

CITY OF LUBBOCK

2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan



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Table of Contents

Sections

I. Introduction

Master Plan Purpose	p. 5
Previous Master Plans.....	p. 5
Lubbock Profile.....	p. 5
Demographic Estimates.....	p. 7
Historical Background.....	p. 7
Accomplishments of the 1999 Parks and Open Space Master Plan.....	p. 11

II. Goals and Objectives

Department Mission Statement and Goals.....	p. 17
Goals of the 2011 Master Plan.....	p. 17
Use of the 2011 Master Plan.....	p. 18

III. Plan Development Process

p. 19

IV. Area and Facility Concepts and Standards

Neighborhood Parks	p. 20
Community Parks.....	p. 20
Regional Parks.....	p. 21
Linear Parks.....	p. 22
Special Use Parks.....	p. 22
Sports Complexes.....	p. 23

V. Inventory of Areas and Facilities

Schools and Other Open Space Providers.....	p. 24
---	-------

VI. Needs Assessment and Identification

p. 25

VII. Plan Implementation and Prioritization of Needs

Highest Priority Needs.....	p. 29
Priorities for Open Space Development and Programs.....	p. 30
Priorities for Program Development.....	p. 31
Acquatic Recommendations.....	p. 32
Funding Sources.....	p. 34
Policies and Ordinances.....	p. 37

VIII. Appendix

Citizen Surveys
Public Meeting Participants
Public Meeting Presentation and Agenda
Park Photos

I. Introduction

Master Plan Purpose

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is a tool that not only documents the history and current state of a park system, but projects and guides future development. The purpose of the Master Plan is to seek and identify both the assets and deficits of the park system and place priorities to address identified needs. The City of Lubbock's 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan reflects the public comments derived from citizen surveys, public meetings, benchmarking analysis and needs assessments. The approach utilized for this comprehensive plan was based upon the theme that parks are for people and the best planned parks and recreation systems are those in which the people are involved, in a meaningful way, throughout the entire process.

Previous Master Plans

In the history of the Parks and Recreation Department, there have been several Master Plans. The first of which was the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Comanche Canyon Master Plan for Development, both completed in 1968. The Yellowhouse Canyon Lakes Master Plan was completed in 1977, followed by the Park Development Plan in 1991. The Lubbock Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was adopted in 1999 and updated in 2001.

Lubbock Profile

Located in the northwestern part of Texas, in a region historically known as the *Llano Estacado*, Lubbock is the county seat of Lubbock County and the 11th largest city in the state of Texas with a diverse population of 229,537 people, according to the 2010 Census. The projected population of Lubbock is 245,000 in the year 2016, and 256,000 in 2021. Lubbock's nickname is the "Hub City", a description of its position as the financial, education, transportation, and healthcare hub of a multi-county region commonly known as the South Plains. Lubbock offers a rich history, dynamic economy, and a unique culture. While Lubbock offers plenty of amenities, it still maintains an atmosphere of independence, hospitality, and West Texas charm.

Lubbock was established in 1891 as an unincorporated community, after two competing towns consolidated and established Lubbock as the county seat. The City of Lubbock was incorporated in 1909. Lubbock soon became the transportation hub of the South Plains, with the multiple freight and passenger rail lines coming through Lubbock. Over the last 100 years, other transportation systems continued to help the growth and development of Lubbock, including the Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport, the Marsha Sharp Freeway, Loop 289, Interstate Highway 27, and state highways that serve as spokes to and from the Hub City.

Visitors and Lubbock citizens alike never find themselves wanting for something to do. The area's climate fosters outdoor music, street festivals, sports, and healthy relaxation.



9/11 Tribute at Kastman Park

Lubbock's recreational sites include 3,000 acres of municipal parkland and area lakes that feature the best that nature has to offer. Lubbock's 81 municipal parks are spread throughout the nearly 125 square miles of the city. Lubbock's central location provides good access to excellent winter skiing, and boating and fishing are a short drive away at Buffalo Springs Lake or Lake Alan Henry.

Lubbock boasts a strong and diverse economy that is grounded in agriculture, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trades, government, education, and health care. Lubbock's agriculturally-based economy has diversified over the past 20 years, which has minimized the effects of business cycles experienced by individual sectors. The South Plains is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the United States. In 2008, 17.4 percent of the nation's cotton crop and 46.3 percent of the state's cotton crop were produced by farmers in the Southern High Plains

District. The City has strong manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, services, and government sectors. Manufacturing includes a diverse group of employers who support approximately 5,200 workers. A central location and access to transportation have contributed to Lubbock's development as a regional warehousing and distribution center. Lubbock serves as the major retail trade center and health care provider for a region of more than a half million people. The City is a leading medical center for the region offering the most comprehensive healthcare between Dallas and Phoenix. The largest private redevelopment project in the nation is underway in a neighborhood between downtown Lubbock and the Texas Tech University campus, resulting in a major area of growth in the heart of the City. The City is also in the early stages of a downtown redevelopment project.



Mae Simmons Park

Two major components of the local economy are education and health care services. Lubbock is home to three universities and one community college: Texas Tech University, Lubbock Christian University, Wayland Baptist University's Lubbock Campus, and South Plains College.

Demographics Estimates

The table below depicts the 2010 demographic populations for Lubbock. The source for the information is from the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census Populations. The table makes comparisons from 2000 to 2010.

