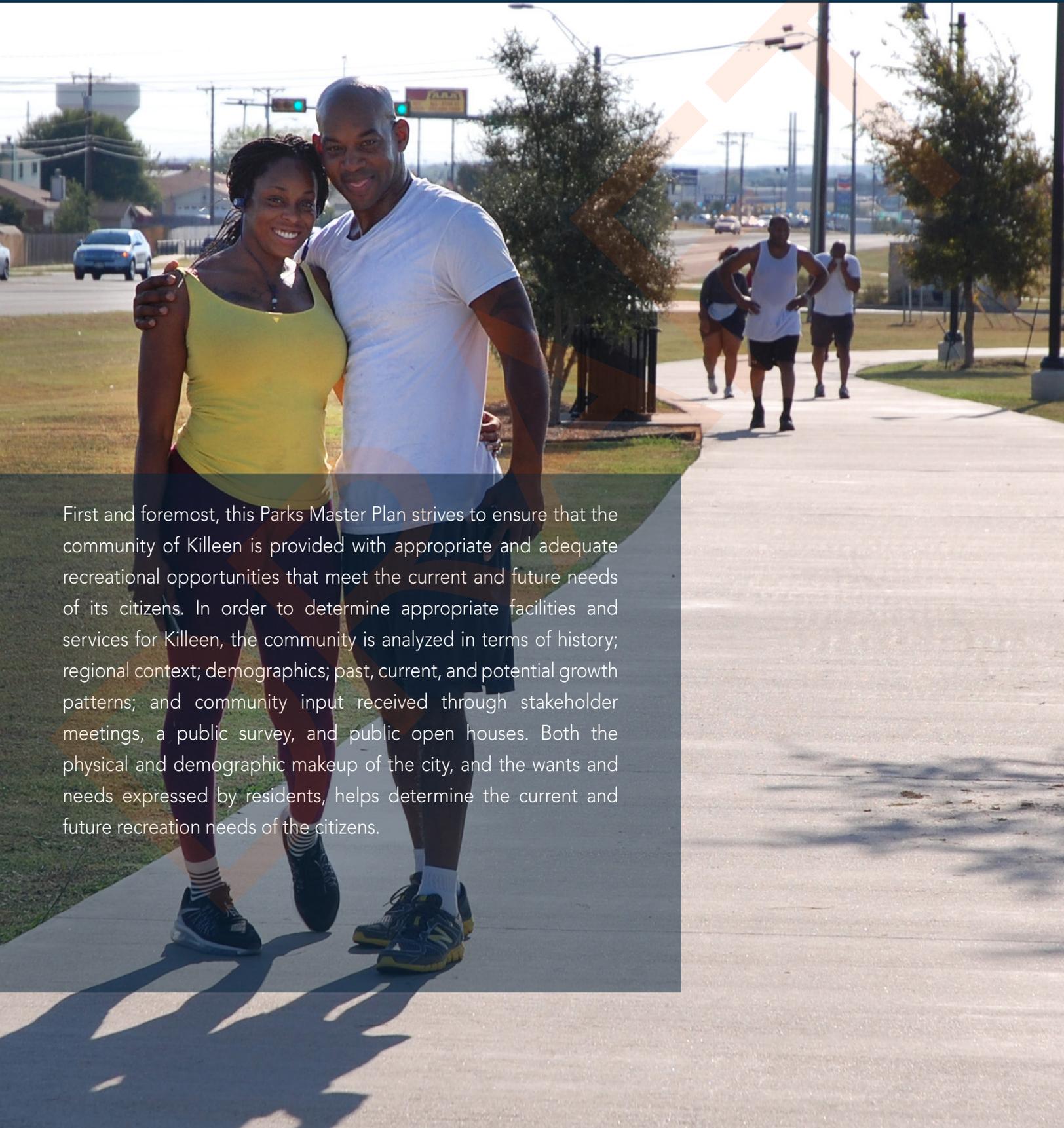
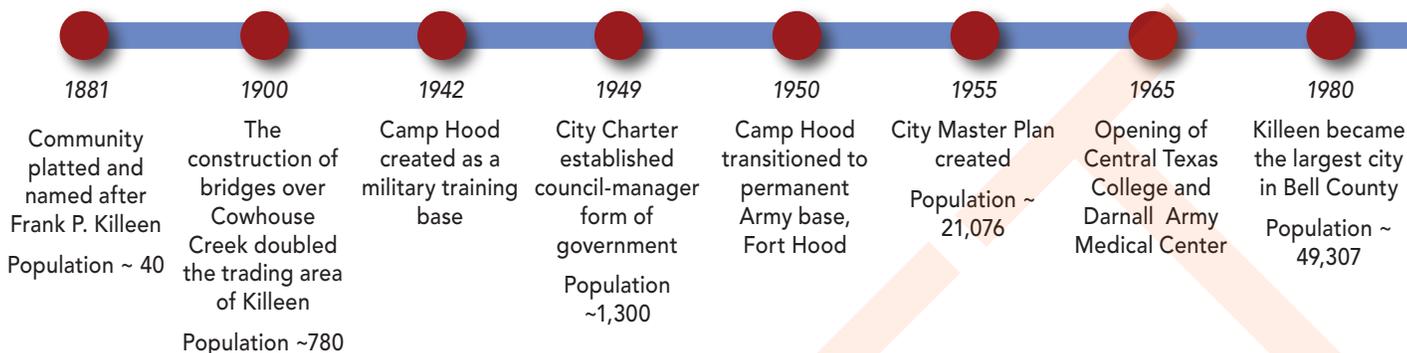


2 UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY

A photograph of a man and a woman walking together on a paved path in a park. The woman is wearing a yellow tank top and dark leggings, and the man is wearing a white t-shirt and dark shorts. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, other people are jogging on the same path. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a clear sky.

First and foremost, this Parks Master Plan strives to ensure that the community of Killeen is provided with appropriate and adequate recreational opportunities that meet the current and future needs of its citizens. In order to determine appropriate facilities and services for Killeen, the community is analyzed in terms of history; regional context; demographics; past, current, and potential growth patterns; and community input received through stakeholder meetings, a public survey, and public open houses. Both the physical and demographic makeup of the city, and the wants and needs expressed by residents, helps determine the current and future recreation needs of the citizens.

Figure 2.1, Killeen's History



History

In 1881, the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway platted a 70-block town on its land near the adjacent community known as Palo Alto. The town was named after the assistant general manager of the railroad, Frank P. Killeen. At this time the population was approximately 40 people. The town was populated by residents from local areas as well as those attracted to the area through a railroad-sponsored national campaign. By 1884, the population had reached 350 people. As Killeen become an important shipping location for the cotton, wool, and grain from the surrounding farms, the town continued to grow. In 1900, the town had a population of 780 people. Around this time, bridges were built over Cowhouse Creek and other streams which ultimately doubled the trading area of Killeen. By 1914, the town had electric lighting, and public water system.¹

¹ Handbook of Texas Online, John Leffler, "Killeen, TX," accessed

Throughout the Great Depression, federal New Deal programs helped to create job growth. At this time the community was enhanced with paved streets, updated water and sewage systems, and widened bridges. U.S. Highway 190 was constructed through the area during the depression.²

To meet the demands of World War II, Camp Hood was created as a military training base in 1942. Thousands of people moved to the area including construction workers, soldiers, and their families. The opening of Camp Hood changed the local economy, since the base encompassed half of the Killeen's trade area. To accommodate the needs of the military base, farms and cotton gins were shut down and new businesses were started in the community. In 1949, the adoption of the City Charter established the council-manager form of government for the City.³ At this time, the population was around 1,300 people. In 1950, Camp Hood transitioned to Fort Hood and was established as a permanent army base. Population increased quickly to 7,045 people and almost 100 new commercial buildings were constructed between 1950 and 1951.⁴

Over the years, the City's population and economy have followed the expansion and contraction of the military

January 18, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdk01>.

² Ibid.

³ <http://www.killeentexas.gov/council>

⁴ Handbook of Texas Online, John Leffler, "Killeen, TX," accessed January 18, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdk01>.



An influx of soldiers at Camp Hood in 1943 increased the population of Killeen.

Image source: http://www.hood.army.mil/history/1940/north_camp_opens.htm





1999	2000	2002	2004	2005	2008	2009	2015
Tarleton State University - Central Texas branch opened First City Parks Master Plan created	Population ~ 86,911	Civic and Conference Center opened	Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport opened	Killeen Parks Master Plan updated	Family Recreation Center and Senior Center opened	Killeen Parks Master Plan updated	Mickey's Dog Park opened

presence at Fort Hood. By 1955, the City had grown to approximately 21,076 people and the City's infrastructure was strained by the size and needs of Fort Hood. As a result, a City Master Plan was created to address the needs for additional amenities such as street improvements, parks, and recreation centers.⁵

Between 1965 and 1970, key educational, military, transportation, and City service developments further increased the population of Killeen. In 1965, the Central Texas College opened to serve the area⁶ and the Darnall Army Medical Center opened at Fort Hood.⁷ The Darnall Medical Center is now the biggest U.S. Army hospital and Fort Hood is the most populous U.S. military installation in the world.⁸ By 1970, a municipal airport opened and the City built a new library.

Killeen became the largest city in Bell County in 1980 when the population reached 49,307 people. In an effort to attract tourists to the area, the City adopted "Tanks for the Memories" as the official City slogan in the late 1980s.

In 1999, the Tarleton State University - Central Texas branch opened in Killeen.⁹ This later became part of the Texas A&M University system. At this time the City created their first Parks

Master Plan. By 2000, the City's population had increased to 86,911 people.

Key civic and recreational resources were opened in and near the City between 2000 and today, including the Civic and Conference Center (2002) and the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport (2004). The City staff updated its Parks Master Plan in 2005 and opened the Killeen Family Recreation Center and Senior Center in 2008. The City's Parks Master Plan was updated again by staff in 2009 and the Lions Club Park Family Aquatic Center was opened. One of the City's newest parks, Mickey's Dog Park, was recently opened in 2015.

The growth and development of Fort Hood has, and continues to, impact the economy, population size and composition, racial and ethnic diversity, and recreational needs of Killeen.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <http://www.ctcd.edu/about-ctc/about-us/history/>

⁷ <http://www.crdamc.amedd.army.mil/visitors/history.aspx>

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Hood

⁹ <http://www.tamus.edu/about/history/>



Texas A&M - Central Texas is one of two higher education institutions in Killeen.

