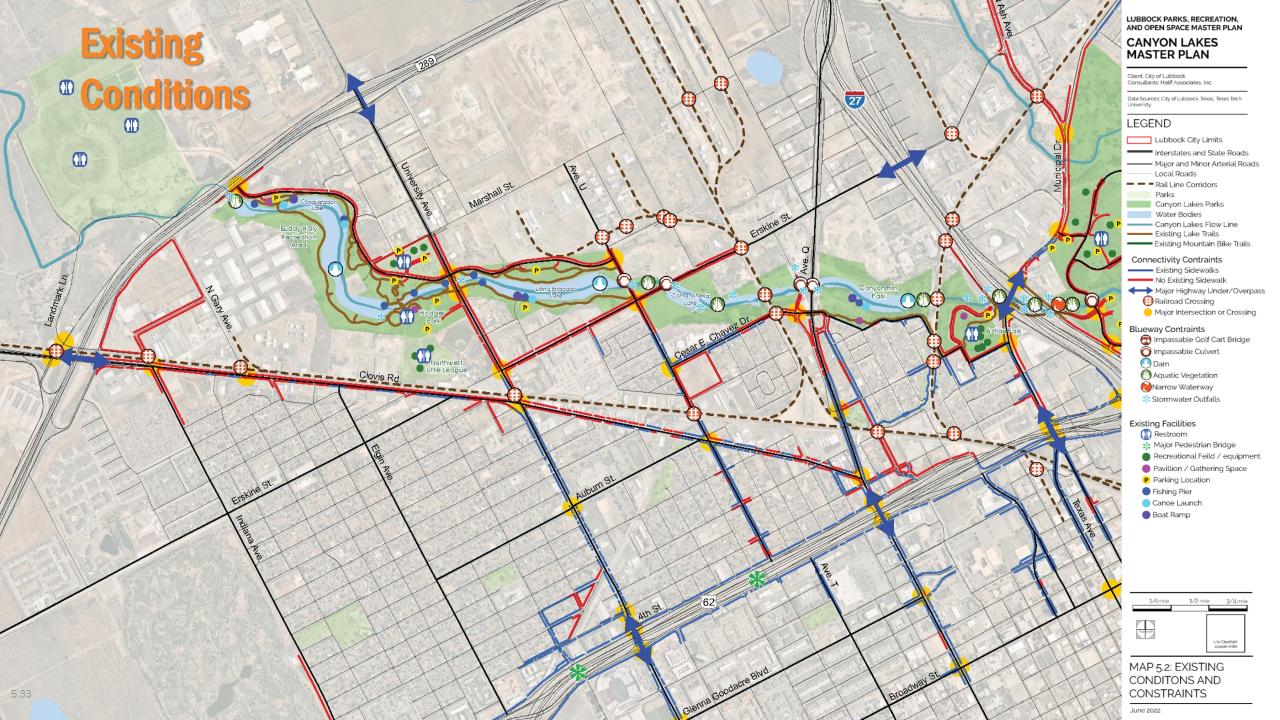
Adventure and orienteering Riparian improvements







Increased safe access to and within







Natural playgrounds







Trail development

Natural playgrounds

Water-based activities

Stream clearing, widening, and replanting



Shortgrass prairie restoration



Adventure & orienteering



Riparian enhancements



Drainage improvements



Increased safe access to and within



Objective 5.1: Manage the Canyon Lakes as a unique environmental system which serves the passive and active recreational needs of a diverse regional constituency.

- Restore unprogrammed areas with native Texas shortgrass prairie plant species
- Screen views of adjacent industrial land uses using indigenous vegetation
- Implement structural improvements: lake dredging, clearing of cattails and snags, stream widening
- Improve riparian vegetation to stabilize the lake and stream shorelines
- Enhance ecological function of stormwater outfalls