	2000	2010	% Change
Population	199,564	229,573	15.0%
Non Hispanic Anglo population	122,330	127,915	4.6%
Hispanic population	54,786	73,625	34.4%
Non Hispanic: African American population	16,907	18,744	10.9%
Non Hispanic: Asian population	3,004	5,618	87.0%
Non Hispanic: American Indian population	619	845	36.5%
Non Hispanic: Two or more races	1,774	2,585	45.7%
Lubbock County population	242,628	278,831	14.9%
City median family income	\$41,418	\$42,026	1.5%
City per capita income	\$17,511	\$25,122	43.5%
Land area in City square miles	115.0	123.4	7.3%
Land area in County in square miles	900.7	900.7	0.0%

Historical Background of the Parks and Recreation Department

The first Lubbock Park Commission was established in 1917. In 1923, property was acquired for the first two parks, which were Mose Hood and Pioneer. Mose Hood Park was a gift to the City while Pioneer Park was acquired with bond funds. Parkland acquisition during the 1920's was fairly intensive in a decade which saw the post-war economy from World War I and the advent of the depression. The State of Texas acquired 549 acres in 1926 for the establishment of Mackenzie State Park. The State leased the park to the City and relinquished virtually all control to local authorities. Mackenzie became a very popular park and was rated as the "Most Popular State

Park" in 1957. Prior to 1930 there were seven parks in Lubbock totaling six hundred and forty three acres. The first ten years of the department's history were active years marked by the strong interest in both acquisition and development. Through donations and purchases, the City began to shape the framework for years to come. Unique resources, such as the Mackenzie State Park, were preserved and the beginnings of a strong "neighborhood" park policy were established.

The first formal meeting of the Commission was held on May 26, 1930, attended by the following members:

C.H. Mahoney, Chairman
Mrs. Lou Stubbs
K.N. Clapp
George Benson
J. Bryan Miller

The first formal recreation program was described as an old fashioned breakdown orchestra and square dance. The event occurred in Pioneer Park in 1937. The City and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) initiated a summer playground project. The Recreation Department was created in 1943, and in 1944 a Teenage Community Center called "The Corral" was opened. The Parks Department and the Recreation Department were combined in 1953, and A.C. "Stumpy" Hamilton was employed as the first Director. The decade of the 1950s displayed increasing emphasis on the provision of recreation programs,



Annual K-9 Splash Fest at Clapp Park

and several community centers and swimming pools were constructed. Construction of the Garden and Arts Center began in 1953. Meadowbrook Golf Course began operation under the City in 1955.

Several of the parks acquired in the 1950s reflected the emphasis on recreation as demonstrated by the construction of tennis courts, ballfields and other predominant recreation facilities.

A major parkland acquisition occurred in 1967 with the addition of 642 acres known as the Yellowhouse Canyon Park. That acquisition marked the first occasion when the Parks and Recreation Department received federal funds for parkland. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation contributed in 50% of the acquisition cost.



Meadowbrook Golf Course in Mackenzie Park

During the 1970s there were 25 park sites added that totaled over 1,100 acres. A significant portion was the 710 acres that were acquired for the Yellowhouse Canyon Lakes. Most of the park acquisition was initiated by a devastating tornado that occurred on May 11, 1970. The tornado unfortunately created losses, but stirred a new attitude and direction for much of the City. Due in part to the disaster, the City was able to secure 4.2 million dollars in federal funds to acquire lands for the Yellowhouse Canyon Lakes development. Much of the acquired property was once a local trash dump and is now the Jim Bertram Canyon Lakes

System, a series of six lakes consisting of ballfields, recreation areas, trails, picnic areas, museums, public art, an amusement park, amphitheatre, golf course and open space.

Seven neighborhood parks were opened in 2004. Funding for the construction of the seven parks came from general obligation bonds. The citizenry approved funding for the seven parks in 1999. All of the parks were located outside of Loop 289 and were named Richard Lopez Park, Jack and Mary Nell Strong Park, Dr. Armando Duran Park, Naomi Reagan Park, Underwood Park, Alex and Verna Cooke Park and Gladys Sims Park.

In the early 1990s, the City of Lubbock constructed the John T. Montford Dam, which created Lake Alan Henry in Garza and Kent Counties, 65 miles southeast of Lubbock.



Lake Alan Henry

Although the lake's primary purpose is to provide a future water supply for the City, it's size of 2,888 acres and 40 foot average depth, coupled with its location on U.S. Highway 84, makes the lake a popular destination for anglers and boaters. Public recreational access to the lake is from the Samuel W. Wahl

Recreation Area on the north shore of Lake Alan Henry. The City of Lubbock also owns and manages the Wildlife Mitigation Area (WMA) located north, east and south of the Montford Dam. The WMA consists of over 3,600 acres managed under state and federal guidelines to enhance wildlife habitat. The management of this area is required as part of the U.S. Corp of Engineers permit requirements.



*Sam Wahl Recreational Area
at Lake Alan Henry*

The maintenance and improvements of the Sam Wahl Recreational Area and the Lake Alan Henry Wildlife Mitigation area fell under the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department in 2003. The Recreational Area consists of primitive camping areas, trails, restrooms, parking areas, boat dock, boat slips and a fishing dock.

The Recreation Area consists of 550 acres and is open to the public 24 hours per day, every day of the year. Public hunting opportunities, as well as hiking, nature photography and wildlife observation, are available in the WMA.

In 2008, 160 acres were added to the parks inventory. This site is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of FM 1585 and Milwaukee Ave. The first phase of the Youth Sports Complex was constructed on 70 acres of the site and the remaining parcel is currently planned for a youth soccer complex.

Today's park system, within the City of Lubbock, consists of 81 parks and 3,000 acres of developed and undeveloped park land. Figure 1.1 depicts the location and acreage of each park.



Lubbock Youth Sports Complex



Playground at Rawlings Park

Due to the geographic size of Lubbock, the City is divided into 5 park planning zones. Planning Zones 1 through 4 are centered at the intersection of 34th Street and University Avenue. Zone 1 is northeast of the intersection, Zone 2 is to the southeast, Zone 3 is to the southwest and Zone 4 is to the northeast. Zone 5 is the Planning Zone just south of Zones 2 and 3. The Planning Zones are depicted in Figure 1.1.