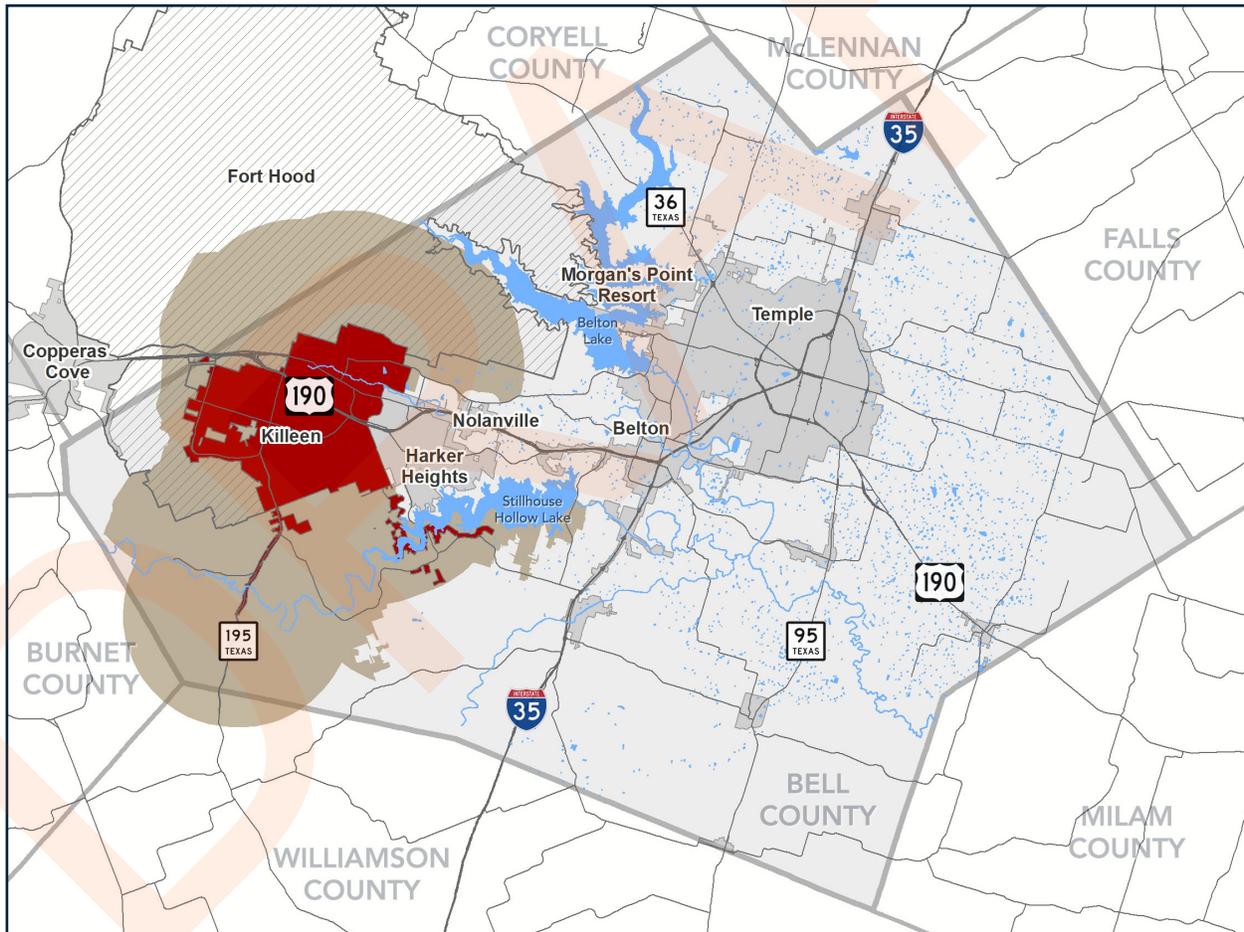


Regional Context

The City of Killeen is located in the northwestern portion of Bell County, in central Texas. Killeen is situated approximately 70 miles north of Austin and 150 miles south of Dallas. U.S. Highway 190 provides east-west connectivity to the City from Interstate 35 and the City of Harker Heights to the east, and Fort Hood and Copperas Cove to the northwest. State Highway 195 provides connectivity from the south. State Highway 210 creates a loop connection between these two highways through the western portion of the City, providing primary connections to both Central Texas College and

Texas A&M University - Central Texas. Fort Hood, one of the largest military installations in the world, is located directly north of Killeen. As such, the shifting demographics of the military base have a strong impact on the community and its needs. Belton and Stillhouse Hollow Lakes are situated east of the City. The City includes nearly 105 square miles within its limits, with an additional 2.31 square miles in its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

Map 2.1, Regional Context





Demographics

Historic Population Growth

The City of Killeen has experienced a 297-percent increase in its population since 1970. The periods with greatest population growth were between 1980 and 1990, and 2000 and 2010 with 50 and 47 percent increases, respectively. Between 2010 and 2015 the population continued to grow, albeit at a slower rate of 10 percent. Due to its continued high rate of growth, the City of Killeen makes up an increasingly greater portion of the population of Bell County. While the City makes up less than 10 percent of the Bell County land area, it is home to over 42 percent of the county's population. See Table 2.1, *Historic Population Growth* for a breakdown of the City's population numbers and changes over time.

Table 2.1, *Historic Population Growth*

Year	City of Killeen (Persons)	Percent Change	City Percent of County Population	Bell County (Persons)	Percent Change
1970	35,500	--	28.52%	124,482	--
1980	42,296	19%	26.79%	157,889	27%
1990	63,525	50%	33.24%	191,088	21%
2000	86,911	37%	36.52%	237,974	25%
2010	127,921	47%	41.23%	310,235	30%
2015	140,806	10%	42.04%	334,941	8%

Source: City of Killeen; Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015, U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Age Comparisons

In order to determine the current and future recreation needs of Killeen's residents, it is important to analyze the age breakdown of the population. In 2014, the greatest portions of the City's population included children under five years of age (11.10%) and men and women between ages 20 and 34 (31.32%) (see Table 2.2, *Age Comparisons*). While Bell County also has a higher percentage of the population under five years old and between 20 and 34, the difference in percentages is much less pronounced than in Killeen. Both Bell County and the City have a less even population distribution than the state of Texas. The median age for the City of Killeen (27.7) is significantly lower than that of Bell County (30.5) and the state of Texas (34.7). The City's proximity to Fort Hood, and the large number of military personnel in the area contribute to the lower median age and the more pronounced population distribution difference.

Table 2.2, *Age Comparisons*

Age	% Texas	% Bell County	% City of Killeen
Under 5 years	7.22%	8.69%	11.10%
5 to 9 years	7.48%	7.47%	7.39%
10 to 14 years	7.39%	7.57%	6.67%
15 to 19 years	7.17%	6.73%	5.70%
20 to 24 years	7.35%	9.44%	11.75%
25 to 34 years	7.24%	9.21%	10.76%
30 to 34 years	7.25%	7.84%	8.81%
35 to 39 years	6.76%	6.52%	6.77%
40 to 44 years	6.82%	6.24%	6.90%
45 to 49 years	6.32%	5.49%	5.66%
50 to 54 years	6.52%	5.76%	5.74%
55 to 59 years	5.96%	4.77%	3.98%
60 to 64 years	5.03%	4.39%	3.68%
65 to 69 years	3.93%	3.49%	1.89%
70 to 74 years	2.87%	2.40%	1.16%
75 to 79 years	1.97%	1.15%	0.54%
80 to 84 years	1.42%	1.33%	0.81%
85 years and over	1.29%	1.51%	0.69%
Median Age	34.7	30.5	27.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Population Estimates (as of July 1, 2014), Table PEPANNRES



Age Distribution

As seen in both Table 2.2, *Age Comparisons*, and Figure 2.1, *Age Distribution*, the population of Killeen is dominated by two general age groups, those under five years of age and those from 20 to 34 years of age. When compared to the United States, Killeen has a significantly lower percentage of the population in the 45 and over age group and has a greater percentage of women than men. While the majority of the population is under 40 years old today, if these residents remain in Killeen for years to come, the City will need to be prepared to provide appropriate recreation opportunities for a wide range of age groups. As a percentage of the young aged population is likely due to the proximity to Fort Hood, it is important for the City to continue to monitor the population demographics to determine what percentage of these young people remain in Killeen long term and how many new residents in this age category arrive over the years. When considering recreation opportunities, there is clearly a need for additional adult options.

Race & Ethnicity

In comparison to Bell County and the state of Texas, the City of Killeen is significantly more racially diverse (see Figure 2.3, *Race & Ethnicity*). While the greatest percentage (39.4%) of the population is white, there is also a significant black or African American population. Persons with Hispanic or Latino heritage also make up a large part of the population at 24.1 percent. As the City is relatively diverse, opportunities exist for recreational activities, festivals, etc. to celebrate the diverse heritage of the City's residents.

Figure 2.1, Age Distribution

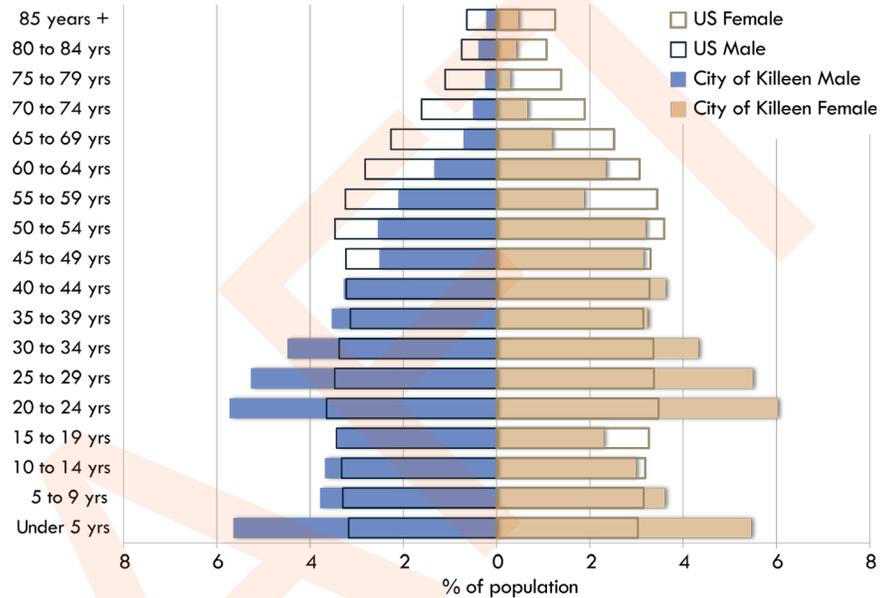


Table 2.3, Race & Ethnicity

Race & Ethnicity	Texas	Bell County	City of Killeen
White	75.2%	62.8%	39.4%
Black or African American	12.0%	21.3%	35.0%
American Indian & Alaska Native	0.5%	1.1%	1.6%
Asian	4.3%	3.0%	3.8%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.8%	1.6%
Other	5.5%	6.0%	11.3%
Two or More Races	2.5%	5.1%	7.3%
Hispanic or Latino Descent	38.6%	23.5%	24.1%

Source: 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B02001 Race: Total Population; B03002 Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race: Total Population





Household & Family Income

Household income contains income from all working residents age 15 and up living in the same housing unit, regardless of relation. Family income contains income from two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption who are living together. Killeen has a significantly lower median family income compared to the state and Bell County (see Figure 2.2, *Household & Family Income*). Conversely, the City has a similar median household income as the county and state. As a result, families in Killeen may have a harder time paying housing costs than those in other areas of the county.