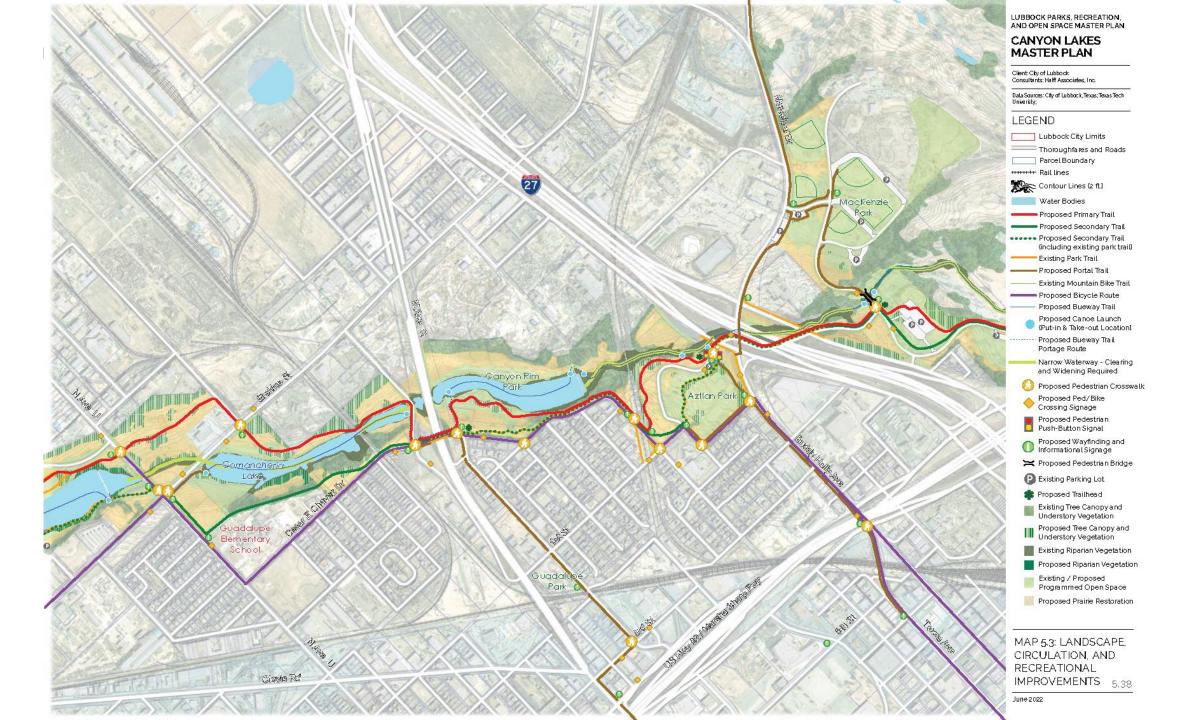


# Objective 5.2: Improve pedestrian access to and circulation within the Canyon Lakes.

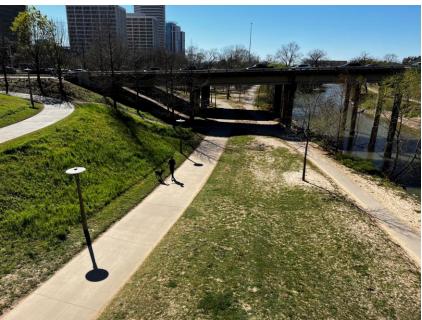
- Enhance access to the Canyon Lakes by enhancing active transportation facilities
- Improve internal circulation within the Canyon Lakes

#### **Trails**

- Primary Trails
- Secondary Trails
- Portal Trails
- Prairie Trails
- Enhanced Mountain Bike Trails



