City of San Marcos

Joint Workshop Agenda - Final

City Council & Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Wednesday, June 27, 2018  
5:30 PM  
San Marcos Activity Center, Room 3

501 E Hopkins - Joint Parks and Recreation Advisory Board/City Council Workshop

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

1. Receive a presentation and update regarding the Parks Master Plan from Halff and Associates and hold discussion to include, but not limited to prioritization of priorities, and provide direction to the City Manager.

III. Adjournment.

POSTED ON FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018 AT 3:30PM

JAMIE LEE CASE, CITY CLERK

Notice of Assistance at the Public Meetings

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AGENDA CAPTION:
Receive a presentation and update regarding the Parks Master Plan from Halff and Associates and hold
discussion to include, but not limited to prioritization of priorities, and provide direction to the City Manager.
Meeting date: June 27, 2018

Department: Community Services, Parks and Recreation

Amount & Source of Funding
Funds Required: Click or tap here to enter text.
Account Number: Click or tap here to enter text.
Funds Available: Click or tap here to enter text.
Account Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Fiscal Note:
Prior Council Action: Click or tap here to enter text.

City Council Strategic Initiative: [Please select from the dropdown menu below]
Choose an item.
Choose an item.
Choose an item.

Comprehensive Plan Element(s): [Please select the Plan element(s) and Goal # from dropdown menu below]
☐ Economic Development - Choose an item.
☐ Environment & Resource Protection - Choose an item.
☐ Land Use - Choose an item.
☐ Neighborhoods & Housing - Choose an item.
☒ Parks, Public Spaces & Facilities - Choose an item.
☐ Transportation - Choose an item.
☐ Not Applicable

Master Plan: [Please select the corresponding Master Plan from the dropdown menu below (if applicable)]
Background Information:

This joint meeting is intended to accomplish two tasks: overview of the Master Plan draft; and review/discussion of the Prioritized Implementation Action Plan. This prioritization plan is an essential element of the overall planning process. In essence, it will guide, and in many ways, determine where staff and others spend their time, effort, and money to implement the Master Plan moving forward.

The City contracted with Halff and Associates to update the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (PROSMP). City staff held an initial meeting with Halff and Associates in July 2017 to discuss the planning process and develop a scope of services to guide the preparation of the document. The Master Plan draft document has been created, edited, and revised based on input from the Parks Board, stakeholders, staff, and our citizens. The following list details all meetings held since July 2017:

- PROSMP - Initial Meeting (City Staff)  
  July 24, 2017
- PROSMP - Kick off Meeting (City Staff)  
  September 6, 2017
- PROSMP - Kick off Meeting (Stakeholders)  
  September 6, 2017
- PROSMP - Kick off Meeting (Public)  
  September 6, 2017
- PROSMP - Stakeholder Session  
  September 7, 2017
- PROSMP - Park Survey to Public  
  October 2017 (month)
- PROSMP - Workshop - Staff  
  November 8, 2017
- PROSMP - Workshop - Public  
  November 8, 2017
- PROSMP - Chapter 3 Presentation to Parks Board  
  February 15, 2018
- PROSMP - Parks Master Plan draft review - City Council  
  March 7, 2018
- PROSMP - Parks Master Plan draft review - City Council  
  March 8, 2018
- PROSMP - Chapter 3 & 4 Presentation to Parks Board  
  April 26, 2018
- PROSMP - Public Town Hall Meeting  
  May 23, 2018
- PROSMP - Survey to Parks Board on Priorities/Implementation  
  June 19 & 20, 2018
- PROSMP - Presentation to Main Street  
  June 20, 2018
- PROSMP - Parks Board and City Council  
  June 27, 2018

The following steps are anticipated to adopt the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan:

- Park Board to consider recommendation to City Council  
  July 19, 2018
- Planning and Zoning Commission - Presentation and Public Hearing  
  July 24, 2018
- City Council - Presentation and 1st Public Hearing  
  August 21, 2018
Council Committee, Board/Commission Action:
The Parks Board discussed and formulated their priorities during the June 21st Parks Board meeting. The priorities established during that exercise will be the basis of discussion at this joint meeting.

Alternatives:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Recommendation:
Click or tap here to enter text.
Overview of Chapter 4
  - Top Priorities

Discussion
Duration:
- Start: Aug. 2017
- End: Aug. 2018

Scope:
- Comprehensive update to the City’s existing 2010 PROSMP
- A concept plan for the City’s riverfront parks
PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Each step sets the stage for the subsequent next steps.
CHAPTER 3 ORGANIZATION

Element 1: Parks and Facilities
Element 2: Athletics
Element 3: Recreation Programming and Events
Element 4: Greenspaces and Resource Protection
Element 5: Trails
Element 6: Maintenance and Operations
Element 7: Funding and Financing
EXISTING PARKS SYSTEM

- **10 Regional Parks**
  116 acres

- **16 Neighborhood Parks**
  73 acres

- **13 Greenspace & Natural Areas**
  1,486.3 acres

- **6 Special Use Parks**
  120.6 acres

- **45 TOTAL PARKS**
  1,795.9 ACRES
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- **Public Kick-off (Sept. 2017)**
  - Key person interviews
  - Parks tour
  - Stakeholder meetings
  - PRAB Mtg. 1 – Workshop

- **Community Online Survey (Oct. – Nov. 2017)**

- **Visioning Wksps. (Nov. 2017)**
  - Stakeholder meetings
  - Riverfront parks design charrette
  - Town Hall meeting
  - PRAB Mtg. # 2

- **PRAB Mtg. # 3 (Feb. 2018)**

- **City Council Mid-Point Briefing (Mar. 2018)**

- **Open House Public Workshop (May 2018)**

- **PRAB Mtg. Discussion on Prioritization**

- **Joint City Council / PRAB Mtg. # 5 (Tonight)**

- **PRAB Mtg. # 6 (July 19th)**

- **P&Z Public Hearing and Recommendation (July 24th)**

- **City Council 1st Reading (Aug. 21st)**

- **City Council 2nd Reading / Consideration of Adoption (Sept. 4th)**
PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH

Historic Population Growth

2016 Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey
LEVEL OF SERVICE ASSESSMENT

Park Need Areas
Proposed Trail Locations
SUMMARY OF PARKLAND NEEDS

- Parkland Acreage
  - Parkland **acreage deficits** in all categories.
- Neighborhood Parks
  - Additional opportunities for improved distribution of neighborhood parks. Parkland needed in the **north, south and west parts of the City**.
- Greenspace & Natural Areas
  - Continue to look for additional opportunities for preservation of open space and parkland dedication.
- Special Use Parks
  - Opportunities for additional **community scale amenities in existing parks**.
- Trails
  - Key **connecting segments** are missing
# Priority Initiation Time Frames

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Priorities</strong></td>
<td>Actions which are intended to be started within the next one to three years (2018-2021). Frequently, these actions will be started and completed within this time. Although, it is not unusual for actions to be started in this time frame and completed over time. These are the City’s top priorities for implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate Priorities</strong></td>
<td>Actions which are intended to be started within the next four to six years (2022-2024). Some of these actions may become the top priorities determined in the City’s next Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan update.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Longer-Term Priorities</strong></td>
<td>Actions which are supposed to continually lead the City to its ideal future parks and recreation vision. Most of these actions are supposed to be applied over the long-term (2025-2027+) and will be further prioritized in later Plan updates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. How important do you think each of the following *parks and facilities* actions are?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Not Important at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PF-1.1 Pursue the acquisition and development of neighborhood-scale park development in areas of need.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF-1.2 Establish criteria for determining appropriate properties to acquire as part of new park properties in the City.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF-1.3 Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex from Hays County.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Irrespective of level of importance, when do you think each action should be *initiated*?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-3 Years</th>
<th>4-6 Years</th>
<th>7-8+ Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PF-1.1 Pursue the acquisition and development of neighborhood-scale park development in areas of need.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF-1.2 Establish criteria for determining appropriate properties to acquire as part of new park properties in the City.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF-1.3 Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex from Hays County.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PRIORITIZATION RESULTS

### Prioritization Process

1. Actions reordered based on the time frame categorization results
2. Order further refined by greatest level of importance
3. All actions ranked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>ACTION ID</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</th>
<th>ACTION TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pursue the acquisition and development of neighborhood-scale park development in areas of need.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 PF-1.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish criteria for determining appropriate properties to acquire as part of new park properties in the City.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 PF-1.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Add additional park pavilions that can be rented out throughout the park system.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>50K - 250K EA</td>
<td>NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 PF-3.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of park rangers during the summer.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 PF-5.6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities in existing City parks to respond to soil compaction, drainage issues and trash removal.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 PF-5.10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to create new parks on properties that may be bought out due to past flood events.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 PF-1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Expand the City's efforts in the river clean up to include the river's tributaries.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 PF-5.11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate the need for additional locations for the installation of dog parks.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 PF-3.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>200K - 500K EA</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 PF-3.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Increase the number of publicly available restrooms in the City's riverfront parks system.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>150K EA</td>
<td>NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 PF-5.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop a new dog park on the east side of the City using available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 PF-3.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to remove cars and people that are queuing off of Cheatham Street.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 PF-5.9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate the effectiveness of the City's new parkland dedication provisions of the Land Development Code.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/REGULATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Recommendations**

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

**GOAL PF-1. CONTINUE TO PURGE ADDITIONAL PARKLAND ACQUISITION IN THE CITY.**

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

As set out in the level of service analysis on page 57, the City currently has some deficiency in the distribution of its neighborhood-scale park resources. Moving forward, this problem will only be exacerbated as the City's population and developed area continues to grow. As such, the City should continue to pursue neighborhood-scale parkland in areas of need. As set out in Map 3.7, Park Need Areas, there are currently developed areas which are in need of neighborhood park access today (see the red-marked circles). As the City continues to grow in the future, additional areas will be in need of neighborhood-scale parks as part of new development (see the purple-marked circles).

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

As the City continues to grow and expand its park related resources, it will require the acquisition of new park property. Some of this acquisition will occur through the strategic acquisition of available properties. Additional properties may be acquired through the parkland dedication process. Some of the more recent properties were not necessarily functional for providing park or recreation amenities for the citizens of San Marcos. Moving forward, the City should consider establishing a minimum set of criteria to evaluate potential properties, including criteria for determining appropriate locations, connectivity, financial feasibility and site conditions/accessibility. New neighborhood parks should be located within reasonable proximity to existing and future neighborhoods.
Element 1: Parks and Facilities

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

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

3. Action PF-3.8. Add additional park pavilions that can be rented out throughout the park system.

4. Action PF-5.6. Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of park rangers during the summer.

5. Action PF-5.10. Evaluate opportunities in existing City parks to respond to soil compaction, drainage issues and trash removal.

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

7. Action PF-5.11. Expand the City’s efforts in the river clean up to include the river’s tributaries.

8. Action PF-3.7. Evaluate the need for additional locations for the installation of dog parks.

Element 1: Parks and Facilities (cont.)

10. Action PF-5.4. Increase the number of publicly available restrooms in the City’s riverfront parks system.

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

12. Action PF-5.9. Evaluate opportunities to remove cars and people that are queuing off of Cheatham Street.


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

15. Action PF-3.5. Commission a parks master plan for the 40-acre property owned by the City along River Road.

16. Action PF-3.3. Establish a routine playscape inspection and replacement program.

17. Action PF-3.4. Evaluate potential options to replace the pool at Rio Vista Park.

18. Action PF-5.5. Increase the number of available parking spaces in the City’s riverfront park system.
Element 2: Athletics

1. Action A-1.3. Explore the relocation of the baseball fields out of riverfront parks system.

2. Action A-1.6. Initiate discussions with local youth sports leagues to reexamine partnership responsibilities.

3. Action A-1.2. Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of baseball in the City.
Element 3: Recreation Programming and Events

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

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

3. **Action RPE-1.7.** Evaluate opportunities to establish or partner to develop a San Marcos Teen Center as identified in the City’s 2013 Youth Master Plan.

4. **Action RPE-1.3.** Consider conducting a Recreation Programming and Event Assessment to determine gaps and overlaps in the provision of providing these types of services.

5. **Action RPE-1.1.** Evaluate further opportunities to increase multigenerational passive recreation amenities in existing and future City parks.
ELEMENT 4 PRIORITIZATION RESULTS

Element 4: Greenspace and Resource Protection

1. **Action GRP-1.2.** Develop emergency access plans for the City’s greenspace parks.

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

3. **Action GRP-1.7.** Continue to coordinate with and support efforts by the SMGBA and the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) to acquire, protect, and maintain new greenspace and/or new riverfront park properties.

4. **Action GRP-1.9.** Identify additional resources to better respond to reoccurring maintenance and enforcement issues in the greenspace park properties.

5. **Action GRP-1.8.** Consider more permanent public restroom facilities at key entrances to the City’s greenspace park properties.

6. **Action GRP-1.6.** Formalize a memorandum of understanding with the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGBA).
Element 5: Trails

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

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

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

4. Action T-1.4. Consider developing a bicycle and pedestrian implementation plan to implement the trail alignments established in the 2018 Transportation Master Plan.
Element 6: Maintenance and Operations

1. Action MO-1.1. Develop a parks system management plan and inventory of park assets.
2. Action MO-1.3. Evaluate best-practices in establishing and operating a park ranger program.
3. Action MO-2.1. Develop a policy of projecting needed increases in park maintenance staff and funding as part of new property acquisitions.
4. Action MO-2.2. As the City continues to grow over time, consider adding additional park maintenance facilities in areas that provide efficient proximity to different parks in the City.
5. Action MO-1.2. Formalize memorandum’s of understanding (MOUs) with all volunteer groups.
6. Action MO-1.4. Provide necessary resources to adequately and annually train multiple targeted maintenance staff in irrigation maintenance best practices.
Element 7: Funding and Financing

1. Action FF-1.1. Continue to evaluate opportunities to leverage City funding as part of larger projects.
2. Action FF-1.2. Pursue additional potential funding sources.
3. Action FF-1.3. Develop a framework to determine rationale for appropriate funding source.
4. Action FF-1.8. Reevaluate the City’s contract with the Lion’s Club regarding the allocation of fees.
5. Action FF-1.5. Conduct an evaluation to consider the establishment of fees for parking along the riverfront parks system.
6. Action FF-1.6. Explore additional ways to improve cost recovery in the riverfront parks.
7. Action FF-1.4. Establish criteria in the City’s Capital Improvements Program (CIP) which includes cost of long-term maintenance as part of decision making.
8. Action FF-1.7. Consider establishing a volunteer contribution/donation box at each trailhead in the City’s greenspace park system.
NEXT STEPS

Questions & Discussion

- PRAB Mtg. # 6 (July 19th)
- P&Z Public Hearing and Recommendation (July 24th)
- City Council 1st Reading (Aug. 21st)
- City Council 2nd Reading / Consideration of Adoption (Sept. 4th)
Acknowledgments

The San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan was developed by the City of San Marcos with the technical assistance and design help of Halff Associates, Inc. A special thanks goes to the many residents, stakeholders and community leaders for their insight and support throughout the duration of this master planning process. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of this Parks Master Plan.

San Marcos City Council
John Thomaides, Mayor
Lisa Prewitt, Mayor Pro Tem
Scott Gregson, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Saul Gonzales
Jane Hughson
Melissa Derrick
Ed Mihalkanin

San Marcos Economic Development Corporation
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Dr. Shetay Ashford, Ph. D.
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Bucky Couch
Adriana Cruz
Scott Gregson
Debbie Ingasibe
Joe Kenworthy
July Moreno
Jason Mock
Vic Patel
Momar Mattocks

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Jim Carrillo, FAICP, ASLA
Jill Baumgartner, PLA, ASLA
Nicholas Wester
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San Marcos
PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
one
Introduction
Importance of Parks and Recreation Planning

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

In 2010, the City of San Marcos put forth a parks, recreation & open space master plan which was intended to direct municipal decisions and actions from 2010 to 2020, with an update to occur approximately 5 years from its adoption. In order to remain competitive for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant funding, and to evaluate the current and future needs of the growing community, it is important to undertake a planning endeavor which looks at the next 10 years of parks and recreational opportunities in San Marcos.

The City of San Marcos is located along the key I-35 corridor connecting Austin to San Antonio, which has undergone significant increases in both population and area in recent years. As residents move into the region, the need for parks and recreational open spaces outside the core of the city increase. Currently, all of the City’s regional parks are located in the Downtown area. The rest of the City has large greenspaces with trails as well as many neighborhood parks. As San Marcos continues to grow and expand, additional park land and resources will be needed in newly developed areas and throughout the entire community in order to accommodate this growth. The purpose of this plan is to identify potential land for acquisition as well as establish a projected time frame which is intended to be a catalyst for critical city decisions.

The goal of this planning effort is to establish a community vision, as well as identify goals and strategies that actively maintain high standards for parks, recreation, and open space in San Marcos. Based on community input and the recommendations of this Plan, the City will be better informed to establish priorities and budget decisions for the projects identified in this Plan.
Benefits of Parks and Recreation Planning

Well-planned parks and open spaces can positively impact the surrounding community in a variety of ways in regards to the health, social, economic and environmental condition of communities. Urban areas which contain a well-planned system of parks and open spaces can enjoy benefits of a healthier environment for its residents. Some of these benefits are embodied in the emotional and physical well-being of children and adults, increased access to natural resources and an increased sense of pride in the community.

Community Benefits

ENVIRONMENTAL

Preserving land for recreational use helps protect and preserve essential green spaces and crucial wildlife habitats and contributes to improved air and water quality. Park and open space systems provide opportunities to educate users on environmental issues and appropriate recreational uses within natural areas.

ECONOMIC

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

SOCIAL

Recreational activities provide opportunities for social interaction and community building. Research supports this relationship between parks in cities correlates with reduced crime and more stable neighborhoods. Recreational facilities and public parks also can provide recreational opportunities for at-risk youth.

HEALTH

Access to recreational opportunities has positive impacts on physical and mental well-being. The opportunities provided by parks and open space can increase physical activity levels, which have direct health benefits, such as reduced heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and depression. Play and natural environments also influence child development.
Park and Recreation Trends

Public Recreation

With the uptick in mobile connectivity comes an increased public awareness of the quality of amenities, facilities and recreational opportunities that are provided in communities. Frequently, when people see high-quality recreation opportunities in the surrounding areas, they then look for and begin to expect these options within their own city.

Active Recreation

While passive recreation has gained steam in the last decade, active recreation still remains a strong focal point in park and recreation systems. An interesting trend is how participation rates have decreased in varying athletics. Studies have revealed a decrease in some youth league participation such as baseball, basketball, and soccer. As league-based athletics come with associated fees, equipment costs, and time and travel commitments, some families may be encouraging their children to choose one or two sports early on and continue to pursue that sport as they age.

Passive Recreation

Another important nation-wide trend is increased demand for passive recreation. Activities such as walking or jogging on trails, picnicking, sight-seeing, and other unprogrammed play provide for social interaction and rejuvenation. Passive recreation includes unprogrammed, self-generated activities (e.g., Frisbee) that require no administration.
**Water-based Recreation**

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

**Trail Systems**

Trails are still leading as a top priority recreational amenity throughout the state and country. Trail activities such as walking, hiking, running, and biking provide fun individual or group exercise opportunities. Trails also typically provide access to nature, alternative mobility options and outdoor educational opportunities. Whether it be for solo exercise, a family walk, or a school trip, trails provide multi-generational recreation opportunities.

**Mobile Connectivity**

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

Some examples of mobile connectivity in parks include the following:

- Geocaching
- Public wi-fi in parks
- Interactive websites to obtain information about upcoming events and pay user fees
- On-line registration to sign up for a sports league or to rent a pavilion for a private party
Purpose of the San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

The San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update (Plan) surveys the existing conditions of the parks, recreation, and open space system in San Marcos; based on this, recommendations are made which seek to sustain and enhance the existing system based on projected population growth and demographic changes. Included in this process is the identification of needs and flaws in the existing system, which includes establishing a vision for the future of parks and recreational areas based on community input and previous planning efforts. Lastly, the identification of goals, strategies and priorities to achieve the vision of this Master Plan will be established.

Planning Process & Timeline

In July 2017, San Marcos chose Halff Associates, Inc. to prepare an update to the City’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The vision, goals, and strategy for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in the City is informed by a comprehensive planning process composed of many steps outlined in this document. These steps include 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 implementation of this planning document will occur in stages over the course of a pre-determined period. Recommendations with regard to policy will affect the decision-making process which may be manifested in 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. This planning document segregates and prioritizes recommendations into immediate, near term, and long term recommendations.
Planning Area

The planning area for the San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan includes the City of San Marcos (the City limits) as well as the current extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) (see Map 1.1, Planning Area). Today, the incorporated area of the City of San Marcos includes approximately 34.1 square miles, and the ETJ adds an additional 145.2 square miles. Interstate 35 bisects SW to NE through the center of the city and provides easy access and connectivity to the surrounding region and metropolitan area.

One of the goals of the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of San Marcos is to provide citizens and visitors of the community the highest-quality programs, parks, facilities, and services that will contribute to the established vision of the community. The Parks and Recreation Department also provides maintained parks such as Rio Vista Park, educational centers and many more local opportunities for citizens and visitors of San Marcos. The existing condition of these parks, open spaces, and recreation systems is further detailed in Chapter 3, Existing Conditions.

Service Area

While the planning area is limited to the City limits, and to a limited capacity in the ETJ, in this planning document the “service area” is defined as the area from where regular park users are drawn. It is estimated that a substantial portion of park users are from outside of the City limits. Given that San Marcos is situated in between two major metropolitan areas (Austin and San Antonio), a significant amount of users of San Marcos’ parks likely come from these urban areas.

Given the proximity of Austin and San Antonio to San Marcos, the service area would likely extend beyond the city limits of San Marcos to include significant portions of these two principle metropolitan areas. Based on population data for these two metropolitan areas, the potential service area would have an estimated population of over 4 million. The total area of San Marcos and these nearby urban areas means that the City has many opportunities for expansion and economic growth.
Map 1.1, Planning Area

LEGEND

- CITY LIMITS
- SAN MARCOS ETJ
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- LAKES
- STREAMS
- RAILROADS

SAN MARCOS

HAYS COUNTY

CALDWELL COUNTY

COMAL COUNTY

GUADALUPE COUNTY
two

Context & Vision

San Marcos
PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
Historical Context

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

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

The land that was once part of the Spanish land grant is known today as San Marcos. Juan Veramendi Plaza is named after the colonial governor, Juan Martin de Veramendi. The plaza is known for its iconic gazebo.

The area was first settled in 1835. To power gins and mills, these settlers used the reliable water flow.

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

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

In 1965, the Gary Job Corps Training Center was established, which made education the main employer in San Marcos at that time.

The population of San Marcos is 60,684 and the tourism industry continues to contribute to economic growth.
Regional Context

San Marcos is located in central Texas, 50 minutes north of San Antonio and 30 minutes south of Austin (see Figure 2.1, Regional Context, below). The City is the seat of Hays County and covers over 30 square miles. Interstate 35 bisects the City and is a major route from Dallas to San Antonio. The San Marcos River and Blanco River run through the middle of the City and provide many recreational opportunities. The City has park property along the Blanco River and the River Safari flows into to the Guadalupe River.

Figure 2.1, Regional Context
“10 Most Exciting Small Cities in America”

- 2013 San Marcos was named #9 in Business Insider
Character of the City

Recreation
The clear, spring-fed water of the San Marcos River provides recreation opportunities such as the one mile float. Visitors can also kayak or stand-up paddle in the river anytime of the year since the temperature of the water is always 72 degrees. In addition, fishing, swimming and snorkeling are other activities that are enjoyed by visitors. Since the river is protected from development, a relaxing atmosphere is created with parks along both sides in most areas.

Downtown
Historic downtown San Marcos has locally-owned gift shops, art galleries, unique restaurants, bistros and nightspots. The downtown features a charming historic square and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Hays County historic courthouse is located in the heart of downtown. During the year, many events take place downtown such as the annual Downtown San Marcos Trick or Treat and the weekly Farmers Market.

History
Among many historic sites in San Marcos, Merriman Cabin is located in Juan Verimendi Park. In 1846, the cabin was constructed by Dr. Eli T. Merriam. The fire station, City Hall and the Hays County Jail are also on the National Register of Historic Places. Several other buildings in San Marcos are considered historic including the San Marcos Telephone Company and the Charles S. Cock house. This house is located in Juan Verimendi Park and is on the National Register.

source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cock_house_2013
Demographics

Historical Population Trends

As indicated in Figure 2.2, Historical Population Growth, the City of San Marcos has experienced a positive population increase during the 19th and 20th century. During the last two decades of the 19th Century, there was a population boom that occurred partly due to the arrival of the Railroad as well as the growth from the cattle and cotton industries. In addition, San Marcos was one of the earliest communities to embrace the tourism industry. Wonder World had their first cave tours in 1903 and Aquarena Springs Hotel opened in 1929. During WWII, the San Marcos region saw a steady population growth, partly due to the establishment of Gary Air Force Base. By 1973 San Marcos and Hays County were classified into the Austin Metropolitan Statistical area with a population of 25,000. In 2013, the US Census Bureau classified San Marcos as having the highest growth rate among all urban areas with at least 50,000 citizens.

Figure 2.2, Historic Population Growth
**Future Population Projections**

San Marcos is projected to grow given its booming population and economic prosperity. Between 2012-2014 San Marcos was ranked the #1 fastest growing city in the U.S. Regionally, Central Texas is experiencing overall growth and this trend should continue for years to come. Given these exciting trends, there is new interest in developing both residential and commercial properties, and a renewed focus on improving the character of development and tourism of the overall San Marcos region.

According to the Texas Water Development Board projections, the population of San Marcos will reach 71,117 people by 2020 and 84,818 people by 2030. By 2040, the city should have a population of over 100,000 people and by 2070 171,614 people. According to the San Marcos Comprehensive Master Plan, the projected population increase between 2010-2035 will be approximately 30,000 people and a retail increase of over 1,000,000 sf. See Figure 2.4, *San Marcos Projected Population*, on page 21.

Based on the potential for continued rapid growth it is important that the City continue to monitor this increase in growth to determine park- and recreation-related long-term needs.
Figure 2.4, San Marcos Projected Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>44,420 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>49,352 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>54,901 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>59,618 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>63,463 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>67,073 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>70,942 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: San Marcos Comprehensive Plan Addendum

Educational Attainment

Approximately 30.9% of San Marcos residents hold a bachelor’s degree or higher, which is slightly higher than the national average (30%). The percentage of residents with a high school education or higher is 85.7%, just under the national average of 87%.

Figure 2.5, San Marcos Educational Attainment

High school or higher 85.7%
Bachelors degree or higher 30.9%
**Race and Ethnicity**

In San Marcos, 48.2% of residents are white, compared with the national average of 72.4%. Blacks comprise 4.7% of residents, which is less than the national average of 12.6%. Hispanics comprise 42.6% of the San Marcos population, while the national average is 16.3%.

**Household Income**

San Marcos’ median household income is $28,923 while Hays County has a median household income of $58,583. In addition, the State of Texas has a median household income of $53,889, which is significantly higher than San Marcos.

**Poverty Level**

In San Marcos approximately 37% of the population is in poverty, while the national average is 13.5%.
Past Planning Initiatives

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

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

This planning document was structured by Vision, Goals and Objectives which are provided under each plan element. A Vision Statement defined future community values which resulted from community involvement and were meant to give direction to the future of San Marcos. The Goals Statement then established general parameters on how to accomplish each vision. The committee then defined objectives which are more detailed in nature, and were meant to help reach the goal.

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

San Marcos Parks Master Plan (2010)

The San Marcos Parks Master Plan was adopted in 2010 and was intended to update the previously completed 2002 plan. The planning window for this plan covered the period from 2010 until today.

According to the San Marcos Parks Master Plan, five specific needs were identified:

1. Trails (connections to existing trails and rivers/creeks);
2. Acquisition of parkland and development of facilities in the Southwest quadrant of the ETJ.
3. Acquisition of parkland and development of facilities East of I-35;
4. Athletic fields West of I-35; and
5. Community park development West of I-35 and near downtown.
San Marcos Youth Master Plan (2013)

The San Marcos Youth Master Plan intended to envision a mold for opportunities, strategies, leadership and desired outcomes for the youth of San Marcos with the intent of ensuring future prospects and security. A core element of this master plan was the engagement of citizens partaking in community conversations to develop a vision for their future.

Successes Since 2010

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

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

- **Existing Park Renovations.** Numerous neighborhood parks have been more comprehensively renovated and improved with various amenities (e.g., modern playgrounds, skate spots, multi-purpose courts, picnic areas, pavilions, benches, water fountains, connecting sidewalks/trails, landscaping, and fences, etc.). The list of parks renovated include:
  - Conway Park;
  - Dunbar Park;
  - Franklin Square Park;
  - Jaycees Park;
  - Mill Street Park;
  - Willow Creek Park
  - Paul Pena Park;
  - Swift Park; and
  - Veterans Park.
- **Park and Facility Improvements.**
  - Sport facilities improved with lighting include Ramon Lucio Park, 5-Mile Dam Soccer Complex, and Rio Vista Park tennis courts.
  - Physical facilities renovated and/or constructed are Cephus House, Calaboose, Rec Hall, Youth Softball Complex, and Georgia Street Senior Center.

- **Property Acquisition.**
  - Capes Camp
  - Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area
  - Wildenthal
  - Spring Lake Natural Area
Community Priorities

1. Providing more trails and natural areas
2. Providing more park amenities like restrooms and water fountains
3. Providing more recreational amenities such as swimming pools
4. Improving and maintaining the existing park facilities

Vision

Create a unified parks and recreation system that serves the entire San Marcos community, supports tourism efforts and remains a good steward to the San Marcos River, Blanco River and surrounding environment.

Goals

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

This chapter is organized by element and is described below.

Element 1 Parks and Facilities
Element 2 Athletics
Element 3 Recreation Programming and Events
Element 4 Greenspaces and Resource Protection
Element 5 Trails
Element 6 Maintenance and Operations
Element 7 Funding and Financing

Each element is further organized using the following framework:
- Introduction;
- Snapshot of Existing Conditions;
- Analysis of Key Issues and Needs; and
- Recommendations.

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

An analysis of the parks and open space in San Marcos forms one of the main parts of the Plan. Without parks and open space and the physical spaces that they provide, none of the programs, activities and events can take place that are important to a dynamic, lively and connected community. Understanding the existing and target level of service of parks is important in acquiring sufficient park land and making provisions for facilities and events needed and desired in the City.

The most important part of the parks planning process is the needs assessment. This involves a full understanding and analysis of the needs of the current parks and recreation system as well as a projection as to how the needs may change over time. To determine the areas that need improvement in the current system, the needs assessment evaluates the demand, variety, distribution and quality of parks and recreation. This helps to direct the creation of recommendations to address the identified needs.

This chapter evaluates the existing and future parks and recreation needs in San Marcos. A three-tiered needs assessment is included in the various plan elements of this chapter. They include:

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

They are developed using the accepted evaluation criteria set out by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for local park master plans.

Each assessment method is important, although individually, they do not represent the whole picture. As such, the resulting recommendations consider each assessment, as may be applicable, to help form the recommendations for the future.

It is important to identify that the criteria and standards mainly serve as a starting point for parks and facilities and to assist the City in determining if it has an appropriate amount and distribution of parks and facilities. Although they set a target benchmark, they should be adjusted periodically to meet changing conditions in the City.
Element 1

Parks and Facilities
Introduction

There are several types and scales of parks that serve San Marcos and the surrounding area. These parks serve specific locations and have various functions which will determine where the gaps are in the system. This determines the need and location for future park facilities.

Park Classifications

The parks and recreation system in San Marcos is made up of various kinds of parks which are listed below:

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

Identifying park classifications provides context for park location and availability. In addition, it also helps to identify where there may be gaps and overlaps in the system. This identification provides the City with an informed awareness of how to grow and manage a more efficient system of parks and open spaces. Set out in Figure 3.2, Park Classifications, on the next page, is the different classifications of parks found, and in some cases, not found, in San Marcos.