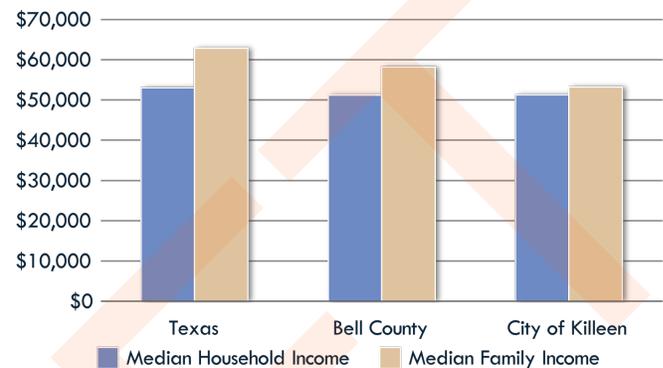
Educational Attainment

Over 90 percent of Killeen's residents have a high school education or higher. This is comparable to the remainder of Bell County, but almost 10 percent greater than the state of Texas. Conversely, less than 18 percent of Killeen residents have a Bachelor's Degree or higher. This is over five percent less than Bell County and 10 percent less than the state. As it stands, residents may be at a disadvantage in being hired for professional jobs due to a lack of qualifications. Providing the local workforce with additional learning and training opportunities can help equip them with higher level skills sets.

Poverty Level

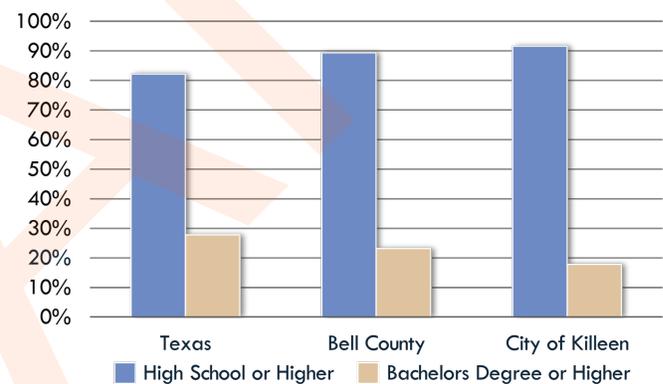
When compared to Bell County (14.1%) and the state (17.2%), Killeen has a lower number of individuals below the poverty level (13.0%) (see Figure 2.4, *Poverty Level*). There are comparable percentages of families below the poverty level for Bell County and the City, both of which are lower than the state. While higher education levels in the City are less than the county and state, it is likely that employment in the U.S. military has provided greater financial stability to some individuals in the City.

Figure 2.2, Household & Family Income



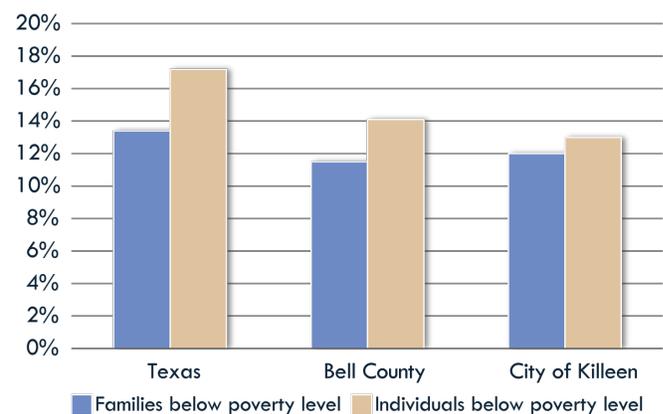
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics

Figure 2.3, Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, S1501: Educational Attainment

Figure 2.4, Poverty Level



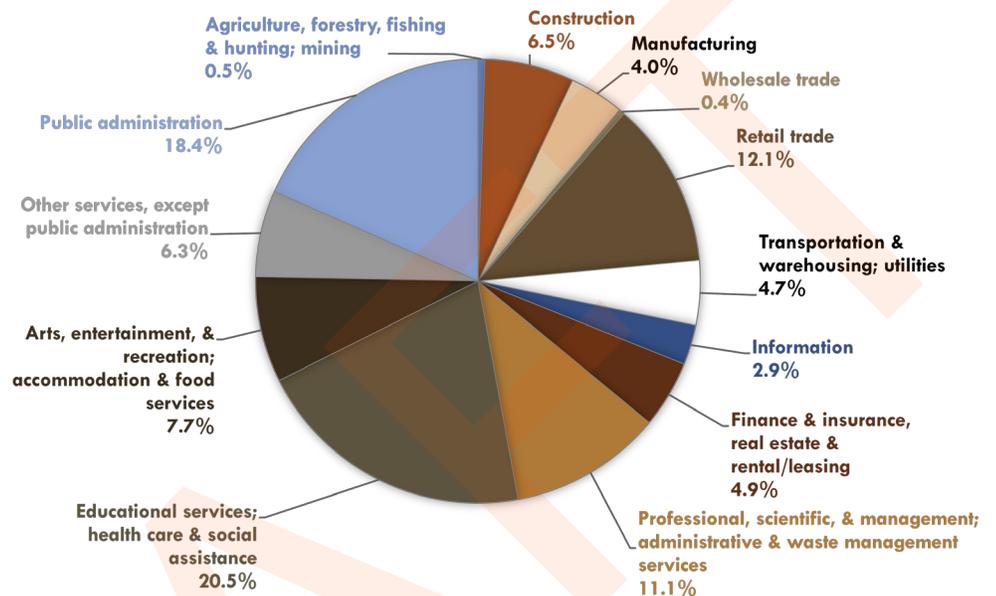
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 1-Year American Community Survey, DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics



Occupation by Industry

The educational services, healthcare and social assistance; public administration; and retail trade industries are the largest employers in Killeen (see Figure 2.5, *Occupation by Industry*). This is primarily due to the Killeen Independent School District and the Metroplex Hospital. As the largest city in Bell County and close proximity to Fort Hood, Killeen benefits from a concentration of public administration, retail trade, and professional services jobs.

Figure 2.5, Occupation by Industry

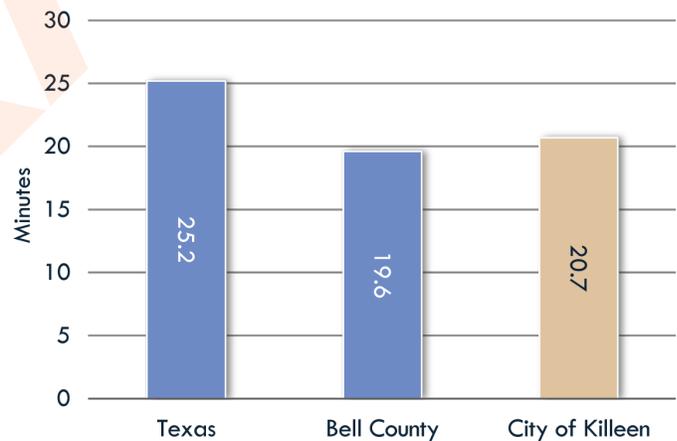


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey, DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics

Commute Time

The mean commute time in Killeen is approximately 20 minutes (see Figure 2.6, *Commute Time*). This commute time is comparable to Bell County and almost five minutes less than Texas. Of the residents who commute in Killeen, 84 percent drive by themselves, while 11 percent carpool. As the population continues to increase, traffic congestion may become a greater issue. The addition of safe bicycle and pedestrian connections to key destinations can help to reduce the use of vehicles for nearby daily trips.

Figure 2.6, Commute Time



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey, DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics





Demographic Impact of Fort Hood

While analyzing the demographics of the City of Killeen, it is important to consider the population living and working in and around Fort Hood. As a military installation, population totals are frequently shifting due to worldwide events that are outside the City's ability to influence or control. In 2014, there were a total of 49,439 people working on the base and an additional 75,013 family members living on and off the base.¹ While Fort Hood does have its own recreation programs, employees and families on and off the base are also served by Killeen's park and recreation resources. As the number of deployed soldiers fluctuates, the total population that may be served by the Killeen parks and recreation system similarly shifts.

¹ Fort Hood Demographics Information Brief to Col. Matthew Elledge, 26 March 2014. USAG Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office

Image source: <http://blog.rallypoint.com/2013/05/where-is-fort-hood-killeen-texas.html>



As the largest U.S. Army base in the country, the military and civilian population of Fort Hood impacts the parks and recreation needs in Killeen.



Growth Context

Population Projections

As the City plans for the future needs of its residents, it is important to understand both the historical and potential growth of its population and developed areas. As previously described in Table 2.1, *Historical Population Growth*, the City's population has grown steadily for the last four decades, with a 289-percent increase since 1970. Based on approved future construction, available land for future growth, and proximity to Fort Hood, the population of Killeen is projected to continue on an upward trajectory. Planning for accurate population growth is an inexact science even under ideal conditions. While there are a variety of population projection models, most projection tools are based on an analysis and extrapolation of historical growth data.