**Lubbock** Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan









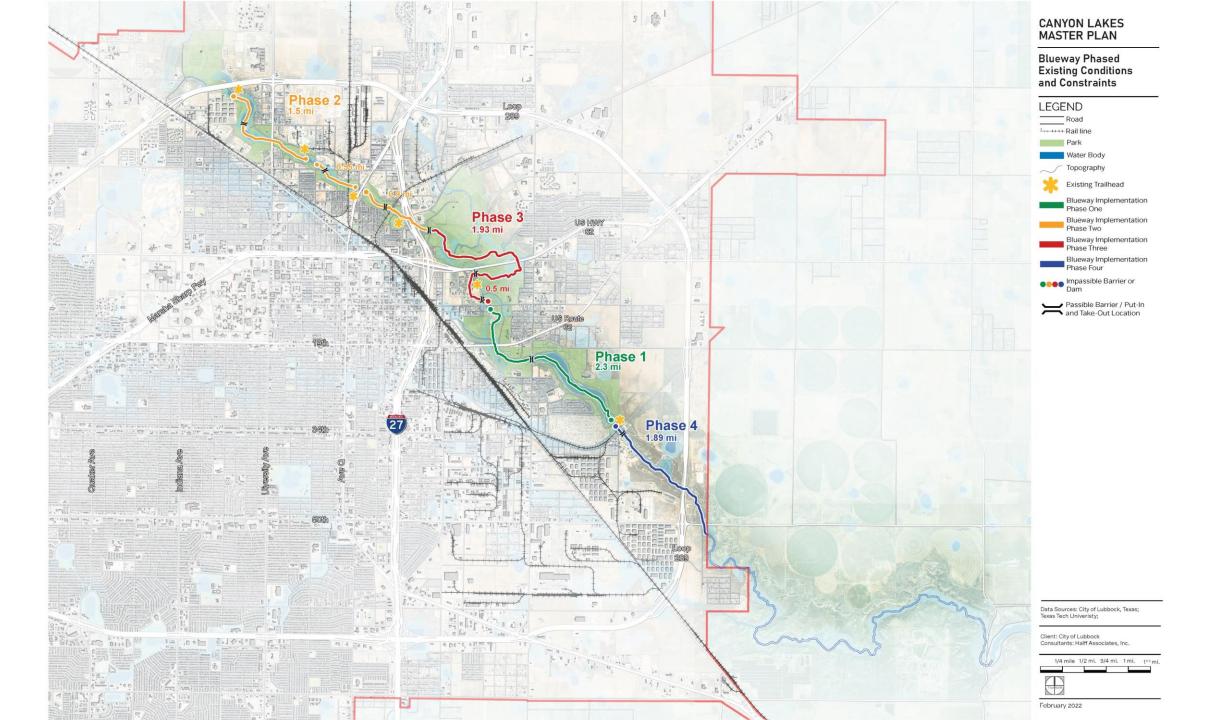
## Objective 5.3: Improve water-based recreational opportunities.

- Develop a Canyon Lakes Blueways program
- Improve access to water-based recreation (Blueway Portages, Fishing Piers)
- Provide land and water-based equipment rentals at access points











# Objective 5.5: Provide programmed and unprogrammed open spaces to serve a variety of social gatherings.

- Support musical heritage events and programs in the Canyon Lakes parks
- Develop small- and large-scale outdoor performance venues
- Identify public gathering spaces along the shoreline linked to primary trail









### Objective 5.6: Improve public safety within the Canyon Lakes system.

- Partner with LPD to conduct routine patrols through the Canyon Lakes
- Promote park, neighborhood, and open space safety through CPTED principles





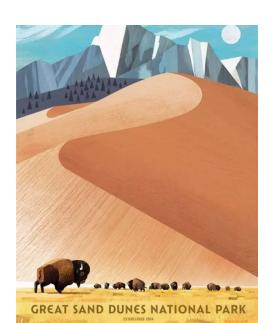


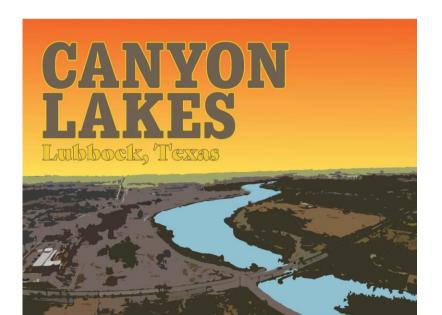


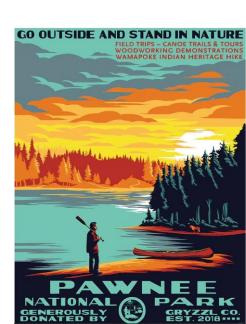
# Objective 5.7: Develop a unique and identifiable brand and associated communications program for the Canyon Lakes

- Develop a park branding and promotion program
- Implement digital and physical branding/marketing techniques for the Canyon Lakes