Accomplishments of the 1999 Parks and Open Space Master Plan

The most recent comprehensive parks, recreation and open space master plan was adopted in 1999 by the Lubbock City Council. The majority of the priorities that were established in the 1999 plan were completed and/or funded by early 2001. In May of 2001, the City Council approved amended priorities to replace the 1999 plan. In addition to tree plantings at many of the parks, the completed improvements are:

- Andrews Park
 - Walking Track
 - Water Well
- Aztlan Park
 - Playground
- Berry Park
 - Irrigation
 - Walking Track
 - Playground
- Brazos River Journey Exhibit
- Burgess-Rushing Tennis Center
 - Four New Courts
 - Court Renovations
 - Fencing
 - Irrigation
- Burns Park
 - Playground
- Carlisle Park
 - Irrigation
 - ADA Upgrade
 - Lighting
 - Playground
- Clapp Park
 - Restroom
 - Party House Roof Replacement
 - Pressbox Concession
 - Irrigation
- Cooke Park
 - New Park
 - Pavilion



Construction of MLK Little League Fields

- Crow Park
 - Lighting
- Davies Park
 - Lighting
 - Playground
- Davis Park
 - ADA Upgrade
 - Lighting
 - Party House Renovations
 - Playground
- Dupree Park
 - Irrigation
 - Drainage
- Duran Park
 - New Park
 - Pavilion
 - Water Well
- Elmore Park
 - Grading and Irrigation
 - Water Well
- Fiesta Plaza
- Furr Pioneer Park
 - Improvements
- Guy Park
 - Playground
- Higginbotham Park
 - Water Well
- Hodges Park
 - Garden & Arts Center Renovations
 - Community Center Interior Renovations
 - Baseball Field Improvements
 - Irrigation Improvements
- Hoel Park
 - Lighting
 - Water Well
- Hollins Park
 - Playground



Construction of MLK Little League Fields

- Hood Park
 - Irrigation
 - Water Well
- Huffman Softball Fields
 - Scoreboards
- Huneke Park
 - Lighting
 - Water Well
 - Lubbock Area War Memorial
 - Freedom Fountain
- Jennings Park
 - Playground
- Kastman Park
 - Water Well
- Lake Alan Henry
 - Hiking Trails
 - Restrooms
 - Trailhead Shelter
- Lewis Park
 - Shade Covers
- Lopez Park
 - New Park
 - Pavilion
 - Water Well
- Mackenzie Park
 - Crossroads in Time
 - Wells Fargo Amphitheatre
 - American Wind Power Museum
 - Fence Project
 - Softball Field Improvements
 - Prairie Dog Town Renovations
 - American Museum of Agriculture
- Mae Simmons Park
 - Irrigation
 - Outreach Renovations
 - Lighting
 - Restrooms



Construction of Restroom Facility at Lake Alan Henry

- Mahon Park
 - Water Well
- Maxey Park
 - HUB City Playground
 - Shelter
- McAlister Park
 - Cavazos Little League Complex
 - Challenger Little League Field
 - Legacy Play Village
 - Park Improvements
 - Restroom
 - Water Well
 - 4 x 4 Track
 - Skate Park
 - Bird Blinds
 - Horse Shoe Pits
 - Disc Golf
- McCullough Park
 - Water Well
 - Playground
 - Restroom
- McCrummen Park
 - 19th Street Senior Center Renovations Phase I
- Miller Park
 - Playground
 - Walking Track
 - Irrigation
 - Subsurface Drainage
 - Water Well
- MLK Little League Complex
- Northwest Little League Complex
- Overton Park
 - Playground
- Project Site Archaeology
- Rawlings Park
 - Center Interior Renovations
 - Playground

- Reagan Park
 - New Park
 - Pavilion
 - Playground
- Remington Park
 - Improvements
 - Water Well
- Ribble Park
 - Walking Track
 - Irrigation
 - Pavilion
 - Water well
- Rodgers Park
 - Jogging Track
 - Irrigation
 - ADA Swimming Pool Upgrade
- Sedberry Park
 - Lighting
 - Playground
- Sims Park
 - New Park
 - Pavilion
- Smith Park
 - Water Well
- Southwest Little League Complex
- Stevens Park
 - Water Well
- Strong Park
 - New Park
 - Pavilion
- Stubbs Park
 - Lighting
 - Skate Park
- Tech Terrace Park
 - Irrigation
- Underwood Park
 - New Park
 - Pavilion

- Wagner Park
 - Playground
 - Walking Track
 - Tennis Court Renovations
- Woods Park
 - Center Exterior Repairs
 - Lighting
 - Playground
- Youth Sports Complex
 - Twelve Youth Softball Fields
 - Four Little League Fields
 - Restrooms
 - Concession Buildings
 - Lighting
 - Parking
 - Phase II Design

II. Goals and Objectives

Department Mission Statement & Goals

The mission statement of the Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department is to provide through dedicated stewardship, a quality system of parks, facilities, and cultural and leisure programs that exceed citizen needs.



Lubbock Senior Center

It is also the purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department to improve the quality of the City's urban setting by enhancing the appreciation and care of the natural environment through maintenance and development of open space, parks, trails and recreational opportunities.

One of the goals of the Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department is to provide quality facilities and programs that reflect citizen needs and requests. This goal will be accomplished through customer surveys, random citizen surveys and public input. Another goal is to utilize existing facilities, as often as possible, to meet current programming trends. The existing recreation facilities were not

designed to accommodate some of the requested programs. An objective to accomplish this goal is to identify and program new recreation opportunities in the existing facilities without major building renovations. A third goal is to efficiently maintain the parks and open spaces. An objective to accomplish this goal is to evaluate the cost to maintain properties and consider additional outsourcing and partnerships were feasible.

Goals of the 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

The primary goal of this Master Plan is to provide recommendations for improvements and development of parks and open space, which are citizen driven, through an extensive public input process. To accomplish this goal, a public input process was undertaken along with a city-wide needs assessment survey.