The City's Planning Division utilizes projection numbers from the Texas State Data Center's (TSDC) county-level population projection data. The TSDC 0.5 Scenario, which is

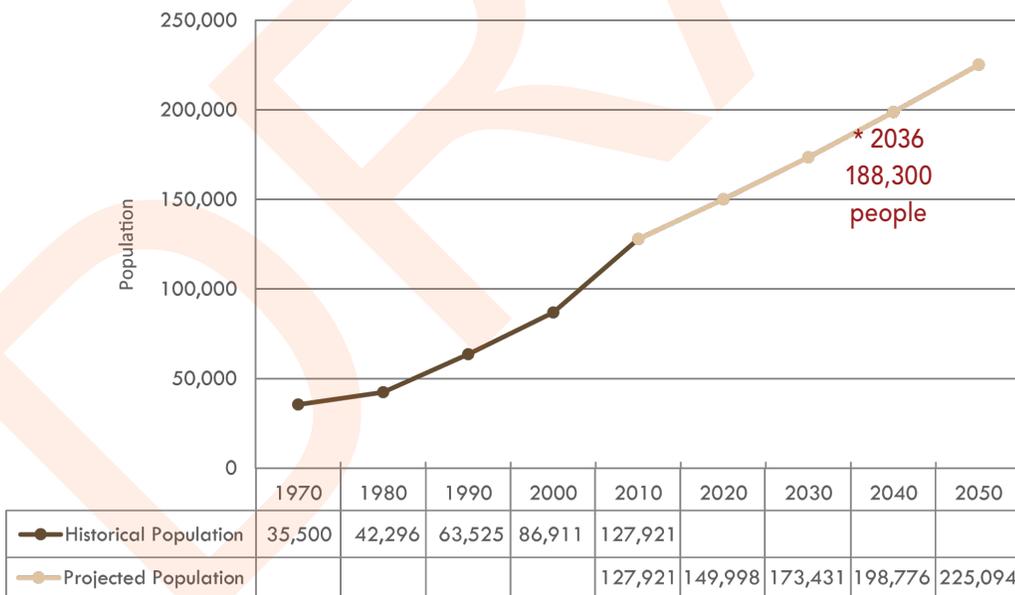
based on growth trends from 1990 to 2000, is accepted as the most appropriate growth scenario for the City. Based on the TSDC 0.5 Scenario, Figure 2.7, *Killeen Historical & Projected Population*, illustrates the City's projected population through 2050. By 2036 (the extent of this Parks Master Plan's intended time frame), the City's population is projected to increase by an additional 34 percent, to approximately 188,300 people. This projected population increase creates additional demand on, and resources for, the City's parks and recreation system.

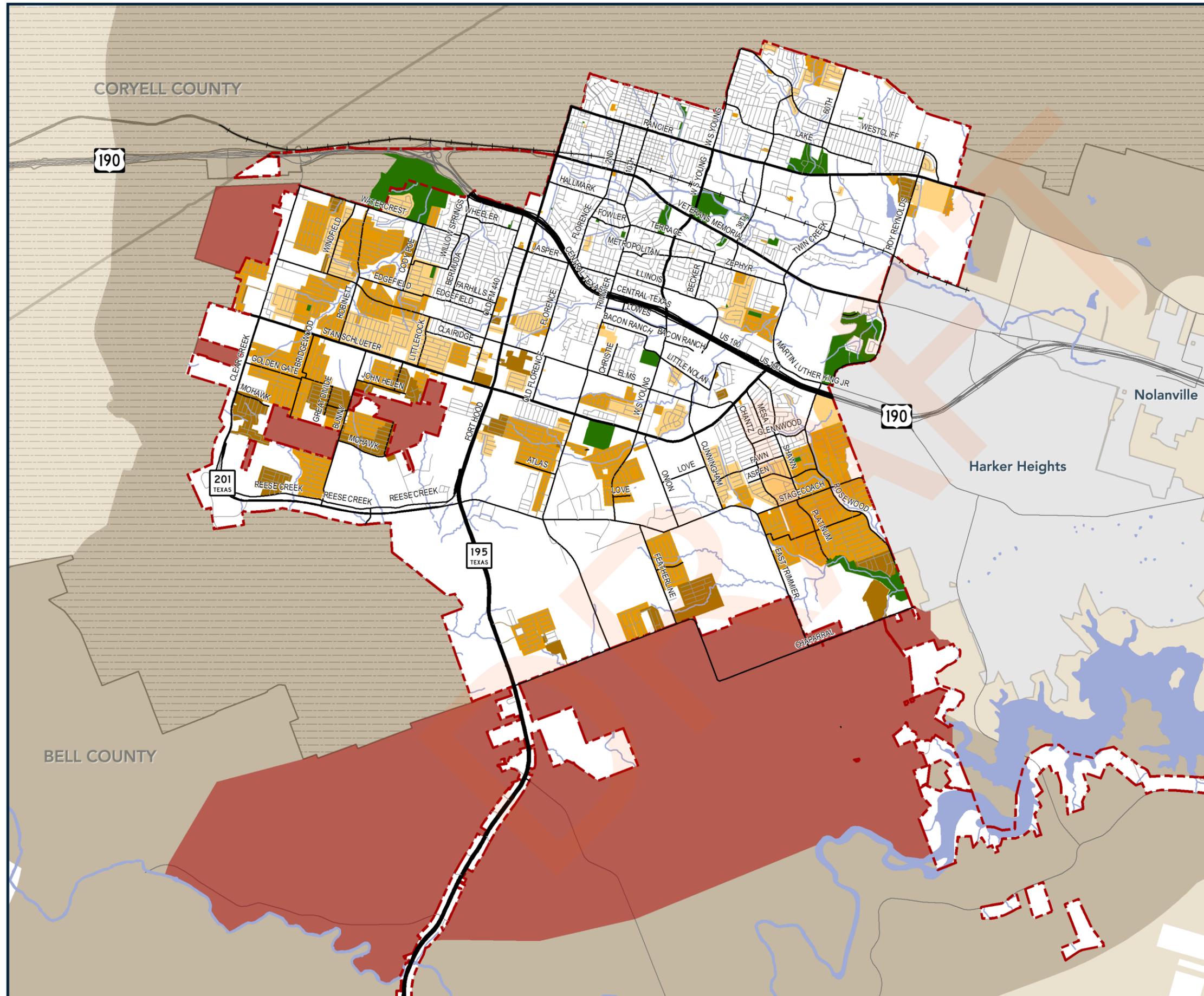
Potential Growth Areas

In recent years, Killeen has experienced residential development at varying rates. Illustrated on Map 2.2, *Growth Context*, residential growth between 1995 and today has largely been concentrated in the western portion of the City, with additional development occurring in the south over the last 15 years. Future growth beyond the City limits is constrained to the north and west by Fort Hood, and to the east by Harker Heights. Considering that, growth over

the next 20 years will likely be concentrated in the southern portion of the City and its ETJ. Development of the parks and recreation system over the next 20 years will need to ensure that adequate resources are developed to serve the currently unfulfilled need for recreation in the south.

Figure 2.7, *Killeen Historical & Projected Population*

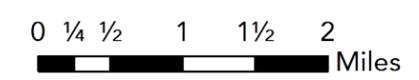
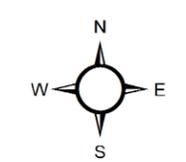




Growth Context

Legend

- 1995-2000 Residential Growth Area
- 2000-2010 Residential Growth Area
- 2010-2015 Residential Growth Area
- Killeen's Growth Areas
- Parks
- Killeen City Limits
- Nearby City Limits
- Killeen ETJ
- Nearby City ETJs
- Fort Hood
- Counties
- Water Bodies
- Principle Arterial
- Collector & Minor Arterials
- Local Streets
- Railroad



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Public Engagement

Several different engagement types were used to gain an understanding of the thoughts and ideas of the public. Through the use of a variety of engagement strategies, different user types were given a chance to express their opinions. Stakeholder meetings, two Citywide public surveys, public open houses, and meetings with City Council were all included in the public engagement component of this Parks Master Plan.

Stakeholder Meetings

Over the course of two days at the onset of the project, a series of eight stakeholder meetings were held to gain the insight and opinions of a variety of user groups. More than 50 people attended the key stakeholder meetings including representatives from the development community; Greater Killeen Lions Foundation; the Planning and Zoning Commission; athletic coaches; Killeen Independent School District; the Senior Citizens Advisory Board and Senior Council Executive Board; Senior Center, Recreation Center, and Parks and Recreation Division staff; and the Administration. Throughout the different meetings, a series of trends regarding the needs of the City were identified. Many of these trends were similarly identified in the public survey.

Some of the key elements, needs, and desires identified in the meetings are summarized below.

- There is desire for more shade in parks and additional family recreation opportunities.
- People love the existing trails; additional linear parks and trails (of varying materials) are needed to provide greater Citywide connectivity.
- There is desire for additional on-street bicycle lanes.
- Additional practice fields and indoor and outdoor facilities are needed.
- There is a need for additional opportunities for free public recreation.
- A multi-use athletic complex would be well-used.
- The City needs better distribution of parks.
- There is a need for additional water-based recreation.
- Safety in parks and on trails is a public concern.
- Seniors and single soldiers are under-served populations.
- There is a need for non-athletic recreation options for teenagers.
- Ensure that adequate green space is preserved as the City is further developed.
- There are opportunities for cooperation between the City and KISD.
- Seniors desire greater park access and additional recreation options.



Key stakeholders provided valuable insight into the wants and needs of the community.