Currently, San Marcos is served by a broad range of developed parks and recreational facilities that allow for both active (e.g., sports courts and fields) and passive recreation (e.g., picnic facilities and trails) (see Table 3.1, Existing City Parks, Greenspace and Natural Areas, on the page after the next page; and Map 3.1, San Marcos Park and Recreation System, on page 35). The City also has several undeveloped properties which are in various phases of planning. In total, San Marcos residents are served by over 1,700 acres of developed and undeveloped parkland and greenspaces. Pages 36 through 47 contain additional details about the different types of park classifications in San Marcos.
SPECIAL USE AREAS

Special use facilities are made to accommodate specific recreational activities. An entrance fee could be charged at these parks or they could need staff to manage their operations. Community centers, golf courses, aquatic facilities or stadiums could be considered special use areas. Special use areas could be located next to a regional park or a community park. Examples of this type of facility include Gary Sports Complex and Memorial Park.

GREENSPACES AND NATURAL AREAS

Greenspace and natural areas are for passive recreation and conservation lands. Fishing, kayaking, hiking and nature viewing are examples of activities that can be enjoyed in the open spaces in this type of park. These types of parks vary in size and shape and do not serve a specific geographic area. These spaces can also serve as ecological habitat areas for wildlife and as areas for water quality control. A few examples of greenspace and natural areas include Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area and Spring Lake Natural Area.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks serve the whole city or multiple cities. These parks can be comprised of natural areas or urban elements. Festivals, entertainment venues and several special activities can be found in this type of park. Other types of facilities or amenities can include boating, fishing, camping, hiking/biking trails and wildlife viewing. Internal roads and oversized parking lots may be required to meet access demands. At special events and during times of high park usage, connections to mass transit may be required since there many be limited parking within the park. Regional parks in San Marcos include Bicentennial Park, City Park, and the other parks located along the San Marcos River.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are larger parcels of parkland that serve several neighborhoods. Active and passive uses make up this type of park. These parks have an increased amount of recreational uses such as lighted athletic fields and large playgrounds that usually make up active community parks. Picnicking, walking paths and vast amounts of unprogrammed natural or open space are examples of uses that are usually found in passive community parks. They have better vehicular accessibility when compared to neighborhood parks and they can range in size from 10 to 50 acres. Currently, there are no parks classified as community parks. Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex and Dudley Johnson Park are examples of parks that serve as community parks.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

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

Source: This Parks Master Plan includes the guidelines for park classification established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) as included in the 1990 printing of Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines and the 1995 printing of Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. The NRPA guidelines have generally been the most widely accepted and used guidelines of their type, especially by local governments.
### Table 3.1, Existing City Parks, Greenspace and Natural Areas

| MAP NUMBER | PARK NAME                        | LOCATION ADDRESS     | TYPE                           | ACREAGE | BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD (#) | SOCCER/COURT FIELD (#) | FOOTBALL FIELD (#) | MULTIPURPOSE PRACTICE FIELDS (#) | BASKETBALL COURT (#) | TENNIS COURT (#) | VOLLEYBALL COURT (#) | CONCESSION STAND | SKATE PARK (#) | BMX TRAIL (#) | ROLLER SKATING CENTER/ LAWN BOWLING | FISHING PIER (#) | CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH (#) | SWIMMING POOL (#) | SPLASH PAD (#) | AMPHITHEATER (#) | STAGE/PATIO/ GAZEBO | WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES) | DISC GOLF (#) | PLAYGROUND (#) | BARBECUE GRILL (#) | PAVILION/ PATIO (#) | RESTROOMS (#) |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1          | Bicentennial Park                | 209 S CM Allen Pkwy  | Developed                      | 3.9     | 3                          |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 2          | Cape’s Camp                      | 675 Cape Rd          | Undeveloped                    | 20.1    | 0                          |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 3          | Children’s Park                  | 213 S CM Allen Pkwy  | Developed                      | 6.3     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 4          | City Park                        | 170 Charles Austin Dr| Developed                      | 18.2    | 1                          |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 5          | Juan Veramendi Plaza Park        | 400 E. Hopkins St    | Developed                      | 3.8     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 6          | Meeks Property                   | 109 S CM Allen Pkwy  | Undeveloped                    | 6.9     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 7          | Ramon Lucio Park                 | 601 S CM Allen Pkwy  | Developed                      | 18.5    | 5                          |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 8          | Rio Vista Park                   | 55S Creatham St      | Developed                      | 16.8    | 1                          |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 9          | San Marcos Plaza Park            | 206 N CM Allen Parkway| Developed                     | 5.4     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 10         | William and Eleanor Croak Park   | 430 Riverside Dr     | Developed                      | 16.2    |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
|            | **Total Regional Parks**         |                     |                                | **16.0**| 5                          | 4                    | 0                 | 0                              | 0                 | 0              | 0                  | 3              | 8              | 1               | 2                              | 0                | 1              | 0                | 3              | 4.7             | 0              | 2                | 107             | 6               | 2               | 4               |
|            | **Regional Parks**               |                     |                                |          |                            |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 11         | Anita Reyes Park                 | 115 Lockwood St      | Developed                      | 0.4     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 12         | Conway Park                      | 504 Bliss Ln        | Developed                      | 0.4     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 13         | Craddock Avenue Park             | 612 Craddock Ave / Archie St | Undeveloped | 4.5 |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 14         | Dunbar Park                      | 801 W MLK Dr        | Developed                      | 5.8     | 2                          | 1                    |                   | 1                              |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 15         | Eddie Durham Park                | 213 W MLK Dr        | Developed                      | 0.3     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 16         | El Camino Real Park              | 401 Cottonwood Pkwy | Developed                      | 37.6    |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 17         | Franklin Square Park             | 1902 N Bishop St    | Developed                      | 4.5     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 18         | H.E.B. Park                      | 801 Patton St        | Developed                      | 0.9     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 19         | Haynes Street Park               | 1041 Haynes St       | Developed                      | 0.3     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 20         | Jaycees’ Park                    | 1906 Lancaster      | Developed                      | 2.7     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 21         | Mill Street Park                 | 215 Mill St         | Developed                      | 0.8     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 22         | Paul Peta Park                   | 1209 Crystal River Pkwy | Developed | 2.9 |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 23         | Swift Memorial Park              | 200 Monterey St     | Developed                      | 0.3     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 24         | Victory Gardens Park             | 300 Roosevelt St    | Developed                      | 0.6     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 25         | Randall Wade Vetter Park         | 320 Mariposa        | Developed                      | 6.3     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
| 26         | Willow Springs Park              | 325 Ellis St        | Developed                      | 4.8     |               |                       |                   |                                 |                   |                |                   |                |                 |             |                                    |                |                             |                 |                |                |                 |                |                |
|            | **Total Neighborhood Parks**     |                     |                                | **73.0**| 2                          | 1                    | 0                 | 0                              | 0                 | 1              | 0                  | 10             | 1              | 2               | 0                              | 2                | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0              | 0              | 15              | 20              | 41             | 6               | 2               | 4               |

**Note:** The Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex and Dudley Johnson Park are special use parks, but also serve as community parks.

**Additional Information:**

- **Active Facilities:** Includes baseball/softball, soccer/court, football, multiple purpose practice fields, basketball court, and tennis court.
- **Water Recreation:** Includes fishing pier, canoe/kayak launch, swimming pool, and splash pad.
- **Passive Facilities:** Includes concession stand, skate park, BMX trail, and BMX park.
- **Other Facilities:** Includes theater, stage/patio, gazebo, disc golf, playground, BBQ grill, picnic shelter, and pavilion.
- **Restrooms:** Count of restrooms available in the park.

**Legend:**

- **Developed:** Parks that are fully developed and ready for use.
- **Undeveloped:** Parks that are yet to be developed.

Chapter 3 | System Analysis, Needs, and Recommendations
| MAP NUMBER | PARK NAME               | LOCATION ADDRESS     | TYPE                | ACREAGE | BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD (#) | RENTAL FACILITY | SOCCER/CRICKET FIELD (#) | FOOTBALL FIELD (#) | MULTIPURPOSE PRACTICE FIELD (#) | BASKETBALL COURT (D) | TENNIS COURT (D) | VOLLEYBALL COURT (D) | CONCESSION STAND | SKATE PARK (#) | BMX/TRAIL (#) | RECREATION CENTER/LEISURE CENTER | FISHING PIER (#) | CAMP/SKAYAK LAUNCH (#) | SWIMMING POOL (#) | SPLASH PAD (#) | AMPHITHEATER (#) | STAGE/PATIO/ GAZEBO | WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES) | DISC GOLF (#) | PLAYGROUND (#) | TABLE/PICNIC TABLE (#) | BBQ GRILL (#) | PICNIC TABLE/ PAVILION (#) | RESTROOMS (#) |
|------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 27         | Blanco River Village    | 350 Trestle Tree     | Undeveloped         | 12.8    |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 28         | Blanco Riverwalk        | 512 Riverway Ave     | Undeveloped         | 55.9    |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 29         | Blanco Shoals Natural Area | 1201 E River Ridge Pkwy | Developed         | 91.5    |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 30         | Cottonwood Creek Park  | 4300 Highway 123     | Undeveloped         | 52.9    |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 31         | Lancaster Greenbelt     | 2108 Lancaster St    | Undeveloped         | 0.9     |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 32         | Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area | 2102 Hunter Rd | Developed         | 142.0   |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 33         | Prospect Park           | 1414 Prospect St     | Developed           | 9.0     |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 34         | Retreat on Willow Creek | 205 Hunter's Hill Dr | Developed           | 33.0    |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 35         | Ringtail Ridge Natural Area | 1814 Old Ranch Road 12 | Developed      | 45.1    |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 36         | Schulte Canyon Natural Area | 100 Ridgewood      | Developed           | 21.1    |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 37         | Sessom Creek Natural Area | 815 Chestnut St    | Developed           | 10.4    |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 38         | Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area | 685 Lime Klin Rd | Developed         | 251.5   |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |
| 39         | Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area | 1753 Valencia Way | Developed         | 760.2   |                           |                |                          |                   |                               |                   |                |                               |                |                |                |                |                |                          |                |                |                       |               |                |                |                |

**Total Greenspace & Natural Areas:**

|                        | 1,486.3 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 26.5 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3  |

**Special Use Parks:**

|                        | 120.6   | 8  | 0  | 10 | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1.0 | 0  | 2  | 14 | 0  | 1  | 3  |

**CITY-OWNED TOTAL:**

|                        | 1,795.9 | 15 | 5  | 10 | 0  | 0  | 14 | 10 | 1  | 4  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 3  | 33.7 | 0  | 24 | 162 | 6  | 12 | 10 |
*The map numbers correspond with Table 3.1*
REGIONAL PARKS

Unlike other types of public parks, regional parks are intended to serve an entire city or municipal area and often contain diversified amenities. Depending on the location, these parks are typically comprised of land which contain a variety of features and can sometimes be the perfect staging ground for festivals and other outdoor events. Oftentimes larger in size, these parks can contain preserved land and/or urban elements depending on location. Within regional parks one can find significant natural resources.

There are currently 10 regional parks in San Marcos, totaling 116 acres which comprise approximately six percent of the total amount of parkland in the City (see Figure 3.3, Regional Park Comparison). These parks are located near the center of the City primarily along the San Marcos River, and are of particular significance to many of the residents of San Marcos. One of the City’s main parks, City Park, is one of the most prominent regional parks in San Marcos. Many of these regional parks feature excellent river access which makes them of particular significance to users and residents.

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

San Marcos Regional Parks

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

* Representative examples of these regional parks are highlighted on the next page.
This public mural featured in Rio Vista Park was made possible as part to the San Marcos Mural Arts Program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are currently 16 neighborhood parks in the City of San Marcos, totaling 73 acres which comprise approximately four percent of the total amount of parkland in the City (see Figure 3.5, Neighborhood Parks Comparison). Most of the neighborhood parks are located on the west side of Interstate 35 and are dispersed throughout the City. Some of the major neighborhood parks are Craddock Avenue Park, Dunbar Park and Franklin Square Park. Some current issues presently found in neighborhood parks are lack of parking, lack of maintenance, vandalism and lack of accessibility (see Figure 3.6, Issues with Neighborhood Parks).

Figure 3.6, Issues with Neighborhood Parks

- Lack of Parking
- Lack of Maintenance
- Vandalism
- Lack of Accessibility

San Marcos Neighborhood Parks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

San Marcos Greenspace Parks

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

* Representative examples of these greenspace parks are highlighted on the next page.
Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area is a large greenspace within San Marcos and contains multiple passive recreational amenities.

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

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

Ringtail Ridge is a pleasant park complete with amenities such as benches, information kiosks and trails.

Blanco Shoals Natural Area is a large open space with river access complete with a network of scenic trails.

Sessom Creek Natural Area is a heavily wooded greenspace in San Marcos which features hiking trails and other amenities.
SPECIAL USE PARKS

Unlike other types of parks, special use parks typically are less flexible spaces and are designed to accommodate specific recreational activities. Some of the types of features and facilities at these parks are sports fields, golf courses and other sports related programs. In other cases these parks are dedicated in some way, such as a war memorial or other memorial. These parks sometimes do not stand alone and can be located near or adjacent to a community or regional park, or be cross-purposed as a community park.

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

A few of the issues in special use parks include stormwater control, lack of parking, lack of maintenance and lack of lighting (see Figure 3.10, Issues with Special Use Parks).

Figure 3.10, Issues with Special Use Parks

- Stormwater Control
- Parking
- Lack of Maintenance
- Lighting

San Marcos Special Use Parks

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

* Representative examples of these special use parks are highlighted on the next page.
Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex is located along the north side of the Blanco River and includes 10 soccer fields, a playground, a pavilion and restrooms.

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

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

STATE PARKS

The only state park within the City limits of San Marcos is JJ Stokes Park which is located on the east side of Interstate 35 (see Map 3.2, Existing Schools and State Park, on page 46). This park can be accessed by Cape Road which runs along the north edge of the park. Stokes park is a developed park that is around five acres and is maintained by the City.

Surrounding land uses include the following:
- Apartment complexes
- Cape’s Camp Park
- Single-family residential
- AE Wood Fish Hatchery
- Open space

The San Marcos River runs through the middle of the park. Passive recreation opportunities are available at this park including hike and bike trails. The park is currently in fair condition, but could need a few updates in the near future.
SCHOOL PARKS

There are many schools within the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District. The majority of these schools are located within the center of the City (see Map 3.2, Existing Schools and State Park, on page 46). There is one high school, two middle schools, six elementary schools and one prekindergarten. At the high school there is one football field and one baseball field. Some of the amenities that can be found at the middle schools include football fields and tennis courts. In addition, the elementary schools contain playgrounds and tennis courts. The schools within the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District are included in the following Table 3.2, Existing Schools. Blanco Vista Elementary is also located in San Marcos and is part of the Hays CISD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL NAME</th>
<th>AMENITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Marcos High School</td>
<td>Track, 8 tennis courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Miller Middle School</td>
<td>Track, 3 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodnight Middle School</td>
<td>Track, 8 tennis courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crockett Elementary</td>
<td>2 playgrounds, basketball court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeZavala Elementary</td>
<td>Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Bowie Elementary</td>
<td>2 playgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Hernandez Elementary</td>
<td>3 playgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendez Elementary</td>
<td>2 playgrounds, 4 basketball courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Elementary</td>
<td>2 playgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonham Prekindergarten</td>
<td>Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanco Vista Elementary</td>
<td>2 playgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's School</td>
<td>9 tennis courts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: star.txstate.edu201707summer-program-keeps-san-marcos-children-fed-during-summer-months
Map 3.2, Existing Schools and State Park
HOA PARKS

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

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

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

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

Cottonwood Creek is adjacent to Sozo Church of San Marcos and is a 3.5 acre park. This park contains a covered play area, walking trails and a half-court basketball court.
**Issues and Needs**

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

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

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

- Yes 73%
- No, but live in Hays County 3%
- No, but live in Caldwell County 2%
- No, but live in Comal County 2%
- No, but live in Guadalupe County 5%
- No, I do not live in the City of San Marcos or adjacent Counties 2%

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

- No children 59%
- Children under age 4 17%
- Children ages 5-8 14%
- Children ages 9-12 14%
- Children ages 13-19 14%

*Figure 3.13, Activity Participation*

- Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City
- Visited a City park or park facility
- Rode a bicycle for fitness or to get somewhere in the City
- Used a private gym or fitness center
- Visited or used the San Marcos Activity Center
- Visited a school park in the evenings, on the weekends, or during the summer
- Visited a City playground
- Visited a City park pavilion
- Attended a San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department event such as Party in your Park, concerts in the park, fall or spring carnival, Veterans Day Parade, etc.
- Participated in a youth athletic league
- Participated in any class or program offered by the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department
- Participated in an adult athletic league
- Used a City facility for a meeting
- Visited Rio Vista pool
- Participated in activities for seniors

Daily, At Least Weekly, Few Times Per Month, Few Times Per Year, Very Rarely or Never
In Figure 3.14, *If You or Your Family DO NOT Use Parks or Recreational Facilities in San Marcos, Why Don’t You?*, it indicates that there are a variety of reasons why residents do not use parks and recreational facilities. Some of the top reasons are that the parks and/or recreational facilities do not meet their needs or interests, lack of time and the parks are too far away. In the “other” category, some of the top responses were the following:

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

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

---

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

- Better parks will help to improve our city image.
- I feel that parks help strengthen our city economically.
- The City should publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve city parks.
- I believe that the City needs a greater amount of park land or greenspace.
- I believe that the City should more fully develop the park land and greenspace that it already owns.
- I’m willing to pay additional City taxes to see the quality of existing parks and recreational amenities upgraded.
- I’m willing to pay additional City taxes to see new parks and recreational amenities developed or expanded.
- I’m satisfied with the overall quality of parks in my neighborhood.

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

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

**Figure 3.17, How Often Have You or Your Family Visited the Riverfront Park System To Do the Following Activities or Use the Following Facilities?**
Set out in Figure 3.18, *How Important Is It For the City to Address the Following Parks, Recreation, and Trail Issues?*, are the top three selections to improve parks, recreation, and trail issues. They include: improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the riverfront park system, improve water access for swimming and wading and improve water access for people with disabilities. In addition, Figure 3.19, *How Important Do You Think the Following Considerations Are?*, indicates that the top choices are to establish an annual pass at discounted rates for City residents, charging an entrance or parking fee per vehicle for non-residents and controlling access on weekends during peak season.

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

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the riverfront park system
- Improve water access for swimming and wading
- Improve water access for people with disabilities
- Better connect the riverfront parks to a citywide or regional trail system
- Improve existing parking areas
- Add additional water access points to lessen impact of existing access points
- Upgrade the existing facilities/amenities in the riverfront parks (e.g., playscapes/restrooms)
- Improve the overall quality and appearance of the riverfront parks (improved maintenance)
- Increase shade opportunities
- Add new parking areas
- Improve water access for canoeing/kayaking
- Add additional public restrooms
- Add additional historical, cultural, and natural resource interpretative signage
- Add additional programming and events for the community outside of peak season
- Add additional covered picnic shelters
- Enhance areas for additional community events (e.g., add an amphitheater)
- Remove and relocate existing athletic facilities (i.e., athletic fields and tennis courts at Rio Vista Park) to a more appropriate location outside the riverfront park system
- Add additional rentable covered pavilions
- Control access
- Improve wayfinding signage
- Relocate and improve existing pool
- Improve existing athletic facilities (i.e., athletic fields and tennis courts at Rio Vista Park)

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

- Establishing an annual pass at discounted rates for City residents
- Charging an entrance or parking fee per vehicle for non-residents
- Controlling access on weekends during peak season (i.e., adding gated access with attendants or kiosks during the summer season)
- Developing off-site public parking and shuttling visitors to the riverfront parks system
- Establishing an annual pass for all visitors
- Controlling access every day during peak season (i.e., adding gated access with attendants or kiosks during the summer season)
- Supporting off-site private parking
- Charging an entrance fee per vehicle for all visitors

**Very Important** | **Important** | **Undecided** | **Not Important** | **Not Important At All**
Level of Service

The population of San Marcos is expected to grow significantly in the near future. The purpose of a level of service analysis is to ensure that there is an adequate quantity of parkland acreage and facilities to serve the community. A separate, but equally important, analysis evaluates how equitable the distribution of parkland is across the community.

The acreage and facility analyses allow a city to plan for the future so that the need for new parkland can be determined (and acquired if needed) before new areas are developed. “Target” levels of service that are unique to this plan were created to determine an appropriate level of service for San Marcos. These targets were created to provide the level of service that San Marcos feels is the most responsive to the amount of use and what is most important to the community.

ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City of San Marcos has around 1,796 acres of parkland that the public can access (see Table 3.1, Existing City Parks, Greenspace and Natural Areas, on page 33). Existing and recommended levels of service for San Marcos parkland are shown in Table 3.3, Parkland Level of Service in San Marcos, 2016, on the next page. Recommended levels of service for the future are shown in Table 3.4, Parkland Level of Service in San Marcos, 2030. For regional, community, neighborhood, greenspace and natural areas and special use parks, recommended target levels of service have been created based on an analysis of the community and existing parkland. The City currently has a deficit in regional, community and neighborhood parkland. In 2030, the deficit of parkland of these park types will continue to grow. Additional parkland is needed in the City today and in 2030 the need for more parkland will be even greater.

For greenspace and natural areas there is no specific target level of service since these areas are undeveloped. Similarly, there are no specific recommended levels of service for special use parks since they vary by size, type and from city to city.
### Table 3.3, Parkland Level of Service in San Marcos, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>EXISTING ACREAGE</th>
<th>CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 61,980 POPULATION)</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED ACREAGE</th>
<th>SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>116.0</td>
<td>1.9 Ac./1,000 Residents 5 to 10</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>309.9 to 619.8</td>
<td>503.8 to 193.9 Ac. Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>0.7 Ac./1,000 Residents 5.0 to 8.0</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>309.9 to 495.8</td>
<td>453.1 to 267.2 Ac. Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>1.2 Ac./1,000 Residents 1.0 to 2.0</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>62.0 to 124.0</td>
<td>51.0 to 11.0 Ac. Surplus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenspace &amp; Natural Areas</td>
<td>1,486.3</td>
<td>24.0 Ac./1,000 Residents Varies</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use Parks</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>1.3 Ac./1,000 Residents Varies</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3.4, Parkland Level of Service in San Marcos, 2030

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>EXISTING ACREAGE</th>
<th>CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 84,818 POPULATION)</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED ACREAGE</th>
<th>SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>116.0</td>
<td>1.4 Ac./1,000 Residents 5 to 10</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>424.1 to 848.2</td>
<td>732.2 to 308.1 Ac. Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>0.5 Ac./1,000 Residents 5.0 to 8.0</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>424.1 to 678.5</td>
<td>635.8 to 381.4 Ac. Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>0.9 Ac./1,000 Residents 1.0 to 2.0</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>84.8 to 169.6</td>
<td>96.6 to 11.8 Ac. Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenspace &amp; Natural Areas</td>
<td>1,486.3</td>
<td>17.5 Ac./1,000 Residents Varies</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use Parks</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>0.9 Ac./1,000 Residents Varies</td>
<td>Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REGIONAL PARK DISTRIBUTION LEVEL OF SERVICE

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

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

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

The San Marcos River flows through the middle of these regional parks and creates a valuable amenity that is enjoyed by local residents as well as visitors from the surrounding area. The springs that create the river provide recreational opportunities such as tubing, kayaking and swimming. These natural amenities also generate economic growth by attracting visitors from surrounding communities.

As the surrounding region and City of San Marcos continues to grow over time, these regional parks will experience even more heavy use during the peak season. Additional access to the San Marcos river will be needed to address the increased use of these regional parks. In addition, to address the issue of the overcrowding of these parks during the summer, controlled access to the parks can be implemented. This can be achieved by charging for parking and through other means.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DISTRIBUTION LEVEL OF SERVICE

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

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

SEMI-PUBLIC NEIGHBORHOOD SCALE RESOURCES

While not fully dedicated as public parkland, neighborhood homeowner associations (HOAs) and public schools do provide some additional recreational resources which are similar to the types of recreational resources found in neighborhood parks (e.g., playscapes, basketball courts, backstops, etc.). Since many of these HOA properties and schools are also located in and among the neighborhoods they serve, they are oftentimes counted as providing additional neighborhood-scale coverage in a community.

As such, the same one-quarter-mile ideal service area and one-half-mile standard service area is shown on HOA park properties and elementary schools (and sometimes middle schools) across the City (see Map 3.5, Neighborhood Park and Public and Semipublic Park Accessibility, on page 58).

When you consider the service areas of both the City parks and these semi-public park properties, the City has a much better coverage of neighborhood-scale parkland. Moving forward, there may be additional opportunities for improved joint-use agreements between the City and the area school districts.
Map 3.5, Neighborhood Park and Public and Semipublic Park Accessibility

LEGEND
- 1/4-MILE PARK SERVICE AREA
- 1/2-MILE PARK SERVICE AREA
- SAN MARCOS CISD & HAYS CISD 1/4-MILE SERVICE AREA
- SAN MARCOS CISD & HAYS CISD 1/2-MILE SERVICE AREA
- REGIONAL PARKS
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
- SPECIAL USE PARKS
- GREENSPACE & NATURAL AREAS
- HOA PARKS
- SCHOOLS
- APARTMENTS
- COUNTIES
- CITY LIMITS
- ETJ
- WATER BODIES
- WATER COURSES
- ROADS
- RAILROADS

City of San Marcos, Texas | San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
PARK FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

Comparing the existing and target levels of service for recreation facilities helps to evaluate the need for enhancements to the park system as well as evaluating the number and location of parkland in the City. This evaluation will help to ensure that many recreational opportunities are sufficiently provided in the City as the population increases.

Summary of Park Facility Needs

Current deficiencies in the park system include picnic pavilions, picnic facilities and splash pads (see Table 3.5, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities). Water amenities are an important asset in the parks in Texas due to the high temperatures for extended periods of time during the summer months. There is currently one splash pad in San Marcos and this amenity is growing in popularity across the country. Based on the high demand from the public to add water-based recreation, the target number of splash pads is four for the City. In 2030, that number increases to five.

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

Table 3.5, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITY</th>
<th>CURRENT AVAIL.</th>
<th>CURRENT LOS (1 FACILITY PER # RESIDENTS)</th>
<th>TARGET LOS (PER RESIDENTS)</th>
<th>2016 NEED BASED ON 61,980 POP.</th>
<th>2016 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS</th>
<th>2030 NEED BASED ON 84,818 POP.</th>
<th>2030 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACTIVE REC.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>61,980</td>
<td>1 per city</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30,990</td>
<td>2 per city</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PASSIVE REC.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Pavilions</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5,165</td>
<td>1 per 4,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Deficit of 4</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>Deficit of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Facilities (Tables, BBQ Grills)</td>
<td>21 parks</td>
<td>2,951</td>
<td>In all parks</td>
<td>In all parks</td>
<td>Deficit in 24 parks</td>
<td>In all parks</td>
<td>Deficit in 24 parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2,583</td>
<td>1 area per 3,000</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>Deficit of 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER REC.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Pad</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>61,980</td>
<td>1 per 20,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deficit of 3</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Deficit of 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MISC.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6,198</td>
<td>Where feasible</td>
<td>Where feasible</td>
<td>Feasible</td>
<td>Where feasible</td>
<td>Feasible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER ISSUES

Cape’s Dam is located near Stokes Park on the San Marcos River. Several organizations including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) have concerns about the safety of the dam. Since the dam is in poor condition, it must be repaired or it will be removed. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has expressed interest in removing the dam, while organizations such as the Hays County Historical Society, the Texas Historical Commission (THC), river outfitters, kayakers and canoers prefer to see the dam restored similar to the improvements made to the dam near Rio Vista Park.

Moving forward, the City will need to work with area partners to determine the future of this important resource along the San Marcos River. Recommendations have been made by State and Federal agencies and conservation groups to remove Cape’s Dam based on historical grounds. Due to safety concerns about this dam, further discussions are warranted to determine the opinion of the community.
Another issue is related to the summer peak tourism season along the San Marcos River. Today, the popularity of the San Marcos River has skyrocketed and provides a lot of economic benefit to the City. To the contrary, there are generalized concerns that the peak season tourists are loving the riverfront parks to death.

As such, groups such as the San Marcos River Foundation have begun to express their concerns about the relative health of the riverfront park system. Some of the things they are concerned about include: “the impact of heavy recreational use, what constitutes responsible development in the flood plains and sensitive areas around aquifer recharge zones, non-source point pollution, sewage and septic tank discharges, storm water runoff, [and] the spread of invasive species and bank erosion.” (see http://sanmarcosriver.org/our-river/).

Over time, access to the River will need to be reassessed to determine the appropriate balance between providing access to, and protection of, the riverfront. Currently, from City Park to Interstate 35, there are 16 access points to the river (see Map...

Additional issues along the San Marcos River include:
- Soil compaction;
- Drainage;
- Trash collection; and
- Dog waste.

One nearby community to San Marcos is New Braunfels which is around 18 miles to the southwest along Interstate 35. In 2016, the population of New Braunfels was just under 74,000, compared to San Marcos which was just under 62,000. Both the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers run through the center of New Braunfels. The Comal River is fed from the Edward Aquifer and remains at a constant 70 to 72 degree temperature all year long. Similar to San Marcos, water recreation, such as tubing, can also be enjoyed on these rivers in New Braunfels. Along the Guadalupe River, visitors can spend the night at a campsite or cabin. They also have the opportunity to fish along the river.

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

One significant difference between these three riverfront communities is that both New Braunfels and Austin are more proactive in controlling their access to the riverfront park system. In 2017, the City approved several ordinance modifications to better protect the San Marcos River from over-crowding. The improvements included:
- Moving picnic sites further away from the river in all riverfront parks;
- Removing on-street parking on Cheatham Street at Rio Vista during weekends and holidays;
- Removing various picnic tables and grills in Rio Vista Park;
- Prohibiting tents and other forms of shelter in areas not also designated for picnic facilities; and
- Prohibiting portable grills in the riverfront parks from City Park to Lucio Park.

According to local public sentiment, these preliminary improvements helped to reduce the overcrowding and over use of the San Marcos riverfront parks system. Additional improvements may be warranted as the popularity of the San Marcos River continues to grow.
This product is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

Map 3.6, San Marcos River Access Locations

Community Services Department: 5/23/2017
Recommendations

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

**GOAL PF-1. CONTINUE TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL PARKLAND ACQUISITION IN THE CITY.**

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

As set out in the level of service analysis on page 57, the City currently has some deficiency in the distribution of its neighborhood-scale park resources. Moving forward, this problem will only be exacerbated as the City's population and developed area continues to grow. As such, the City should continue to pursue neighborhood-scale parkland in areas of need. As set out in Map 3.7, *Park Need Areas*, there are currently developed areas which are in need of neighborhood park access today (see the red-marked circles). As the City continues to grow in the future, additional areas will be in need of neighborhood-scale park as part of new development (see the purple-marked circles).

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

As the City continues to grow and expand its park related resources, it will require the acquisition of new park property. Some of this acquisition will occur through the strategic acquisition of available properties. Additional properties may be acquired through the parkland dedication process. Some of the more recent properties were not necessarily functional for providing park or recreation amenities for the citizens of San Marcos. Moving forward, the City should consider establishing a minimum set of criteria to evaluate potential properties, including criteria for determining appropriate locations, connectivity, financial feasibility and site conditions/accessibility. New neighborhood parks should be located within reasonable proximity to existing and future neighborhoods.
Map 3.7, Park Need Areas

**LEGEND**
- 1/2 MILE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK NEED AREA (CURRENT)
- 1/2 MILE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK NEED AREA (FUTURE)
- 1/4-MILE PARK SERVICE AREA
- 1/2-MILE PARK SERVICE AREA
- SAN MARCOS CISD & HAYS CISD 1/4-MILE SERVICE AREA
- SAN MARCOS CISD & HAYS CISD 1/2-MILE SERVICE AREA
- REGIONAL PARKS
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
- SPECIAL USE PARKS

- GREENSPACE & NATURAL AREAS
- HOA PARKS
- SCHOOLS
- APARTMENTS
- ETJ
- WATER BODIES
- WATER COURSES
- ROADS
- RAILROADS
Action PF-1.3. Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex from Hays County.