The survey data serves as a basis for many of the recommendations herein. Another stated goal of the Master Plan is to identify local recreational trends and requests and to provide guidelines for the development of programs to meet those requests. A series of public meetings were held to gather information in regards to current trends and consider requests for recreational programming opportunities. An additional goal of this Master Plan is to develop a trail plan for Lubbock. The objective to accomplish this goal included the evaluation of existing natural resources, corridors

(such as utility easements), linkages to parks and recreational facilities and partnerships with developers and the school districts.

The Master Plan is a result of a team effort between the Citizens of Lubbock, Parks and Recreation Staff, Leisure Vision, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the City Council.



Playground at Miller Park

Use of the 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

This Master Plan includes recommendations for future land acquisition, park expansion and park development to serve the growing population and meet existing needs of Lubbock. Chapter 5 includes an inventory of existing parks and amenities. The parks and recreation industry standards are detailed in Chapter 4 along with comparisons to the current facilities in Lubbock. Chapter 6 documents the results of the needs assessment as identified by the public input process and comparisons to planning standards. Chapter 7 identifies the recommended priorities for parks and program development. Descriptions of potential funding sources are provided in Chapter 7.

To efficiently and accurately access the needs and trends of Lubbock, the City has been divided into five planning zones. The Master Plan addresses the needs of the entire City, but also looks specifically at the needs of each planning zone.

This Master Plan should serve as the planning document for the future development and fiscal planning for Lubbock parks and recreation system for the next ten years. Annual reviews of the Master Plan should be performed by the City to ensure that the implementation is on course and to address any specific changes in priorities and/or needs.



Wagner Park

III. Plan Development Process

The City of Lubbock's Parks and Recreation staff began working on the 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan in the fall of 2009. The staff evaluated the accomplishments of the most recent Master Plan, which was the 1999 Comprehensive Master Plan that was amended in 2001.

The heart of a Master Plan is the needs assessment which collects information from the public to determine future development. The staff gathered citizen input through public meetings and a citizen survey.

Four public input meetings were held in January and February of 2010. The meetings were held in the cafeteria of Monterey High School, a central location in Lubbock. The meetings were attended by 103 people. The agenda of the meetings included a summary of accomplishments from the previous Master Plan, a presentation of the purpose of a master plan, public comment period, and collection of written surveys.

The randomly selected citizens survey was performed by Leisure Vision, Olathe, Kansas. Leisure Vision was selected because of their extensive experience providing surveys. The purpose of the survey was to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services of the Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department. The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone and was completed in March

and April of 2010. Leisure Vision received 651 completed surveys which resulted in a 95% level of confidence with a margin of error of +/-3.8%.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was involved in every step of the development of the Master Plan. In April of 2010, Leisure Vision presented the results of the Citizen Survey to the Board. In March 2011, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended approval of the Master Plan.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reviewed the draft plan in April 2011, and the Lubbock City Council adopted the plan in May 2011.

IV. Area and Facility Concepts and Standards

The most common standards for park planning guidelines are the guidelines published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). These guidelines are described in the NRPA publication Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. In 1999, the City of Lubbock adopted local park standards. The local guidelines are adjustments to the Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines to reflect Lubbock's need and resources. The six park types recognized by the City are neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, linear parks, special use areas and sports complexes.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the foundation of a well-balanced park system. These parks provide both active and passive recreation such as field and court games, walking, playgrounds, picnicking, park benches and open space.



Carlisle Park

High intensity lighting can be obtrusive to the neighborhood and should be avoided

but adequate security lighting should be provided. The need for vehicular parking is limited as these parks should be located within walking distance of local residences. Trails should connect the parks with the neighborhood, schools and retail areas. Neighborhood parks should be able to drain properly and exhibit desirable aesthetic qualities. They should be located outside floodways and drainage easements but may be located adjacent to them. Neighborhood parks should be located in areas that are buffered from heavy traffic, commercial and retail districts. Geographic centers of residential developments are the primary locations for neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks are 1 to 15 acres in size and serve residents within a ½ mile radius.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger than neighborhood parks and serve several neighborhoods or large populations within the community. Park development should protect natural amenities and provide both active and passive recreation needs. Typical activities in the community parks include competitive sports, tennis, playgrounds, sport courts, restrooms, parking, aquatic features and lighted athletic facilities. Passive activities, in community parks, include walking, wildlife viewing, sitting and picnicking.

The sites natural character should play a role in the selection for the locations of community parks. City streets may border the entire park site, but proper open space must be available to buffer the park interior from traffic. Adequate vehicular access and parking must be provided. Community parks range from 16 to 99 acres in size and generally serve a user area of one to two miles in radius.



Buddy Holly Recreational Area

Regional Parks

Regional parks serve the entire population of Lubbock and the region. These areas are often located in areas with unique natural amenities or cultural attributes. Development of these sites should enhance existing features for recreational purposes. Recreational activities should be both passive and active and include a wide selection of activities for all age groups. Active recreation in regional parks should be developed for tournament activities and should allow opportunities for high quality development and maintenance. They may also include areas of nature preservation for activities such as sightseeing, nature study areas, wildlife habitat and conservation areas.



Mackenzie Park Lake

As the largest classification of park land, they are valued because they can preserve vast amounts of open space and preserve natural features. Development of these sites should enable specialized recreational areas such as hiking trails, aquatic facilities, community centers, major sports activities, etc. Ample parking and road circulation should be provided to promote activities on a regional level.

Site selection for regional parks is similar to those of community parks. The sites should be suitable for active and passive recreation with suitable soils for development, positive drainage, and various plant species. Regional parks should have ready access to city streets and utilities. Site selection may be determined to help preserve natural areas with aesthetic or environmental value. These sites should be buffered from intensive developments. City streets adjacent to these parks may provide an adequate buffer. Regional parks vary in size from 100 acres and above, and serve those areas within a one hour driving distance.