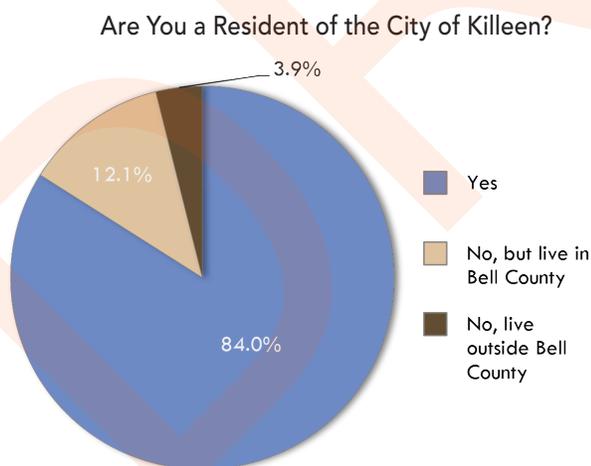
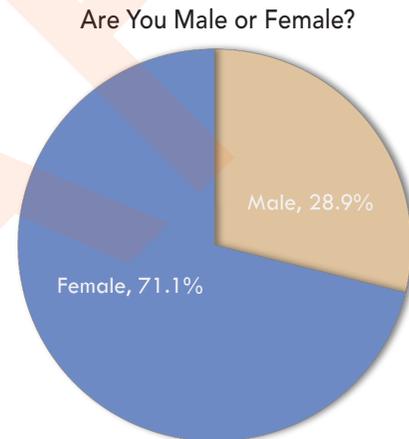
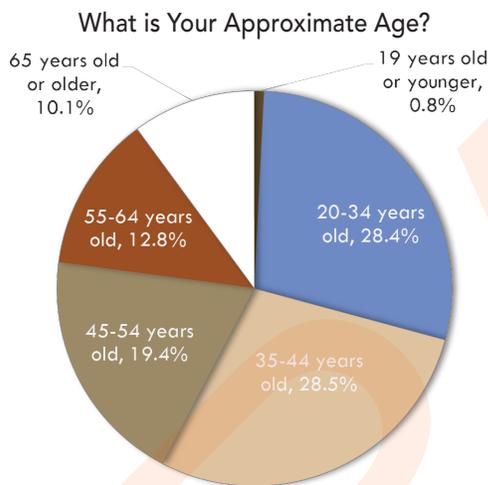


Public Survey

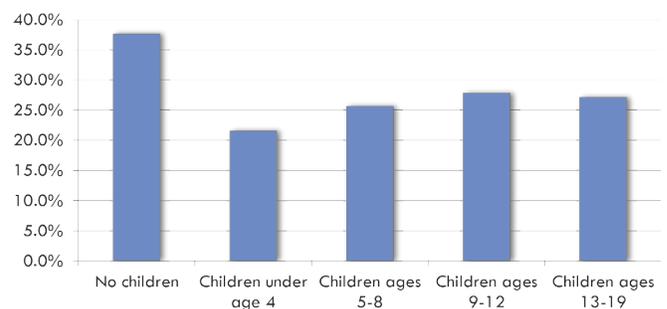
An extensive Citywide public survey was conducted to gather information on residents' opinions on parks and recreation, trails, athletics, and what types of activities are needed in Killeen. The survey was provided online as well as in hard copy. There were a total of 1,132 respondents who completed the online survey, or less than one percent of the total residents of Killeen.

Respondents represented a wide range of age groups (see Figure 2.8, *Survey Respondent Demographics*). The majority of the respondents ranged in age from 20 to 44 years of age. Over 80 percent of respondents were residents of Killeen. Of those who lived in Killeen, just under 40 percent did not have children living at home. Substantially more females completed the survey than males.

Figure 2.8, *Survey Respondent Demographics*



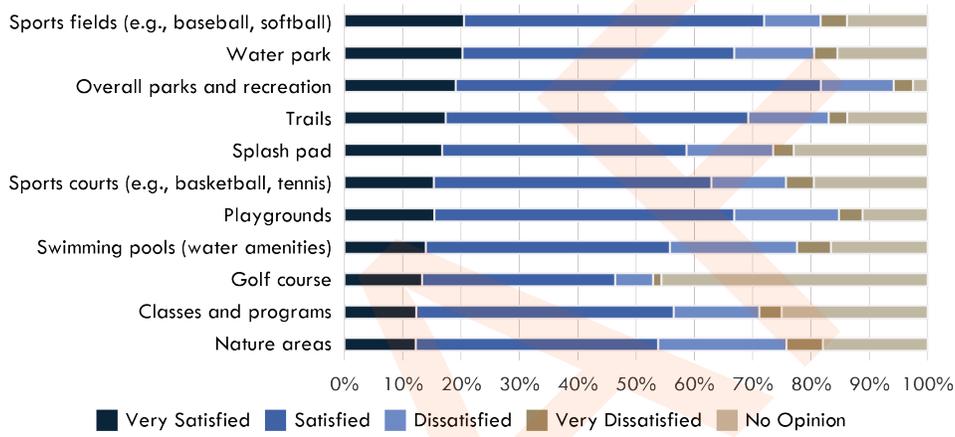
Do You Have Any Children Under the Age of 19 Living in Your Home? Check All That Apply.



Current Level of Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Elements

Respondents were asked to rank their level of satisfaction with the quality, appearance, and maintenance of the parks and recreation elements in Killeen. As illustrated in Figure 2.9, *Current Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Elements*, respondents most frequently indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with sports fields (73.8%), the water park (67.5%), and overall parks and recreation (82.2%). Respondents were least satisfied with the golf course (46.8%), classes and programs (56.8%), and nature areas (54.5%). Notably, the lowest ranked satisfaction rating (i.e., the golf course) still received a very satisfied or satisfied rating from 46 percent of respondents.

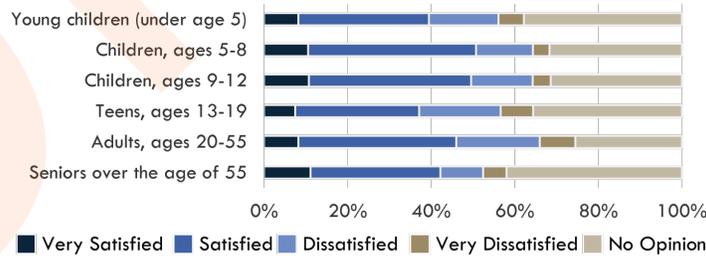
Figure 2.9, Current Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Elements



Current Level of Satisfaction with Recreational Facilities and/or Programs for Different Age Groups

When asked to rate their satisfaction level with the recreational facilities and programs offered for different age groups, respondents were generally satisfied with all groups (see Figure 2.10, *Current Level of Satisfaction with Recreational Facilities and/or Programs*). Respondents were most frequently very satisfied or satisfied with options for children ages five through 12 (51% of respondents), and least satisfied with recreation options for teens ages 13 through 19 (37% of respondents).

Figure 2.10, Current Level of Satisfaction with Recreational Facilities and/or Programs

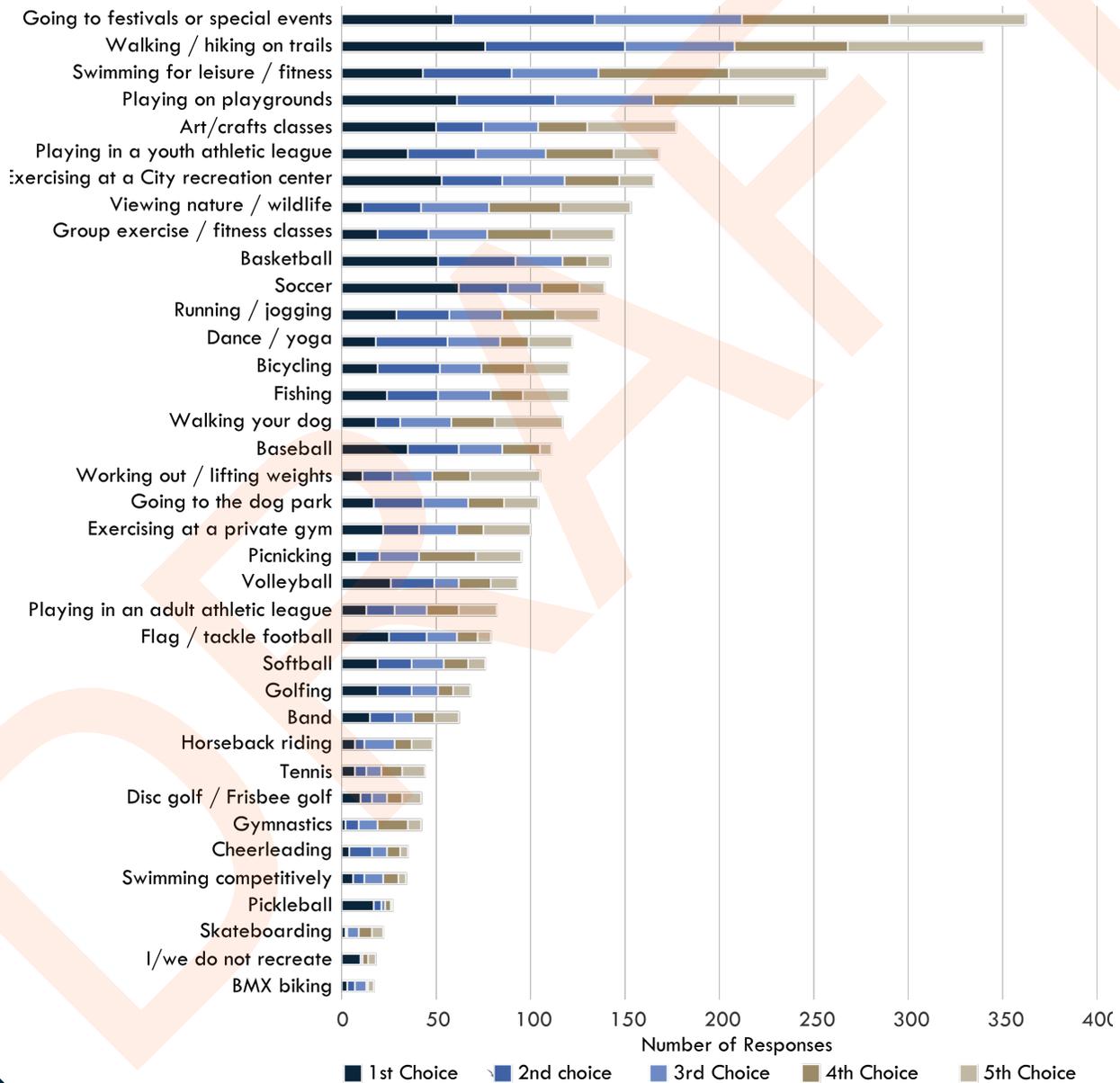




Favorite Recreation Activities

Respondents were asked to pick their top five recreation activities for the household. The first choices most frequently identified were walking/hiking on trails (8.3%), soccer (6.7%), and playing on playgrounds (6.8%). Illustrated in Figure 2.11, *Favorite Recreation Activities*, are the recreation activities respondents were asked to choose from, in descending order of the number of votes each received. The top five activities chosen overall, were going to festivals or special events (39.5%), walking/hiking on trails (37.1%), swimming (28.1%), playing on playgrounds (26.2%), and arts and crafts classes (19.3%). BMX biking and skateboarding were least frequently selected as a top choice for recreation activities.