Currently, Hays County owns the Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex which is largely used by leagues located in the City of San Marcos. Acquiring this property from the county provides the City with additional flexibility to increase park and recreation related facilities and programming. In particular, this soccer complex and surrounding property provides the City with the ability to add new community-scale park facilities and amenities to better serve the community-scale needs of that area of the City. This is a park classification of the City which is not currently being offered in San Marcos. In the interim, the City could pursue working out an agreement where Hays County would be willing to provide funds to cover security and maintenance costs while the City covers everything else.

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

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

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

As part of previous past flood events, the City has undertaken an initial buyout assessment for properties subject to repetitive flood damage claims. Some of these areas are adjacent to the Blanco River and adjacent to existing parkland. This presents the opportunity to utilize HUD funds and hazard mitigation resources to assist in the acquisition of these properties. Since these areas are also located along the City’s waterways, they make good choices for creating a connected system of trails.

Action PF-1.6. Evaluate the effectiveness of the City’s new parkland dedication provisions of the Land Development Code.

As noted in the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City should review and/or update the current parkland dedication ordinance to better address the development and expansion of San Marcos. This regulatory improvement is currently being undertaken as part of the SMTX code re-write process. As these new regulations start to get implemented as part of new development, the City should evaluate its effectiveness in acquiring and developing appropriate parkland in terms of both quantity and location. In addition, it would be prudent to periodically evaluate existing metrics included in the regulations, including existing level of service (i.e., 33 acres of parkland/open space per every 1,000 people), calculation of population,
calculation of acreage, exemptions for downtown and the midtown intensity zones, and the park development cost factor. Further, while the current parkland dedication regulations do a great job of detailing park types, it does not provide guidance as to which park types may be appropriate in which areas. In addition, while it mentions a service area for community parkland, the rest of the regulations do not provide mention of it.

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

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

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

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

The City recently added four new fields that can be used for baseball or softball. This addition has been beneficial to accommodate increased demand for this recreational need.
However, it also brought additional attention to the fact that the existing four fields are in need of renovation. Thinking ahead to the City’s next Capital Improvements Program (CIP) update, the City should consider improving the quality and usability of the existing four fields. This could include renovating the other four fields so that they match the design and quality of the four new fields, adding lighting to the fields, improving the appearance to the entrance to the park, adding a box culvert (to facilitate improved access during rain events), and adding additional parking for tournaments.


Currently, these City (and in some cases, non-City) park properties are predominantly used as special use parks for sporting events. For Gary Park, the property is not even open outside of these scheduled events. Due to the size of these properties and their location around the City, they provide good opportunity to create some community-scaled parkland open to residents year-round. As such, the City could consider opening this parks on a daily basis and, over time, add new amenities as playscapes (if not currently available), splash pads, picnic areas and pavilions, internal loop trails, and general access lighted open play fields.

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

The City could consider making several improvements to El Camino Real Park. The first involves replacement and stabilization of the crushed granite trail which connects this park to the adjacent neighborhood park. The current composition of the trail is maintenance intensive. Additionally, the City could consider better lighting and development of a three-tiered maintenance plan, which could identify different levels of maintenance in each area.
GOAL PF-3. CONTINUE TO DEVELOP EXISTING PARKLAND.

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

As identified as part of the needs analysis (see page 59), the City has a current and future deficiency of splash pads. Splash pads can complement any park and provides an appealing park feature in the summer, important for Texas’ long and hot summers. Strategically placing these throughout the park system would enhance the experience for the users. These have been utilized in other communities around San Marcos. One example is the splash pad in Fischer Park in New Braunfels. This splash pad conserves water since users can operate it by pushing a button. When residents are not using the splash pad, it is turned off. As the City considers adding these resources, it is important to also consider adding supporting amenities to improve overall use and experience. This could include the addition of picnic facilities and pavilions.

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

The use of dog parks is something that has been steadily increasing in recent years, and is something that the San Marcos community deemed very important to address. These areas are important because pets and their owners can exercise, play and socialize with other residents at these parks. As such, the City should consider adding additional dog parks in various locations throughout the City. Currently, there is a current need for a new dog park on the east side of the which could be developed using CDBG funds.
Action PF-3.3. Establish a routine playscape inspection and replacement program.

The City should consider creating a playscape risk management inspection and replacement program. This would be a formalized process for determining and planning repairs, addressing safety concerns, and determining appropriate time frames for replacement. All new or replacement playground equipment should meet the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) standards and/or the National Program and Playground Safety guidelines. As play equipment ages it becomes necessary to replace these items on a routine basis. In the near-term, the three highest priority playscape replacements are:

- City Park (which is the oldest);
- Paul Pena; and
- Anita Rae.

Action PF-3.4. Evaluate potential options to replace the pool at Rio Vista Park.

One of the recommendations for improving the riverfront park system is to remove and relocate the pool to another location in the City. However, most municipalities are not re-constructing these types of pools. As set out in Figure 3.16, Importance of Park Facilities to be Provided or Added in San Marcos, on page 50, it shows that over 75 percent of survey respondents feel that swimming pools and water parks should be provided in the City.
**Action PF-3.5. Commission a parks master plan for the 40-acre property owned by the City along River Road.**

Currently, the City owns a large, 40-acre, relatively undeveloped property along River Road, just northeast of the City’s wastewater treatment plant and just east of the southern tip of the City’s current riverfront park system. There have been a number of potential uses proposed for this property both park and non-park related. From the standpoint of the park system, this property provides good proximity to the residential properties located on the east side of I-35, including the relatively new Woods of San Marcos apartment complex. As such, this property would be a good location for some neighborhood-serving amenities such as a five- to six-acre dog park, with an additional five acres for expansion. Since there is also a need for a new animal shelter, this dog park could be developed in tandem with the dog runs necessary for the animal shelter. Additionally, this property could also be cross utilized for providing access to the riverfront park system and connection to the citywide trail system, a park maintenance building, and a brush drop-off location which is open on the weekend.

**Action PF-3.6. Commission a park master plan for the new 18-acre property associated with the Blanco River Village development.**

Currently, the City owns an 18-acre property along the Blanco River near the Blanco River Village development. To help determine the appropriate uses for this future neighborhood-scale park, the City should commission a park master plan to determine appropriate uses and its relationship in connecting to a future citywide trail along the Blanco River and eventually to the rest of the citywide trail system.

**Action PF-3.7. Evaluate the need for additional locations for the installation of dog parks.**

One of the higher park facility priorities identified by the community was their interest in dog parks. Indeed, across Texas and the country, dog parks are quickly becoming one of the highly coveted “third places” in a community. As the City population grows, potential dog park locations need to be identified in order to serve the surrounding community. This should be done in concert with area neighborhoods to ensure dog park accessibility in close proximity to neighborhoods that want them. These spaces are particularly important in closer proximity to areas with higher intensity residential uses, like apartment complexes.

**Action PF-3.8. Add additional park pavilions that can be rented out throughout the park system.**

In many cities, rentable pavilions are use established in various areas of the City to provide low cost options for events and other family get togethers. In San Marcos, many of these pavilions are located just within the riverfront park system. Moving forward, the City should identify additional areas within the established park system for establishing larger pavilions which could cater to park users and/or city events. In addition, these pavilions would help to further activate the space, enhance the park environment, and further help with increased cost recovery.

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**What is a “third place?”**

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

- Wikipedia
Action PF-3.9. Add shade in the parks and along trails.

As set out in Figure 3.16, *Importance of Park Facilities to be Provided or Added in San Marcos*, on page 50, it shows that the third highest priority of the San Marcos community is to increase the amount of shade available in parks and trails. Considering the hot Texas summers, the City should be doing everything in its power to encourage more use and increase user comfort in the parks and trails system. One way to facilitate this is to provide increased shade in all City parks and trails. This could include additional tree plantings, providing more picnic pavilions for group activities, covering all playscapes, and covering select athletic facilities. 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.

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

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

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

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

Moving forward, the City should continue to identify opportunities to increase the amount of art and culture into the parks and recreation system.
Action PF-4.2. Undertake an evaluation of the Memorial Tree Program and process.

As was identified during the planning process, the City is finding diminishing space for their Memorial Tree Program. Instead of just identifying additional locations for new memorial plaques, it is recommended that the City partner with the Heritage Association to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the Memorial Tree Program and process to identify the most beneficial and sustainable path for moving forward regarding the planting and maintenance of memorial trees on City park property. One early recommendation was to consider creating consolidated main plaques rather than individual plaques on every tree.

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

Action PF-5.1. Consider consolidating the City’s disparate riverfront parks into a single consolidated name.

As the City moves forward with its proactive plan for redeveloping and enhancing the City's riverfront park system (see Map 3.8, Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan, on page 76, and additional information in Acton PF-5.3, on page 77), the City should consider consolidating the naming of them to generate a citywide sense of pride/ownership as well as to regionally market this resource as a destination location in the Central Texas area and beyond (e.g., Zilker Park in Austin, Riverwalk in San Antonio, or the Trinity River in Dallas). This allows the City to regionally market the entire riverfront park system and handle it administratively different than other parks in the park system. Additionally, this may help to provide increased connectivity and continuity of services between the riverfront parks. While the consolidated name serves the greater region, individual areas could retain their original park name as sub-district delineations.

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

It is envisioned that each of the riverfront parks will be renovated and enhanced over time. Additionally, it is also envisioned that a series of pedestrian/bicycle bridges and trails will be used to connect the various riverfront parks to the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail to the overall 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 riverfront 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.
Stunning river running through the heart of town!

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

- Lacie C., Granbury, Texas
Action PF-5.3. Consider opportunities to redevelop the riverfront park system as set out in the Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan.

The riverfront park system is comprised of the existing parks located along the San Marcos River. These parks serve both the locals as tourists from the greater region. As a whole, these properties represent some of my iconic parks in the San Marcos area. Moving forward, the City should consider redeveloping the riverfront parks to improve their accessibility, connectivity, facilities, amenities, and programming. These include the following recommended modifications and enhancements.

Accessibility and connectivity recommendations include:

- Enhance the pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between downtown San Marcos and the riverfront parks by improving CM Allen Parkway. The proposed improvements include developing a planted center median and Complete Streets improvements to three intersections (i.e., @ W. Hopkins, Cheatham, and Comal Streets). This includes improving the on-street parking, removing the on-street bike lanes and replacing them with a two-way cycle track on the east side of CM Allen Parkway, and upgrading and oversizing the sidewalk. This also includes enhancing the sidewalk connectivity from CM Allen Parkway into the riverfront park system as part of other internal improvements. The proposed improvements will enhance this corridor as a gateway feature to downtown San Marcos and the riverfront park system as well as to enhance pedestrian/bicycle and vehicular safety concerns.

- Incorporate wayfinding signage at park entrances and along the trail to direct users to park amenities and key downtown destinations.

- Create trail gateway entrances at key points between the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail and close-in trail parking. Three of these trail gateway entrances could be located at:
  - As part of the new proposed parking area on the Meeks property;
  - As part of an enhanced parking area near the new playscape; and
  - As part of a new proposed parking area off of CM Allen Parkway south of Cheatham Street.

- Upgrade the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail to become a 10 to 14-foot multi-use trail connecting to Texas State University to the north and to areas further south of I-35. An additional regional trail connection is needed to connect the riverfront parks to the East Guadalupe neighborhood via the drainageway just north of I-35. An enhanced underpass underneath the railroad and a trail connection to the I-35 thoroughfare improvements are needed to further connect this destination property to the greater San Marcos area.
- Add trail amenities to the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail including exercise stations, water fountains, benches, bike racks, interpretative signage, etc.
- Create internal loop trails of varying distances and trail types within each park sub-unit.
- Develop a series of new parking lots which are designed in a manner that allows for controlled/paid parking during the summer peak tourist season. Attempts should be made to address water quality on any parking surface. These parking areas could be located at:
  » A new smaller, more secluded parking lot as part of the Meeks property;
  » A redeveloped parking lot just south of the railroad tracks;
  » A new parking lot just north of the Cheatham Street;
  » A new large parking lot south of Cheatham Street;
  » A new small parking lot as part of a potential relocated convention and visitors bureau at the corner of CM Allen Parkway and I-35 frontage road; and
  » New small parking lot off of Cape Street.
- Develop additional defined access points to the river. These access points should be designed in a manner that anticipates the high usage expected during the summer peak tourist season.

Facility, amenity, and programming recommendations include:

- Create enhanced amenity features around the new playscape in Rio Vista Park. These enhanced amenities include a new ADA loop connection from the parking lot to and around the exterior of the playscape (for stroller access), more shade (including a shade structure over all or a portion of the playscape), and additional benches and other seating areas.
- Create a central large gathering event space/amphitheater for concerts in the park and other live events. This area should be designed to accommodate up to 1,500 people.
- Consider removing the existing pool from Rio Vista Park and relocating it to a more appropriate location outside of the riverfront park system.
- Consider removing the existing baseball/softball fields at Ramon Lucio Park and relocating them to a more appropriate location outside of the riverfront park system.
- Create a several large multipurpose open play spaces/flex fields at Childrens Park, Rio Vista Park, and Ramon Lucio Park sub-units. These areas are intended for accommodating larger amounts of tourists during the peak season and to provide open space play areas for residents and visitors who are interested in throwing Frisbee or ball, flying kites, playing pick up games, etc.
- Create a centralized gathering pavilion at the Rio Vista Park sub-unit. This gathering space should provide a large rentable pavilion for events.
- Create a series of new restrooms located within the riverfront parks in close proximity to anticipated high intensity uses and along the trail.

- Create a series of smaller rentable pavilions in close proximity to the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail and the river access points. These rentable pavilions are intended for larger event gatherings and to help with cost recovery during the peak tourist season. During non-peak season, these pavilions can be offered at a discounted rate to residents for birthdays or other small events.

- Create an enhanced terrace and river watching space at the Lion’s club drop off point. In these areas, the riverbank should be stabilized with terraced rock to provide more durable areas for watching the river. All other amenities (e.g., picnic tables, etc.) should be removed to discourage people from setting up camp for the day.

- Create an enhanced bus pull-out pick up and drop-off location along Cheatham Street to ensure maximum safety of visitors to the City.

- Consider relocating the existing tourist and information center to create a more conveniently located convention and visitors center at the corner of CM Allen Parkway and the frontage road of I-35. This relocated visitor center can be designed with easy pedestrian / bicycle access from tourists visiting the riverfront park system or vehicle access with good proximity to I-35. The existing facility can be integrated into an expanded nature center property.

- Consider creating a series of regional retention ponds into the riverfront park system to help mitigate large flood events and to create additional defined water features in the parks.
**Action PF-5.4. Increase the number of publicly available restrooms in the City’s riverfront parks system.**

The demand for public restrooms in parks is often more significant in bigger parks, high traffic areas and for amenities that take more time to use (e.g., picnic pavilions, athletic events, etc.). The lack of restrooms may decrease the amount of time one uses the park, or may result in users going to the bathroom not in a restroom. As set out in Figure 3.17, How Important Is It For the City to Address the Following Parks, Recreation, and Trail Issues?, around 65 percent of survey respondents feel that it is important for additional public restrooms to be provided in Riverfront Parks.

**Action PF-5.5. Increase the number of available parking spaces in the City’s riverfront park system.**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum of five spaces per programmed acre, plus additional parking for specific facilities within the park, such as pools or ballfields. The facilities in each park should determine the number of parking spaces. “Shared parking” should also be considered. Enhanced parking areas (as set out in Action PF-5.4, above) provide the City opportunity to create controlled access points and paid parking during the summer peak tourist season.

**Action PF-5.6. Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of park rangers during the summer.**

Ensuring the safety of visitors to the park system is an essential element of operating a park and recreation system. Currently, the City has two full-time and 20 part-time rangers. In contrast, New Braunfels has 70 rangers during the summer which are funded by the entrance and gate fees. While the public process did not identify park safety as an overarching concern, there was an expressed need for additional staff resources to monitor park properties during weekends and busy special events. Accordingly, the City should conduct a study to evaluate and expand the park ranger program. The study should include solutions to improve weekend and special event park monitoring during the summer peak season, identification of additional solutions for improving parking, park safety, and citizen communication. In addition, a park ambassador program could be added to assist the park rangers. Unarmed park patrol volunteers could educate and identify problems for law enforcement. The Habitat Conservation Plan conservation Corp has already been effective. A similar program using uniformed personnel, possibly school teachers for instance, could be implemented.
**Action PF-5.7. Evaluate opportunities to establish purple pipe (reclaimed water) irrigation at the riverfront parks system.**

Parks are usually one of the higher water users in a water distribution system. At a minimum, athletic practice and game fields (e.g., football, baseball, softball, soccer) require large quantities of water to keep the fields green and healthy. The implementation of recycled water to irrigate Riverfront Parks would mitigate irrigation costs as well as provide potential education opportunities.

**Action PF-5.8. Work with the Urban Forester and other stakeholders to clear the invasive trees and plants from the Meeks property as well as other park properties to improve the quality of wildlife and habitat and decrease erosion.**

While the Meeks property is currently forested, the canopy primarily consists of low-quality invasive tree species. As such, it has relatively low value in protecting these trees for the future. Moving forward, the City should work with the Urban Forester to clear the invasive trees species leaving the remaining higher quality hardwoods. The removal of invasive trees and plants could also extend to the greenspaces and public park properties to have a unified goal of managing beyond just the edge of the river.

**Action PF-5.9. Evaluate opportunities to remove cars and people that are queuing off of Cheatham Street.**

Ensuring park safety is paramount to long-term sustainable operations of a park system. As such, the City should continue to pursue opportunities to remove the queuing of cars and people along Cheatham Street. This could include developing an enhanced bus drop-off, pick-up area outside of the current right-of-way. It could also possibly include closing off Cheatham Street for through-traffic during the summer peak tourist season or other potential solution.

**Action PF-5.10. Evaluate opportunities in existing City parks to respond to soil compaction, drainage issues and trash removal.**

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

**Action PF-5.11. Expand the City’s efforts in the river clean up to include the river’s tributaries.**

The San Marcos River is one of the economic drivers of the City of San Marcos. As such, it is important for the City to maintain this jewel for the long-term. While beneficial to the City in many ways, having a repeated large influx of out-of-town visitors enjoying a relaxing day at the river oftentimes results in a large amount of trash being deposited both within City parks and on the river. To maintain this jewel for the long-term, the City should identify additional efforts to clean up not only San Marcos River, but its tributaries too.
Element 2

Athletics
Introduction

The City of San Marcos and its Parks and Recreation Department (PARD), have kept up with the City's growing need for park assets as the population continues to grow. Moving forward, the City will see a continued increase in providing additional athletic facilities and programming. In some cases, this may involve upgrading facilities in existing (e.g., the original baseball/softball fields at Gary Park). In other cases, it will require additional land for the development of new facilities concurrent with growth. In some cases, it may even involve the removal and relocation of existing facilities to somewhere else in the City (e.g., the existing fields at Ramon Lucio Park).

Parks and athletic programs offer a lot of benefit to the City, including promoting the growth of business and attracting new citizens to San Marcos.

Existing Conditions

Set out on Map 3.9, Existing Athletic Fields, on the next page, and Table 3.6, Existing Athletic Fields, below, are the athletic fields currently located in San Marcos. These athletic fields include baseball or softball fields and soccer fields. One of the athletic fields is located in Ramon Lucio Park and is currently in good condition. This park has undergone several upgrades in the last 10 years, including:

- Removal of picnic tables;
- Installation of access point at river;
- Installation of riparian restoration zones (fenced areas); and
- In 2017, new lights were installed at the baseball fields.

In addition, Dunbar Park has also installed a new playground and added lights to its basketball court. Because of these upgrades, this park is currently in good condition. Similarly, Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex has remained in good condition due to the addition of more fields, concession stands and security cameras. In 2016, solar capacity was added to the park.

In 2013, Gary Sports Complex added the youth fast pitch complex which is in good condition since it is relatively new. In contrast, the original adult complex is in need of upgrades. The Gary Softball Complex is located next to the entrance of Gary Job Corps and across the highway from the Quail Creek Country Club. The complex contains eight fields. Four fields make up the adult complex with skinned infields and 300 foot fences. On weeknights from March to December, the adult complex has adult leagues. The facility can also be rented on weekends for practices. Four fields with skinned infields and 225 foot fences make up the youth four-plex. In the spring, summer and fall, the complex hosts youth leagues. On the weekends, the facility can be rented for tournaments.

Table 3.6, Existing Athletic Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION ADDRESS</th>
<th>BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD (#)</th>
<th>SOCCER/ CRICKET FIELD (#)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ramon Lucio Park</td>
<td>601 S CM Allen Pkwy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunbar Park</td>
<td>801 W MLK Dr</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex</td>
<td>4440 S Old Stagecoach Rd</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Sports Complex</td>
<td>2600 Airport Hwy 21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map 3.9, Existing Athletic Fields

**LEGEND**

- **EXISTING ATHLETIC FIELDS**
- **COUNTY BOUNDARY**
- **CITY LIMITS**
- **ETJ**
- **WATER BODIES**
- **WATER COURSES**
- **ROADS**
- **RAILROADS**

- **Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex**
- **Gary Sports Complex**
- **Dunbar Park**
- **Kagan Lusio Park**
- **Old Martindale**
- **Cottonwood**
- **Glover Barker**
- **Bebach Inn**
- **Hays County**
- **Caldwell County**
- **Guadalupe County**

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**City of San Marcos, Texas | San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan**
INDEPENDENT LEAGUE ASSOCIATIONS

Involvement in organized sports is shifting in Texas and across the country. In particular, involvement is decreasing in youth baseball and softball, but going up in other sport types such as soccer, lacrosse, and cricket. Many of the youth and adult organized sport programs in San Marcos are offered by independent league associations. As a result, the City’s main job is to provide fields. Set out in Table 3.7, Independent League Associations, shows the various independent athletic leagues that are offered including both adult and youth leagues. Adult leagues include flag football, softball, fall and winter volleyball and pickleball for seniors. Youth leagues include Jr. NBA/WNBA basketball, fall slam volleyball, soccer, Jr. NFL flag football, USA fall development league and softball.

Table 3.7, Independent League Associations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>AGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag Football</td>
<td>18 years old and up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball League</td>
<td>16 years old and up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Volleyball</td>
<td>16 years old and up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Volleyball</td>
<td>16 years old and up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+ Pickleball</td>
<td>50 years old and up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jr. NBA/WNBA Basketball League</td>
<td>3 to 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Slam Youth Volleyball</td>
<td>11 to 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake League Soccer</td>
<td>3 to 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jr NFL Flag Football</td>
<td>5 to 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA Fall Youth Developmental League</td>
<td>6 to 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Marcos Area Youth Soccer Association - SMAYSO</td>
<td>6 to 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Marcos Area Youth Softball Association - SMYBSA</td>
<td>5 to 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOLF COURSES

There are two private golf courses in the San Marcos area. Quail Creek is located in northwest San Marcos on Highway 21 and Plum Creek is in the City of Kyle off of Interstate 35. Winding fairways, small challenging greens and the Back Porch Bar and Grill are offered at Quail Creek. Two of the holes are situated near the Blanco River and other holes are next to native grasses and wildflowers. Tournaments, business outings and weddings are some of the events that the golf course has to offer; although most tournaments are privately organized and facilitated.

Plum Creek is an 18-hole championship golf course that also offers tournaments. The golf course is over 200 acres with live oaks, limestone, rolling hills and Texas wildflowers that create a natural landscape setting for visitors. A state-of-the-art practice facility and other recent improvements have been made to the golf course.
Issues and Needs

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

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

Figure 3.21, Which Age Group has the Greatest Need for Athletic or Other Recreational Programming?
Survey respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction with the current athletic or other recreational programming in San Marcos for people with special needs. Most respondents did not have an opinion while those that did have an opinion were mostly split between being very satisfied or satisfied and being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied (see Figure 3.22, *Satisfaction with Current Athletic or Other Recreational Programming Provided in San Marcos for People With Special Needs*). In addition, around 79 percent of respondents participate in an athletic association or recreation league in the City (see Figure 3.23, *Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*). Figure 3.24, *Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*, indicates that most survey respondents participate in some other type of athletic association or recreation league. The other top athletic associations or recreation leagues are pickleball, San Marcos Youth Baseball Softball Association and the Adult Softball Leagues.

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

*Figure 3.23, Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*

*Figure 3.24, Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League*
As set out in Figure 3.25, *Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks*, the top selections are athletic fields for general public use, large, multi-use sports complex for tournaments and adding more lighted practice fields for baseball, softball, soccer and football.

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

**ATHLETIC FIELDS NEEDS**

Currently, the number of athletic fields in the community are sufficient in all field types. As the City grows, by the year 2030, the only additional need for athletic fields will be adult softball and baseball (see Table 3.8, *Future Athletic Field Needs*). In addition, there is a deficiency in the City for lighted practice space for adult recreation.

*Table 3.8, Future Athletic Field Needs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITIES BASED ON SIZE AND USER GROUPS</th>
<th>EXISTING NUMBER OF FIELDS</th>
<th>CURRENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FIELDS (2016)</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL DEMAND BY 2030 (POP. OF 84,818)</th>
<th>TOTAL FIELDS NEEDED INCLUDING EXISTING</th>
<th>ROUGH ESTIMATE OF AVERAGE ACREAGE NEEDED PER FIELD</th>
<th>NEED FOR FIELDS AND AMENITIES TRANSLATED IN ACREAGE</th>
<th>HIGHER ACRES PER FIELD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball/Softball</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Softball/Baseball</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5 acres/diamond</td>
<td>40 acres</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Softball/Baseball</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5 acres/diamond</td>
<td>45 acres</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball/Baseball</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5 acres/diamond</td>
<td>85 acres</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectangular Fields - Soccer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation Fields</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>50 acres</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ACREAGE (DIAMONDS AND RECTANGULAR FIELDS INCLUDING ASSOCIATED AMENITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS)</strong></td>
<td><strong>220 ACRES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations

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

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

As set out in Figure 3.23, Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League, it indicates that 14 percent of survey respondents participate in the San Marcos Youth Baseball/Softball Association. In addition, Figure 3.25, Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks, shows that around half of the survey respondents would like more lighted practice fields for baseball/softball (and soccer/football). By exploring a partnership between the City and the San Marcos Youth Baseball/Softball Association, these needs could be met while reducing the potential duplication of services throughout the City.

Action A-1.2. Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of athletic fields in the City.

The City could explore an expanded partnership with the San Marcos CISD to develop a joint use agreement which allows PARD and the area youth associations to use school grounds in evenings for practices and games. While this could potentially increase the cost of providing insurance, it would be more than offset compared against the costs of acquiring new lands and developing more facilities.
Action A-1.3. Explore the relocation of the baseball fields out of the riverfront parks system.

As the City start to consider how it is going to expand its baseball system over time, it should consider increasing the number of fields to eight in the near-term to 12 over the longer-term as part of future growth (see Table 3.7, Future Athletic Field Needs, on page 89). Since there is not currently enough space at Ramon Lucio Park for expansion, and the property has a higher and better use serving the residents and visitors to the San Marcos River, the City should consider identifying a new location elsewhere in the City in which it can create a new baseball sports complex. Based on the current distribution of athletic fields in San Marcos, the City should consider new fields west, east, or south of downtown.

Action A-1.4. Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of rugby and lacrosse fields.

As set out in Figure 3.24, Participation in Athletic Association or Recreation League, on page 88, there is a demand for both rugby and lacrosse fields in San Marcos. For both of these activities, around two percent of survey respondents currently participate in them. Despite this, Figure 3.25, Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks, shows that almost half of respondents would like to see multi-purpose recreation fields for field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, and other similar activities.

Action A-1.5. Identify additional opportunities for increasing recreation practice space in the City’s park system.

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

Action A-1.6. Initiate discussions with local youth sports leagues to reexamine partnership responsibilities.

It is suggested that the City initiate discussions with local youth sports leagues to reexamine partnership responsibilities, particularly to ensure that adequate City funds are available to perform tasks that serve the needs of the broader San Marcos community. Responsibilities involving who will renovate and maintain the sports in-fields and end of season cleaning should be discussed. The City should also encourage leagues to increase to supplemental assistance for tournaments (i.e., restrooms, trash pickup and supplies).
Element 3

Recreation Programming & Events
Introduction

The San Marcos community is fortunate to have access to multiple recreational facilities. These types of amenities contribute to a higher quality of life and, in some cases, can help with the recruitment of business and families. A summary of the existing recreation programs and events are provided in this section. Activities that are offered by the City include multiple youth camps, enrichment classes, fitness classes and special events during the year.

Existing Conditions

The San Marcos Activity Center is located to the east of downtown near the San Marcos River. Some of the amenities offered at the activity center include the following:

- Basketball courts
- Aerobic rooms
- Baseball and softball
- Indoor swimming pool
- Racquetball courts
- Meeting rooms
- 2,000 square foot weight training room with 26 resistance machines
- 1,800 square foot aerobics studio
- Childcare room
- Small activity classroom
- Commercial kitchen
- Dance floor
- Fitness classes
- Meeting rooms
- Walking track/hallway
- Cardio Equipment

Daily use fees are charged for San Marcos residents and a higher fee is charged for non-residents. Youth who are under 17 years old can use the facilities at a reduced rate. Memberships are also offered for families, individuals, senior citizens and youth.

Three assembly rooms can be rented individually or they can be rented together as one large 6,000 square foot ballroom. Other rooms that can be rented are the multipurpose room and the commercial kitchen. For extra fees, a podium, dance floor, platform stage and audio visual equipment can also be rented.
Recreation Programs

50+ PROGRAMS

The San Marcos Parks and Recreation 50+ Program’s main goal is to improve the quality of life of active, older adults in San Marcos and nearby areas. Their goal is to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle by providing quality informational, instructive, physical and social enhancement opportunities.

- **Adult Pickleball Open Play.** Pickleball is a cross between badminton, tennis and ping-pong. In the past 10 years, the growth of Pickleball has increased mostly in senior communities in the United States.
- **Bingo.** Bingo offers great prizes and light snacks each month at the San Marcos Activity Center.
- **Blood Pressure Clinic.** Residents can have their blood pressure and pulse checked for free. Comfort Connection is hosting this free blood pressure clinic at the Activity Center.
- **Bowling Socials.** Each month, bowling is offered at the San Marcos Active Senior Hotspot (SMASH) Social Club.
- **Game Day.** Gameday is offered weekly in the afternoon at the San Marcos Activity Center. Light refreshments are provided and game materials for Bridge, Mexican Train Dominoes, 42 and Hand and Foot.
- **Life Long Learning Classes.** San Marcos Parks and Recreation offers an assorted range of Life Long Learning (LLL) courses. The courses are intellectually stimulating, non-credit courses designed to provoke involvement through communication and enjoyable education.
- **Sack Lunch Socials.** For the luncheon program, SMASH Sack Lunch Social and bingo participants will need to provide their own sack lunch to eat while socializing with friends before bingo. Sack Lunch Socials take place at the San Marcos Activity Center.
- **San Marcos Active Senior Hotspot Social Club.** The San Marcos Active Senior Hotspot (SMASH) program offers a meeting location for active senior adults to create a social network where they can meet others who have the same interests. They can then plan activities together.
- **Social Spins.** The Social Spin is provided by the Central Texas Medical Center (CTMC), in partnership with the City of San Marcos. This event is a free CREATION Health dance and mixer for active seniors.
- **Trail Tours.** Trail Tours focus on parks and natural areas that offer excellent hiking paths.
- **Senior Expo.** This free event connects seniors with goods, services, organizations, discounts and clubs in the San Marcos area.
- **Golden Sweetheart’s Ball.** This is a special Valentine’s party for couples and singles in San Marcos and nearby cities. Elegant dance with music by Sound Experience and a catered dinner will be provided.
YOUTH PROGRAMS
- **Goal:POST at Miller Middle School.** Students of Miller Middle School are invited to attend this program. Texas State University’s Recreational Administration students lead games after each student finishes their homework.
- **SLOEP (Spring Lake Outdoor Education Program)** for Goodnight Middle School Students. Texas State University’s Recreational Administration students lead this program for Goodnight Middle School students.
- **L.E.G.I.T. Summer Internship Program.** Summer internships are offered to San Marcos High School sophomores and juniors. Students get on-the-job training, the opportunity to work in real life situations, acquire work related skills, acquire soft skills and gain knowledge in the work force.
- **Baby Sign Language.** These classes are for kids ages 0-5 and their families. The goal of these classes is to teach children to communicate using this method.
- **Best Friends For Life (BFFL).** Children are lead by Texas State University’s Therapeutic Recreation graduate students in an assortment of activities including drumming, yoga and crafts. Swimming and horseback riding are other activities that children can participate.
- **San Marcos Homeschoolers.** The Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the San Marcos Homeschoolers group to provide extra enhancement and physical education opportunities for area homeschool students.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMS
Dances for Adults With Disabilities is a themed dance party with DJ music and door prizes for adults with disabilities. This is a free event that takes place every other month at the San Marcos Activity Center. Participants that need help must be escorted by an assistant.