Linear Parks

Linear parks are often linear open spaces located along utility easements, drainage ways, rivers, creeks, expansive boulevards and natural corridors. Linear parks typically are developed for one or more modes of travel such as walking, jogging, biking, in-line skating, hiking, horseback riding and canoeing. They link various recreational activities and attractions, buffer residential communities, conserve natural resources, and promote uses of alternate modes of travel.



Future Linear Park Development

They can be used as a spine along linkages to other parks, schools, points of interest, bus stops and retail areas. Highly visible and aesthetically pleasing access points should be designated along the Linear park. Sites should have proper soils for development, and proper drainage is required. When considering floodways for linear parks, some non-floodplain land should be considered part of the park. Floodplain land that is cut off from public access is less desirable. The linear park width should allow sufficient

space for development of pedestrian trails with sufficient buffers between adjacent developments.

There is no specific per capita requirement for or size of development for linear parks. The size and number of linear parks is dependent on the resources available.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks are for specialized use or oriented toward single purpose recreation. These parks offer activities of a single type, such as performing arts, gardens, arboretums, arenas, plazas, community and senior centers, golf courses, marinas, tennis centers and aquatic centers.



Burgess-Rushing Tennis Center at Leftwich Park

Development sites for special use parks should consider existing points of interest, ease of access, and areas for developed parking. Site selection is contingent upon availability and opportunities due to existing resources.

Special use parks serve the entire community and vary in size, and their locations are determined by the location of natural or cultural hubs within the community. There are no specific standards for size or acreage for this park classification.

The following graphics indicate the existing neighborhood and community park service areas and the locations for the regional, special use parks and the sports complexes.



Freedom Fountain at Huneke Park

Sports Complexes

Sports complexes provide a large number of sports playing fields in areas large enough to accommodate parking and facilities for large crowds. Sports complexes typically provide a number of fields to host large tournaments. They should be located in areas of low density population to avoid issues with sports lighting and noise. These complexes should provide adequate ingress and egress to major roadways.



MLK Little League Baseball Complex



Challenger Little League Field

V. Inventory of Areas and Facilities

Lubbock has established a system of neighborhood, community, regional, linear and special use parks, along with sports complexes. These facilities are well spaced within the areas they serve and are well maintained. Population shifts over the years have resulted in some areas having a significant number of parks, while other areas are deficient in recreation areas. A key part of the park planning process is to determine what parks, trails and facilities are currently available.

Table 5.1 provides a summary of the existing park and open space inventory. The open space is categorized by classification per planning zone along with the park acreage per 1,000 residents. This table also includes the year of acquisition for each property. Table 5.2 provides an inventory of existing amenities in each park. These inventories serve as a foundation for the needs assessment for the new and/or improved recreational facilities and programs.

Schools and Other Open Space Providers

Open space is available from local universities, school districts and other providers such as the YWCA and the Lubbock Boys and Girls Club. Figure 5.1 depicts the locations of these facilities. These properties have been included in the service level analysis at 50% of their totals, due to unavailability to these open spaces during the day.

VI. Needs Assessment and Identification

The needs assessment is a critical component of a master plan. In determining the parks and recreation needs, three approaches were combined and utilized.

The Standards Based approach uses established standards to determine if facilities and park areas meet the needs of a given population size. The standards were derived from Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines (James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP, James R. Hall, CLP), national and locally adopted standards.

This approach analyzes the level of service which is a guideline expressed as a ratio of acres per/1,000 population. It is also used to evaluate amenities. The National Standards Best Practices and locally adopted standards serve as benchmarks for comparison. The level of service is an expression of the available and projected open space and amenities that are needed to provide the level of park and recreation services desired by the public. The level of service can be compared to service levels provided by retailers, hotel providers or a city's transportation system. The level of service should be practicable, achievable, balanced throughout the community, and a reflection of the real time demand of the citizens for park and recreation opportunities.

The following tables compare the current level of park and open space service to future needs, based upon the estimated population growth. The tables are

compiled by zone and followed by a table which summarizes all of the zones. Included in the analysis are the acres of open space inventory and the park amenities. The tables identify which service levels are currently met, where needs exist and the additional facilities that are needed.

The Resource Based approach examines the assets and resources of the area for open space, parks, trails and recreational facilities. These resources include natural resources such as playa lakes and drainage areas as well as manmade assets such as utility corridors. Figure 6.1 depicts the location of the existing playa lakes.

The Demand Based approach gathered information from public input meetings and a random citizen survey. Four public input meetings were held at Monterey High School, a central location in Lubbock.



Playground at McCullough Park

Each of the four meetings focused on specific recreational interests; however, input was accepted at each meeting for any parks and recreation facility and

service. The first meeting, held January 19, 2010 focused on Indoor Recreation; the second meeting held January 21 focused on Outdoor Recreation; the topic of the third meeting, held on January 26, was Park Maintenance and Park Development; and the last meeting held on February 4 was for general parks and recreation topics. A citizen survey was completed by the attendees and public input was taken. The meetings were attended by a total of 103 people.

The random citizen survey was provided by Leisure Vision, Olathe Kansas. Leisure Vision was chosen to provide the survey because of their extensive experience with Parks and Recreation Surveys.



19th Street Senior Center

The survey was developed with the assistance of parks and recreation staff. Survey questions included usage, customer satisfaction needs, unmet needs, and priorities for facilities and programs. The written survey was mailed and then followed by a telephone interview. The goal was to collect 500 completed surveys but 651 were actually completed. The number of completed surveys resulted in a 95% level of confidence with a margin of error of +/- 3.8%. A summary of the citizen survey is found on the following pages.

The Importance-Unmet Needs Matrix is a tool for assessing the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation facilities and recreation programs in the City. Each of the facilities and programs that were assessed on the survey were placed in one of the following four quadrants.