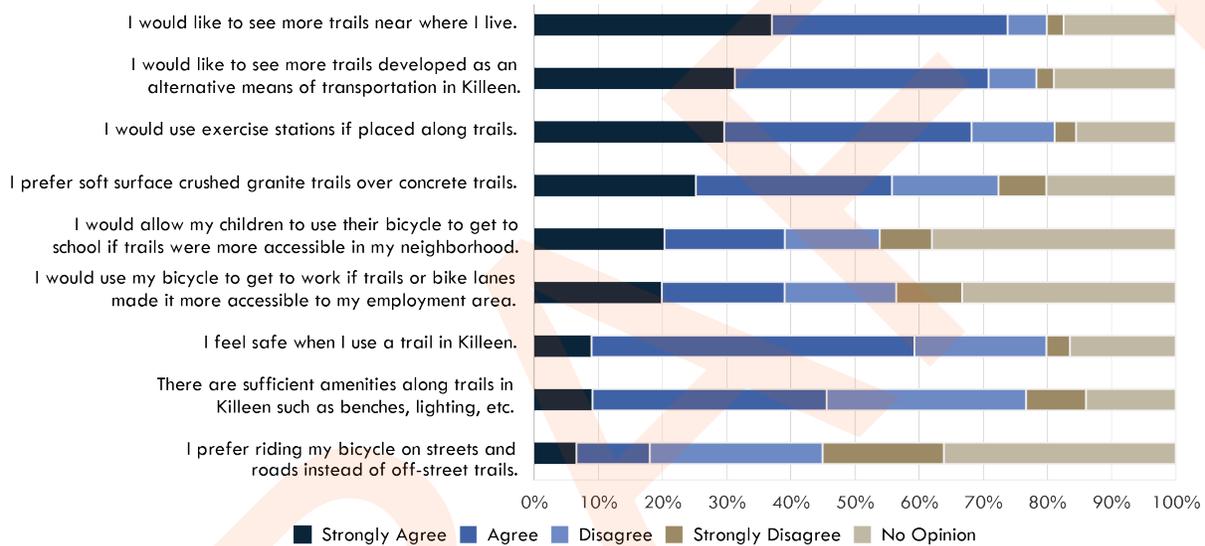
Figure 2.11, *Favorite Recreation Activities*



Trails

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with a variety of trail-related statements. Most respondents indicated they strongly agree or agree that they would like more trails near where they live (72.8%) and more trails developed as alternative means of transportation in the City (71.6%). The lowest percentage of respondents preferred riding their bicycles on streets and roads instead of off-street trails (18.1%).

Figure 2.12, Trail-Related Statements



Recreational Needs

In order to determine overall facility and activity priorities, respondents were asked to indicate the level of importance they associated with various facilities and upgrades. General lighting of parks (90.5%), additional restrooms in parks (88.0%), and more trees and shade (81.8%) were most frequently identified as very important or important (see Figure 2.13, *Recreational Needs*, on the next page). Respondents were then asked to choose their top three priority items. More pedestrian and bicycle trails was ranked as the highest priority overall. The top five facilities or activities chosen by survey respondents are listed in Table 2.4, *Top Most Needed Facilities/Activities*.

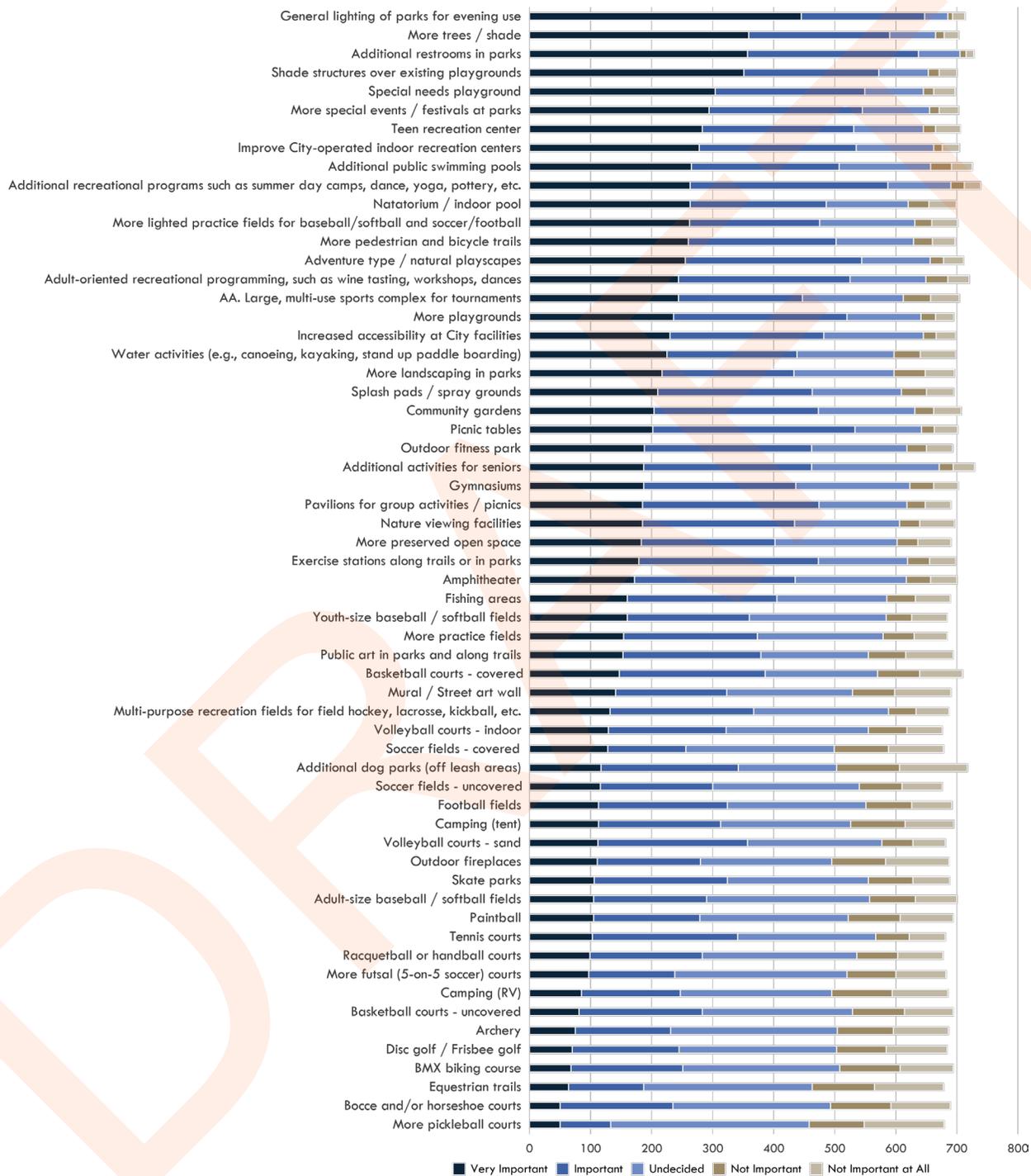
Table 2.4, Top Most Needed Facilities/Activities

Top Five	
1	More pedestrian and bicycle trails
2	Additional restrooms in parks
3	Adult-oriented recreational programming, such as wine tasting, workshops, dances.
4	General lighting of parks for evening use
5	Additional recreational programs such as summer day camps, dance, yoga, pottery, etc.





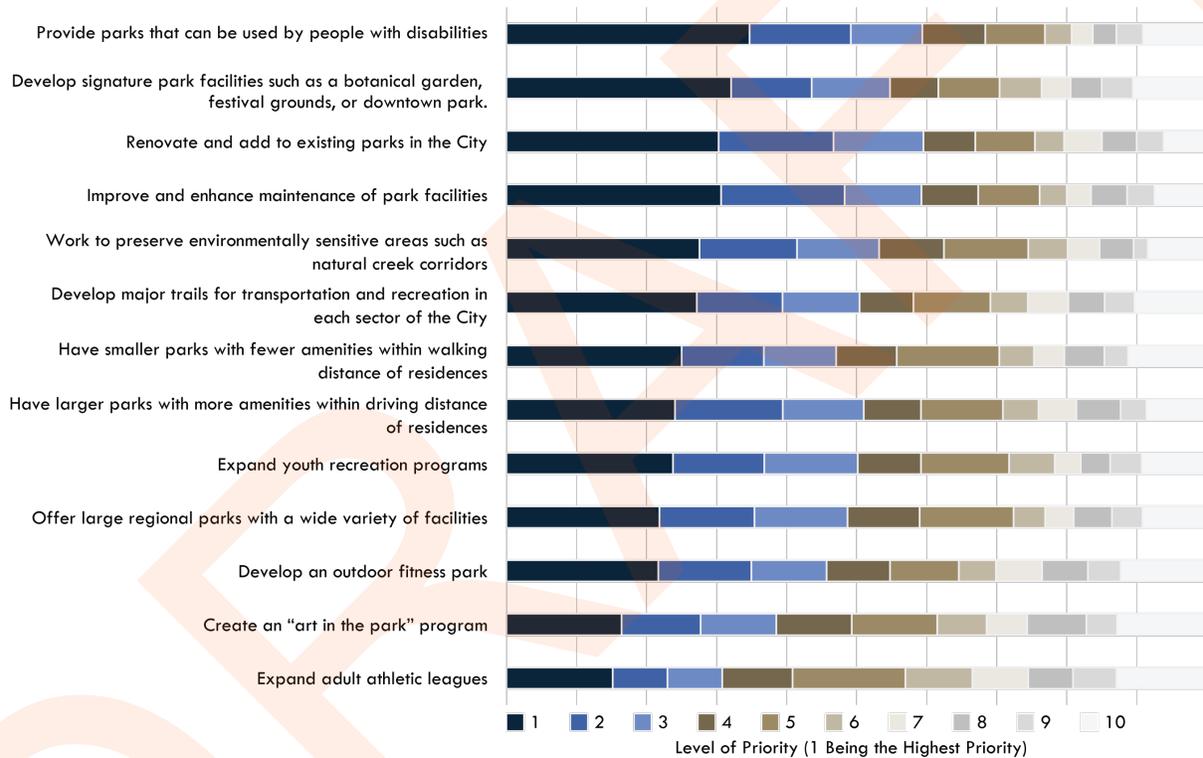
Figure 2.13, Recreational Needs



Priorities for Future Parks and Recreation Division Actions

As the City establishes a series of priorities to direct future Parks and Recreation Division actions, respondents were asked to rank a series of 10 priorities. Respondents indicated that the most important park and recreation issues include providing parks that can be used by people with disabilities (35.2% ranked as top priority), developing signature park facilities (32.2%), and renovating and adding to existing parks (30.6%) (see Figure 2.14, *Priorities for Future Parks and Recreation Division Actions*). The lowest ranked issues were to develop an outdoor fitness park (21.8%), creating an “art in the park” program (16.1%), and to expand adult athletic leagues (14.8%).