TRAVEL GROUP
Both family and adult only travel trips are offered by the City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department. Adult only trips are for 18 and up or 21 and up for the casino trips. Family trips are for ages five years old and up. Destinations for these trips include the following:
- Educational Sites
- Historical Sites
- Plays
- Shopping
- Vineyard Tours
- Casinos
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Some of the activities that are offered by the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department include swimming lessons and camps. Swimming lessons include levels one through five, parent and tot lessons and private lessons. Camp activities include Summer Fun, Discovery Camp, Camp Quest, Spring Break Camp and Holiday Camp.

Discovery Center Programs include Learning with Larvae, MiGreat Challenge, Native Plant Sale, workshops and volunteer opportunities. Enrichment and fitness classes are also offered. Some fitness classes include Fit-Kids Club and Fitness in the Park. In addition, group fitness classes include the following.

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

In parks and various locations throughout the City, the Parks and Recreation Department holds many special events. Local visitors attend these events as well as visitors from the surrounding area. Some of the events that take place in the City include the following.

- **Sounds of San Marcos Open Mic Night.** The Sounds of San Marcos Open Mic Night is held at Eddie Durham Park at various times during the year.

- **San Marcos Neighborhood All-Star Games (SNAG).** In 2012, the San Marcos Neighborhood All-Star Games (SNAG) were established. Neighborhoods compete against each other in this event. These games take place at Rio Vista Park and include a sack race, tug-o-war, corn hole, putt putt golf, dominoes, giant connect four, giant checkers, pie eating and various relays.

- **Farmer Fred’s Garden Spring Carnival.** Farmer Fred’s Garden Spring Carnival takes place at Plaza Park and City Park. Activities that take place at this event include an egg hunt, carnival games, prizes and candy and live music.

- **Live on the Lawn.** Live on the Lawn is presented by Keep San Marcos Beautiful and is located at San Marcos Plaza Park. Various sustainability themes and vendors are featured weekly as well as live music by local artists.
- **Party in Your Park.** Party in Your Park takes place at various neighborhood parks every three months. Activities that take place during this event are yard games, music and refreshments.

- **Movies in Your Park.** In the summer months, Movies in Your Park occurs in Plaza Park. Family-friendly activities are offered before the movie, which begins at sunset.

- **Miss Beautiful SMTX Pageant.** In early June, women 18 years old and up participate in the Miss Beautiful SMTX Pageant. The pageant is at the San Marcos Activity Center.

- **Daddy Daughter Dance.** The annual Daddy Daughter Dance takes place on the Friday before Father’s Day. Dancing, crafts and snacks are featured at this event for fathers or father figures and their daughters.

- **Mother and Son Bowling Night.** The Mother and Son Bowling Night takes place on the Thursday before Mothers Day.

- **SummerFest.** In Plaza Park, the annual Forth of July Celebration takes place. This event has live music, food, fireworks, a children’s costume contest and parade.

- **Native Plant Sale.** The Native Plant Sale is at the Discovery Center with staff available to answer questions. This event takes place each year in the middle of October.

- **Farmer Fred’s Harvest Fall Carnival.** Similar to the Farmer Fred’s Garden Spring Carnival, the Farmer Fred’s Harvest Fall Carnival takes place the Saturday before Halloween. Activities that occur during this event are carnival games, costume contest, barrel train ride and concessions.

- **Veterans Day Parade.** In the middle of November, the Veterans Day Parade includes breakfast at the Hays County Courthouse Lawn. The Kiwanis Club Bicycle Brigade provides entertainment for kids before the event.
Issues and Needs

As set out in Figure 3.26, Importance of Passive Recreation in San Marcos Parks, shows the top selections as providing access to the San Marcos River for swimming, the addition of greenspace and adding more hike and bike trails throughout the City. See also Figure 3.25, Importance of Providing or Adding Athletic-Related Facilities in San Marcos Parks, on page 89.

Figure 3.26, Importance of Passive Recreation in San Marcos Parks

[Bar chart showing the importance of various passive recreation items in San Marcos Parks.]
### SUMMARY OF RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

At this time, deficiencies in recreational programming include basketball courts, tennis courts and volleyball courts (see Table 3.9, *Recreation Facilities Level of Service*). While the City only has one swimming pool, most of the City’s water-based recreation is supported by swimming and tubing in the San Marcos River. The community survey indicated that there is a need for water-based recreation in the City since there is currently only one swimming pool. The target number of swimming pools was four for 2016 and in 2030, that number will increase to five.

From 2016 to 2030, the facility needs remain the same. The City currently has several recreational opportunities even though the existing number of facilities does not meet the recommended level of service.

---

**Table 3.9, Recreation Facilities Level of Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITY</th>
<th>CURRENT AVAIL.</th>
<th>CURRENT LOS (1 FACILITY PER # RESIDENTS)</th>
<th>TARGET LOS (PER RESIDENTS)</th>
<th>2016 NEED BASED ON 61,980 POP.</th>
<th>2016 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS</th>
<th>2030 NEED BASED ON 84,818 POP.</th>
<th>2030 DEFICIT OR SURPLUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTIVE REC.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4,427</td>
<td>1 per 4,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Deficit of 2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Deficit of 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6,198</td>
<td>1 per 4,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Deficit of 6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Deficit of 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Courts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>61,980</td>
<td>1 per 7,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Deficit of 8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Deficit of 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASSIVE REC.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails (miles)</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>2365.6</td>
<td>1 per 4,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Surplus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER REC.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>61,980</td>
<td>1 per 20,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deficit of 3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Deficit of 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations

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

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

The park system in San Marcos contains over 1,480 acres of greenspace and natural areas. As set out in Figure 3.25, *Importance of Passive Recreation in San Marcos Parks*, around 75 percent of survey respondents would like to see additional preserved greenspace in the City. They would also like to see more hike and bike trails throughout the City. As such, it is suggested that the City increase multigenerational passive recreation facilities throughout the parks system. Natural areas and wildlife habitat and viewing, paddling trails and other water-based recreational facilities and further opportunities to access and be in nature are example amenities. As more residents are brought into the San Marcos parks and greenspace system, their connection to nature is increased and their desire to further protect the City’s natural resources is increased.

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

As can been seen, the San Marcos Activity Center is well used. Due to its high demand, some of the high traffic areas can wear out earlier than anticipated (e.g., the walkway hallways, conference rooms, etc.). As such, the City should ensure that adequate budget is allocated to ensure that these areas can be maintained and updated on a more frequent basis.

**Action RPE-1.3. Consider conducting a Recreation Programming and Event Assessment to determine gaps and overlaps in the provision of providing these types of services.**

As set out in Figure 3.21, *Which Age Group has the Greatest Need for Athletic or Other Recreational Programming?*, on page 87, the respondents to the survey identified that the greatest need for additional athletics or recreational programming was for Seniors over the age of 55. The next greatest identified need was for adults between the ages of 20 and 25 and young children under the age of five. As such, the City should consider conducting a Recreation Programming and Event Assessment. The Assessment should review and analyze the City’s public, private, or public/private recreational program offerings and include an inventory of both San Marcos’ programs, services, and facilities, as well as those offered by other organizations within the City or ETJ. Analysis of the collected inventory data will identify gaps and overlaps. The Assessment could also include an additional public survey to gauge the community’s interest in specific programs.
**Action RPE-1.4. Consider an expanded partnership with the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce, and other local partners to further establish City’s parks and recreation assets, events, and programming as Destination Attractions.**

The City's downtown district, historical areas, activity centers and the numerous natural amenities and attractions (e.g., the San Marcos River) are all Destination Attractions for the region and collectively work together to improve the overall economic health and wellbeing of the City. Improvements to any of these destination amenities provide numerous benefits, including increased sales tax dollars, increased hotel/motel taxes, and an overall improved economic competitiveness over other regions which are not as fortunate to have these types of attractions. As such, the City should consider expanded collaboration with the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce, and other local partners to increase advertising and outreach for these attractions and any events associated with them.

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

As set out in the existing conditions of this section, the San Marcos Activity Center is well used, with over 187,000 membership card swipes during just fiscal year 2016-2017. With that being said, many of the patrons and visitors do not need to check in at the front desk (e.g., walkers, guests to the conference rooms, etc.). As such, the City has limited knowledge about the full extent of use of this facility. Moving forward, the City should consider installing patron counters at the main entry door so that an accurate count can be established.

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

While there is a broad plan of action for implementing the 2013 Youth Master Plan, the PARD was specifically asked to collaborate with area partners to continue to grow and improve the ability to provide free or low-cost opportunities for youth to participate in a wide range of year-round recreational sports programs and to continue to offer a children and teens a wide variety of year-round cultural, educational and service opportunities.

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

As set out in the 2013 Youth Master Plan, the City should identify opportunities to develop and staff a teen center and/or events that provide safe, free places for teens to gather after school and on weekends to have fun, do homework and participate in a variety of clubs and activities.

**Action RPE-1.8. Coordinate with the City’s public information office (PIO) to develop a public outreach campaign for the parks and recreation system targeting City families.**

To better advertise recreation opportunities, the Park and Recreation Department staff should use social media on a regular basis to provide timely updates on programs and events. The City should also create marketing materials to allow community members to know what programs are available. Additional outreach campaigns could include a neighborhood sponsored “adopt-a-park” program or have specific neighborhoods participate in “work” days in City parks.
Element 4

Greenspaces and Resource Protection
Introduction

The protection of greenspaces and other sensitive natural resources are of high importance to many in the San Marcos community, with many feeling they are a critical component of their overall health and wellbeing. This section covers the existing greenspaces and resources in the City, issues and needs with these area and recommendations for the future.

Existing Conditions

Set out in Table 3.10, Existing Greenspace Areas, are the existing greenspaces in San Marcos. Currently, there is over 1,480 acres of greenspace which includes 27 miles of walking and biking trails, one pavilion, three restrooms and 13 parking spaces. The majority of the greenspaces are in the northwest part of the City (see Map 3.10, Existing Greenspaces). Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area is included in this location and is the largest greenspace in the City at over 760 acres. Both the upper and lower entrance have had recent improvements. The upper entrance is accessible from Valencia Way, while the lower entrance is accessible from Hunter Road. Both of these areas had additional parking added in 2015 as well as signage and a port-a-potty. There are plans to add ADA trail access and improvements at these entrances.

Table 3.10, Existing Greenspace Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION ADDRESS</th>
<th>ACREAGE</th>
<th>WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES)</th>
<th>PICNIC SHELTER/PAVILION (#)</th>
<th>RESTROOMS (#)</th>
<th>PARKING (#)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blanco River Village</td>
<td>350 Trestle Tree</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanco Riverwalk</td>
<td>512 Riverway Ave</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanco Shoals Natural Area</td>
<td>1201 E River Ridge Pkwy</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Creek Park</td>
<td>4300 Highway 123</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster Greenbelt</td>
<td>2108 Lancaster St</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area</td>
<td>2102 Hunter Rd</td>
<td>142.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect Park</td>
<td>1414 Prospect St</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat on Willow Creek</td>
<td>205 Hunter’s Hill Dr</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringtail Ridge Natural Area</td>
<td>1814 Old Ranch Road 12</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schulle Canyon Natural Area</td>
<td>100 Ridgewood</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sessom Creek Natural Area</td>
<td>915 Chestnut St</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area</td>
<td>685 Lime Kiln Rd</td>
<td>251.5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area</td>
<td>1753 Valencia Way</td>
<td>760.2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,486.3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map 3.10, Existing Greenspaces

LEGEND
- **EXISTING GREENSPACE & NATURAL AREAS**
- **WATER BODIES**
- **WATER COURSES**
- **ROADS**
- **RAILROADS**
- **COUNTY BOUNDARY**
- **CITY LIMITS**
- **ETJ**
DRAINAGE AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

One important component of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the residents of San Marcos is the drainage system. The main purpose of the drainage system is to transport and store stormwater. Its purpose is also to infiltrate rain water which lessens flooding and enhances water quality and recharge the Edwards Aquifer in the Hill Country. Natural areas and watercourses (e.g., creeks, rivers, tributaries, ponds and floodplains) are part of the primary drainage system. Man-made features that control stormwater runoff into the natural areas (e.g., streets, ditches, culverts, retention ponds and gutters) are part of the secondary drainage system. Set out in Map 3.11, Existing Floodplain Areas, are the primary natural watercourses which is fed by the man-made drainage system. Property, buildings, infrastructure and even life can be destroyed if any part of the drainage system fails.

San Marcos is made up of the following watersheds.

- Blanco River Watershed
- San Marcos River Watershed

This means that stormwater that drains from land in San Marcos goes into one of these watersheds. Areas are broken up into many drainage basins based on the tributary or branch that the area drains into with the watershed. San Marcos is bisected by many creeks and tributaries. The Blanco River on the north side of the City and the San Marcos River which runs just east of downtown San Marcos are the two major rivers in the City.

Flooding will occur if stormwater drainage is not managed properly. It is important to evaluate drainage plans and both positive and negative impacts on drainage for all projects, including private development, transportation projects and park and recreation projects. As such, development practices and regulations will greatly influence stormwater drainage.

EDWARDS AQUIFER

The City of San Marcos lies over the upper portion of the Edwards Aquifer. As a result, all projects need to comply with applicable TCEQ Edwards Aquifer Rules. Set out on Map 3.12, Sensitive Natural Resources, shows the location of the Edwards Aquifer within the City. In addition, all of San Marcos is located within a designated Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) protection area.
HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

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

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

The Habitat Conservation Plan involves several components in San Marcos:

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

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

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

Water supply protection
Protection of the San Marcos and Blanco Rivers
Protection of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Areas / river clarity and quality
Protection for flood conveyance
Protection of the tributaries of the San Marcos and Blanco Rivers
Wildlife habitat / scenic areas
Sustain the scenic quality and visual character of the City
General open space conservation and protection
Protection of associated riparian areas (bank vegetation, wetlands, etc.)
Protection for historical / cultural interest
Passive recreation (e.g., trails, bird watching, photography, urban camping)

Very Important | Important | No Opinion | Not Important | Not Important at All
Figure 3.28, When Considering the Types of Facilities and Activities Which Typically Occur, or Could Occur, in the City’s Greenspace Areas, How Important are the Following?

- Additional nature trails for walking or hiking
- Better/more restrooms
- Better trailhead kiosks / wayfinding signage
- More outdoor programming (e.g., education classes, staff led tours, etc.)
- Additional trails for mountain biking
- Picnic facilities
- More interpretative signage
- Outdoor challenge course
- Urban camping
- Observation tower
- Trails for equestrian visitors

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900

Very Important  Important  No Opinion  Not Important  Not Important at All
Survey respondents also indicated that the City should partner with others (e.g., Texas State University, land trusts, conservation organizations, the county) to further protect additional greenspaces in the future. Other top actions selected by survey respondents include supporting the efforts of nonprofit groups (e.g., the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance) and modify zoning and subdivision regulations which result in greater protection of these greenspace areas (see Figure 3.29, To Protect Additional Areas of Greenspace in the City and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, What Types of Action Should the City be Pursuing?).

Set out in Table 3.11, Greenspace Area Level of Service, are the existing levels of service for greenspace in San Marcos. In the previous plan, it mentioned a target of 5.0 acres of greenspace per 1,000 people. At that time, the City was at 26.0 acres of greenspace per person. Since there are not set national metrics for quantifying greenspace level of service, and since the City has alternate reasons for further protection (e.g., protecting the aquifer recharge areas) there will not be a recommended level of service moving forward.

<table>
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<th>PARK CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>EXISTING ACREAGE</th>
<th>CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (BASED ON 61,980 POPULATION)</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED ACREAGE</th>
<th>SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE</th>
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<td>Greenspace &amp; Natural Areas</td>
<td>1,486.3</td>
<td>24.0 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>Varies Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
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</table>
Recommendations

GOAL GRP-1. ENCOURAGE NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION PRACTICES IN THE PARKS SYSTEM.

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

As set out in Map 3.13, Greenspace Area Priority Acquisition Areas, there are key areas in the northwest part of San Marcos which are priority greenspace acquisition areas. Some of these properties are located in the Edwards Aquifer in an environmentally sensitive area and are ideal additions for both protection of the City's water quality and to provide a continuous connection between the Purgatory Creek Natural Area and Spring Lake Natural Area just outside the City limits. Potential acquisition of the properties in this area, as well as any potential greenspace acquisition elsewhere in the City, should be evaluated against the City's recommended San Marcos Greenspace Selection Criteria (see Figure 3.30, San Marcos Recommended Greenspace Selection Criteria, on the next page).

Map 3.13, Greenspace Area Priority Acquisition Areas
GREENSPACE SELECTION CRITERIA

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

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

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT LIST

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

FEASIBILITY LIST

1. The property could likely be protected or acquired with reasonable effort in relation to the property’s conservation value.
2. It is likely that adjacent properties could be connected/protected.
3. The property is accessible to the general public.
4. Grant or matching funds may be available to facilitate acquisition.
5. Lack of immediate action precludes future protection or acquisition.
6. The property would require minimal funds for restoration, development, and/or maintenance because it is in a relatively natural state.
7. The mechanism and/or fund are in place for on-going maintenance.
8. The property could easily be acquired through development agreements.
**Action GRP-1.2. Develop emergency access plans for the City’s greenspace parks.**

Access to many of the greenspace parks is limited. During potential road closures and other emergencies, access to these parks may be inhibited. As such, it is suggested that the City create an Emergency Preparedness and Management Plan for each of the greenspace parks to ensure that City staff and emergency services know how to prepare for such an event in the future. These plans should be integrated into the City’s overall Emergency Preparedness and Management Plans for the entire City. These plans should include tasks for all City staff, as well as tasks specifically for the PARD staff, before, during and after an emergency.

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

Partnerships between the City and local organizations can be created to help manage the wild hogs in the area. This partnership would allow resources to be allocated efficiently without the duplication of hog management efforts.

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

Both residents and visitors can navigate the parks and trails system and visually identify City-owned parkland through a well-planned and consistent signage and wayfinding system. Wayfinding signage can be located at key locations. This will allow one to quickly identify which park they are located in to help emergency response. Moving forward, the City should consider developing and implementing a comprehensive and consistent package of park entry signage; trail entry kiosks; trail maps, brochures, and a website; and internal trail wayfinding signage to ensure these greenspace parks and trails are recognizable, safe and navigable. This could be undertaken as part of an individual wayfinding and signage plan or as part of a broader trail assessment and management plan.
**Action GRP-1.5. Coordinate with local, federal and state partners to undertake controlled burns, general maintenance and other methods in the City’s greenspace parks.**

Fire was once a natural part of both forest and grassland ecology in Texas. For most of the 20th Century, however, wildfires were quickly extinguished and as a result, have created an unhealthy unbalance in our natural ecosystems. To protect and enhance the natural ecosystems in the City’s greenspace properties, the City should consider partnering with applicable local, federal, and state partners to undertake controlled burns in the City's greenspace parks. In addition, there are other methods including the use of selective chemicals which yield similar results. Recommended management guidelines need to be created prior to conducting prescribed burns in natural areas.

**Action GRP-1.6. Formalize a memorandum of understanding with the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGA).**

The San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGA) was formed in 1998 as an activist effort to protect and preserve ecologically sensitive properties in San Marcos (the first was a 9-acre site off of Prospect Street). Since that time, the SMGA has been taking an active role in future preservation and maintenance of the growing City greenspace park system. This relationship has been mutually beneficial to the City and the SMGA. However, there has not been a clear written understanding of the various responsibilities of each group. As such, it is recommended to reevaluate and update any previous written and/or unwritten agreements between the City and the SMGA.

**Action GRP -1.7. Continue to coordinate with and support efforts by the SMGA and the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) to acquire, protect, and maintain new greenspace and/or new riverfront park properties.**

As previously mentioned, there is a mutually beneficial partnership between the City and both the SMGA, the SMRF, and others regarding the protection and maintenance of greenspace properties. Moving forward, the City should continue to collaborate with these entities to acquire, protect, and maintain these new greenspace and/or riverfront park properties. This involves finding the right balance between protecting the sensitive natural resources and providing public access.

**Action GRP-1.8. Consider more permanent public restroom facilities at key entrances to the City’s greenspace park properties.**

The recent additions of the portable restroom facilities has been a necessary and added benefit to several of the entrances of the greenspace park properties. Thinking towards the future, the City should consider how these temporary facilities can be transitioned to more permanent facilities. In addition, the City should identify additional facilities which may be needed at other entrances to the City's greenspace park system.

**Action GRP-1.9. Identify additional resources to better respond to reoccurring maintenance and enforcement issues in the greenspace park properties.**

One of the identified issues regarding the greenspace park properties was the excessive presence of trash and list of unfinished maintenance projects. Additionally, there has been an expressed need or additional enforcement related to user conflicts. Moving forward, the City should identify opportunities for additional resources (funding, staffing, and/or partnership agreements) to better respond to these reoccurring maintenance and enforcement issues in the greenspace park properties.
Element 5
Trails
Introduction

Trails provide recreation opportunities for all generations, increase the quality of life of the community and create alternatives to vehicular transportation. This section covers the existing park trails in San Marcos, issues and needs and recommendations for the future.

Existing Conditions

When planning for parks and recreation in a community, the consideration of trails is a significant part. Recreation, fitness and socialization opportunities for users are offered by trails as well as access to and connectivity between parks and other main destinations. In the region and across the country, the need for trails has continued to grow in recent years. For example, one of the most popular outdoor activities in the nation is trail running.1

Currently, there are over 26 miles of trails that are maintained by the City of San Marcos (CoSM) and the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGA). Most park types in San Marcos contain trails within the parks including regional parks, special use parks and greenspace and natural areas. Set out in Table 3.12, Existing Trails and Map 3.14, Existing Trail Locations, are the existing trails within each of these parks. This map also shows existing bicycle routes and sidewalk locations within the City.

Proximity to trails is important for park users and many residents want the choice to easily walk or ride to a trail. From August 2016 to July 2017, approximately 100,000 people used the Purgatory Creek Natural Area. Map 3.14, Existing Trail Locations, shows one-quarter-mile and one-half-mile service areas around the City’s existing trails. Sidewalks and bicycle routes are not shown with a buffer since they are only for a single use and oftentimes just provide the connection to the citywide trail system. Currently, only the center and northwest portions of the City are served by the existing trails system. For the most part, the southwest and northeast areas of the City are currently not served by the existing trail service areas.


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**TOTAL** 26.2
Map 3.14, Existing Trail Locations

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

*The map numbers correspond with Table 3.11.
Issues and Needs

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

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

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

Figure 3.32, What Activities Do You Use Trails For?

- Walking for leisure
- Viewing scenery or wildlife
- Walking / running for exercise
- Dog walking
- Social interactions
- Bike riding, leisure
- Photography
- Canoeing / kayaking
- Bird watching
- Other
PROPOSED TRAILS

The City has identified proposed trail locations within the City limits and the ETJ (see Map 3.15, Proposed Trail Locations). The proposed trails are mainly located along rivers and streams to allow those who will use the trails to experience nature. These trails also connect parks in the City such as the riverfront parks, Purgatory Creek Natural Area, Spring Lake Natural Area and Ringtail Ridge Natural Area. The online survey indicates that the addition of trails in residential areas with connections to key destinations in the City is the top priority. Trails provide opportunities for non-motorized transportation and multigenerational leisure activities. In addition, with the growing awareness in health, quality of life and alternative modes of transportation, being in close proximity to a trail is becoming more important for residents of San Marcos.

Map 3.15, Proposed Trail Locations, on the next page, also shows the proposed bike route and sidewalk locations. The proposed trail one-quarter-mile and one-half-mile service area buffers cover the majority of the City. It is recommended that the City doubles the current amount of trails from 26.2 miles to 52.4 miles.

In 2017, the San Marcos Transportation Master Plan was completed. As this plan is implemented over time, important service area gaps can be filled and better citywide connectivity can be achieved.

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

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

Hike and Bike Trail
Multi-purpose trail for mountain bikes.
Map 3.15, Proposed Trail Locations

LEGEND
- PROPOSED GREENWAY TRAILS
- PROPOSED BICYCLE ROUTE
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK
- 1/4-MILE SERVICE AREA
- 1/2-MILE SERVICE AREA
- REGIONAL PARKS
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
- SPECIAL USE PARKS
- GREENSPACE & NATURAL AREAS

COUNTY BOUNDARY
CITY LIMITS
ETJ
WATER BODIES
WATER COURSES
ROADS
RAILROADS
Recommendations

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

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

A number of the City’s parks include elements which may be inaccessible to those who are disabled or use a wheelchair or walking aid. In order to ensure that all residents and park users have equal access to park facilities, trails, 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. After the assessment, a map should be created and maintained on the City’s website identifying the type and location of accessible accommodations throughout the system.

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

As identified in Figure 3.18, How Important Is It For the City to Address the Following Parks, Recreation, and Trail Issues?, around 75 percent of survey respondents want to see water access improved for people with disabilities. As part of the development of design and construction plans for the riverfront park system improvements, defined access points should be identified, designed, and constructed regarding points of access to the San Marcos River meeting the American with Disabilities (ADA) standards. Particular attention should be given to identifying a potential wounded warrior kayak access point in Rio Vista.
**Action T-1.3. Collaborate with local and regional partners to define and establish the Emerald Crown Trail regional connection to Kyle, Buda and eventually to the Violet Crown Trail to Austin.**

Establishing regional trail connections between cities is oftentimes a high priority for Texas communities and beyond. One such regional trail connection is the proposed Emerald Crown Trail being initiated and discussed by the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGA). Although the proposed trail is in its early preliminary planning stages, it is intended to connect from the San Marcos River through Five Mile Dam Park through Kyle and Buda where it would eventually connect to the Violet Crown Trail being planned and built by the Hill Country Conservancy. Considering the broad range of benefits which could be realized by both local and regional partners, the City should consider supporting increased collaboration on this project to help it become a reality within the envisioned five-year time frame.

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

As part of a recent adoption of the 2018 San Marcos Transportation Master Plan, the City identified a proposed greenways plan which included conceptual alignments of a ultimate greenways trail network. This plan included recommendations for proposed facility improvements during the short-term (e.g., connecting the southern end of the Riverfront Park system over to the East Guadalupe neighborhood area) to much longer-term projects (e.g., creating an entire outer greenways loop around San Marcos). Moving forward, the City should take the lead in coordinating with all local and regional partners to implement this plan over time. This could mean developing a bicycle and pedestrian implementation plan for short- to mid-term projects. It could also mean leading or participating in a regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, finding partnerships with nearby communities and private development partners to maximize joint implementation projects and regional grant applications along with other implementation approaches.
Action T-1.5. Prioritize a connection between the new TxDOT frontage roads and the proposed extension of the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail underneath I-35 at Ramon Lucio Park.

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

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

As set out in Figure 3.31, Agreement With the Following Statements Regarding the Trail System or Linear Parks Used to Connect Destinations, the San Marcos community is requesting additional trail amenities to be developed along the City’s existing and future trails. At a minimum, these include such things as benches, lighting, trees, trash cans, dog waste stations. These are particularly important along the City's trails in the riverfront park system.

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

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

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

Developing more trails is always a high priority in most Texas communities. As such, the City should continue to identify additional ways to establish a diversified and connected trail system, from 12-foot multi-use trails in the riverfront park system, to multi-use regional trail connections between parks, to internal loop trails in neighborhood parks, to hiking and mountain biking trails in the City's greenspace parks.
Element 6

Maintenance and Operations
**Introduction**

The main maintenance goal is to provide sustainable maintenance for properties to increase their potential life cycle while minimizing costs. This is a function of balancing sufficient resources to address the workload responsibility.

The most important parts of balancing resources with maintenance workload are the following.

- Sufficient and appropriately trained employees
- Sufficient work and storage space
- Suitable equipment for the given tasks

This permits the PARD to increase their efficiency and offer cost effective services for the City.

Parks and open space have economic importance to the City because of the increase in population and retention of the community members that move to the City. Therefore, it is important to increase the amount of parkland in the City as residential and commercial real estate expands.

**Existing Conditions**

Below is a list of different positions that make up the Parks Department.

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

**PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITIES**

Map 3.16, *Existing Park Maintenance Facility Service Location*, shows the existing park maintenance facility location along River Road behind the City of San Marcos Animal Shelter. The existing park maintenance facility is surrounded by a solid yellow circle which represents an approximate 3.5-mile service area. This existing facility efficiently serves only a fraction of the City. Other areas outside of the existing park maintenance facility service area are too great of a distance away from the only existing park maintenance facility.

The dashed yellow lines show potential areas of the City where a park maintenance sub-station could provide a more balanced response time to get to every park in the system.
Map 3.16, Existing Park Maintenance Facility Service Location

LEGEND

- EXISTING PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITY SERVICE LOCATION
- EXISTING PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITY SERVICE AREAS
- PROPOSED PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITY SERVICE AREAS

- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CITY LIMITS
- ETJ
- WATER BODIES
- WATER COURSES
- ROADS
- RAILROADS
MAINTENANCE

Currently, the City has the support of seven park rangers and two off-duty cops. On the weekends, there are a total of 20 staff members. At this time, maintenance staff cannot keep up with the rate of large property acquisitions. Set out in Table 3.13, *Projected Staff Numbers*, are the current and projected number of City maintenance staff.

### Table 3.13, Projected Staff Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee Category</th>
<th>Current Staff</th>
<th>Future Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time crew</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Seals</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other staff</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Issues and Needs**

Survey respondents were asked if they were satisfied with the quality, appearance and maintenance of specific parks and recreation elements in the City. They are most satisfied with the recreation and activity center, greenspace areas and overall parks and recreation (see Figure 3.33, *Satisfaction With the Quality, Appearance, and Maintenance of the Following Parks and Recreation Elements in San Marcos*). To the contrary, they were generally more dissatisfied with the quality of sports courts and fields, the swimming pool and the dog park.

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

**GOAL MO-1. CONTINUE TO KEEP SAN MARCOS A BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY**

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

The quality of a parks and recreation system is directly connected to its appearance of the facilities and amenities and of the appearance and expertise of City staff. Therefore, it is suggested that the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) implement and follow the below parks facility and maintenance rules that will assist with the creation of high quality facilities and amenities and assist to create the specific levels of expertise to maintain it over time. These guidelines can be used to help in the creation of training and operational schedules and are projected to create pride and ownership over the City’s parks.

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

This could also include the potential development of management guidelines for public trees.