Top Priorities (higher unmet need and higher importance). Items in this quadrant should be given the highest priority for improvement. Respondents placed a high level of importance on these items, and the unmet need rating was high. Improvements to items in this quadrant will have positive benefits for the highest number of Lubbock residents.

Opportunities for Improvement (higher unmet need and lower importance). Respondents placed a lower level of importance on these items, but the unmet need rating was relatively high. Items in this quadrant should be given secondary priority for improvement.

Special Needs (lower unmet need and lower importance). This quadrant shows where improvements may be needed to serve the needs of specialized populations. Respondents placed a high level of importance on these items, but the unmet need rating was relatively low.

Less Important (lower unmet need and lower importance). Items in this quadrant should receive the lowest priority for improvements. Respondents placed a lower level of importance on those items, and the unmet need rating was relatively low.

The following pages contain the Importance-Unmet Needs Matrix for all the parks and recreation facilities and recreation programs that were assessed on the survey.

Development and improvement recommendations and prioritization of needs were derived from the above approaches.



Playground at Wagner Park

VII. Plan Implementation and Prioritization of Needs

Introduction

This section of the Master Plan recommends a series of actions to begin to address the park needs in Lubbock. These actions are recommendations to guide the City Council and staff over the next five to ten years and should be revisited and updated on a regular basis. The following table depicts the Development Priorities for each zone and a timeline for development.

Development Priorities	Zones	Years	Comments
Indoor Fitness Areas in Community Centers	1,2,4	1 to 3	Continue to upgrade fitness equipment at Community and Senior Centers.
Picnic Shelters	1,2,3,4	1 to 5	Provide and upgrade open air picnic shelters with picnic tables, grills and access.
Playground Replacement	1,2,3,4	1 to 5	Continue to upgrade playgrounds to current safety standards including accessibility, fall zones and surfacing.
Improve Outdoor Tennis Courts	1,2,3,4	1 to 5	Resurface, paint, and restripe courts as needed.
Outdoor Football Fields	2	1 to 5	Construct two fields within Clapp Park.
Small Neighborhood Parks	5	2 to 3	Quincy Park and The Trails development currently under construction by developers.
Walking Trails	5	2 to 3	Emphasize walking tracks in existing parks, provide trail development for various user groups.
Nature Trails	1,3	3 to 5	Improve nature trails in Mackenzie, Simmons and McAlister Parks.
Dog Park	2,3	3 to 5	Partner with local non-profit groups to construct within existing Community or Regional Parks.
Small Neighborhood Parks	2,4	5 to 10	Emphasize acquiring land and developing neighborhood parks in underserved area.
Youth Baseball Fields	1	5 to 10	Additional baseball fields at Northwest Little League and Martin Luther King Little League.
Large Community Parks	1, 4, 5	8 to 10	Develop Community Parks in underserved areas.
Skateboard Parks	1, 4, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Community Parks.
Additional Softball Fields for Youth	1, 4, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Community Parks.
Additional Adult Baseball/Softball Fields	1, 4, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Community Parks.
Indoor Running/Walking Tracks	1, 4, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Recreation Center.

Development Priorities	Zones	Years	Comments
Outdoor Pools with Play and Fitness Areas	1, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Recreation Center.
Indoor Aquatic Facility	1, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Recreation Center.
Indoor Gymnastics	1, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Recreation Center.
Indoor Tennis Courts	1, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Recreation Center.
Indoor Raquetball Courts	1, 5	8 to 10	Include with development of Recreation Center.
Indoor Sports Fields	1,5	8 to 10	Include with development of Recreation Center.
Soccer Fields	5	8 to 10	Include with development of Community Parks.
Aquatic Centers	1, 5	8 to 10	Close existing pools and develop centrally located Aquatic Centers.
Splash Pads	1, 5	8 to 10	Develop with Aquatic Centers.

Highest Priority Needs

The prioritization of needs are based on information received from public input as well as from the citizen survey and local and national park and recreation standards. The criteria used to prioritize the needs are as follows:

1. Level of need based on citizen input from a citywide basis.
2. Level of need based upon direct citizen input from public comments.
3. Level of need based upon local and national standards.
4. Opportunities based upon existing physical conditions.
5. Conditions of existing park and recreation facilities in Lubbock.



Shelter at Ribble Park

Needs meeting all or most of the criteria shown above were ranked as high priority elements to receive the highest level of attention over the next five to ten years.



Lubbock Area Veterans War Memorial at Huneke Park

Priorities for Open Space

Development and Programs

The priorities for Park and Open Space Development and Programs was determined through the citizen input process. The process included information and feedback taken at the public meetings and the results of the Citizen Survey. Local and National planning standards were also utilized in developing the recommendations. The priorities are as follows:

1. The development of small neighborhood parks was identified as the top development priority. The NRPA guidelines suggest approximately 1.25 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents as a minimum standard. Overall, the City of Lubbock currently has 1.44 acres per thousand residents. However, neighborhood park needs exist in Park Planning Zones 2, 4 and 5. Figure 7.1

depicts possible locations for neighborhood park development.

2. Provide additional walking trails within existing parks to connect existing facilities and parks to neighborhoods, schools and retail areas. These linkages should provide safe, off-street pedestrian and bicycle linkages. Develop the trail network through the Jim Bertram Canyon Lakes system with a main artery and trails running the length of the lake system. Figure 7.2 depicts locations for new trails and linkages.

3. Develop picnic areas with shelters. Large group pavilions should be constructed in the community and regional parks with smaller pavilions in the neighborhood parks.

4. Continue to replace the older playgrounds and add additional playgrounds in the underserved areas.

5. Develop large community parks in areas that are currently not served by a community park. Figure 7.1 depicts existing community parks and service areas and depicts the locations for new community parks. The NRPA guideline recommends approximately five to eight acres per 1,000 residents for community parks. Lubbock currently has 2.94 acres per 1,000 residents.