Figure 2.14, *Priorities for Future Parks and Recreation Division Actions*



Public Survey by Council District

If public survey respondents indicated they lived in the City (84%), they were then asked to identify which City Council district they lived in (see Figure 2.15, *Council District Breakdown of Respondents*). As the City plans for expansions and updates to the existing parks system, it is important to determine if wants and needs vary in different areas of the City. Consequently, select survey questions were analyzed by district. An initial citywide analysis is illustrated in Figure 2.16, *Citywide Survey Highlights*. A summary of respondent demographics and key questions analyzed are then by council district in Figures 2.17 through 2.20 on pages 34 through 37.

Figure 2.15, *Council District Breakdown of Respondents*

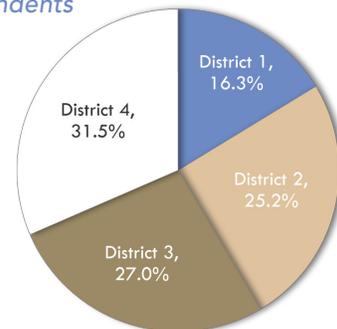
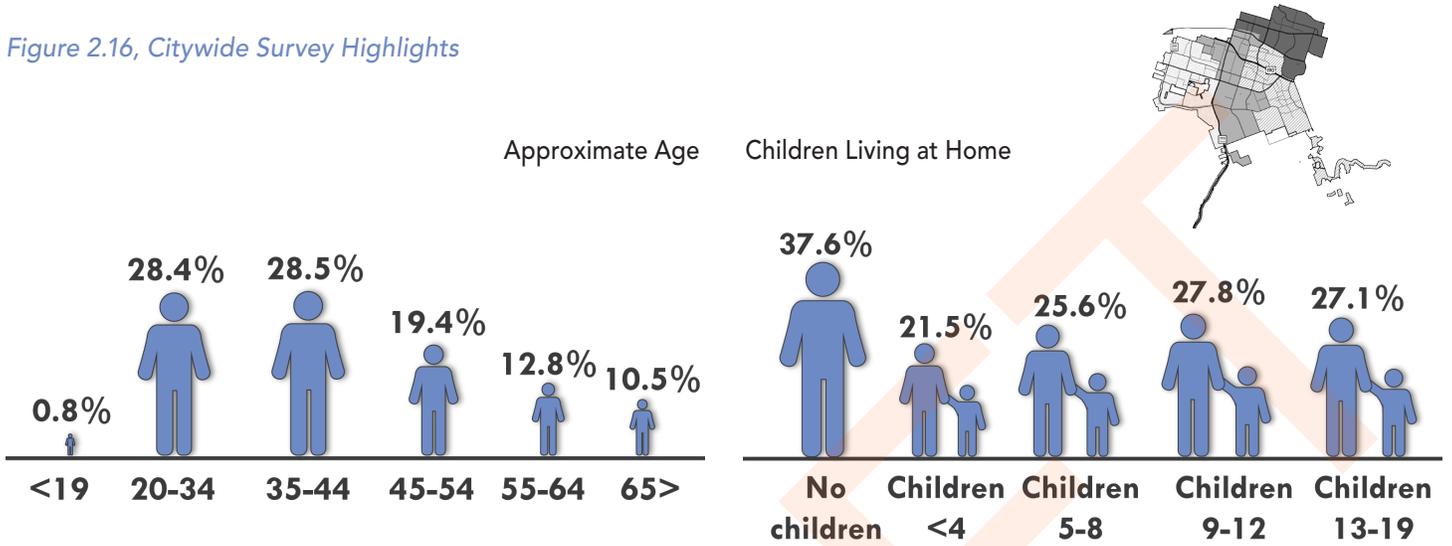


Figure 2.16, Citywide Survey Highlights

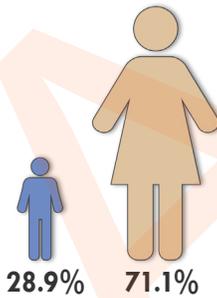


Top Five Favorite Recreation Activities

1. Going to festivals or special events
2. Walking / hiking on trails
3. Swimming for leisure / fitness
4. Playing on playgrounds
5. Art/crafts classes

Top Five Daily Recreation Activities in the Past Year

1. Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City
2. Used a non-City fitness center such as a private gym
3. Visited a City park or park facility
4. Used the Andy K. Wells or Lions Club Park Hike & Bike Trails
5. Participated in a youth athletic league



Male or Female Respondents

If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in Killeen, why don't you?

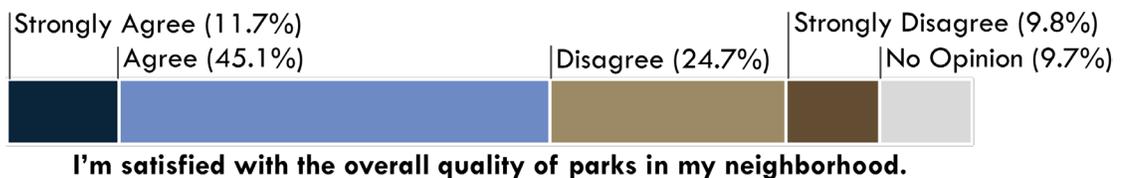
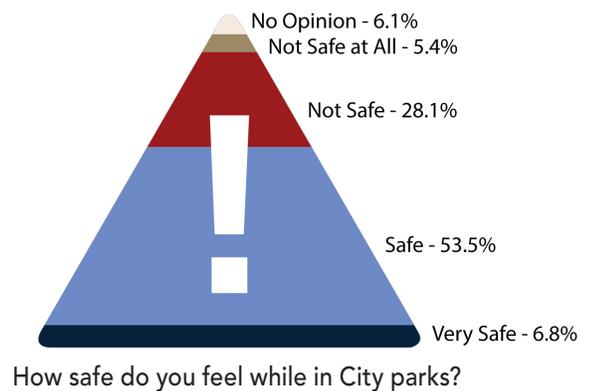
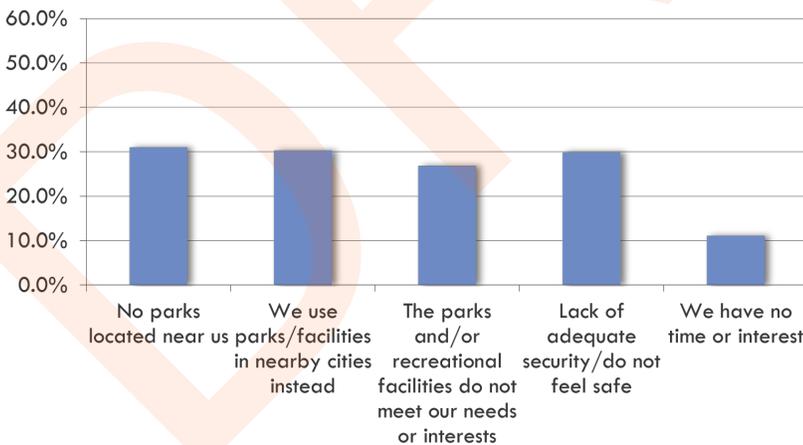
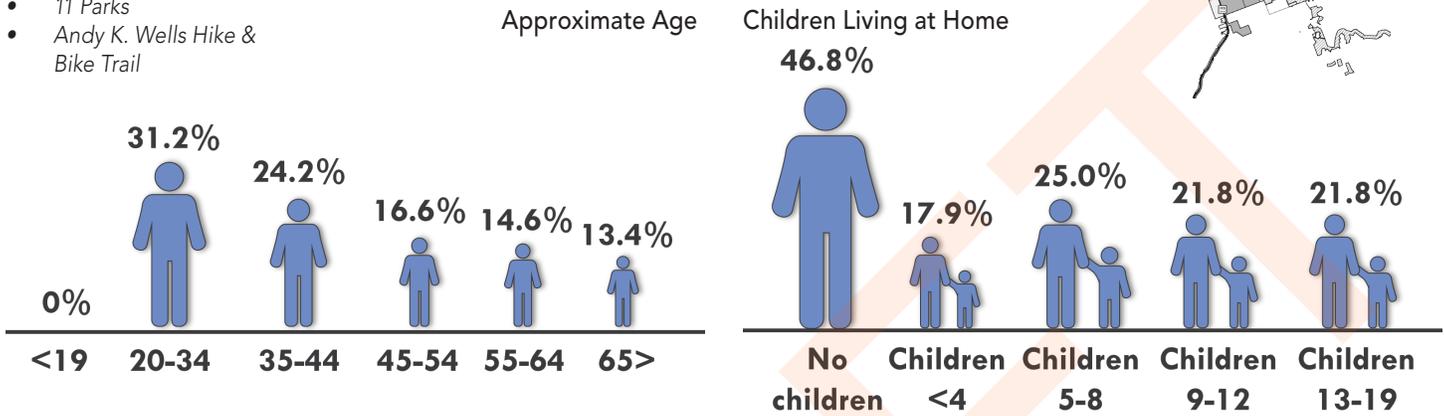


Figure 2.17, Council District 1 Survey Highlights

District Overview:

- 11 Parks
- Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail

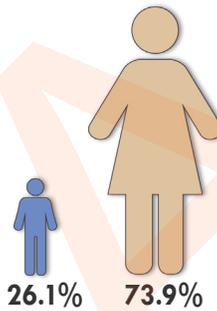


Top Five Favorite Recreation Activities

1. Walking / hiking on trails
2. Going to festivals or special events
3. Swimming for leisure / fitness
4. Art/crafts classes
5. Playing on playgrounds

Top Five Daily Recreation Activities in the Past Year

1. Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City
2. Visited a City park or park facility
3. Used the Andy K. Wells or Lions Club Park Hike & Bike Trails
4. Visited a City playground
5. Used a non-City fitness center (e.g., a private gym)



If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in Killeen, why don't you?