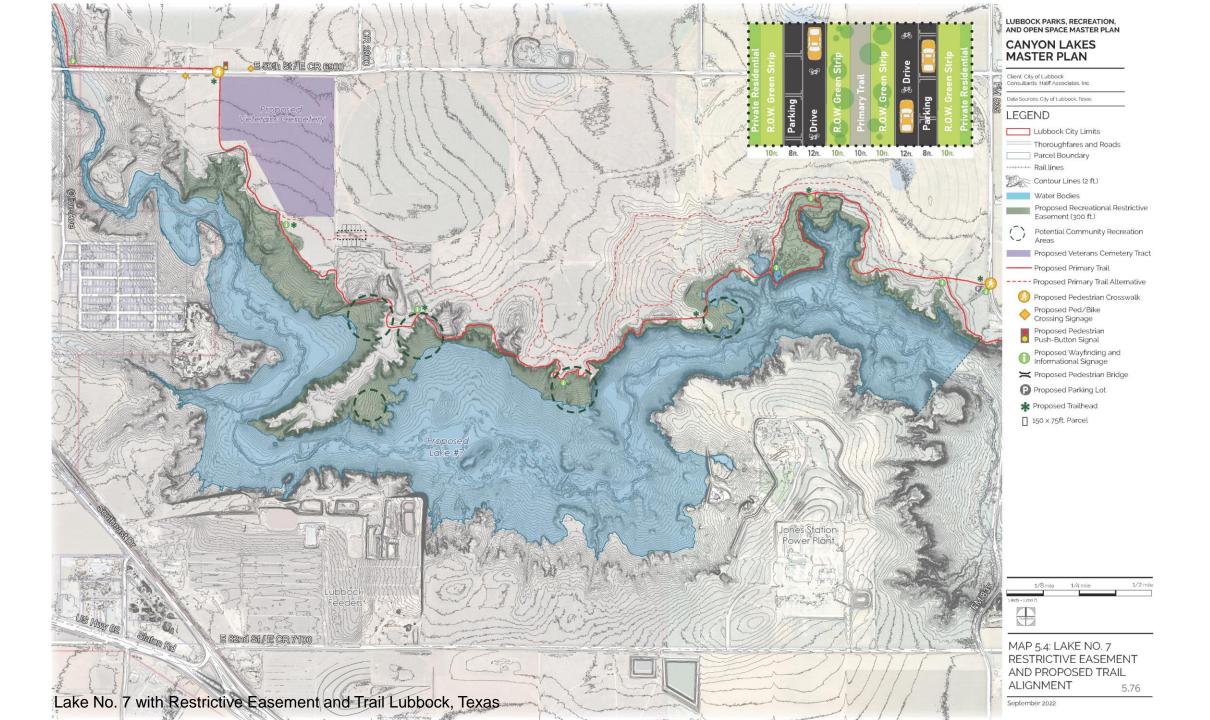






Objective 5.8: Plan for parks and recreational facility improvements on the northern shore of proposed Jim Bertram Lake (No.7).

- Prepare a provisional land development plan for the Lake 7 site
- Evaluate the potential for establishing "Community Recreational Areas" within the proposed restrictive easement





## **Lake Alan Henry Objectives and Strategies**

Objective 5.9: Lake Alan Henry is a financially sustainable enterprise and regional recreation destination.

- Improve the Sam Wahl Recreation Area's entrance/permit office
- Additional improved and unimproved campsites
- Improve existing marina facilities, including additional parking, convenience store, restrooms, second Crappie House
- Develop a day use area adjacent to the lakeshore