6. Develop nature trails in undeveloped park areas. Nature trails provide natural surface trails in areas that are typically undeveloped. Nature trails should have access to developed trails and trail heads with parking.

7. Continue to develop areas in the community centers for indoor fitness.

8. Provide indoor running and walking tracks. Indoor running tracks would typically be an amenity found in large recreation centers.

9. Construct dog parks that are accessible to all areas of Lubbock. Dog parks provide enclosed areas for off leash dog activities.

10. Develop outdoor swimming pools that include popular play and fitness activities.

11. Improve the existing outdoor tennis courts and add tennis courts in areas that are underserved.

12. Develop an indoor aquatic facility. Indoor aquatic facilities can be utilized annually as compared to the outdoor leisure pools that can only be utilized seasonally.

13. Develop overnight campgrounds in regional park areas.

14. Develop splash pads and spraygrounds which provide water play in parks during the summer months.

15. Continue to develop youth baseball fields.

16. Develop soccer fields that are available in all areas of Lubbock.

17. Develop facilities for activities such as indoor basketball and volleyball.

18. Develop additional skateboard parks.

19. Develop a facility that would allow space for indoor gymnastics.

20. Provide indoor sports fields.

21. Provide outdoor football fields.

22. Develop indoor tennis courts.

23. Continue to improve and develop additional softball fields for youth.

24. Develop additional adult baseball fields and softball fields.

25. Develop a facility to accommodate indoor raquetball.

Priorities for Program Development

1. Develop programs for adult fitness and wellness.

2. Develop water fitness programs for participants of all ages.

3. Provide additional youth learn-to-swim programs.

4. Provide educational and recreational programming for adults over the age of 50.

5. Offer additional city-wide special events.

6. Provide computer labs. Computer labs can be provided through joint use agreements with private providers, universities and school districts.

7. Expand the youth sports programs.
8. Develop educational nature programs.
9. Offer programs for youth including preschool educational programs, youth summer camps, youth art, dance, and performing arts.
10. Provide continuing education and personal development programs.
11. Offer an expanded adult sports program.
12. Provide programs for people with disabilities.

Acquatic Recommendations

The Parks and Recreation Department currently operates four pools in Lubbock; Clapp Park Pool, Mae Simmons Park Pool, Maxey Park Pool, and Montelongo Pool. Clapp Park Pool, located at 4601 Avenue U, was built in 1953. The pool received an upgrade in the filtration system in 1994 and a water slide was added in 1998. Mae Simmons Pool, located at E. 24th Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard, was constructed in 1953. In 1998, pool renovations consisted of the addition of a water slide, walkways and bathhouse upgrades.

Maxey Pool, located at 4020 30th Street, was built in 1958. Water treatment upgrades were done in 1996, and a restroom addition was completed in 1999. Montelongo Pool was built in 1957. In 1994, the replacement of the main drain was completed along with deck repairs. A water slide was added in 1998,

and a major renovation was completed in 2001.



Clapp Swimming Pool

This renovation included ADA accessibility improvements, including a “zero depth” entry, addition of a wading pool, restrooms, and fencing improvements. The four pools are the traditional rectangular pools that were common designs in the era of the 1950’s. With the exception of Montelongo Pool, the pools have steep entries into water depths from 2.5 feet to 10 feet.

Traditionally, attendance has been the highest at Clapp Pool, with Montelongo Pool second, Maxey Pool third, and Simmons Pool has been the least attended pool.

Family Aquatic Centers

Some communities have found an increased interest in aquatic recreation, yet, declining attendance at their existing facilities. To meet this interest, they have embraced designs that offer a variety of recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Current aquatic facility designs include zero depth entries, children's activity pools, tube slides, spraygrounds, water play areas, fitness areas, interactive features, landscaped picnic areas, full sun and shade areas, concessions, and a number of other interactive features designed to captivate, provide exercise, and entertain patrons of all ages. Studies have shown facilities with the new designs have seen a dramatic increase in attendance, with some communities experiencing up to a 200% increase over the former traditional facilities.



Proposed Aquatic Facility

Water Playgrounds

The water playgrounds or commonly referred to as sprayparks, are the latest concept in community based aquatic programming. Sprayparks are colorful aquatic playgrounds that have no standing water and do not require participants to know how to swim. Children of all ages and their families can play together with interactive toys that shoot and spray water.

While playing in an imagination provoking environment, children can become acclimated to water play and be entertained for hours. A slip resistant

safety surface keeps participants safe while they explore the many gadgets sprayparks have to offer. Sprayparks are less expensive to build than swimming pools which results in savings in capital budgets. They also require less supervision and pose fewer risks than pools. Since there is no standing water and no admission fee, staffing is not required, resulting in a much lower operating cost than pools. Sprayparks also reduce the use of water when compared to a swimming pool.



Proposed Water Playgrounds

Recommendations

Due to the age and design of the four City of Lubbock pools, the recommendation is to replace them with aquatic facilities that meet current recreational demands and are constructed for efficient and safe operations. Two family aquatic centers should be located in community or regional parks that are central and easily accessed from all areas of Lubbock. The family aquatic centers would consist of amenities such as zero depth (beach) entry, fitness lanes, various slides, interactive play features, shade areas, dressing rooms, and concessions. These aquatic centers would be staffed and an admission fee would be charged. The remaining two pools would be replaced with sprayparks. The sprayparks would

consist of open and interactive play structures, safety surfacing, shade areas and landscaping. The sprayparks would not be staffed and no admission would be charged.



Proposed Aquatic Center

Priority improvements can be funded by various sources including local, state and federal funding, and through policies and ordinances. This section provides brief descriptions of these assistance opportunities.