**Action MO-1.2. Formalize memorandum’s of understanding (MOUs) with all volunteer groups.**

This should include clear expectations of responsibility for both the City and volunteer group as well as defined escape clauses. Currently, volunteer opportunities exist for both youth and seniors. The Greenbelt Alliance and Boy Scouts of America are examples of volunteer groups that are working in the San Marcos area to preserve natural spaces.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3.14, Recommended Routine Landscape and Maintenance Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRACT TASK / FUNCTION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Post special event clean-up, post weather event clean-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Irrigation audits, seasonal adjustments, inspections, repair, and installation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Prune shade trees (exception of red oaks and live oaks; Prune only June - February 1, ideally in the winter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Prune native trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Prune spring flowering ornamental trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Prune crape myrtles, native ornamental, native trees and shade trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Tree trimming for clearance/safety. Oaks need to have the wounds painted, and not more than 25% of the tree canopy is removed at one time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Maintain tree wells/Round-up band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Replenish tree well mulch, new trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Treat insects &amp; disease control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Replenish mulch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Soil aeration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Root collar excavation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Remove dead branches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Integrated pest management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Aerification (except athletic fields)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Aerification of athletic fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Mowing, edging, trimming of summer turf (bermuda, St. Augustine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Mowing, edging, trimming of Buffalo turf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Fertilizer application to Bermudas and St. Augustine turf athletic fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Apply post-emergent herbicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Apply pre-emergent herbicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Insect/pesticide control (fire ants included)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Disease control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pond Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 General policing of floating debris and removal of debris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Clean out-fall structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Maintain edges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Aquatic weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jogging and Bike Trails/Concrete Pavers/Concrete Walks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Clean/Sweep trails and paths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debris and Trash Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage Ways, Inlets, Culverts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Remove trash/debris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Pruning reduces the risk of failure (medium-aged and mature trees can also be cleaned, reduced, raised, or restored to manage risk). Provide clearance, improve aesthetics, reduce shade, maintain health, and improve a view.
2. Pruning types: structural pruning, thinning, reducing, raising, cleaning and restoration.
3. Recommended two times per year as needed to maintain specified depth of mulch.
4. Recommended: Bermuda at heights of 2.5 to 4 inches and Zoysia at heights of 2.5 to 4 inches.
5. Identify other areas that are grow zones and their frequency of mowing to allow temporary growth of pollinators, host plants, and native flowers/grasses.

Chapter 3 | System Analysis, Needs, and Recommendations
Action MO-1.3. Evaluate best-practices in establishing and operating a park ranger program.

The park ranger program needs to be reevaluated. The responsibility of the park ranger would be to conduct periodic patrols of the City park system. This would include patrol and enforcement at large public gatherings or special events. Comparatively speaking, San Marcos has a small park ranger presence patrolling the riverfront park system during peak times, compared to New Braunfels and other similar tourist-based, river recreation communities. Moving forward, the City will need to expand its park ranger presence in the City park system, particularly in the riverfront and greenspace parks and trails.

Action MO-1.4. Provide necessary resources to adequately and annually train multiple targeted maintenance staff in irrigation maintenance best practices.

For irrigation inspections and repairs, assign specialized park maintenance personnel. All personnel should have and maintain all required State of Texas licenses. To reduce the variety of inventory of replacement parts, a policy can be put in place to have all of the irrigation parts come from the same manufacturer.

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

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

The quality of a parks and recreation system is dependent upon the appearance of the facilities and amenities which it is made of, and the appearance and expertise of the staff who represent it. This policy can support the development of training and operational schedules and are intended to promote pride and ownership over the park properties in the City. Routine maintenance would include inspections, repairs and replacements of park amenities.

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

As new parks are added, a sufficient number of maintenance facilities needs to be provided to maintain these new parks. Set out in Map 3.16, Existing Park Maintenance Facility Service Location, shows the proposed general area locations of two new park maintenance facilities. These locations are away from the existing park maintenance facility and are in places where there are several parks that need to be maintained.
By providing additional park maintenance facilities, staff can easily and efficiently get from the closest maintenance facility to its nearby parks. Park maintenance equipment can also be divided up to serve each of the service areas.

GOAL MO-3. ENSURE ADEQUATE STAFFING IS PROVIDED TO ALLOW FOR IMPROVED PARK SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

**Action MO-3.1. Develop metrics regarding acreage to staffing levels.**

As the City acquires more greenspace, additional staff members will need to be added to maintain these areas. These new staff members will also need to be trained since they will be new employees. An action plan can be created in a table format to project the needed amount of staff per new park property acquired.
Element 7

Funding and Financing
Introduction

To meet the desires and requirements of the residents, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) will need more funding.

Existing Conditions

When thinking specifically of the envisioned improvements to the greenspace system, a series of survey questions were asked to solicit the preferences of the San Marcos community (see Figure 3.34, *In Order to Help Offset Staffing and Maintenance Costs of the City’s Greenspace System, Please Check the Following Items That You Think You Could Support*?, below). In response, over half identified that they would be willing to support some kind of financial fee to visit these parks (e.g., either a entrance donation box, a user fee, etc.). While the other half did not support charging for access to the City’s greenspace system, the amount that did opens up the question about exploring it further.

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

*Figure 3.32, In Order to Help Offset Staffing and Maintenance Costs of the City’s Greenspace System, Please Check the Following Items That You Think You Could Support?*

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

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

CITY GENERATED FUNDING SOURCES

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

- General Fund Expenditures
- Municipal Bonds
- Tax Increment Financing/Public Improvement Districts
- Electric Utility Partnerships
- Half Cent Sales Tax Funds
- Park Donation Funds
- Park Improvement Fee Funds
- Cash in Lieu of Conveyance of Land
- Utility Bill Contributions
- Tree Restoration Funds

GOVERNMENT GRANT SOURCES

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

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
- National Park Service (NPS) Programs

STATE GOVERNMENT
- TPWD - Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) funds the following grants:
  - Outdoor Recreation Grants (TPWD)
  - Indoor Recreation (Facility) Grants (TPWD)
  - Boating Access Grants (TPWD)
- Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grants (TPWD)
- Recreational Trail Grant (TPWD)
- Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants (TPWD)
- Regional Park Grants administered by TPWD
- Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grants

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES OF FUNDING
- Purchase and Transfer of Development Rights

OTHER PRIVATE AND QUASI PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES
- Partnering with Developers and Private Land Owners
- Other Foundation and Company Grants
- Grants for Greenways
- Private Sponsorship Programs/Naming Rights
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Land Trusts
Recommendations

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

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

The City has recently leveraged $3 million to $9 million. Actively pursue additional funding to support the provision of a high quality parks and recreation system in San Marcos. To fund identified larger-scale capital improvements for the parks system, consider approaching the residents with a bond election.

**Action FF-1.2. Pursue additional potential funding sources.**

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

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

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

- Municipal Bonds
- Tax Increment Financing/Public Improvement Districts
- Electric Utility Partnership
- Park Improvement Fee Funds
- Cash in Lieu of Conveyance of Land
- Utility Bill Contributions
- Tree Restoration Funds

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

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

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

The City of New Braunfels collects almost $300,000 to $500,000 in annual revenue which goes to park system improvements and security. These funds are placed in a special revenue account. As the City of San Marcos and the surrounding region continues to grow, the use of the riverfront parks system will increase along with the demand for parking. The City can benefit from this increased use by charging for parking in this area. The defined parking areas identified on Map 3.8, San Marcos Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan, on page 76, provide the opportunity to establish paid parking for peak season access to the riverfront park system.

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

This could include more pavilions and picnic shelters that can be rented. Set out in Figure 3.18, How Important Do You Think the Following Considerations Are?, are the responses that show that survey respondents are supportive of charging an entrance or parking fee per vehicle for non-residents for the riverfront parks. This fee would be one way to improve cost recovery at these parks. Some survey respondents also indicated that they would like there to be an entrance fee per vehicle for all visitors at the riverfront parks which would be another way to improve cost recovery.

**Action FF-1.7. Consider establishing a volunteer contribution/donation box at each trailhead in the City’s greenspace park system.**

As identified in Figure 3.31, In Order to Help Offset Staffing and Maintenance Costs of the City’s Greenspace System, Please Check the Following Items That You Think You Could Support?, around 54 percent of survey respondents indicated that they would like to see a donation box established using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system. Around 28 percent of respondents would like to charge an entrance fee for non-City residents and 19 percent of respondents would like to charge an entrance fee for all visitors. This could include a specified amount for each vehicle in the parking lot and could or could not include a designated waiver for residents within the City limits.

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

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

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

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

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

Coordinated Implementation

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

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

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

High Priority Needs

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW OR ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED BASED ON <strong>COMMUNITY INPUT</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Places to swim in the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nature trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shade trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Running / Walking / Biking shared use paths / trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Greenspace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW OR ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED BASED ON <strong>LEVEL OF SERVICE</strong></th>
<th>NEW OR ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED BASED ON <strong>EXISTING CONDITION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Picnic facilities (tables, BBQ grills)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Picnic pavilions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Splash pad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Playgrounds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Restrooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Shade structure / add more trees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. ADA connections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Playground upgrades</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Renovate trails</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Make updates to the adult softball complex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP COLLECTIVE <strong>OUTDOOR FACILITY</strong> NEEDS BASED ON ABOVE SUMMARIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Places to swim in the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nature trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shade structure / add more trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Running / Walking / Biking shared use paths / trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Greenspace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Picnic facilities (tables, BBQ grills)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Picnic pavilions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Splash pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Playground upgrades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Make updates to the adult softball complex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prioritized Action Plan

Implementation Tools

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

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

**Figure 4.1, Types of Implementation Tools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Operational Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An approved more in-depth or sophisticated study or examination required to choose the most appropriate resolution.</td>
<td>Different or altered plans, staffing, or operational actions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulation</th>
<th>Non-Capital Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council adopted rules used to direct growth of other actions in the City.</td>
<td>Smaller-scale improvements which may more likely be funded through the annual budgeting process or a staff-led project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Capital Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved actions or policies used to guide City decisions. Sometimes, it encompasses a movement in a general direction which may include a combination of other types of implementation tools.</td>
<td>Larger-scale capital improvements incorporated into the greater capital improvement program or five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prioritization Timeframes

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

- High Priorities;
- Moderate Priorities; and
- Longer-Term Priorities.

**Figure 4.2, Levels of Priority**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Priorities</th>
<th>Moderate Priorities</th>
<th>Longer-Term Priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actions which need to be started within the next one to three years (2018-2021). Frequently, these actions will be started and completed within this time. Although, it is not unusual for plans to be started in this timeframe and completed over time. These are the City's top priorities for implementation.</td>
<td>Actions which need to be started within the next four to six years (2022-2024). Some of these actions may become the top priorities determined in the City's next Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan update.</td>
<td>Actions which are supposed to continually lead the City to its ideal future parks and recreation vision. Most of these actions are supposed to be applied over the long-term (2025-2027+) and will be further ranked in later Plan updates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prioritization Criteria

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

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

Starting on page 148, Table 4.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, shows a summary of the City's high, moderate and longer-term priorities. Elements meeting the majority of the criteria were categorized as very high priority elements and are to have the highest level of attention over the next one to three years. High and moderate priorities are ranked while longer-term priorities remain unranked as they would be prioritized in future Plan updates.

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

Chapter 4 | Implementation Action Plan
### Table 4.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>ACTION ID</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</th>
<th>ACTION TYPE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Parks and Facilities Actions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-1.1</td>
<td>Pursue the acquisition and development of neighborhood-scale park development in areas of need.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-1.2</td>
<td>Establish criteria for determining appropriate properties to acquire as part of new park properties in the City.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-1.3</td>
<td>Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex from Hays County.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-1.4</td>
<td>Evaluate the opportunity to acquire Randy Vetter/Dudley Johnson Park from Hays County.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-1.5</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to create new parks on properties that may be bought out due to past flood events.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-1.6</td>
<td>Evaluate the effectiveness of the City's new parkland dedication provisions of the Land Development Code.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY/REGULATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-2.1</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to improve security and protection against vandalism at Conway Park and other parks with similar issues.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY/POLICY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-2.2</td>
<td>Consider upgrading the existing sport fields at Gary Park.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-2.3</td>
<td>Considering adding community-scale park amenities at Five Mile Dam Park, Dudley Johnson Park, and Gary Park.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-2.4</td>
<td>Make improvements to El Camino Real Park.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.1</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.</td>
<td>200K - 500K EA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.2</td>
<td>Develop a new dog park on the east side of the City using available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.3</td>
<td>Establish a routine playscape inspection and replacement program.</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td></td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.4</td>
<td>Evaluate potential options to replace the pool at Rio Vista Park.</td>
<td>400K - 500K</td>
<td></td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.5</td>
<td>Commission a parks master plan for the 40-acre property owned by the City along River Road.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.6</td>
<td>Commission a park master plan for the new 18-acre property associated with the Blanco River Village development.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.7</td>
<td>Evaluate the need for additional locations for the installation of dog parks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.8</td>
<td>Add additional park pavilions that can be rented out throughout the park system.</td>
<td>50K - 250K EA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-3.9</td>
<td>Add shade in the parks and along trails.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-4.1</td>
<td>Continue to identify opportunities to integrate art and culture in the parks and recreation system.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD STUDY/POLICY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>ACTION ID</td>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>TIME FRAME</td>
<td>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</td>
<td>ACTION TYPE</td>
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<td>------</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-4.2</td>
<td>Undertake an evaluation of the Memorial Tree Program and process.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.1</td>
<td>Consider consolidating the City’s disparate riverfront parks into a single consolidated name.</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>POLICY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.2</td>
<td>Consider developing consolidated design standards for development and/or enhancement of new facilities (e.g., buildings, structures, landscaping, and signage) in the riverfront parks system.</td>
<td>7-8+</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>STUDY/REGULATION/POLICY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.3</td>
<td>Consider opportunities to redevelop the riverfront park system as set out in the Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan.</td>
<td>20MIL - 50MIL</td>
<td>POLICY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.4</td>
<td>Increase the number of publicly available restrooms in the City’s riverfront parks system.</td>
<td>150K EA.</td>
<td>NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.5</td>
<td>Increase the number of available parking spaces in the City’s riverfront parks system.</td>
<td>1MIL - 1.5 MIL (PER SCHEMATIC)</td>
<td>CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.6</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of park rangers during the summer.</td>
<td>20MIL - 50MIL</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.7</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to establish purple pipe (reclaimed water) irrigation at the riverfront parks system.</td>
<td>20MIL - 50MIL</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>STUDY/POLICY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.8</td>
<td>Work with the Urban Forester and other stakeholders to clear the invasive trees and plants from the Meeks property as well as other park properties to improve the quality of wildlife and habitat and decrease erosion.</td>
<td>20MIL - 50MIL</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE/NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.9</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to remove cars and people that are queuing off of Cheatham Street.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.10</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities in existing City parks to respond to soil compaction, drainage issues and trash removal.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PF-5.11</td>
<td>Expand the City’s efforts in the river clean up to include the river’s tributaries.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Athletics Actions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-1.1</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of tournaments in the City.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/POLICY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-1.2</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to establish a public private partnership (PPP) to increase the provision of athletic fields in the City.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-1.3</td>
<td>Explore the relocation of the baseball fields out of riverfront parks system.</td>
<td>250K PER FIELD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-1.4</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to increase the number of rugby and lacrosse fields.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-1.5</td>
<td>Identify additional opportunities for increasing recreation practice space in the park system.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 4.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>ACTION ID</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</th>
<th>ACTION TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>7-8+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-1.6</td>
<td>Initiate discussions with local youth sports leagues to reexamine partnership responsibilities.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>POLICY/REGULATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Recreation Programming and Events Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>ACTION ID</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</th>
<th>ACTION TYPE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>7-8+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPE-1.1</td>
<td>Evaluate further opportunities to increase multigenerational passive recreation amenities in existing and future City parks.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPE-1.2</td>
<td>Ensure adequate funds are budgeted for annual maintenance and upkeep at the San Marcos Activity Center.</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPE-1.3</td>
<td>Consider conducting a Recreation Programming and Event Assessment to determine gaps and overlaps in the provision of providing these types of services.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPE-1.4</td>
<td>Consider an expanded partnership with the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce, and other local partners to further establish City’s parks and recreation assets, events, and programming as a Destination Attractions.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPE-1.5</td>
<td>Consider entry door patron counters at the San Marcos Activity Center.</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPE-1.6</td>
<td>Continue to coordinate with area partners to implement the strategies and actions identified in the City’s 2013 Youth Master Plan.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>POLICY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPE-1.7</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to establish or partner to develop a San Marcos Teen Center as identified in the City’s 2013 Youth Master Plan.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPE-1.8</td>
<td>Coordinate with the City’s public information office (PIO) to develop a public outreach campaign for the parks and recreation system targeting City families.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>POLICY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Greenspace and Resource Protection Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>ACTION ID</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</th>
<th>ACTION TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>7-8+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.1</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to proactively pursue additional greenspace property acquisitions in and around the City.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.2</td>
<td>Develop emergency access plans for the City’s greenspace parks.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.3</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to better manage wildlife and land in the City’s greenspace parks.</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.4</td>
<td>Develop a master color coding system as part of the wayfinding signage in the City’s greenspace parks.</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.5</td>
<td>Coordinate with local, federal and state partners to undertake controlled burns, general maintenance and other methods in the City’s greenspace parks.</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE/ NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.6</td>
<td>Formalize a memorandum of understanding with the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGBA).</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>POLICY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>ACTION ID</td>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>TIME FRAME</td>
<td>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</td>
<td>ACTION TYPE</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>7-8+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.7</td>
<td>Continue to coordinate with and support efforts by the SMGBA and the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) to acquire, protect, and maintain new greenspace and/or new riverfront park properties.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>POLICY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.8</td>
<td>Consider more permanent public restroom facilities at key entrances to the City's greenspace park properties.</td>
<td></td>
<td>150K EA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP-1.9</td>
<td>Identify additional resources to better respond to reoccurring maintenance and enforcement issues in the greenspace park properties.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
<td>STUDY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trails Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAILS ACTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</th>
<th>ACTION TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T-1.1</td>
<td>Conduct a system-wide accessibility assessment to identify, prioritize, and address issues in the City parks, trails, and greenspace system.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1.2</td>
<td>Improve ADA accessibility to the San Marcos River.</td>
<td></td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1.3</td>
<td>Collaborate with local and regional partners to define and establish the Emerald Crown Trail regional connection to Kyle, Buda and eventually to the Violet Crown Trail to Austin.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1.4</td>
<td>Consider developing a bicycle and pedestrian implementation plan to implement the trail alignments established in the 2018 Transportation Master Plan.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1.5</td>
<td>Prioritize a connection between the new TxDOT frontage roads and the proposed extension of the San Marcos River Bike and Pedestrian Trail underneath I-35 at Ramon Lucio Park.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1.6</td>
<td>Evaluate and prioritize the installation of additional trail amenities along the City's greenway and other trail systems.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY/CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1.7</td>
<td>Identify priority trail extensions to connect the citywide trail system to the riverfront park system.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>CAPITAL INVESTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1.8</td>
<td>Identify opportunities to establish a hierarchy of trail types throughout the parks and greenways system.</td>
<td></td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>STUDY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Maintenance and Operations Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ACTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</th>
<th>ACTION TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MO-1.1</td>
<td>Develop a parks system management plan and inventory of park assets.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO-1.2</td>
<td>Formalize memorandum's of understanding (MOUs) with all volunteer groups.</td>
<td></td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO-1.3</td>
<td>Evaluate best-practices in establishing and operating a park ranger program.</td>
<td></td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO-1.4</td>
<td>Provide necessary resources to adequately and annually train multiple targeted maintenance staff in irrigation maintenance best practices.</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>OPERATIONAL CHANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>ACTION ID</td>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>TIME FRAME</td>
<td>POTENTIAL COST RANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MO-2.1</td>
<td>Develop a policy of projecting needed increases in park maintenance staff and funding as part of new property acquisitions.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>1-3, 4-6, 7-8+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MO-2.2</td>
<td>As the City continues to grow over time, consider adding additional park maintenance facilities in areas that provide efficient proximity to different parks in the City.</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>1-3, 4-6, 7-8+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MO-3.1</td>
<td>Develop metrics regarding acreage to staffing levels.</td>
<td>INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE</td>
<td>1-3, 4-6, 7-8+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding and Financing Actions**

| FF-1.1 | Continue to evaluate opportunities to leverage City funding as part of larger projects. | TBD | STUDY |
| FF-1.2 | Pursue additional potential funding sources. | TBD | STUDY |
| FF-1.3 | Develop a framework to determine rationale for appropriate funding source. | TBD | OPERATIONAL CHANGE |
| FF-1.4 | Establish criteria in the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) which includes cost of long-term maintenance as part of decision making. | INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE | STUDY |
| FF-1.5 | Conduct an evaluation to consider the establishment of fees for parking along the riverfront parks system. | INTERNAL STAFF INITIATIVE | STUDY/OPERATIONAL CHANGE |
| FF-1.6 | Explore additional ways to improve cost recovery in the riverfront parks. | TBD | STUDY |
| FF-1.7 | Consider establishing a volunteer contribution/donation box at each trailhead in the City's greenspace park system. | TBD | NON-CAPITAL INVESTMENTS |
| FF-1.8 | Reevaluate the City's contract with the Lion's Club regarding the allocation of fees. | TBD | STUDY |
Plan Update

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

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

- **Annual Progress Report and Update.** Preceding the beginning of the annual budget process, City staff should establish and present an annual progress report on the status of the actions acknowledged in the Prioritized Implementation Action Plan. In addition, they should work with elected and appointed officials to determine which recommendations should move up in prioritization.

- **Five-Year Update.** While not required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to continue qualification for grant funding, undertaking an official Plan update every five years helps the City to continue to be competitive in a very competitive grant process as TPWD sets a larger point value (through their grant funding assessment) on submittals that show that a plan update has been completed in the last five years. This can be prepared and adopted in a short report format and attached as a supplement to this Plan.

- **10-Year Update.** Again, while not required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to continue qualification for grant funding, TPWD does place a higher point value on creating a new plan every 10 years.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Statemann</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bstatemann@sanmarcostx.gov">bstatemann@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
<td>S.M. Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Eby</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keby@sanmarcostx.gov">keby@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
<td>CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Hernandez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ahernandez2@sanmarcostx.gov">ahernandez2@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
<td>COSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melani Howard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mhoward@sanmarcostx.gov">mhoward@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
<td>CS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Merritt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmerritt@sanmarcostx.gov">rmerritt@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
<td>PARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Morris</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmorris@sanmarcostx.gov">lmorris@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Mach</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmach@sanmarcostx.gov">jmach@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Calaway</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcalaway@sanmarcostx.gov">jcalaway@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
<td>SMMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Ramos</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jramos@sanmarcostx.gov">jramos@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Drew Wells</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwells@sanmarcostx.gov">dwells@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
<td>COSM Aud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristi Wyatt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kwyatt@sanmarcostx.gov">kwyatt@sanmarcostx.gov</a></td>
<td>COMM</td>
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<td>Name</td>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td>Organization</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Mock</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LBM1957@Austin.RR.com">LBM1957@Austin.RR.com</a></td>
<td>Parks Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Murray</td>
<td></td>
<td>Parks Ed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Cohen</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Case</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bart Statemann</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sherwood Bishop</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sherwood@sherwoodbishop.com">sherwood@sherwoodbishop.com</a></td>
<td>SHGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Wasserman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wasserich@grandecom.net">wasserich@grandecom.net</a></td>
<td>San Marcos River Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Sanborn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rachel@sanmarcosriver.org">rachel@sanmarcosriver.org</a></td>
<td>SMRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Murray</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulmurray333@gmail.com">paulmurray333@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Parks EP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Moody</td>
<td>jmooody@Austin+r.com</td>
<td>Steep Rock &amp; Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon O'Neil</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shcha@grandecom.net">shcha@grandecom.net</a></td>
<td>Sescom Creek Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Langan-Kamp</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leafspring88@gmail.com">leafspring88@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Greenbelt Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitch Hoffman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mlhoffm@austin.rr.com">mlhoffm@austin.rr.com</a></td>
<td>Avid Park User/Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>San Marcos Lions Club</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Please sign in below (PLEASE PRINT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Henize</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smith.rezy@grandecom.net">smith.rezy@grandecom.net</a></td>
<td>SMEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Barks</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joel.barks@gmail.com">joel.barks@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>SMEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Scott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:agscott@grandecom.net">agscott@grandecom.net</a></td>
<td>SMEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernie Anderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bernie.anderson@gmail.com">bernie.anderson@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>SMEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Burke</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kburke@san.marcos.tx.gov">kburke@san.marcos.tx.gov</a></td>
<td>COSM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Edco</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edco@michaeledco.com">edco@michaeledco.com</a></td>
<td>SMAYSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Sudquist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ssudquist68@gmail.com">ssudquist68@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Youth Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Hardin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chardin@sanmarcotsa.com">chardin@sanmarcotsa.com</a></td>
<td>COSM YR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris M. Mendezla</td>
<td></td>
<td>CNA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Hilbey</td>
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<td>Heritage</td>
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<td>Cianne Wasservich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wassenich@grandecom.net">wassenich@grandecom.net</a></td>
<td>SMRF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Sanborn</td>
<td>Rachel.G.Sanmarcotsriver.org</td>
<td>SMRF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lance Jones</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Murray</td>
<td></td>
<td>Back Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**HALFF** SAN MARCOS PROSMP UPDATE SAN MARCOS
All who live and/or work in San Marcos are invited to

PARTICIPATE IN A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

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

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

@ THE SAN MARCOS ACTIVITY CENTER, 501 E. HOPKINS

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

For more information please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 512-393-8400.
The City of San Marcos needs your help and input!

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

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

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

The survey will be open until November 13, 2017. However, as an incentive for your efforts, if you complete this survey by November 8, 2017 you will be able to enter into a drawing for the chance to win one of the following prizes (3 winners will be chosen):
- A one year individual membership to the San Marcos Activity Center
- Rio Vista Fun Prize Pack: Propane grill, grill utensils, waterproof phone pouch, & sunglasses
- Greenspace Hiking Prize Pack: Hydration backpack, hiking pole, & sunglasses

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

1. Are you male or female?
   - Male
   - Female

2. What is your approximate age?
   - 19 years old or younger
   - 20-34 years old
   - 35-44 years old
   - 45-54 years old
   - 55-64 years old
   - 65 years old or older

3. Are you a resident of the City of San Marcos?
   - Yes
   - No, but live in Hays County
   - No, but live in Caldwell County
   - No, but live in Comal County
   - No, but live in Guadalupe County
   - No, I do not live in the City of San Marcos or adjacent Counties

4. If you are a City resident, in which area of San Marcos do you live (based on Map A below)?
   - Area A
   - Area B
   - Area C
   - Area D
   - I do not live in the City limits of San Marcos
5. How long have you lived in San Marcos?

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

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

- No children
- Children under age 4
- Children ages 5-8
- Children ages 9-12
- Children ages 13-19
### Parks & Facilities

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>At Least Weekly</th>
<th>Few Times Per Month</th>
<th>Few Times Per Year</th>
<th>Very Rarely or Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended a San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department event such as Party in your Park, concerts in the park, fall or spring carnival, Veterans Day Parade, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in a youth athletic league</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in an adult athletic league</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in any class or program offered by the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in activities for seniors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used a private gym or fitness center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used a City facility for a meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited a City park or park facility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited a City park pavilion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited a City playground</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Rio Vista pool</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>At Least Weekly</td>
<td>Few Times Per Month</td>
<td>Few Times Per Year</td>
<td>Very Rarely or Never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
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<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited a school park in the evenings, on the weekends, or during the summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited or used the San Marcos Activity Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rode a bicycle for fitness or to get somewhere in the City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- [ ] No parks are located near us
- [ ] We use parks/facilities in nearby cities instead
- [ ] The parks and/or recreational facilities do not meet our needs or interests
- [ ] Lack of adequate security/do not feel safe
- [ ] We have no time or interest
- [ ] Other (please specify)
9. Check the box that best describes how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I'm satisfied with the overall quality of parks in my neighborhood.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better parks will help to improve our city image.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I feel that parks help strengthen our city economically.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I believe that the City needs a greater amount of park land or greenspace.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I believe that the City should more fully develop the park land and greenspace that it already owns.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I'm willing to pay additional City taxes to see the quality of existing parks and recreational amenities upgraded.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm willing to pay additional City taxes to see new parks and recreational amenities developed or expanded.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City should publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve city parks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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<td>-------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visited a school park in the evenings, on the weekends, or during the summer</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visited or used the San Marcos Activity Center</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rode a bicycle for fitness or to get somewhere in the City</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- [ ] No parks are located near us
- [ ] We use parks/facilities in nearby cities instead
- [ ] The parks and/or recreational facilities do not meet our needs or interests
- [ ] Lack of adequate security/do not feel safe
- [ ] We have no time or interest
- [ ] Other (please specify)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Not Important at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natatorium</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition Pool</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spray Park / Splash Pads</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade Trees</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Recreation Center</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young children (under age 5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, ages 5-8</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children, ages 9-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teens, ages 13-19</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults, ages 20-55</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors over the age of 55</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young children (under age 5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, ages 5-8</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, ages 9-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens, ages 13-19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults, ages 20-55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors over the age of 55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young children (under age 5)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, age 5-8</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, age 9-12</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens, age 13-19</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults, age 20-55</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors over the age of 55</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


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

- Yes
- No
17. If yes to question #16 above, in which one(s) do you participate? Check all that apply.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Not Important at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult-size baseball / softball fields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic fields for general public use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball courts – covered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball courts - uncovered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football fields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large, multi-use sports complex for tournaments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility/Activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More lighted practice fields for baseball/softball and soccer/football</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More practice fields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More tennis courts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More youth-size baseball / softball fields</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose recreation fields for field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball courts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racquetball or handball courts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer fields – covered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer fields – uncovered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball courts – sand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball courts – indoor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Facility/Activity

Most Needed

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Not Important at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to the San Marcus River for swimming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional restrooms in parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure type / natural playscapes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce and/or horseshoe courts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community gardens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog parks (off-leash areas)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal loop trails within parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More dog waste stations in parks and along trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More hike and bike trails throughout the city</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More pavilions for group activities / picnics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More picnic tables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More playgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More preserved greenspace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature viewing facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor fireplaces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special needs playground</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade structures over existing playgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Water activities (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding)

Other (please specify)

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

Facility/Activity

Most Needed

Other (please specify)
## Greenspaces & Resource Protection

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Not Important at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General open space conservation and protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive recreation (e.g., trails, bird watching, photography, urban camping)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection for flood conveyance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection for historical / cultural interest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of associated riparian areas (bank vegetation, wetlands, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Areas / river clarity and quality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of the San Marcos and Blanco Rivers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of the tributaries of the San Marcos and Blanco Rivers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustain the scenic quality and visual character of the City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply protection</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
23. When considering the types of facilities and activities which typically occur, or could occur, in the City’s greenspace areas, how important are the following to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility/Activity</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Not Important at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife habitat / scenic areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional nature trails for walking or hiking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional trails for mountain biking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better trailhead kiosks / wayfinding signage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better/more restrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More interpretative signage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More outdoor programming (e.g., education classes, staff led tours, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation tower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor challenge course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for equestrian visitors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban camping</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
24. In order to protect additional areas of greenspace in the City and extraterritorial jurisdiction, what types of action should the City be pursuing (check all that apply)?

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

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

![Scale from 0 to 10]

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

- [ ] Establishing a donation box (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)
- [ ] Establishing a nominal entrance fee for all visitors (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)
- [ ] Establishing a nominal entrance fee for non-City residents (using a trailhead kiosk lock box and honor system)
- [ ] I do not support an entrance fee to the City's greenspace system
27. The following questions are related to a trail system or linear parks used to connect destinations, as opposed to looping trails within a park. Please check the box that best describes how strongly you agree or disagree with the following trail-related statements.