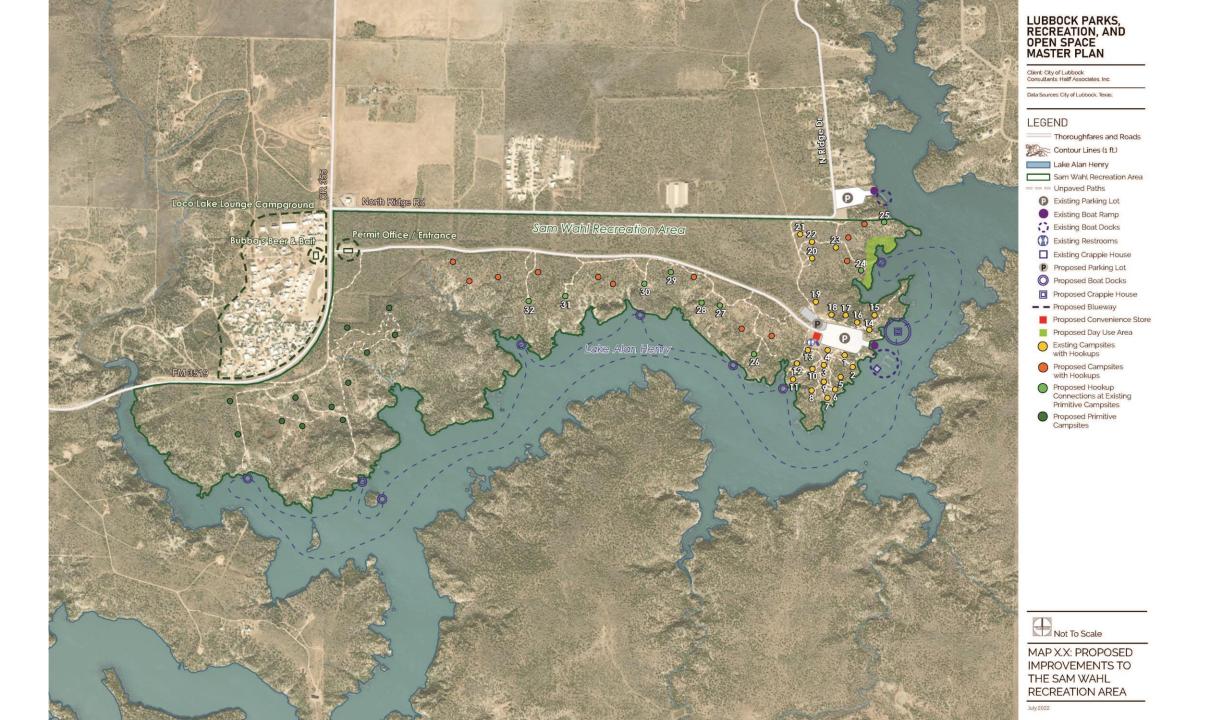
















## **Implementation Program**

- Dedication of the City's Leadership
- On-going public engagement from City staff
- Coordination and collaboration with local and regional partners
- Future evaluation of the Master Plan (monitoring and amendment process)









## **Implementation Action Table**

#### **Implementation Actions**

- Project Schedule
- Standards and Regulations
- Partnerships and Coordination
- Action Leaders
- Project Costs

#### **Goal 5.0**

needed Texas shortgrass prairie plant material.

the shortgrass prairie.

Lakes landscape.

facilities.

including the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog.

1. Consider partnering with Texas Tech University's
Department of Natural Resources Management to conduct
a comprehensive study on best practices regarding prairie
dog population management in the Lubbock metropolitan
area. The results of this study should provide guidance on
how the LPARD can limit or mitigate the damage done by
the prairie dogs while preserving the natural ecosystem of

2. Reintroduce the Black-footed Ferret into the Canyon

 Develop a public information campaign geared toward characterizing the damage and destruction attributable to prairie dogs, particularly to parks, athletic fields, and public

The Canyon Lakes is a regional destination for adventure in the heart of the Llano Estacado.

or the Etano Estadado.												
Table 6.X, Implementation Action Plan Action Leaders Key FISD Frenship Ind. School District LED LBK Engineering Dept. LISD LBK Ind. School District LCISD LBK-Cooper Ind. School District LFARD LBK Parks and Recreation Dept. LSP LBK Sports LWD LBK Water Dept. TXDOT TX Dept. of Transportation	Ongoing/TBD	1-3 Years	3-10 Years	10+ Years	Capital Project	Policies and Programs	Standards and Regulations	Partnerships and Coordination	More Targeted Planning			
TPWD TX Parks and Wildlife Dept.	Init	Initiate			Action Type					Action Leaders	Order of Magnitude Costs	
Objective 5.1: Manage the Canyon Lakes as a unique environmental system which serves the passive and active recreational needs of a diverse regional constituency.												
Strategy 5.1.1: Restore the unprogrammed open spaces within the Canyon Lakes system using native plant species associated with a Texas shortgrass prairie ecosystem.												
As described in Strategy 5.4.1, develop a series of unimproved hiking trails through the larger expanses of Texas shortgrass prairie												
2. Establish a nursery on City-owned land to propagate												

Strategy 5.1.2: Develop an effective program through which to manage invasive species,