A. Funding Sources

- a. *Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA)* is the primary source for park development grants and recreational trails. Up to \$500,000 can be obtained for outdoor park projects, with a 50% match. Grant applications that provide many amenities with new recreational opportunities and partnerships have the greatest opportunity for funding.
- b. *Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), TRPA* also provides funding for the construction and renovation of indoor recreation facilities. This assistance requires a match of 50% for funding up to a total grant of \$750,000.

- c. *Texas Department of Transportation, (TXDOT), Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program* provides funding for transportation activities designed to enhance the transportation system such as the construction of hike and bike trails. Funding has been on a cost reimbursement basis and selected projects are eligible for reimbursement of up to 80% of allowable cost. This funding program has been intermittent and often has several years between funding cycles.



Willie McCool Memorial at Humeke Park

- d. *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* has provided funding for projects with funds collected from pollution settlements.
- e. *Foundation and Company Grants* sometimes assist in direct funding for projects that focus on key projects that meet their goals, and others that help citizen efforts with seed funds or assistance such as publicity or technical support.
- f. *The Grants for Greenways* program provides a national listing for groups that provide technical and

financial support for greenway interests.

- g. *Sponsorships* through businesses are a method to secure funding for construction and programming efforts.



Playground at Carlisle Park

- h. New developments can establish a *Public Improvement District (P.I.D.)* when authorized by the City Council and set up according to state law. This taxing district provides funds specifically for the operation and maintenance of public amenities such as parks, trails and major boulevards.
- i. A *Parks Dedication Ordinance* is a tool used by many cities for the funding of park land and improvements. Implementation of this ordinance could assist with the acquisition of park land in the areas identified in this Master Plan. It could provide funding for park improvements which serve proposed developments. It could

also fund trail development and open space connections, and ensure the availability of park land in future growth areas of the City.

- j. *City, School and Others Joint Use Programs* provide for the cooperative sharing of facilities and maintenance which saves the taxpayers of Lubbock money for years to come and allow for more and better quality facilities. The partnership between the City and the school districts jointly solves the needs for land, facilities, maintenance and programs. Other opportunities may exist with universities or other private providers for cooperative programs.

- k. *Partnerships* with volunteer groups can be beneficial when constructing trails and other amenities. Their efforts can be used as grant matching funds.



Boy Scouts of American Tree Planting Project

Volunteers can be gathered from sources such as user groups, local residents, neighborhood associations and business and civic organizations.

- l. The *General Fund* is the primary source of funds for providing maintenance and improvements.
- m. *Bonds* are an additional funding source. There are three types of bonds that can be used.
 - 1) General Obligation (GO) Bonds finance projects which do not produce enough revenue to cover the cost of debt service. These include streets, fire stations and parks projects. In Texas, GO bonds are approved by the citizens in a bond election.
 - 2) Certificates of Obligations (COs), as with GOs, do not have a dedicated source of revenue for repayment. These are approved by The City Council and do not require a bond election. Both GOs and COs are paid from taxes collected by the City.
 - 3) Revenue Bonds finance projects that produce enough revenue to pay the related debt service. These include projects such as golf courses and event centers.
- n. *Enterprise and Revenue Funds* are accounts separate from the general fund that can be used for specific programs or activities such as recreation programs or facility expansion.
- o. *User fees* are charged for the use of park and recreation facilities and can defray maintenance and operation expenses.



Montelongo Swimming Pool at Rodgers Park

- p. *Utility Check Off* programs allow residents to contribute a certain amount each month to parks and recreation funds.
- q. *Private Park Foundations* are tax exempt organizations that provide opportunities for donations of time and/or money for the enhancement of public facilities.
- r. *Parks Improvement Trust Funds* can be set up specifically for park development. Funds such as these manage donations by service organizations, wills, estates and other donated sources. The purpose of this trust fund is to establish a permanent source of principle value that will increase as donations occur. The principle value can never be decreased; however, the annual interest can be used for park development.
- s. *Privately run enterprises*, which operate in conjunction with parks and recreation programs, can provide another avenue for recreation opportunities. An example in Lubbock is the Joyland Amusement Park.

B. Policies and Ordinances

- a. Efforts should continue with elected *Boards and Commissions* for the review and comment procedure to coordinate communications between the Parks Board, city staff, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council.
- b. Various *City of Lubbock departments* should communicate in the same manner as previously described. Input from all of the departments will provide the best possible solution and create a “team” approach to achieving the best parks, recreation and open space system for Lubbock.
- c. Communications with *adjacent municipalities* should continue for cooperative projects such as trail connections along drainageways and open space connections. Joint use agreements can benefit all citizens in the region.
- d. *Joint use agreements* between the City of Lubbock and area school districts and universities should be pursued. The agreements would allow citizen access to practice fields, tennis courts, indoor pools, gymnasiums, weight rooms and other facilities.



Challenger Little League Baseball Field

- e. The *citizens of Lubbock* should continue to be involved in this Master Plan. Existing neighborhood associations are essential to provide involvement. Another source of involvement is through the various sports associations. Both of these types of associations can support the implementation of this plan by volunteering for maintenance and recreation programs in their local parks. They can also provide unified support for fund raising activities, bond issues and park issues that come before the City Council.

- f. The establishment of a *Park Land Dedication Ordinance* can assist in the implementation of neighborhood and community parks as well as trails. This type of ordinance is used by many cities throughout the state of Texas and is now generally not considered onerous by the development community, but rather is welcomed as a method to help develop parks and trails in a timely fashion.



Reading Thomas Paine at the Lubbock Area Veterans War Memorial at Huneke Park

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8. “Goals for Lubbock: A Vision Into the 21st Century,” 1994, prepared by the City of Lubbock and a 100 member Community Advisory Committee.
9. U.S. Census, 2010

Appendix

- Citizen Surveys
- Public Meeting Participants
- Public Meeting Presentation and Agenda
- Park Photos