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

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


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

Map B: San Marcos River Access Locations
29. During the last year, how often have you or your family visited the RIVERFRONT PARK SYSTEM to do the following activities or use the following facilities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>At Least Weekly</th>
<th>Few Times Per Month</th>
<th>Few Times Per Year</th>
<th>Very Rarely or Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletic fields within the riverfront parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing or kayaking in the river</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floated in the river (with own tube)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floated in the river (using the Lions Club tubes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic tables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playscape (in Children's Park)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pool (in Rio Vista Park)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swam or waded in the river</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis courts (in Rio Vista Park)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
30. Thinking ahead to the future of the City’s RIVERFRONT PARK SYSTEM, how important is it for the City to address the following parks, recreation, and trail issues in the near future?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Not important at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve existing parking areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add new parking areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the riverfront park system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add additional water access points to lessen impact of existing access points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better connect the riverfront parks to a citywide or regional trail system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve water access for swimming and wading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve water access for canoeing/kayaking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve water access for people with disabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the overall quality and appearance of the riverfront parks (improved maintenance)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade the existing facilities/amenities in the riverfront parks (e.g., playscapes/restrooms)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve existing athletic facilities (i.e., athletic fields and tennis courts at Rio Vista Park)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very Important</td>
<td>Important</td>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>Not Important</td>
<td>Not important at All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove and relocate existing athletic facilities (i.e., athletic fields and tennis courts at Rio Vista Park) to a more appropriate location outside the riverfront park system</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add additional public restrooms</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase shade opportunities</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add additional rentable covered pavilions</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add additional covered picnic shelters</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocate and improve existing pool</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control access</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve wayfinding signage</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add additional historical, cultural, and natural resource interpretative signage</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance areas for additional community events (e.g., add an amphitheater)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add additional programming and events for the community outside of peak season</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
31. When thinking ahead to the future of the City’s RIVERFRONT PARK SYSTEM, how important do you think the following considerations are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Not Important At All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Controlling access <strong>every day</strong> during peak season (i.e., adding gated access with attendants or kiosks during the summer season)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling access <strong>on weekends</strong> during peak season (i.e., adding gated access with attendants or kiosks during the summer season)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charging an entrance or parking fee per vehicle for non-residents</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charging an entrance fee per vehicle for all visitors</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing off-site public parking and shuttling visitors to the riverfront parks system</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting off-site private parking</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing an annual pass for all visitors</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing an annual pass at discounted rates for City residents</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Maintenance & Operations

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall parks and recreation</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenspace areas</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports fields (e.g., baseball, softball)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports courts (e.g., basketball, tennis)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pool (water amenities)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes and programs</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation / activity center</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverfront parks</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

A - 32 City of San Marcos, Texas | San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
33. Thank you for participating in the San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan public survey. If you complete this survey before November 8, 2017 you will be eligible to win one of the three following prizes.

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

To be eligible please provide your email address below.

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

☐ Yes
☐ No
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>I am a San Marcos (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)</th>
<th>I am a representative of the following organization(s), (IF APPLICABLE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason Julian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jason.julian@txstate.edu">jason.julian@txstate.edu</a></td>
<td>□ Resident</td>
<td>TXST, SMGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Sanborn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rachel@sanmarcosriver.org">rachel@sanmarcosriver.org</a></td>
<td>□ Business Owner</td>
<td>SMRF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Robert Eby           | s.reeby@gmail.com             | □ Resident                                     | TXST, SMGA  
<p>| Maggie Hutchins      | <a href="mailto:maggiebhw@gmail.com">maggiebhw@gmail.com</a>           | □ Resident                                     | Parks Bd &amp; Staff                                                   |
| Mark Rockeymoore     | <a href="mailto:rankyt@gmail.com">rankyt@gmail.com</a>              | □ Business Owner                               | SMUUF                                                               |
| Melanie Howard       |                               | X Resident                                     |                                                                     |
| Melissa Derrick      |                               | □ Resident                                     |                                                                     |
| Kevin Carsewell      | kevin@<a href="mailto:carsewell@gmail.com">carsewell@gmail.com</a>     | □ Resident                                     |                                                                     |
| Jason Mock           | <a href="mailto:jason@macomstexas.com">jason@macomstexas.com</a>         | □ Business Owner                               |                                                                     |
| John David Carson    | <a href="mailto:john@hcsonrecoeffices.net">john@hcsonrecoeffices.net</a>     | □ Resident                                     |                                                                     |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>I am a San Marcos (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)</th>
<th>I am a representative of the following organization(s). (If applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Powell</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Baker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jk.baker@hotmail.com">jk.baker@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Browning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbrowning@centuryp.Details">dbrowning@centuryp.Details</a></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Murray</td>
<td><a href="mailto:p.murray333@gmail.com">p.murray333@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessy Valentine</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jessy.Valentine37@gmail.com">Jessy.Valentine37@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Henrie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shenrie@gmail.com">shenrie@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Berkacz</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Gleason</td>
<td><a href="mailto:markgleason@gmail.com">markgleason@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherwood Bishop</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sbishop@sherwoodbishop.com">sbishop@sherwoodbishop.com</a></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Moore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmoore57@adl.com">rmoore57@adl.com</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ PROPERTY OWNER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

San Marcos Communications
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>I am a San Marcos</th>
<th>I am a representative of the following organization(s).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diane Thalen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dianemphale@comcast.net">dianemphale@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ SMGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick Mazzuca</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dcmazzuca@ymail.com">dcmazzuca@ymail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ SMG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Camille</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rosie.carrillo29@yahoo.com">rosie.carrillo29@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ SMRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Ramirez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephen@birdsinview.org">stephen@birdsinview.org</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ SMU, U, F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Johnston</td>
<td><a href="mailto:salutethealegent5@gmail.com">salutethealegent5@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ PAR B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camille Phillips</td>
<td><a href="mailto:camillephillips2@gmail.com">camillephillips2@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ PAR B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosana Daumas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdaumas1212@yahoo.com">rdaumas1212@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ PAR B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgett Phillips</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bpkp12@sbxglobal.net">bpkp12@sbxglobal.net</a></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ PAR B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Rosch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ida.race@gmail.com">ida.race@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ RESIDENT</td>
<td>☐ PAR B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida Miller</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ BUSINESS OWNER</td>
<td>☐ PAR B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>E-MAIL</td>
<td>I am a San Marcos (Please select all that apply)</td>
<td>I am a representative of the following organization(s). (If applicable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Baker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbakerglobal@hotmail.com">dbakerglobal@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Barke</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joelbarks@gmail.com">joelbarks@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Mock</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LBM1957@me.com">LBM1957@me.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance Jones</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lancej1d@hotmail.com">lancej1d@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Langenke</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leafspring88@gmail.com">leafspring88@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Mullin</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Armbruster</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bernardandsamantha@gmail.com">bernardandsamantha@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Mikhailin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edmikhailin@yahoo.com">edmikhailin@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Kester</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeffreyhkaster@gmail.com">jeffreyhkaster@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Olson</td>
<td>advocate <a href="mailto:Olson@yahoo.com">Olson@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident</td>
<td>☐ Property Owner</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>E-MAIL</td>
<td>I am a San Marcos (please select all that apply)</td>
<td>I am a representative of the following organization(s) (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake &amp; Amanda Thielman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.thielman@gmail.com">amanda.thielman@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>☐ Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Property Owner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAN MARCOS COURTYARD NETWORK**
Potential Non-City-Generated Funding Sources
FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Corporation for National & Community Service ........................................ B-6
Americorps ........................................................................................................... B-6

Department of Agriculture — Food Nutrition Service .................................. B-6
Child And Adult Care Food Program ............................................................... B-6
Farm To School Grant .......................................................................................... B-6

Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture ...
Community Food Projects (CFP) Competitive Grants Program ................ B-7

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Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) ............................................................... B-8
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Conservation Stewardship Program ................................................................. B-9
Conservation Technical Assistance ................................................................ B-10
Emergency Watershed Protection Program ....................................................... B-10
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- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG)
- Discretionary Grants

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Community Development Programs
- Hope VI Revitalization Grants

Department of the Interior — Fish and Wildlife Service
- Aquatic Resource Education Program
- Boating Access Program
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program
- Clean Vessel Act Grant Program
- Coastal Impact Assistance Program
- Hunter Education Program
- Landowner Incentive Program (Non-Tribal Portion) - Overview
- Multistate Conservation Grant Program - Overview
- National Coastal Wetlands Grant Program
- Sport Fish Restoration Program
- State Wildlife Grant Program
- Wildlife Restoration Program

Department of the Interior — National Park Service
- Challenge Cost Share Program
- Federal Lands To Parks
- Land And Water Conservation Fund

Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Formula And Block Grants
- Discretionary Grants

Department of Labor

Department of Transportation
- Tiger Discretionary Grants

Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration
- Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration Grant
- Congestion Mitigation And Air Quality Improvement Program
- Recreational Trails Program
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Corporation for National & Community Service

AMERICORPS

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

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a Notification of Intent to apply for this competition, but it is not required. Notifications of Intent to Apply should be filed by Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

- Amount: Vary, may be awarded as fixed amount or cost reimbursement
- Timeframe: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Department of Agriculture — Food Nutrition Service

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT

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

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

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

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

Timeframe: December 8, 2017

Contact: farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov
COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS (CFP) COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

Timeframe: December 4, 2017

Contact:
Paul Cotton, Ph.D., RDN
Division Director
paul.cotton@nifa.usda.gov
2324 Waterfront Centre
P: 202-401-6010
F: 202-401-0776
Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

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

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

Website: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1242633


Contact:

Texas Office:
TEXAS STATE OFFICE
101 S MAIN ST
TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602
(254) 742-9800
(254) 742-9819 Fax
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/
Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
(254) 742-9881
Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov
Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager
(254) 742-9525
Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

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

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

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

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


Amount: Total program funding averages $20 million per year. Max award set annually.
Timeframe:
Contact:
National & Texas Office:
Program Contact:
nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov
Melleny Cotton, CIG Program Analyst (202) 720-7412
Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov

**AIR QUALITY INITIATIVE**

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

- **Timeframe:** NRCS accepts applications for assistance on continuous basis, but states may establish application periods.
- **Website:** https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/air/
- **Contact:**

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

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

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

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

- **Website:** http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/
- **Award:** varies based on implementation of conservation practices
- **Timeframe:** Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities.
CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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

For more information about the Conservation Technical Assistance program go to: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/cta/

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

Contact:
Texas Office:
TEXAS STATE OFFICE
101 S MAIN ST
TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602
(254) 742-9800
(254) 742-9819 Fax
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/


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.
Award: state-administered. Texas received over $21 million in FY2016 to restore conditions from heavy rains and flooding in 2015.
Timeframe:
In Texas: Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager, claude.ross@tx.usda.gov, 254-742-9822

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS (WFPO) PROGRAM

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

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

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

Website: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/
State website: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/
Contact: Kevin Farmer, 202-720-3413, kevin.farmer@wdc.usda.gov
Department of Agriculture — Rural Development

COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANTS

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

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

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

100% matching is required.

Website: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx
Amount: Minimum grant award is $50,000; maximum grant award is $250,000

Timeframe:

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

Department of Agriculture — US Forest Service

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

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

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

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

The Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan developed by and for the urban forestry community. The plan's purpose is to expand awareness of the benefits that our urban forests, including green infrastructure, provide to communities throughout the nation, and increase investments in these urban forest resources for the benefit of current and future generations. The plan provides specific goals, actions, and recommendations for improving the status of urban and community forestry for the United States and its territories. The plan also identifies research needs, messaging and communications needs, and innovative funding and collaborative opportunities for urban forestry initiatives. Notably, this plan also serves as a framework for funding and recommendation priorities developed by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) for the U.S. Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry program and National Challenge Cost Share Grants. The urban forestry community, including the Forest Service and other applicable Federal agencies, are to use the Action Plan as a guide to implement and expand urban and community forestry for the next ten years.

Website: http://urbanforestplan.org/
Contact: Nancy Stremple, Urban Forestry Program Specialist, Phone 202-309-9873, nstremple@fs.fed.us

Department of Commerce – National Telecommunications and Information Administration

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

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

Website: https://www.ntia.doc.gov/home
BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (AKA: BROADBANDUSA)

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

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

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

STATE BROADBAND INITIATIVE (SBI)

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

Website: http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/SBDD
Through its Planning and Local Technical Assistance programs, EDA assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. The Planning program helps support organizations, including District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible recipients, with Short Term and State Planning investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation’s most economically distressed regions. As part of this program, EDA supports Partnership Planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of recipients’ respective regions. The Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of local or State organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible recipients to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies and impact analyses.

Website: https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/
Award: up to $300,000,000
Timeframe: Continuing basis
Contact:
  EDA Headquarters
  U.S. Department of Commerce
  1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
  Suite 71014
  Washington, DC 20230
  Main Line: 202-482-2000
  Texas Office:
  Austin Regional Office
  903 San Jacinto
  Suite 206
  Austin, Texas 78701
  Regional Director: Jorge Ayala
  P: 512-381-8150
  F: 512-499-0478
  jayala@eda.gov
PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Website: https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/
Award: up to $300,000
Timeframe: Continuing basis
Contact:
   EDA Headquarters
   U.S. Department of Commerce
   1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
   Suite 71014
   Washington, DC 20230
   Main Line: 202-482-2000
   Texas Office:
   Austin Regional Office
   903 San Jacinto
   Suite 206
   Austin, Texas 78701
   Regional Director: Jorge Ayala
   P: 512-381-8150
   F: 512-499-0478
   jayala@eda.gov

Department of Education
Active Grant Opportunities: http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html
Upcoming Funding Opportunities: http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

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

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

Website: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/index.html
Contact: Danita Woodley, 21stCCLC@ed.gov, (202) 260-8735
Texas: Christine McCormick
512-463-2334
Christine.McCormick@tea.texas.gov
Department of Health and Human Services — Administration for Children and Families

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

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

NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

Initiatives of the CCDF include:

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

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

Contact:
CCDF Grantee State and Territory Contacts
Texas Workforce Policy and Program Assistance
Workforce Development Division
Texas Workforce Commission
Room 440-T
101 East 15th Street
Austin, TX 78778
General Phone: 512-463-6022
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

HEAD START PROGRAM

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

Head Start grants are awarded directly to public or private non-profit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies within a community that wish to compete for funds. The same categories of organizations are eligible to apply for Early Head Start, except that applicants need not be from the community they will be serving. Funding opportunities: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/funding
Website: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/funding

Contact:
Texas Head Start Collaboration Office
Alferma Giles, Director
Phone: 713-500-3835
Fax: 713-500-3820
Email: alferma.crawford@uth.tmc.edu
Tracy Jones, Program Coordinator
Phone: 713-500-3832
Fax: 713-500-3820
Email: tracy.a.jones@uth.tmc.edu

Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office The Children’s Learning Institute
University of Texas Houston
7000 Fannin, Suite 1920
Houston, TX 77030
Website: 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
General Phone: 512-463-6022
http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/ccinfo.html

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Phone: (214) 767-3849
Fax: (214) 767-8890
E-mail: gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
The Office of Community Services (OCS) partners with states, communities and agencies to reduce the causes of poverty, increase opportunity and economic security of individuals and families and revitalize communities. The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.
Website: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/csbg
Administered in Texas by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: www.tdhca.state.tx.us
Contact:
Gavin Reid
Manager, Planning and Contracts
Community Affairs Division
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
221 East 11th, Post Office Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Phone: (512) 936-7828
Fax: (512) 475-3935
Email: gavin.reid@tdhca.state.tx.us
Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us
Rita D. Gonzales-Garza, M.P.A
CSBG Program Administrator
Community Affairs Division
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
221 East 11th, Post Office Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Phone: (512) 475-3905
Fax: (512) 475-3935
Email: rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx
Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us
Federal Staff by Region
Region VI
Program Specialist: Isaac Davis
(202) 401-5335
Isaac.Davis@acf.hhs.gov

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Community Economic Development (CED) is a federal grant program funding Community Development Corporations that address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of sustainable business development and employment opportunities.
CED awards funds to private, non-profit organizations that are community development corporations (CDCs), including faith-based organizations, and Tribal and Alaskan Native organizations. CDCs must be governed by a three-party board of directors that includes residents of the community served, and local business and civic leaders. CDCs must have as their principle purpose planning, developing or managing low-income housing or community development projects.
CED programs also provide technical and financial assistance for economic development activities.
Website: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ced
Contact:
Community Economic Development Program
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS

Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) enables each state or territory to meet the needs of its residents through locally relevant social services. SSBGs support programs that allow communities to achieve or maintain economic self-sufficiency to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency on social services. Each state administers the program locally, determining which services to provide and who is eligible to receive these services.

Website: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg

Contact:

Texas
Charles Smith
Executive Commissioner
Texas Health & Human Services Commission
4900 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78751
P: (512) 424-6502
F: (512) 424-6587
Charles.Smith@hhsc.state.tx.us

Racheal Kane
HHS System Federal Funds Manager
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4900 North Lamar Boulevard
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P: 512-424-6663
F: 512-424-6669
Email: Racheal.Kane@hhsc.state.tx.us, HHSCFederalFunds@hhsc.state.tx.us

Department of Health and Human Services — Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Community Health

PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH (PICH)

PICH is a 3-year initiative that supports implementation of evidence-based strategies to improve the health of communities and reduce the prevalence of chronic disease. PICH builds on a body of knowledge developed through previously funded Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) programs and encourages collaborations with a multi-sectoral coalition to implement sustainable changes in communities where people live, learn, work, and play.

Website: http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/programs/partnershiptoimprovecommunityhealth/index.html
PREVENTATIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant provides all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 2 American Indian tribes, and 8 US territories with funding to address their unique public health needs in innovative and locally defined ways. This program gives grantees the flexibility to use funds to respond rapidly to emerging health issues and to fill funding gaps in programs that deal with leading causes of death and disability.

Website: http://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/
Amount:
Timeframe:
Contact:
Texas PHHS Block Grant Coordinator
Texas Department of State Health Services
P.O. Box 149347
Mail Code 1908
Austin, TX 78714-9347
Phone 512-458-7770
www.dshs.state.tx.us

Department of Health and Human Services — Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

SAMHSA makes grant funds available through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, and the Center for Mental Health Services. Funding opportunities are available in the form of non-competitive block grants and competitive block grants that support programs for substance use disorders and mental illness.

Website: http://www.samhsa.gov/grants

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (MHBG)

SAMHSA makes grant funds available through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, and the Center for Mental Health Services. Funding opportunities are available in the form of non-competitive block grants and competitive block grants that support programs for substance use disorders and mental illness.

The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) is one of two block grants available from the SAMHSA. The MHBG program provides funds and technical assistance to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 6 Pacific jurisdictions. Grantees use the funds to provide comprehensive, community-based mental health services to adults with serious mental illnesses and to children with serious emotional disturbances and to monitor progress in implementing a comprehensive, community-based mental health system.

The MHBG program targets:

- Adults with serious mental illnesses. Includes persons age 18 and older who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional condition—as defined by the Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders. Their condition substantially interferes with, or limits, one or more major life activities, such as: Basic daily living (for example, eating or dressing); Instrumental living (for example, taking prescribed medications or getting around the community); Participating in a family, school, or workplace.

- Children with serious emotional disturbances. Includes persons up to age 18 who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional issue (as defined by the DSM). This condition results in a functional impairment that substantially interferes with, or limits, a child's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities.

Website: http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/block-grants/mhbg
Timeline: FY2017 application period has closed
Contact: State contact that oversees SAMHSA grant administration in Texas:
Lauren Lacefield Lewis
Commissioner
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division
Texas Department of State Health Services
P.O. Box 149397
Mail Code 2053
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
Phone: 512-467-5516
Fax: 512-467-5465
E-mail: Lauren.Lacefieldlewis@dshs.state.tx.us
URL: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/sa/default.shtm
Express Mail Address
909 W. 45th Street
Austin, Texas 78751-2803

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

SAMHSA announces discretionary grant funding opportunities through Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs). These grant opportunities help implement specific programs of the SAMHSA. Each FOA contains all the information you need to apply for a grant.
Website: http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements-2017
Timeline: Varies
Amount: Varies
Contact:
General Grants Questions: SAMHSA's Division of Grants Management at 240-276-1400
Grant-specific Questions: Contact the person(s) listed under “Agency Contact” in the Request for Applications (RFA)
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 Presidential-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.


To identify funding opportunities through HUD, visit the following website: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail

Award: varies

Timeframe: varies

Contact:

- National Office:
  - Office of Strategic Planning and Management
  - Grants Management & Oversight Division
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - 451 7th Street, SW, Room 3156
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
AQUATIC RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Aquatic Resource Education Program helps people understand, enjoy and conserve the aquatic natural resources of the nation. States have the option of using up to 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment for aquatic resource education programs and outreach and communications projects. The Sport Fish Restoration Program, created in 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, restoration, aquatic education, and boating access. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders; duties on imported fishing tackle, pleasure boats and yachts; and a portion of the Federal fuel tax receipts from motorboats and small gasoline engines. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

Website: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/grantprograms/AquaticEd/AE.htm
Contact: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm
Southwest Regional Office
Kelly Oliver-Amy
505-248-7457
Kelly_oliver-amy@fws.gov
https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html

BOATING ACCESS PROGRAM

The Boating Access (BA) Program provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects that provide access to America's waterways by developing new access facilities or renovation and/or improvement of existing facilities.

Today more than 16.8 million boats use U.S. waterways. A large percentage of these are operated by anglers and recreational boaters.

The Boating Access Program is part of the Sport Fish Restoration Program. Spending for the BA is authorized in the Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act mandates each state, the District of Columbia and insular area to allocate at least 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment to boating access projects. The allocation is averaged over a five year period for each U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service region.

The funds apportioned annually are derived from excise taxes on fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels, import duties, and interest collected in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. These funds are apportioned to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas based on a formula which includes land area, number of paid license holders, minimums and maximums.

Website: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/BoatAccess/BA.htm
Contact: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm
Southwest Regional Office
Buddy Fazio
505-248-7461
Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov
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
505-248-7461
Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov
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
505-248-7461
Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov
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.

Website: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CIAP/CIAP.htm
Contact: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm
Southwest Regional Office
Susan MacMullin
505-248-7476
Susan_MacMullin@fws.gov
https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Hunter Education Program provides grant funds to the states and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects to provide instruction in firearm operations and safety, wildlife management, nature conservation, ethics, game laws, outdoor survival and wilderness first aid. Funds may also be used for the development and operations of archery and shooting range facilities.

The goal is to teach students to be safe, responsible, conservation-minded hunters. Most States require completion of a hunter education course prior to purchasing a hunting license.

Website: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/HunterEd/HE.htm
Contact: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm
Southwest Regional Office
Andrew Ortiz
505-248-7459
Andrew_Ortiz@fws.gov
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. More info...

The LIP Program includes two funding tiers, Tier One (non-competitive) and Tier Two (nationally competitive). Under Tier One each state may receive funding for eligible projects up to $200,000 annually and the District of Columbia and insular areas up to $75,000 annually. If there is adequate funding in the appropriation, WSFR will rank Tier Two grants and award grants through a national competition. The competition will be announced separately.
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.

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.
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
505-248-7457
Kelly_oliver-amy@fws.gov
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
505-248-7452
Vanessa_Martinez@fws.gov
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.
Department of the Interior — National Park Service

CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Challenge Cost Share Program supports local projects that promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education, and engaging youth in the outdoors. Local project partners work with National Park Service (NPS) staff to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners. This partnership challenge rewards those proposals that highlight long lasting benefits while developing new partnerships.

The program requires equal matching share. Cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources can be considered as a cost share. The maximum Challenge Cost Share project support is $25,000. If selected our national partner, Outdoor Foundation, forms an agreement and provides project funds directly to the local partner. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners.

Website: https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/
Award: up to $25,000 (FY2017)
Timeframe: July 1, 2016 (FY2017)
Contact:
  NATIONAL OFFICE:
  National Coordinator
  Stephan Nofield
  Stephan_nofield@nps.gov
FEDERAL LANDS TO PARKS

The Federal Lands-to-Parks (FLP) enables states and local governments to establish park and recreation areas and adapt historic buildings for public uses. Through FLP, state and local agencies may acquire land and facilities once used for federal purposes at no cost to meet park and recreation needs.

Amount: N/A. Program based on existing inventory of federal lands and transferring it to state or local governments for park and recreation use.
Annual Timeframe: As land becomes available, 25 days from the “notice of availability”
Information about the program is available at: https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/index.htm
Contacts: https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/flp_contact.html

NATIONAL OFFICE:
Wendy Ormont
State and Local Programs Division
National Park Service
1201 I Street, NW
Mail Stop 2225
Washington, DC 20005
202-354-6915
Fax: 202-371-5179
Email: nps_flpnational@nps.gov
Southeast Region:
National Park Service
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-507-5689
Fax: 404-562-3282
Email: nps_flpsouth@nps.gov

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was enacted in 1964 (Public Law 88-578) to “create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities.” LWCF provides funding for: (1) land acquisition for federal land managing agencies; and (2) matching grants to state and local governments for planning (states only), acquisition and development of park and recreation areas and resource based facilities. Specifics for federal land acquisition projects are determined each fiscal year by Congress and the Administration. Of the amounts appropriated in any given fiscal year for each State and Territory is determined based on a formula set in the LWCF Act, and is subsequently approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The grantee assumes all operation and maintenance costs in perpetuity. In Texas, the LWCF allocation funds a number of grant programs available to local communities, including

Amount: In 2016, Texas was allocated a total of $5,415,887. All state and local grants require at least a 50 percent match by the non-federal partner.
Annual Timeframe: Varies depending on state grant program.
Information about the program is available at: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm
Contacts: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/contact-list.htm

National Office:
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Org-2225
Washington, D.C. 20240
202-354-6900
https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1600/index.htm
Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP supports states and communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs and to improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects public safety, holds justice-involved youth appropriately accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of juveniles and their families.

The purpose of the Delinquency Prevention Program (formerly Title V) is to prevent youth at risk of becoming delinquent from entering the juvenile justice system and to intervene with first-time and non-serious offenders to keep them from further contact with the juvenile justice system. The goal is to reduce the likelihood that youth will become serious and violent offenders as adults, reducing the burden of crime on society and saving taxpayers billions of dollars.

The program includes the:

- Youth Tribal Program
- Gang Prevention Program
- Community-Based Violence Prevention Program
- National Forum on Youth Violence Program

The OJJDP will offer funding opportunities to states, territories, localities, and private organizations, including faith-based institutions to implement the departments programs through formula and block grants and discretionary grants.

To search for upcoming funding opportunities visit: https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingList.asp
FORMULA AND BLOCK GRANTS

The Formula Grants Program supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. Through this program, OJJDP provides funds directly to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to help them implement comprehensive state juvenile justice plans based on detailed studies of needs in their jurisdictions. The Formula Grants Program is authorized under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.).

In FY 2016, OJJDP awarded $40 million in formula and block grants. The Juvenile Justice Specialists in each state administers the funding through sub-grants to units of local government, local private agencies, and American Indian/Alaska Native jurisdictions for programs in accordance with legislative requirements.

Website: https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/funding.html
Timeline: No funding opportunities listed at this time.
Contact: (State of Texas)
Juvenile Justice Specialist
Erica Ortega
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
512-463-8406
erica.ortega@gov.texas.gov

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

OJJDP awards discretionary grants to states, units of local government, and private organizations to administer the several programs the OJJDP has for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. During FY 2016, OJJDP awarded $242,905,063 in 268 discretionary grants.

Website: https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/funding.html
Timeline: No funding opportunities listed at this time.
Contact: https://www.ojjdp.gov/about/StaffList.asp
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531
202-307-5911

Department of Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor provides both discretionary and non-discretionary/formula-based grants that implement programs of its agencies and divisions. Awarding and administering grants are done by either the department or by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management

The divisions and agencies of the Department of Labor that offer grant programs include:

- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): provides project grants (cooperative agreements) and the dissemination of technical statistical data and related information on labor force activities; provides data on prices (CPI) and cost of living; data on productivity and technology data; data on compensation and working conditions; data on employment projections.

- Employment and Training (ETA): ETA administers financial assistance programs pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), administering State formula grant programs for youth, adults and dislocated workers, national emergency grants for workers affected by mass layoffs, plant closures, and disasters; grant programs for workers with disabilities, Indians and Native Americans, and for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. ETA also administers grant programs for older American workers, apprenticeship programs, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs, and assistance for research and development of workforce programs. In addition, ETA is responsible for the operation and maintenance of a national system of public employment service offices and for the national unemployment insurance program.
Potential Non-City-Generated Funding Sources

- **Mine Safety and Health (MSHA):** provides grants for research, education and training programs to ensure an adequate and competent staff of trained inspectors; and assistance for establishing or improving State mine health and safety programs through technical assistance.

- **Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA):** provides grants to non-profit organizations to provide training, educational services, and technical assistance; assistance to states to administer and enforce state programs; assistance to states to provide occupational safety and health technical assistance and consultant services.

- **Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP):** The Office of Disability Employment Policy awards competitive grants establishing short-term pilot and technical assistance projects designed to identify, develop, test, evaluate, and disseminate policies to increase employment by expanding access to training, education, employment supports, assistive and systems technology, integrated employment, entrepreneurial development, and small business opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities. Current pilot projects focus on customized employment, Olmstead populations, and innovative demonstration youth grants, among others. Solicitations for grant applications are published in the Federal Register and announced at www.dol.gov/odep. ODEP grants are awarded by the OASAM grant office.

- **Veterans’ Employment and Training (VETS):** administers programs that address the employment, training, and job security needs of Americans who have served in uniform. VETS awards the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) as a formula grant, to each state, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. VETS also awards competitive grants to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment with in the labor force and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. VETS grants are awarded by the Employment and Training Administration Office of Grants Management.

Website about grant and contract opportunities with DOL: https://www.grants.gov/

Contact: Awarding and administering grants are done by either the department or by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management

Regional Offices (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management): https://www.dol.gov/oasam/regional/about-regional.htm

### Department of Transportation

#### TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly $4.6 billion for seven rounds of TIGER to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area. The eligibility requirements of TIGER allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs.

Website: https://www.transportation.gov/tiger

Contact:

- Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
- Office of the Secretary of Transportation
- 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
- Washington, DC 20590
- TIGERgrants@dot.gov
- Phone: 202-366-0301
Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) was signed into law in December 2015, authorizing $305 billion over fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs. Funds are apportioned to states to administer programs or further allocate funds.

ACCELERATED INNOVATION DEPLOYMENT (AID) DEMONSTRATION GRANT

The AID Demonstration program is one initiative under the multi-faceted Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP) approach providing funding and other resources to offset the risk of trying an innovation. The AID Demonstration program provides funding as an incentive for eligible entities to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation. The FAST Act authorized funding for the continuation of these programs and opportunities. Entities eligible to apply (Applicants) are State DOTs, Federal Land Management Agencies, and tribal governments. Metropolitan planning organizations and local governments may apply through the State DOT as a sub recipient.

Website: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/grants

Amount: $50,000 to $1 million; Estimated Total Program Funding: $50 million
Timeframe: Sep 30, 2020; Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.
Contact:
Fawn Thompson
Program Coordinator
(404) 562-3917
Fawn.Thompson@dot.gov

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality improvement program (CMAQ) is to realign the focus of transportation planning toward a more inclusive, environmentally sensitive, and multi-modal approach. The CMAQ program provides funding for programs and projects in air quality non-attainment and maintenance for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and small particulate matter (PM-10), which reduces transportation related emissions. Grants are provided through a reimbursement process that varies state by state. Funds may be used for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or non-construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use. In general, however, a sponsor would submit expenses to the state department of transportation, which would then reimburse at 80 percent of the project cost. The CMAQ Program was reauthorized for 2016 through 2020 through the FAST Act.

Amount: FAST Act provides for $2.3 M to $2.5 M in CMAQ funding each year from 2016 through 2020. It is estimated the State of Texas will receive an average of $853 million in CMAQ funds annually.
Applications and information about CMAQ grants are available at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The Recreational Trails Program, was reauthorized by the FAST Act, provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users. Eligible project categories as defined in the act are: maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; construction of new recreational trails (with restrictions on new trails on Federal land); acquisition of easements or property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; state administrative costs related to program administration (up to 7 percent of a state’s funds); and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as these objectives relate to the use of recreational trails (up to 5 percent of a state’s funds). Each state has its own procedures and timelines to solicit, select, and fund Recreational Trails projects.
In Texas, the Recreational Trails program is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Amount: $200,000 Requires 80/20 match
Timeframe: Annual Deadline – February 1st
Program website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/
http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/nationalrecreationtrails
State website: https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants
Contact: For more information about project funding contact your State Trail Administrator. For a list of administrators go to: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/rtpstate.cfm

National Office:
FHWA
Christopher Douwes
Community Planner
Recreational Trails Program
Transportation Alternatives
Federal Highway Administration
FHWA HEPH-10 Rm E74-474
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC 20590-0001
Phone: 202-366-5013
Texas Office:
Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept
4200 Smith School Road
Austin TX 78744-3291
512-389-8743; Fax 512-389-8242
trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Program was created by Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act (SAFETEA-LU). The SRTS Program was funded at $1.162 billion for Federal fiscal years (FY) 2005-2012 and is administered by State Departments of Transportation (DOTs).

The SRTS Program received dedicated funding through 2012. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) authorized the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which replaced the funding from pre-MAP-21 programs including the Transportation Enhancement Activities, Recreational Trails Program, and Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). MAP-21 did not provide specific funding for SRTS, but SRTS projects are eligible for TAP funds and for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. Under Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the TAP program was rolled into the Surface Transportation Program.

Safe Routes to School initiatives may be eligible under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program or Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.
Website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe_routes_to_school/
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The FAST Act converted the Surface Transportation Program to a block grant program that folds in the Transportation Alternative Program. The program provides funding to states and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals.

Amount: The FAST Act provides for an estimated average of $4.796 million allocated to Texas for the STBG Program funding each year from 2016 through 2020

Timeframe:
Website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/stbgfs.cfm
Contact: https://www.transportation.gov/fastact/
   National Office:
   Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
   Office of the Secretary of Transportation
   1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
   Washington, DC 20590
   United States
   Phone: 202-366-4540
   Texas Office:
   Administered by TXDOT
   Online form:
   http://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES, STBG SET-ASIDE

The FAST Act amended the Surface Transportation Program to include a set aside for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which is replacing the MAP-21 Transportation Alternative Program. Similar to its predecessors, the Transportation Alternative Program and Transportation Enhancement Activities, the STBG Program, or TA Set-Aside, authorizes funding for The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to storm water and habitat connectivity; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways.

Amount: In Texas, The FAST Act provides for an estimated average of $386 million set-aside from the STBG Program funding each year from 2016 through 2020

Timeframe:
Website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalternativesfs.cfm
Contact: https://www.transportation.gov/fastact/
   https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/infragrants
   National Office:
   Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
   Office of the Secretary of Transportation
   1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
   Washington, DC 20590
   United States
   Phone: 202-366-4540
   Texas Office:
   Administered by TXDOT
   Online form:
   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.

Amount: In 2016, Texas received approximately $3.8 million in state grant funding
Timeframe:
Information about the program is available at: http://www.uscgboating.org/grants/index.php
Contact: http://www.uscgboating.org/php-contact-form/contactC.php
Commandant (CG-BSX-2)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2703 Martin Luther King, JR Ave SE
Stop 7501
Washington, DC 20593-7501
Phone: 202.372.1062

Environmental Protection Agency

Every year, EPA awards over $4 billion in funding for grants and other assistance agreements. From small non-profit organizations to large state governments, EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals. With countless success stories over the years, EPA grants remain a chief tool in the advancement of human health and the environment.

https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs

AIR GRANTS & FUNDING

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) announces competitive funding announcements for projects and programs relating to air quality, transportation, climate change, indoor air and other related topics.

Website: https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding
Contact:
National Office:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:
(202) 564-5315
Region 6 Office:
Environmental Protection
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: (214) 665-2200
Toll free within Region 6:
(800) 887-6063
BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS

Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under Brownfields Assessment Grants, EPA is seeking proposals for Assessment Grants only, to provide funds to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning (including cleanup planning) and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

Website: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=brownfields
Award: varies $200,000 to $600,000, cost sharing not required, but encouraged
Contact:

National Office:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:
(202) 564-5315
Region 6 Office:
Environmental Protection
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: (214) 665-2200
Toll free within Region 6:
(800) 887-6063

BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANTS

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under the Brownfields Cleanup Grants, EPA is seeking proposals for Cleanup Grants only to provide funds to carry out cleanup activities at a specific brownfield site owned by the applicant.

Website: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=brownfields
Award: varies $200,000; 20% cost share required.
Contact:

National Office:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:
(202) 564-5315
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM

The EPA Environmental grant program supports environmental education projects that enhance the public’s awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed and responsible decisions that affect environmental quality. The program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Each year, EPA’s Office of Environmental Education releases a solicitation notice in the Federal Register that provides instructions for obtaining a grant. Educational agencies at the state, local and tribal level, state environmental agencies, college and universities, not-for-profit organizations, and noncommercial educational broadcasting entities are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Although government agencies cannot apply directly, they are encouraged to work with other entities on developing and implementing environmental education programs.

Website: https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants

Contact:

National Office:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:
(202) 564-5315
Region 6 Office:
Bonnie King
king.bonita@epa.gov
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: (214) 665-2200
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS
With these grants, the EPA aims to provide financial assistance to grassroots community—based groups to support projects to design, demonstrate or disseminate practices, methods or techniques related to environmental justice. Specifically, EPA will grant funding assistance to be used for: environmental justice education and awareness programs; environmental Justice Programs (for example, river monitoring and pollution prevention programs); technical assistance in gathering and interpreting existing environmental justice data; and technical assistance to access available public information. Community-based grassroots organizations, other incorporated nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Tribal Governments are eligible. Applications are usually due at the beginning of March each year. Awardees are notified in August of each year.
Website: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources
Award: Variable
Contact:
National Office:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Grants and Interagency Agreements Program Phone:
(202) 564-5315
Region 6 Office:
Israel Anderson anderson.israel@epa.gov
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: 214-665-3138
STATE FUNDING SOURCES

**Texas Parks and Wildlife**

**BOAT SEWAGE PUMPOUT GRANTS**
Federal funds through the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 allow private marinas and local governments to receive grants to install boat sewage pumpout stations in Texas. Pumpout Grants can constitute up to 75% of all approved project costs. These grants provide funds for the construction and/or renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and portable toilet dump stations.

- Website: http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boat-sewage-pumpout
- Award: Competitive
- Timeframe: Continuous
- Contact:
  - Trey Cooksey, Program Manager
  - Phone (512) 389-8743
  - Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov

**BOATING ACCESS GRANT**
The Boating Access Grant Program provides 75% matching fund grant assistance to construct new, or renovate existing, public boat ramps that provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. The State Boating Access Program receives funding from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. Funds for the federal program are derived from the federal gasoline tax generated by sales of gasoline for recreational motorboats and a federal excise tax on the sales of fishing tackle and trolling motors. Fifteen percent of the state's annual apportionment from this federal program must be used to provide public recreational boating access.

- Website: http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boating-access
- Award: $500,000
- Timeframe: Annually - October 1st
- Contact: Trey Cooksey, Program Manager
  - Phone (512) 389-8743
  - Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov
COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP) GRANT

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant provides funding to local governments and non-profit organizations for programming that introduces under-served populations to environmental and conservation programs as well as TPWD mission oriented outdoor activities.

Grants are available to tax-exempt organizations and local governments introducing non-traditional constituents to TPWD related outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental education programs. The success of this program lies in the partnerships created between TPWD and grass-roots organizations who have already established a relationship with these identified targeted audiences; females, physically/mentally challenged, ethnic minorities, low income and youth.

CO-OP provides grants to tax-exempt organizations ranging from $5,000 to $50,000. This is a reimbursement grant program. Recipients must purchase eligible items and submit proper documentation before being reimbursed. Eligible organizations can apply to use these funds for programming expenses such as equipment, leasing transportation, staff, liability insurance, food, program materials, etc.

Website: http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants
Award: $50,000
Timeframe: Annually – February 1st
Contact:
Cappy Smith, Program Manager
Phone (512) 389-8254
Email: cappy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov

LOCAL PARKS GRANT

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions of the State of Texas legally responsible for providing public recreation services to their citizens. This includes cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts, and other special districts.

Website: http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/about-local-parks-grants
Award: varies
Timeframe: Annually – October 1st
Contact:
Dana Lagarde, Program Manager
Phone (512) 389-8175
Email: dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov

RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of $200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and currently there is not a maximum amount for motorized trail grants (call 512-538-4427 for motorized trail grant funding availability). Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.
Website: http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants
Award: $200,000
Timeframe: Annually – February 1st
Contact:
Trey Cooksey, Program Manager
Phone (512) 389-8743
Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov

OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS
Types:
- Urban: 500,000 or more people
- Non-urban: 500,000 or less people
- Small community: 20,000 or less people
  * based on 2010 census

How many funding cycles each year?
- 1

Maximum award amount?
- Urban: $1,000,000
- Non-urban: $500,000
- Small community: $75,000

Application deadline?
- Oct 1st
- March - approval by board
- April - site visits by TPWD

Deadline for project completion?
- 2.5 - 3 years from contract date with a 1-year possible extension

Contact:
Dana Lagarde, Program Manager
Phone (512) 389-8175
Email: dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov

INDOOR RECREATION GRANTS
How many funding cycles each year?
- 1

Maximum award amount?
- Urban: $1,000,000
- Non-urban: $750,000

Application deadline?
- Oct 1st

Deadline for project completion?
- 2.5 - 3 years from contract date with a 1-year possible extension
Texas Department of Transportation

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The purpose of the Federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is to address these issues head on. At its heart, the SRTS Program empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity once again. The Program makes funding available for a wide variety of programs and projects, from building safer street crossings to establishing programs that encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to school.

Since 2012, the Safe Routes to School Program funding has been combined with other bicycle and pedestrian programs through (what is currently called) the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.


Contact:
Teri Kaplan, Texas Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11 Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483
Phone Number: 512-374-5235
Fax Number: 512-374-5244
Email: Teri.Kaplan@txdot.gov

Texas Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Division

SPECIAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The Texas Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Division administers 12 federal child and special nutrition programs for the State of Texas. TDA supports providers of nutrition assistance by helping ensure accountability and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars to nourish Texans in need. These nutrition programs exemplify “eating right” for Texans of every age and background and help them build a bridge to success. Everyone plays a role in teaching children the 3E’s of Healthy Living - Education, Exercise and Eating Right.

Financial grants from organizations may help advance nutrition efforts in our schools and communities. On this page you will find descriptions of specific grants with upcoming deadlines, as well as a list of organizations that make grants on an ongoing basis to support local nutrition, fitness, health, education, and community initiatives.

Program Website: http://www.squaremeals.org/Programs.aspx
Grant opportunities: http://www.squaremeals.org/FandNResources/FundingGrants.aspx

Contact:
Texas Department of Agriculture
Mail: P.O. Box 12847
Austin, Texas 78711-2847
Physical: 1700 North Congress Avenue, 10th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (877) TEX MEAL (839-6325)
Fax #: (888) 203-6593
Email: squaremeals@texasagriculture.gov
Texas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

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

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

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

Amount: Total program funding averages $20 million per year.
Contact:
National Office:
Program Contact:
nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov
(202) 720-1895
Melleny Cotton, CIG Program Analyst (202) 720-7412
Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov
Texas Office:
TEXAS STATE OFFICE
101 S MAIN ST
TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602
(254) 742-9800
(254) 742-9819 Fax
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/
Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
(254) 742-9881
Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov
Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager
(254) 742-9525
Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov
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.


Awards: varies based on implementation of conservation practices

Timeframe: Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities. The next application deadline for funding consideration is February 3, 2017.

Contact:
Texas Office:
TEXAS STATE OFFICE
101 S MAIN ST
TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602
(254) 742-9800
(254) 742-9819 Fax
Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
(254) 742-9881
Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov
Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager
(254) 742-9525
Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov


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.

Award: state-administered. Texas received over $21 million in FY2016 to restore conditions from heavy rains and flooding in 2015.
Timeframe:
Contact: National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager, 202-690-0793
In Texas: Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager, claude.ross@tx.usda.gov, 254-742-9822

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

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

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

Contact:
Texas Office:
TEXAS STATE OFFICE
101 S MAIN ST
TEMPLE, TX 76501-7602
(254) 742-9800
(254) 742-9819 Fax
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/
Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
(254) 742-9881
Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov
Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager
(254) 742-9525
Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov
PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES

AEGON TRANSAMERICA FOUNDATION

Aegon Transamerica Foundation grant dollars go to non-profit organizations in the following categories:

- Arts & Culture: Programs that foster creativity in the areas of music and the performing arts, including venues for artistic expression.
- Civic & Community: Programs that strive to promote community development, encourage civic leadership, and enhance work and business opportunities.
- Education & Literacy: Programs with a mission to provide knowledge and to expand individuals’ capabilities, especially in the areas of financial literacy.
- Health & Welfare: Programs committed to improving the condition of the human body through nutrition, housing for the homeless, disease prevention and more.
- United Way: In addition to leading an annual campaign, employees’ contributions are matched by at least 50%.

Grant requests are considered if they relate to the Aegon Transamerica Foundation’s key focus areas and mission, and are designated for a community where there is a significant company and employee presence. In Texas, Transamerica is located in Plano, Texas.

Website: https://www.transamerica.com/individual/about-us/who-we-are/aegon-transamerica-foundation/
Award: varies
Timeframe: Applications for Foundation grants are reviewed upon receipt by local committee representatives. The timing of responses will vary by location.
Contact:
  Gregory Tucker, greg.tucker@transamerica.com
  Margaret Sherry, margaret.sherry@transamerica.com
  Plano, TX Office
  2700 West Plano Parkway
  Plano, TX 75075
  (972) 881-6000

AETNA FOUNDATION, GOLOCAL: CULTIVATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Aetna Foundation is dedicated to improving health in local communities and large populations alike. How do we make it happen? Through community-based programs, dynamic partnerships and proven models that can help people accelerate progress everywhere. Through its GoLocal: Cultivating Healthier Communities program, Aetna Foundation supports local non-profit groups that advance healthy eating and active living in their communities.

Website: https://www.aetna-foundation.org/grants-partnerships/grants.html
Timeframe: Information for the 2018 cycle is not available.

ALLEN FOUNDATION

Grants are limited under the terms of the foundation’s charter to projects that primarily benefit programs for human nutrition in the areas of health, education, training, and research. Preferences are given to proposals that train children and young adults to improve their health and development so they can form good nutritional habits at an early age. Proposals will need to contain a nutritional focus.

Website: https://www.allenfoundation.org/commoninfo/aboutus.asp
Award: varies
Timeframe: Rolling. Deadline is December 31st. Applications received after this date will be considered for the following year.
ALLSTATE FOUNDATION
The Allstate Foundation supports organizations dedicated to addressing two issues: Domestic Violence and Youth Empowerment. Applications for grants are by invitation only.
   Website: https://www.allstatefoundation.org/foundation_overview.html
   Contact: grants@allstate.com

BANK OF AMERICA FOUNDATION
Bank of America Foundation helps improve communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic health and sustainability. We address needs related to workforce development and education, community development, and basic needs.
   Amount: Varies
   Timeframe: The Foundation issues RFPs at various points throughout the year: Check funding opportunities on website
   Contact: Foundation@bankofamerica.com

BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION GRAND CHALLENGES
The Grand Challenges family of initiatives fosters innovation to solve key health and development problems. See below for Grand Challenges grant opportunities with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as sole or contributing funder. Grant opportunities have defined issues or activities to address.
   Website: http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/about
   Opportunities: http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenges
   Contact: grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF TEXAS HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY FAMILIES INITIATIVE
Healthy Kids, Healthy Families (HKHF) began in 2011 as a three-year initiative designed to improve the health and wellness of at least one million children through community investments. We extended the program, making HKHF part of our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the children and families across Texas. To date, we’ve helped nearly three million children.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas Healthy Kids, Healthy Families initiative invests and partners with nonprofit organizations that offer sustainable, measurable programs. The programs must address health and wellness in the following areas:

- Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Disease prevention and management
- Supporting safe environments

In addition to aligning with one or more of our four areas of focus, the following criteria are required for review of all grant proposals:

- The organization must hold a 501(c)(3) tax status
- The grant must primarily target individuals in Texas
- The program must be measurable and demonstrate how the goals will be met as defined in the grant proposal

Website: http://www.bcbstx.com/company-info/community-involvement/healthy-kids-healthy-families
Award: up to $250,000
Timeframe: FY 2019 updates begin early 2018
Contact: healthykidshealthyfamilies@hcsc.net
BNSF RAILWAY FOUNDATION

The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the communities they serve and in which their employees live, work, and volunteer. Generally, the foundation will consider grant requests that clearly fall within one or more of the following categories:

- Civic services including organizations which are concerned with the environment, as well as local community issues such as crime prevention, parks and recreation, diversity and community development.
- Cultural organizations that include performing, visual, and fine arts, museums and other related activities that offer opportunities for underserved children to experience cultural learning events, or preserve their cultural heritage.
- Educational institutions, both public and private, primarily at the college level. Grants of an exceptional nature may be made to vocational and non-college schools. Preferably, contributions will be directed toward the improvement of the quality of education. Ordinarily, grants will not be made to finance the expansion of a student body or the payment of scholarships. (BNSF’s scholarship programs, as well as the Employee Matching Gift Program, are governed by separate policies.)
- Health and Human Service organizations such as YMCA/YWCA, programs that address chemical dependency treatment and prevention, spouse and child abuse, women’s and children’s aid and transitional shelters. This category also includes hospitals and medical programs.
- Youth organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs, Camp Fire, Scouts, Junior Achievement and similar groups.
- Federated organizations such as United Way and American Red Cross.
- A federally recognized tribal government, listed in the Federal Register by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Website: http://www.bnsffoundation.org/

Timeframe: Applications accepted continuously

Contact:
Manager BNSF Railway Foundation
BNSF Railway Foundation
2500 Lou Menk Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830
BNSFFoundation@bnsf.com

CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE FOUNDATION, QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT

The Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations that serve the disability community. Grants are awarded to organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases or birth conditions, including (but not limited to) stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Website: https://www.christopherreeve.org/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/program-overview

Award: Up to $25,000

Timeframe: There are two application cycles each year. In 2016, the first cycle opened January 11 and closed February 16; the second cycle opened July 1 and closed August 15. Applications will open again in January 2017.

Contact:
QoL@christopherreeve.org
1-800-539-7309
CVS CAREMARK COMMUNITY GRANT

These grants provide funds to aid health-focused nonprofit organizations in their mission. Organizations must be invited to participate in the grant process, and are required to provide services in at least one of the following areas:

- Access to health care for underserved populations
- Chronic disease management programs
- Tobacco cessation and prevention services

Application for a Community Grant is by invitation only. For information about other giving programs, please contact the Community Relations team.

Contact:
Jennifer Leigh
Jennifer.Leigh@cvshealth.com
401-770-2935

DAVID & LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation has worked with partners around the world to improve the lives of children, families, and communities, and to restore and protect the planet. Applicable programs funded by the Packard Foundation include:

- The Conservation and Science Program invests in action and ideas that conserve and restore ecosystems while enhancing human well-being.
- The Children, Families, and Communities Program strives to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Website: https://www.packard.org/what-we-fund/
Award: varies
Timeframe:
Contact: Online form: https://www.packard.org/contact-us/
343 Second Street
Los Altos, CA 94022 USA
+1 (650) 948-7658
ESPING FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT

The Esping Family Foundation exists to help people and institutions of Dallas, Texas, specifically Dallas County to help themselves and future generations. Under the terms of its charter, the Foundation can distribute grants only to qualified public entities or 501(c)(3) charities serving the people of Texas. Grants are made in four categories:

- Education
- Human Services
- Health
- Arts and Culture

Website: http://www.espingfamilyfoundation.org/grant-guidelines/

Award:

Timeframe: There are two grant cycles each year:

- Spring Grant Cycle: You begin the grant application process by completing a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) which is due on or before February 15 each Spring. You will be notified on or before March 1st if you have been selected to proceed to the second phase of the grant process. Grant requests are due April 1st.

- Fall Grant Cycle: You begin the grant application process by completing a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) which is due on or before July 15 each Summer. You will hear on or before September 1st if you have been selected to proceed to the second phase of the grant process. Grant requests are due October 1st.

Contact:
Esping Family Foundation
2828 Routh St., Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75201
Phone: 214.849.9808
Fax: 214.849.9807  Heather Esping
President
hesping@espingfamilyfoundation.org
Jenny Kirtland
Vice-President
jkirtland@espingfamilyfoundation.org
FINISH LINE YOUTH FOUNDATION

The Youth Foundation is a philanthropic outlet for Finish Line to make a difference in the lives of youth in the communities it serves. Through the years, the Youth Foundation has fine-tuned its mission and grown its philanthropic presence including its grant giving capacity.

To date, the Youth Foundation has awarded more than $14.5 million in funding to support youth and Special Olympics athletes across the country. The generosity of our customers who donate online and in-store is what enables Finish Line to continually make an impact in the communities where our employees live, work and play.

FL Youth Foundation offers grants in three categories:

- Programmatic Grant: Up to $5,000 to fund opportunities for kids to participate in community-based youth athletic programs and camps that emphasize active lifestyles, especially programs that serve disadvantaged and special needs kids.
- Legacy Grant: $10,000 to $75,000 to fund new facilities improvements and/or renovations to existing buildings, grounds, and property.
- Founder’s Grant: $5,000 to $25,000 to fund emergency needs that would somehow be keeping the organization from providing current services, such as natural disasters or other unforeseen fiscal circumstances.


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/](https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/)

Award: Up to $4,000

Timeframe: November 2, 2016

Contact: Online contact form: [https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/about/contact-us](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.

GO! GRANT

GO! Grants are $1,000 to $5,000 grants to elementary schools to spark and sustain physical activity programs that take place before, during or after the school day. The funds may be used for equipment, facilities, professional development for adults and programs that increase students’ physical activity to the recommended 60 minutes or more per day. Grants are available in all states and the District of Columbia.

PHIT America GO! Grants have been awarded to almost 300 schools getting children 5-12 years old physically active and healthier. GO! Grants help get children active for the first time or increase their physical activity & fitness level. Leading brands like Nike, Adidas, Brooks, ETS, Life Fitness, Wilson, Mizuno, the USTA and many more are investing in the GO! Grants programs.

GO! Grant programs are implemented by three-year partner, KIDS in the GAME, which excels in managing programs which get more kids off the couch and physically active. This program is the ideal way to fight the ‘Inactivity Pandemic’ which is creating health issues for our children.

Website: https://www.kidsinthegame.org/go-grant-school-activity-grants/
Amount: $1,000 to $5,000
Timeframe: 2016-2017 deadline has ended
Contact:
Address: 875 SE 3rd Street
Suite #240, Bend, OR 97702
Phone: 541-508-3966
Fax: 541-639-3645
info@kidsinthegame.org

HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION, COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

Grants up to $5,000 are available to IRS-registered 501c designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.

The primary goal is to provide grants and volunteer opportunities to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications, and/or weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools and other similar facilities.

Website: https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants
Amount: up to $5,000
Timeframe: Rolling deadline. Will receive decision 6 weeks after submission. Last day to submit applications in 2016 is December 31, 2016.
Contact: small_grants@homedepot.com

KERR FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Kerr Foundation, Inc. supports 501(c)3 organizations, programs and institutions that provide new or enhanced opportunities in the areas of education, health, cultural development and community service. Preference is given to Oklahoma organizations and institutions, although they recognize that such located outside the state and region can also have a beneficial impact on the economic, social and cultural growth and development of Oklahoma. Grant requests are limited to the following states: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas.

Website: http://www.thekerrfoundation.org/guidelines.php
Award: varies
Timeframe: Friday, January 13, 2017 - Grant Applications Due for consideration at the March 2017 trustee meeting
LOCKHEED MARTIN COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Lockheed Martin is committed to a program of philanthropy that supports the Corporation's strategic business goals and invests in the quality of life in the communities where Lockheed Martin employees work and live.

In general, philanthropic contributions to national initiatives and organizations are made from corporate headquarters and contributions to local programs are made by Lockheed Martin sites close to the program.

Website: http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/who-we-are/community/philanthropy.html

Amount: varies

Timeframe: Applications are accepted year-round. Evaluations are typically performed quarterly. Some grant applications may not be able to be considered until the next year’s budget cycle, particularly those received in the second half of the year.

Contact: Community Relations - community.relations@lmco.com

L.L. BEAN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE GIVING

The L.L. Bean Community Charitable Giving program focuses giving on national and local outdoor conservation and recreation organizations. L.L.Bean has given more than $14 million to local, state, regional and national conservation organizations in the last ten years. Grants are made only to qualified, federal tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organizations.

Grants are made in these four categories:

1. Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

Primary activities include the maintenance and protection of our natural resources; efforts to engage more young people in activities that are relevant to our product line, such as camping, hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, fly fishing, hunting, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing; and programs that have proximity to L.L.Bean Retail Stores.

Some of our recipients include the National Park Foundation, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, The Student Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, Trout Unlimited and National Wild Turkey Federation. For a more comprehensive list, click here.

2. Health and Human Services

L.L.Bean has donated over $6 million to health and human service organizations in the past ten years, primarily through the United Way in communities where we have a physical presence. These donations reflect our confidence in the United Way allocation process and our belief in supporting the physical and emotional well-being of our employees, their families and our neighbors. Because of our significant leadership gifts in this area, we are not accepting requests from health and human service organizations at this time.

3. Education (*only available in Maine)

L.L.Bean has contributed over $4 million to statewide initiatives in Maine such as Junior Achievement and Jobs for Maine’s Graduates, as well as local education partnerships. Our support is limited to the following Maine school systems: Freeport, Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Bangor. We do not fund education initiatives outside of Maine.
4. Culture and the Arts (*only available in Maine)

We support organizations that enrich the cultural development of our local Maine communities, including the Portland Museum of Art, Maine State Music Theatre and the American Folk Festival in Bangor. We only offer support to arts organizations in Freeport, Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Bangor, Maine.

   Website: http://www.llbean.com/customerService/aboutLLBean/charitable_giving.html
   Amount: varies
   Timeframe: Ongoing.
   Contact: donationrequest@llbean.com

**LOWE’S COMMUNITY PARTNERS GRANT**

Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation’s primary philanthropic focus centers on K–12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe’s Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with their core business.

Lowe’s Community Partners grant program helps build better communities by providing monetary assistance to nonprofit organizations and municipalities looking for support of high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrade, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements.

   Grant applications: https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/
   Amount: $2,000 to $100,000
   Timeframe: There are two grant application cycles a year:
   Spring Cycle: March 19, 2017 – May 11, 2017
   Fall Cycle: July 2, 2017 – August 24, 2017
   Contact:
   Community Relations
   704-758-2917
   Community@Lowes.com

**LOWE’S SMALL GRANTS**

The small grants program is an outlet for organizations seeking smaller-scale assistance for non-educational focused projects. These grants range from $100 to $2,000. Small grant project requests must also fit within the Giving Guidelines. These requests are received on a rolling basis, with no specific cycle dates.

   Website: https://newsroom.lowes.com/serving-communities/
   Grant applications: https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/
   Amount: $100 to $2,000, distributed as a Lowe’s gift card.
   Timeframe: Continuous
   Contact:
   Community Relations
   704-758-2917
   Community@Lowes.com

**LOWE’S TOOLBOX FOR EDUCATION GRANT**

Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation’s primary philanthropic focus centers on K–12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe’s Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with their core business.

The Lowe’s Toolbox for Education program is designed to help build better schools and communities by offering schools the opportunity to apply for a grant between $2,000 and $5,000. Playground projects are eligible under the grant program. Schools can use funding to build a new playground or refurbish old equipment. The Toolbox for Education program also allows for schools to pad the ground with wood chips or rubber matting to make
playgrounds safe. In addition, schools may use funding to enhance a playground with handicapped—accessible configurations and build pathways for wheelchair accessibility.

Website: 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
  - 704-758-2917
  - Community@Lowes.com
  - info@toolboxforeducation.com

MATTEL CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION

The Mattel Children’s Foundation focuses its strategic grant making on one major objective: Improving the lives of children in need. The Mattel Children’s Foundation has developed partnerships with exemplary nonprofit partners that demonstrate this ideal through both compassionate outreach to children and strong financial accountability.

The foundation is driven by the belief that play is essential for all children because it is fundamental to development and learning but millions of children lack access to play. Currently, the foundation is dedicated to supporting nonprofit organizations around the world that make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, and with an emphasis on programs that support or enhance the opportunity for children to play.

Not accepting unsolicited applications at this time.
Website: http://philanthropy.mattel.com/focus#time

METLIFE FOUNDATION

MetLife Foundation has committed $200 million over five years to help low-income individuals and families get access to safe and affordable financial products and services. MetLife Foundation works in both developing and developed economies to expand and improve financial services. We fund approaches that help low- and moderate-income people:

- improve basic cash flow management
- prepare for life’s inevitable challenges
- take advantage of opportunities
- achieve their short- and long-term goals

In addition, MetLife sponsors initiatives in other philanthropic areas, expanding beyond the financial health of communities to support for medical research, arts and cultural institutions, disaster relief, and civic initiatives.

Website: https://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-responsibility/metlife-foundation/index.html?WT.ac=GN_about_corporate-responsibility_metlife-foundation
Contact: metlifefoundation@metlife.com
CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION

The Mott Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that are working to strengthen our hometown of Flint and communities around world. The foundation seeks to fulfill its mission of supporting efforts that promote a just, equitable, and sustainable society through these four programs:

- Civil Society: efforts to increase civic engagement, encourage charitable giving and help communities make positive change.
- Education: efforts to expand learning opportunities and supports for children, particularly those from low- and moderate-income communities.
- Environment: programs around the world that protect communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend.
- Flint Area: efforts to help our hometown of Flint solve problems, create opportunities and build a vibrant future for the community and its residents.

Funding for unsolicited requests is very limited. Interested entities wanting to submit an idea for funding should first complete a letter of inquiry (LOI) form. Your LOI will help our program staff determine the relevance of proposed project and offer advice on whether to submit a full proposal.

Website: https://www.mott.org/
Contact: Office of Proposal Entry
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Mott Foundation Building
503 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 1200
Flint, MI 48502-1851
U.S.A.

MUSCLE MILK RECOVERY GRANT

The MUSCLE MILK® team awards grants to revitalize high school athletic departments around the country that demonstrate a financial need. The Muscle Milk Recovery Grant™ program helps athletic programs solve immediate needs like purchasing new uniforms, replacing broken equipment or restoring facilities in disrepair.

CytoSport, Inc. (“Sponsor”) believes strongly that sports and exercise are essential to the health, well-being and happiness of children and adults of all ages. As a result, we want to give back to our audience by providing grant money to worthy school or community programs that have a specific need for resources to improve athletic opportunities for kids and young adults. To facilitate this goal, we developed the Muscle Milk® Brand Recovery Grant Program (“Grant Program”), which will provide a series of grants to deserving programs at least four times a year, and maybe more. Each grant will represent a self-contained giveaway with an entry period as defined below.

Website: http://www.musclemilkrecoverygrant.com/
Award: varies
Timeframe: Ongoing. In 2016, three grant periods, ending on (i) September 15, 2016; (ii) October 31, 2016; and (iii) December 31, 2016.
Contact: Mail: 1340 Treat Blvd. Suite 350, Walnut Creek, CA 94597 Phone: 1-888-298-6629

NATIONAL SWIMMING POOL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The National Swimming Pool Foundation® is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to encourage healthier living by increasing aquatic activity through education and research. The National Swimming Pool Foundation has established the NSPF Fellowship Program to encourage and support graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who focus research in two areas associated with aquatic venues that are treated to maintain a sanitary condition (e.g. swimming pools, spas/hot tubs, therapy pools, water parks, etc.):

- Research to reduce the risk to people associated with - but not limited to - physical facility design, exposure to chemical or pathogenic contaminants, air quality, drowning, or entrapment, etc.
**Research to investigate and document the positive health consequences of aquatic activities against maladies such as - but not limited to - high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer, aging, physical therapy, arthritis, etc.**

Website: https://www.nspf.org/NSPF-Scholarship-Program-and-Research-Fellowship-Grants  
Award: minimum of $1,000 and $2,000  
Timeframe: Scholarships are awarded for the fall semester of each year. In order to be considered for the fall 2017 semester, the complete application package must be received by the National Swimming Pool Foundation no later than June 1, 2017.  
Contact:  
NSPF Fellowship Program  
National Swimming Pool Foundation  
4775 Granby Circle  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-3131  
Service@nspf.org

**NATURE WORKS EVERYWHERE GRANT**

The Nature Works Everywhere program is administered by The Nature Conservancy, a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Nature Works Everywhere gives teachers, students and families everything they need to start exploring and understanding nature around the globe alongside Nature Conservancy scientists. The program offers a grant opportunity to schools across the U.S. to build, amend or revitalize school garden projects with the core principal that gardens model nature on a relatable scale. By combining project-based learning curriculum with a school garden space, students learn conservation-mindedness.

In 2016, the Nature Works Everywhere grant broadened its support for all kinds of projects that involve students in developing a nature-based, green infrastructure solution to an environmental challenge in their community. Whether addressing issues surrounding access to healthy food, air quality, heat island effect, climate change or storm water collection, youth will be empowered as social innovators to model solutions in their school communities through project design and implementation. To accomplish this, the Nature Works Everywhere grant will support projects that implement green infrastructure to address local environmental challenges.

Website: https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/home/  
Timeframe: Deadline for 2018 is November 3, 2017  
Contact: natureworks@tnc.org

**PEOPLE FOR BIKES COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. Please review the following information carefully before submitting a grant application. Proposals that are incomplete or do not fall within our funding priority areas will not be considered. Visit our Grants Awarded database for examples of funded projects.

PeopleForBikes accepts grant applications from non-profit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development, from city or county agencies or departments, and from state or federal agencies working locally. PeopleForBikes only funds projects in the United States. Requests must support a specific project or program; we do not grant funds for general operating costs.

PeopleForBikes focuses most grant funds on bicycle infrastructure projects and will also fund some advocacy projects.

Website: http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/community-grants  
Award: Up to $10,000  
Timeframe: PeopleForBikes generally holds 1-2 open grant cycles every year. The 2017 grant cycles have closed.  
Contact: Zoe Kircos, Director of Grants and Partnerships, at 303-449-4893 x106 or zoe@peopleforbikes.org
ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funds program and policy initiatives in four areas which are each critical to health equity—enabling everyone in our nation to live a healthier life:

- Health Systems: Catalyzing fundamental changes in health and health care systems to achieve measurably better outcomes for all.
- Healthy Kids, Healthy Weight: Enabling all children to attain their optimal physical, social and emotional well-being, including growing up at a healthy weight.
- Healthy Communities: Creating the conditions that allow communities and their residents to reach their greatest health potential.
- Health Leadership: Engaging a diverse array of leaders in all sectors with the vision, experience, and drive to help build a Culture of Health.

Specific grant programs are developed by RWJF program staff, in consultation with leading experts in our fields of interest, and with guidance and final approval from our board of trustees.

In many cases, a competitive call for proposals (CFP) is issued that defines the challenges to address, activities RWJF will support to achieve desired outcomes, and eligibility criteria. In addition, funding is also provided through open calls for ideas and different types of challenges and prize competitions.

- Website: http://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants.html
- Funding opportunities: http://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants/funding-opportunities.html
- Award: varies
- Timeframe: ongoing
- Contact:
  Office of Proposal Management
  mail@rwjf.org
  877-843-7953

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

Evidence for Action (E4A), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, funds research that expands the evidence base needed to build a Culture of Health. Our mission is to support rigorously designed quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research that yields convincing findings regarding the population health, well-being, and equity impacts of specific policies, programs and partnerships. We are especially interested in research examining the health impacts of programmatic or policy interventions that address factors outside the domain of health care services or public health practice.

- Website: https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants-and-grant-programs.html
- Program website: http://www.evidenceforaction.org/
- Award: varies. E4A was allocated $6.6 million in grant funding to award through July 2017.
- Timeframe: Rolling basis.

ROTARY, DISTRICT GRANTS

District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs of a community of a qualified Rotary district. Each district chooses which activities it will fund with these grants. You can use district grants to fund a variety of district and club projects and activities, including:

- Humanitarian projects, including service travel and disaster recovery efforts
- Scholarships for any level, length of time, location, or area of study
- Youth programs, including Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotaract, and Interact
- Vocational training teams, which are groups of professionals who travel abroad either to teach local professionals about their field or to learn more about it themselves

Website: https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/apply-grants/district-grants
SAUCONY RUN FOR GOOD FOUNDATION

The Saucony Run For Good Foundation donates funds to causes aimed at keeping kids healthy and offers grants to reduce the childhood obesity epidemic. Grants are open to community nonprofit organizations that initiate and support running programs for kids.

Website: http://www.saucony.com/en/runforgood/
Award: up to $10,000
Timeframe: Grants are issued twice per year, once in February and once in August. The deadline to apply for those grants are 12/15 and 6/15.
Contact:
191 Spring Street
Mail Drop 318S
Lexington, MA 02420-9191
runforgood@saucony.com

SHANE’S INSPIRATION

Shane’s Inspiration is a non-profit organization committed to the creation of inclusive, sensory rich, developmentally appropriate, fun, safe, and challenging playgrounds where children of all abilities can play together at their highest level of ability. Shane’s Inspiration offers assistance for the installation of inclusionary playgrounds.

Website: http://shanesinspiration.org/build/
Timeframe: ongoing
Contact:
15213 Burbank Boulevard,
Sherman Oaks, CA 91411 USA
Tel – (818) 988-5676
Fax – (818) 988-5677
Email – info@shanesinspiration.org

VOYA UNSUNG HEROES

Each year, 100 educators are selected to receive $2,000 to help fund their innovative class projects. Three of those are chosen to receive the top awards of an additional $5,000, $10,000 and $25,000. The program is administered by Scholarship America, the nation’s largest designer and manager of scholarship, tuition assistance and other education support programs for corporations, foundations, associations and individuals.

Applicants to the Voya Unsung Heroes Awards Program must be:

- Employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the United States.
- Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff with effective and innovative projects that improve student learning.

Website: https://www.scholarsapply.org/unsungheroes/
Award: $2,000 and opportunity to receive “top awards” of an additional $5,000, $10,000 and $25,000
Timeframe: application must be submitted on or before April 30, 2018.
Contact: unsungheroes@scholarshipamerica.org, 1-507-931-1682

WALMART COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Through the Community Grant Program, store associates are proud to support the needs of their communities by providing grants to local organizations. Funds must benefit the facility’s service area: potential grantees should be nonprofit organizations with programs that benefit communities within the service area of the Walmart store, Sam’s Club or Logistics facility from which they are requesting funds.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have identified four core areas of giving: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Women’s Economic Empowerment and Opportunity. To ensure that your application has the best chance of being funded, the proposed use of the grant should fit within one of these areas of giving.
Website: http://giving.walmart.com/walmart-foundation/community-grant-program
Award: $250 to $2,500
Timeframe: Annually – Grant cycle begins February 1st and deadline December 31st

WALMART STATE GIVING PROGRAM

The State Giving Program invests in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. The Walmart Foundation has a State Advisory Council in each state, made up of Walmart associates representing local communities. Each Council helps identify local needs within its state, reviews all eligible grant applications and makes funding recommendations to the Walmart Foundation. Councils base recommendations on alignment with Foundation focus areas, state or community needs and program eligibility criteria. Website: http://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.
RESOURCES

GRANTS.GOV
The Grants.gov program management office was established in 2002 and is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Grants.gov is an E-Government initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget.

Grants.gov is a resource for those seeking grants through federal funding opportunities. The site makes it simple to find grants based on Keyword searches, Categories, Agencies, or Eligibilities.

Website: www.grants.gov

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA)
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) provides a full listing of all Federal programs available to State and local governments (including the District of Columbia); federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; Territories (and possessions) of the United States; domestic public, quasi-public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals.

Website: https://www.cfda.gov/?s=program&mode=list&tab=list
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## San Marcos Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan Cost Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<th>UNIT PRICE</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
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## San Marcos Riverfront Parks Schematic Plan Cost Estimate (cont.)

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<td>Stormwater Detention (includes site prep/cut &amp; fill)</td>
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### Assumptions/Disclaimers

1) All Opinion of Probable Construction Costs (OPCC) represent the Consultant’s best judgment as professionals familiar with the construction industry and current available unit pricing. Consultant do not guarantee that proposals, bids or actual Project Construction Costs will not vary from this opinion. Quantities are estimates only and the actual amount of work and/or materials are contingent upon final existing conditions, survey, and construction design of these improvements. This OPCC does not include subsurface utilities.

2) Unit pricing is based on average cost statewide and does not account for any site specific determinates that would effect costs of construction (i.e., unknown subsurface conditions, structural foundations/footing per local soil conditions, etc.).

3) 20% Construction Contingency Includes (but is not limited to): general conditions, mobilization, demolition, erosion/sedimentation control, site retaining walls and unclassified earthwork.

4) Environmental and Regulatory Review, Permitting and Fees are not included in this OPCC.

5) Horizontal utility adjustments/relocations/extensions/services for storm sewer, domestic water, sanitary sewer, gas, electric and communication utility lines to the site are not included in this OPCC.

6) Projection of future construction costs should include a 10% annual increase at a minimum.
## C.M. Allen Road Improvements Cost Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
<th>UNIT PRICE</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total Estimated Construction Cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction Contingency (20%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soft Costs (15%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 1

- Page 3
  - Change “is” to “are”
  - Change “an” to “as”

- Page 4
  - Change “regarding” to “in regards to”
  - Remove comma after “emotional”
  - Change “provides” to “provide”
  - Change “influences” to “influence”
  - Remove “that”

- Page 5
  - Remove comma after “facilities”
  - Remove “any number of”
  - Change “swayed” to “decreased”

- Page 6
  - Some examples of mobile connectivity in parks include the following:
    - Geocaching
    - Public wi-fi in parks
    - Interactive websites to obtain information about upcoming events and pay user fees
    - On-line registration to sign up for a sports league or to rent a pavilion for a private party
  - Remove comma after “options”
  - Remove comma after “tablet”

- Page 8
  - Remove comma after “strategies”

- Page 9
  - Planning Process: third row updated

- Page 10
  - Add “in” after “capacity”
  - Remove “and would mean that this area encompasses a potential area”

Chapter 2

- Page 13
  - Update cover picture

- Page 14
• Added “at that time” after “Marcos”
• Remove “1846”
• Add “1812”
• Page 15
  • Added Blanco River
  • Added “San Marcos is located in central Texas, 50 minutes north of San Antonio and 30 minutes south of Austin”
  • Added “The City has park property along the Blanco River and the River Safari flows into the Guadalupe River.”
  • Changed map to a regional map
• Page 16
  • Changed quote
• Page 18
  • Change “visitor” to “visitors”
  • Added “in addition” before “fishing”
  • Added “the” before “Hays”
  • Remove apostrophe from “farmer’s”
  • Capitalize “cabin”
  • Remove “Although the jail is currently in disrepair, there are plans to restore the building.”
• Page 19
  • Remove “overall”
  • Change “was” to “were”
• Page 20
  • Change “looks to once again be poised for growth” to “is projected to grow”
  • Change “renewed” to “new”
  • Change “fasted” to “fastest”
  • Spelled out “Texas Water Development Board”
• Page 21
  • Change “with” to “of”
  • Added a space between “high school”
• Page 23
  • Remove “which is a visual illustration of an extensive amount of community feedback which occurred in the process”
  • Change “statements” to “statement”
- Page 24
  - Remove “Willow Creek Park, including a new playground, 0.8 mile walking trail, and new park benches”
  - Remove “pavilion” from “Hillside Ranch II Park”
  - Add “Willow Creek Park” to “Existing Park Renovations”
  - Remove “automated gate access”
  - Added “Hillside Ranch II Park is a trailhead in Spring Lake Preserve and includes new parking and landscaping.”

- Page 25
  - Change “dam” to “Camp”
  - Add “Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area” and “Spring Lake Natural Area”
  - Change “Widenthal” to “Wildenthal”

- Page 26
  - Goal one: Change “park” to parks
  - Change “by” to “of”
  - Goal five: Change “park” to parks
  - Added “Develop an”
  - Add “San Marcos” before “River”
  - Add “Blanco River” to vision
  - Removed “Parkland Dedication – revise/update the current Parkland Dedication ordinance to reflect changing trends in San Marcos development/expansion.”
  - Added “Community Priorities”

Chapter 3

- Whole Chapter
  Changed Alameda Park spelling

- Page 29
  Change “understating” to “understanding”

- Page 32
  - Remove “Preserve” from “Spring Lake Natural Area”
  - Added “Currently, there are no parks classified as community parks.”
• Page 40
  • Added “83 percent”
  • Updated Figure 3.8 and text
• Page 41
  • Change “the largest” to “a large”
  • Update photo of Sessom Creek
• Page 45
  • Added Table 3.2 and updated text
• Page 46
  • Remove schools
• Page 47
  • Added “Although HOA parks are for residents only, they help to reduce congestion at other parks in the community.”
• Page 49
  • Added: In the “other” category, some of the top responses were the following:
    • Overcrowding
    • Public transportation is needed
    • Lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities
    • Lack of access to San Marcos River
    • Lack of park maintenance
    • Lack of fishing locations
• Page 50
  • Change “wadding” to “wading”
• Page 55
  • Remove schools
• Page 56
  • Change “adequate” to “better”
• Page 57
  • Remove schools
• Page 58
  • Cut service areas for schools by major roads
  • Remove school
• Page 59
  Changed the target number of splash pads in the table to “1 per 20,000” and changed the text to match.

• Page 60
  Added “Recommendations have been made by State and Federal agencies and conservation groups to remove Cape’s Dam based on historical grounds. Due to safety concerns about this dam, further discussions are warranted to determine the opinion of the community.”

• Page 61
  Changed “In addition, there is concern that there are not enough access points to the river and not enough access control” to “Over time, access to the River will need to be reassessed to determine the appropriate balance between providing access to, and protection of, the riverfront.

• Page 65
  Remove schools

• Page 69
  Remove “six” from action PF-3.1

• Page 78
  Added “Attempts should be made to address water quality on any parking surface.”

• Page 80
  • Added “In addition, a park ambassador program could be added to assist the park rangers.”
  • Added “Unarmed park patrol volunteers could educate and identify problems for law enforcement. The Habitat Conservation Plan conservation Corp has already been effective. A similar program using uniformed personnel, possibly school teachers for instance, could be implemented.”

• Page 81
  Changed City arborist to Urban Forester and add that removing the invasive trees will improve the quality of wildlife habitat and decrease erosion. Note the removal of invasive trees and plants could also extend to the greenspaces and public park properties to have a unified goal of managing beyond just the edge of the river.

• Page 85
  Change “deceasing” to “decreasing”
• Page 101
  Update “Swimming Pool” level of service and update text

• Page 105
  Added “There are plans to add ADA trail access and improvements at these entrances.”

• Page 107
  - Add “Its purpose is also to infiltrate rain water which lessens flooding and enhances water quality and recharge the Edwards Aquifer in the Hill Country.”
  - Remove
    - Bypass Watershed
    - Cottonwood Creek Watershed
    - Purgatory Creek Watershed
    - Sink Creek Watershed
    - Willow Springs Creek Watershed
  - Change “The Edwards Aquifer is located within the City of San Marcos” to “The City of San Marcos lies over the upper portion of the Edwards Aquifer”

• Page 109
  - The HCP has five signatories including the City of San Marcos, Texas State University, the Edwards Aquifer Authority, the San Antonio Water System and the City of New Braunfels.
  - Added “Planting native plants in and along the river as well as throughout the San Marcos River watershed”
  - Added “Water quality protection”

• Page 116
  - Replace photo
  - This could be undertaken as part of an individual wayfinding and signage plan or as part of a broader trail assessment and management plan.

• Page 117
  Generalized say controlled burns and general maintenance (there are mechanical methods/ selective chemical to get similar results with partnerships.) Added recommended management guidelines for the green spaces prior to getting prescribed burns in the natural areas.

• Page 119
  - Change “trails” to “trails”
  - Change line 2 and 3 to “SMGA”
  - Added “In 2017, approximately 100,000 people used the Purgatory Creek Natural Area.”

• Page 120
  - Remove “CoSM” and add “SMGA” from lines 15, 18, 20-22, 30, 41
  - Remove SMGA from line 26
• Page 123
  Add trails definitions

• Page 129
  Remove grants administrator

• Page 132
  o Perform all scheduled work that will use standard arboricultural and horticultural practices for sustainable landscape maintenance.
  o This could also include the potential development of management guidelines for public trees.

• Page 133 – Table
  o General
    ▪ Post special event clean-up, post weather event clean-up
  o Irrigation
    ▪ Irrigation audits, seasonal adjustments, inspections, maintenance/repair, and installation
  o Tree maintenance
    ▪ Planting: November 1 - February 1
    ▪ Prune shade trees: November –February (exception red oaks and live oaks only June –February 1 ideally in the winter.
    ▪ Prune crape myrtles, native ornamental, native trees, and shade trees at same time frame (November –Feb) when trees are dormant.
    ▪ Tree trimming for clearance/safety- yes can occur at any time provided if it is an oak the wounds are painted, and not more than 25% of the tree canopy is removed at one time.
    ▪ Maintain tree wells- Remove January, 5 times per year
    ▪ Soil aeration- November to April
    ▪ Root collar excavation- October-May
    ▪ Remove dead branches in winter
    ▪ Integrated pest management
  o Add notes:
    ▪ Pruning reduces the risk of failure (medium-aged and mature trees can also be cleaned, reduced, raised, or restored to manage risk.) Provide clearance, improve aesthetics, reduce shade, maintain health, and improve a view.
    ▪ Pruning types: structural pruning, thinning, reducing, raising, cleaning and restoration.
    ▪ Recommended two times pear year as needed to maintain specified depth of mulch.
- Mow bermuda at heights of 1 to 2 inches and mow St. Augustine at heights of 2.5 to 4 inches.

- **Page 138**
  Added “Boating Access Grants (TPWD)

**Chapter 4**

- **Page 143**
  Replace photo

- **Page 144**
  - Texas State University
  - The Meadows Center
  - Natural Resources Conservation Services -NRCS

- **Page 145**
  Added “Make updates to the adult softball complex”
Importance of Parks and Recreation Planning

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

In 2010, the City of San Marcos put forth a parks, recreation & open space master plan which was intended to direct municipal decisions and actions from 2010 to 2020, with an update to occur approximately 5 years from its adoption. In order to remain competitive for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant funding, and to evaluate the current and future needs of the growing community, it is important to undertake a planning endeavor which looks at the next 10 years of parks and recreational opportunities in San Marcos.

The City of San Marcos is located along the key I-35 corridor connecting Austin to San Antonio, which has undergone significant increases in both population and area in recent years. As residents move into the region, the need for parks and recreational open spaces outside the core of the city increase. As of 2010, many of the City’s current park systems are largely limited to the Downtown area, with much of the surrounding metropolitan area lacking access to public parks. As San Marcos continues to grow and expand, additional park land and resources will be needed in newly developed areas and throughout the entire community in order to accommodate this growth. The purpose of this plan is to identify potential land for acquisition as well as establish a projected time frame which is intended to be a catalyst for critical city decisions.

The goal of this planning effort is to establish a community vision, as well as identify goals and strategies that actively maintain high standards for parks, recreation, and open space in San Marcos. Based on community input and the recommendations of this Plan, the City will be better informed to establish priorities and budget decisions for the projects identified in this Plan.
Benefits of Parks and Recreation Planning

Well-planned parks and open spaces can positively impact the surrounding community in a variety of ways regarding the health, social, economic and environmental condition of communities. Urban areas which contain a well-planned system of parks and open spaces can enjoy benefits of a healthier environment for its residents. Some of these benefits are embodied in the emotional, and physical well-being of children and adults, increased access to natural resources and an increased sense of pride in the community.

Community Benefits

ENVIRONMENTAL
Preserving land for recreational use helps protect and preserve essential green spaces and crucial wildlife habitats and contributes to improved air and water quality. Park and open space systems provides opportunities to educate users on environmental issues and appropriate recreational uses within natural areas.

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

SOCIAL
Recreational activities provide opportunities for social interaction and community building. Research supports that this relationship between parks in cities correlates with reduced crime and more stable neighborhoods. Recreational facilities and public parks also can provide recreational opportunities for at-risk youth.

HEALTH
Access to recreational opportunities has positive impacts on physical and mental well-being. The opportunities provided by parks and open space can increase physical activity levels, which have direct health benefits, such as reduced heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and depression. Play and natural environments also influences child development.
Park and Recreation Trends

Public Recreation
With the uptick in mobile connectivity comes an increased public awareness of the quality of amenities, facilities, and recreational opportunities that are provided in any number of communities. Frequently, when people see high-quality recreation opportunities in the surrounding areas, they then look for and begin to expect these options within their own city.

Active Recreation
While passive recreation has gained steam in the last decade, active recreation still remains a strong focal point in park and recreation systems. An interesting trend is how participation rates have swayed in varying athletics. Studies have revealed a decrease in some youth league participation such as baseball, basketball, and soccer. As league-based athletics come with associated fees, equipment costs, and time and travel commitments, some families may be encouraging their children to choose one or two sports early on and continue to pursue that sport as they age.

Passive Recreation
Another important nation-wide trend is increased demand for passive recreation. Activities such as walking or jogging on trails, picnicking, sight-seeing, and other unprogrammed play provide for social interaction and rejuvenation. Passive recreation includes unprogrammed, self-generated activities (e.g., Frisbee) that require no administration.
**Water-based Recreation**

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

**Trail Systems**

Trails are still leading as a top priority recreational amenity throughout the state and country. Trail activities such as walking, hiking, running, and biking provide fun individual or group exercise opportunities. Trails also typically provide access to nature, alternative mobility options, and outdoor educational opportunities. Whether it be for solo exercise, a family walk, or a school trip, trails provide multi-generational recreation opportunities.

**Mobile Connectivity**

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

The San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update (Plan) surveys the existing conditions of the parks, recreation, and open space system in San Marcos; based on this, recommendations are made which seek to sustain and enhance the existing system based on projected population growth and demographic changes. Included in this process is the identification of needs and flaws in the existing system, which includes establishing a vision for the future of parks and recreational areas based on community input and previous planning efforts. Lastly, the identification of goals, strategies, and priorities to achieve the vision of this Master Plan will be established.

Planning Process & Timeline

In _______ 2017, San Marcos chose Halff Associates, Inc. to prepare an update to the City’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The vision, goals, and strategy for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in the City is informed by a comprehensive planning process composed of many steps outlined in this document. These steps include 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 implementation of this planning document will occur in stages over the course of a pre-determined period. Recommendations with regard to policy will affect the decision-making process which may be manifested in 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. This planning document segregates and prioritizes recommendations into immediate, near term, and long term recommendations.
Planning Area

The planning area for the San Marcos Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan includes the City of San Marcos (the City limits) as well as the current extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) (see Map x.x, Planning Area). Today, the incorporated area of the City of San Marcos includes approximately 34.1 square miles, and the ETJ adds an additional 145.2 square miles. Interstate 35 bisects SW to NE through the center of the city and provides easy access and connectivity to the surrounding region and metropolitan area.

One of the goals of the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of San Marcos is to provide citizens and visitors of the community the highest-quality programs, parks, facilities, and services that will contribute to the established vision of the community. The Parks and Recreation Department also provides maintained parks such as Rio Vista Park, educational centers such as the Discovery Center, and many more local opportunities for citizens and visitors of San Marcos. The existing condition of these parks, open spaces, and recreation systems is further detailed in Chapter 3, Existing Conditions.

Service Area

While the planning area is limited to the City limits, and to a limited capacity the ETJ, in this planning document the “service area” is defined as the area where regular park users are drawn. It is estimated that a large portion (quantify amount?) of park users are from outside of the City limits. Given that San Marcos is situated in between two major metropolitan areas (Austin and San Antonio) a significant amount of users of San Marcos' parks likely come from these communities.

Given the proximity of Austin and San Antonio to San Marcos, the service area would likely extend beyond the city limits of San Marcos to include significant portions of these two principle metropolitan areas and would mean that this area encompasses a potential area of approximately 7,000 square miles (how to calculate?). This area would have an estimated combined population of over 4 million. The total area of San Marcos and these nearby urban areas means that the City has many opportunities for expansion and economic growth.
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two
Context & Vision
San Marcos

PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
Historical Context

1832
The land that was once part of the Spanish land grant is known today as San Marcos. Juan Veramendi Plaza is named after the colonial governor, Juan Martin de Veramendi. The plaza is known for its iconic gazebo.

1835
The area was first settled in 1835. To power gins and mills, these settlers used the reliable water flow.

1846
Near the Blanco and San Marcos Rivers, the first settlers arrive.

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

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

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

2016
The population of San Marcos is 60,684 and the tourism industry continues to contribute to economic growth.
Regional Context

San Marcos is located in central Texas, 54 minutes northeast of San Antonio and 37 minutes southwest of Austin (see Figure 2.1, Regional Context - State, below). The City is the seat of Hays County and covers over 30 square miles. Interstate 35 bisects the City and is a major route from Dallas to San Antonio. The San Marcos River runs through the middle of the City and provides many recreational opportunities.

Figure 2.1, Regional Context - State
San Marcos, The City Beautiful is situated thirty miles south of Austin, the Capitol of Texas, and fifty miles north of San Antonio. It is located at the foot of the Rio Blanco Mountains, where the San Marcos river, from which it takes its name, leaps in one mighty volume of more than 65,000 gallons per minute, from the hills’ rock ribbed side, where the mind is constrained to muse: “Here God must have finished the earth and laid down the rosebud of his pleasure.”

- 1920 San Marcos Chamber of Commerce circular letter
Character of the City

Recreation
The clear, spring-fed water of the San Marcos River provides recreation opportunities such as the one mile float. Visitors can also kayak or stand-up paddle in the river anytime of the year since the temperature of the water is always 72 degrees. Fishing, swimming and snorkeling are other activities that are enjoyed by visitors. Since the river is protected from development, a relaxing atmosphere is created with parks along both sides.

Downtown
Historic downtown San Marcos has locally-owned gift shops, art galleries, unique restaurants, bistros and nightspots. The downtown features a charming historic square and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hays County historic courthouse is located in the heart of downtown. During the year, many events take place downtown such as the annual Downtown San Marcos Trick or Treat and the Farmer's Market.

History
Among many historic sites in San Marcos, Merriam cabin is located in Bicentennial Park. In 1846, the cabin was constructed by Dr. Eli T. Merriam. The fire station, City Hall and the Hays County Jail are also on the National Register of Historic Places. Although the jail is currently in disrepair, there are plans to restore the building. Several other buildings in San Marcos are considered historic including the San Marcos Telephone Company and many homes in the City.
Demographics

**Historical Population Trends**

As indicated in Figure 2.2, *Historical Population Growth*, the City of San Marcos has experienced an overall positive population increase during the 19th and 20th century. During the last two decades of the 19th Century, there was a population boom occurred partly due to the arrival of the Railroad as well as the growth from the cattle and cotton industries. In the years following WWII, the San Marcos region saw a steady population growth, partly due to the establishment of Gary Air Force Base. When Aquarena Springs and Wonder World were established in the 1960’s, this resulted in positive implications for the tourist industry which caused an increase in the economy. By 1973 San Marcos and Hays County was classified into the Austin Metropolitan Statistical area with a population of 25,000. In 2013, the US Census Bureau classified San Marcos as having the highest growth rate among all urban areas with at least 50,000 citizens.

*Figure 2.2, Historic Population Growth*
Future Population Projections

San Marcos looks to once again be poised for growth given its booming population and economic prosperity. Between 2012-2014 San Marcos was ranked the #1 fastest growing city in the U.S. Regionally, Central Texas is experiencing overall growth and this trend should continue for years to come. Given these exciting trends, there is renewed interest in developing both residential and commercial properties, and a renewed focus on improving the character of development and tourism of the overall San Marcos region.

According to TWDB projections, the population of San Marcos will reach 71,117 people by 2020 and 84,818 people by 2030. By 2040, the city should have a population of over 100,000 people and by 2070 171,614 people. According to the San Marcos Comprehensive Master Plan, the projected population increase between 2010-2035 will be approximately 30,000 people and a retail increase of over 1,000,000 sf. See Figure 2.3, San Marcos Projected Population, on the next page.

Based on the potential for continued rapid growth it is important that the City continue to monitor this increase in growth to determine park- and recreation-related long-term needs.
Figure 2.3, San Marcos Projected Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>70,942 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>67,073 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>63,463 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>59,618 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>54,901 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>49,352 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>44,420 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: San Marcos Comprehensive Plan Addendum

Educational Attainment

Approximately 30.9% of San Marcos residents hold a bachelor’s degree or higher, which is slightly higher than the national average (30%). The percentage of residents with a high school education or higher is 85.7%, just under the national average with is 87%.

Figure 2.4, San Marcos Educational Attainment

Highschool or higher
85.7%

Bachelors degree or higher
30.9%
**Race and Ethnicity**

In San Marcos, 78.5% of residents are white, compared with the national average of 72.4%. Blacks comprise 5.5% of residents, which is less than the national average of 12.6%. Hispanics comprise 37.8% of the San Marcos population, while the national average is 16.3%.

![Figure 2.5, San Marcos Race and Ethnicity](image1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Household Income**

San Marcos’ median household income is $28,923, while the national average is $53,889. The per capita income in San Marcos is $16,982; the national average is $28,930.

![Figure 2.6, San Marcos Household Income](image2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>$53,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hays County</td>
<td>$58,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of San Marcos</td>
<td>$28,923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Poverty Level**

In San Marcos approximately 37% of the population is in poverty, while the national average is 13.5%.

![Figure 2.7, Poverty Level](image3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Families below poverty level</th>
<th>Individuals below poverty level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hays County</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of San Marcos</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Past Planning Initiatives

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

In 2016, Vision San Marcos: A River Runs Through Us was adopted by the City of San Marcos after one year of development. This is a comprehensive planning document with the intention of guiding growth and development of the City while maintaining resident quality of life and cherished natural resources. A unique feature of this planning document is the Preferred Scenario Map, which is a visual illustration of an extensive amount of community feedback which occurred in the process.

This planning document was structured by Vision, Goals and Objectives which are provided under each plan element. A Vision Statements defined future community values which resulted from community involvement and were meant to give direction to the future of San Marcos. The Goals Statement then established general parameters on how to accomplish each vision. The committee then defined objectives which are more detailed in nature, and were meant to help reach the goal.

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

San Marcos Parks Master Plan (2010)

The San Marcos Parks Master Plan was adopted in 2010 and was intended to update the previously completed 2002 plan. The planning window for this plan covered the period from 2010 until today.

According to the San Marcos Parks Master Plan, five specific needs were identified:

1. Trails (connections to existing trails and rivers/creeks);
2. Acquisition of parkland and development of facilities in the Southwest quadrant of the ETJ.
3. Acquisition of parkland and development of facilities East of I-35;
4. Athletic fields West of I-35; and
5. Community park development West of I-35 and near downtown.
San Marcos Youth Master Plan (2013)

The San Marcos Youth Master Plan intended to envision a mold for opportunities, strategies, leadership and desired outcomes for the youth of San Marcos with the intent of ensuring future prospects and security. A core element of this master plan was the engagement of citizens partaking in community conversations to develop a vision for their future.

Successes Since 2010

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

- **New Parks and Projects.**
  - Willow Creek Park, including a new playground, 0.8 mile walking trail, and new park benches.
  - El Camino Real Park, including a new playground, walking trail, basketball court, picnic tables, benches, and lighting.
  - Eddie Durham Park, including new guitar shaped sidewalks, two pavilions, picnic tables, and musical instruments.
  - Hillside Ranch II Park, including a new pavilion, parking, automated gate access, landscaping, and establishing the Spring Lake Preserve access point and Trailhead.

- **Existing Park Renovations.** Numerous neighborhood parks have been more comprehensively renovated and improved with various amenities (e.g., modern playgrounds, skate spots, multi-purpose courts, picnic areas, pavilions, benches, water fountains, connecting sidewalks/trails, landscaping, and fences, etc.). The list of parks renovated include:
  - Conway Park;
  - Dunbar Park;
  - Franklin Square Park;
  - Jaycees Park;
  - Mill Street Park;
» Paul Pena Park;
» Swift Park; and
» Veterans Park.

- **Park and Facility Improvements.**
  » Sport facilities improved with lighting include Ramon Lucio Park, 5-Mile Dam Soccer Complex, and Rio Vista Park tennis courts.
  » Physical facilities renovated and/or constructed are Cephus House, Calaboose, Rec Hall, Youth Softball Complex, and Georgia Street Senior Center.

- **Property Acquisition.**
Vision

Create a unified parks and recreation system that serves the entire San Marcos community, supports tourism efforts and remains a good steward to the River and surrounding environment.

Goals

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