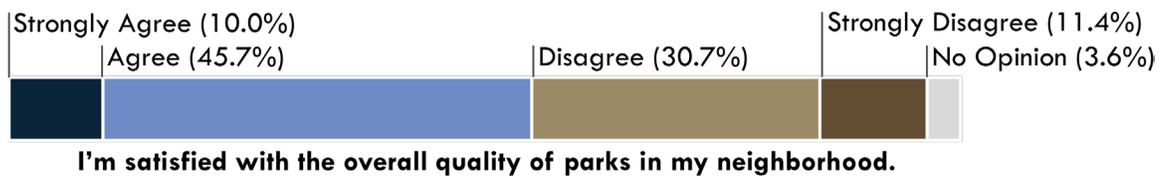
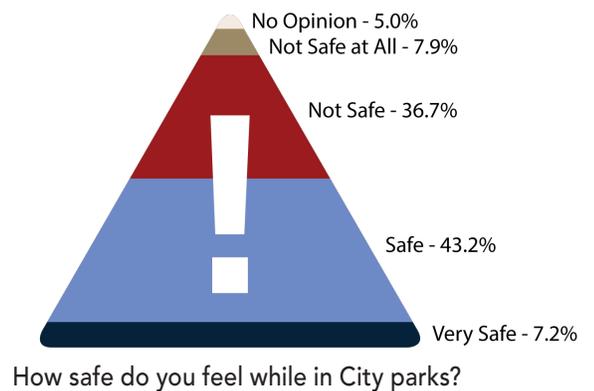
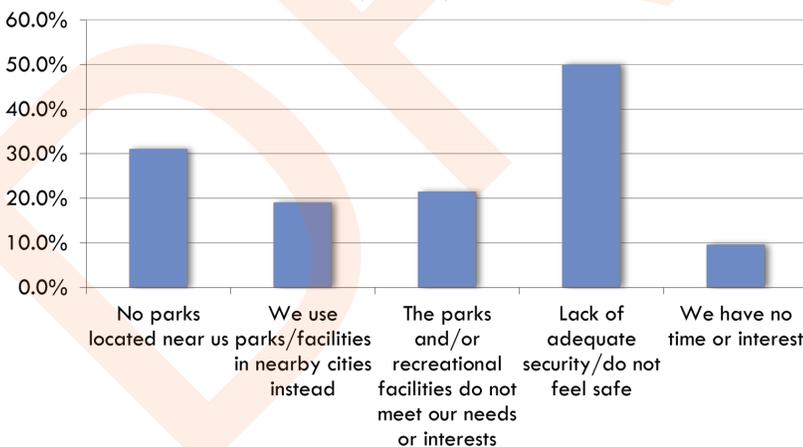
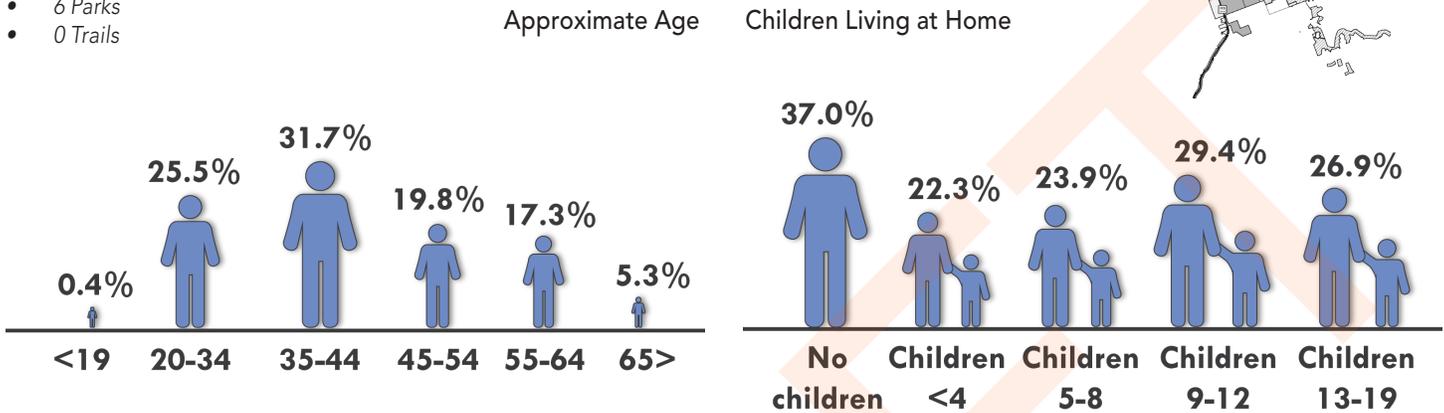


Figure 2.18, Council District 2 Survey Highlights

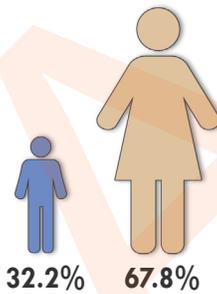
District Overview:

- 6 Parks
- 0 Trails



Top Five Favorite Recreation Activities

1. Going to festivals or special events
2. Walking / hiking on trails
3. Swimming for leisure / fitness
4. Playing on playgrounds
5. Art/crafts classes

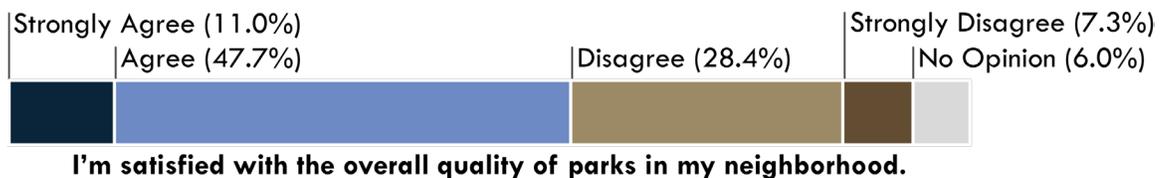
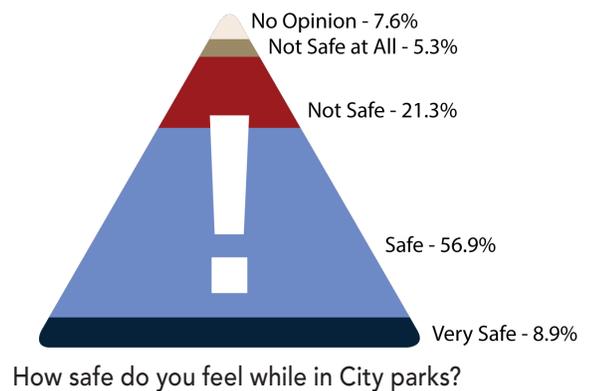
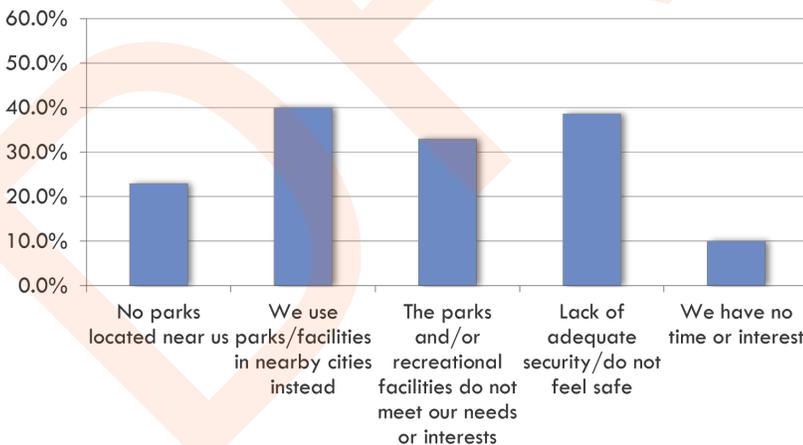


Male or Female Respondents

Top Five Daily Recreation Activities in the Past Year

1. Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City
2. Used a non-City fitness center such as a private gym
3. Visited a City park or park facility
4. Used the Andy K. Wells or Lions Club Park Hike & Bike Trails
5. Participated in a youth athletic league

If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in Killeen, why don't you?

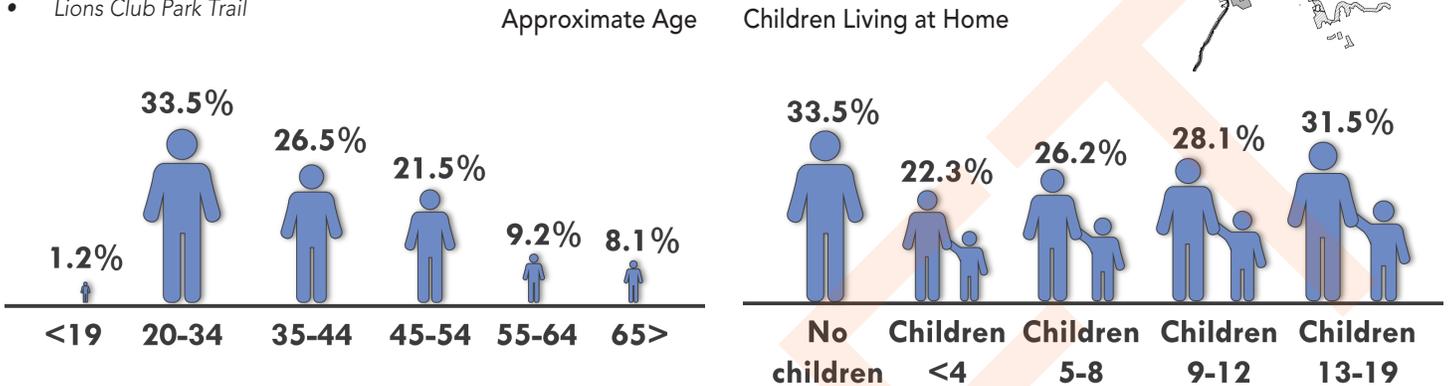


I'm satisfied with the overall quality of parks in my neighborhood.

Figure 2.19, Council District 3 Survey Highlights

District Overview:

- 7 Parks
- Lions Club Park Trail

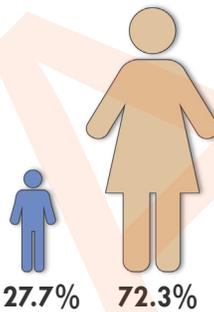


Top Five Favorite Recreation Activities

1. Going to festivals or special events
2. Walking / hiking on trails
3. Swimming for leisure / fitness
4. Playing on playgrounds
5. Playing in a youth athletic league

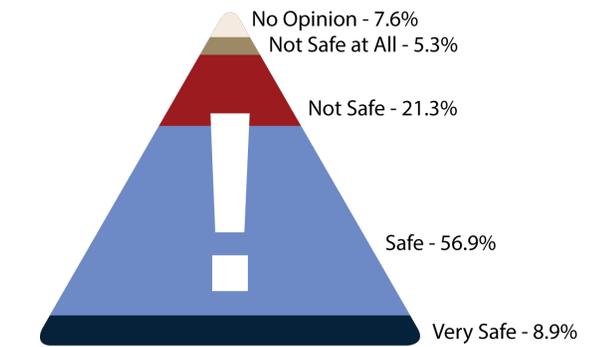
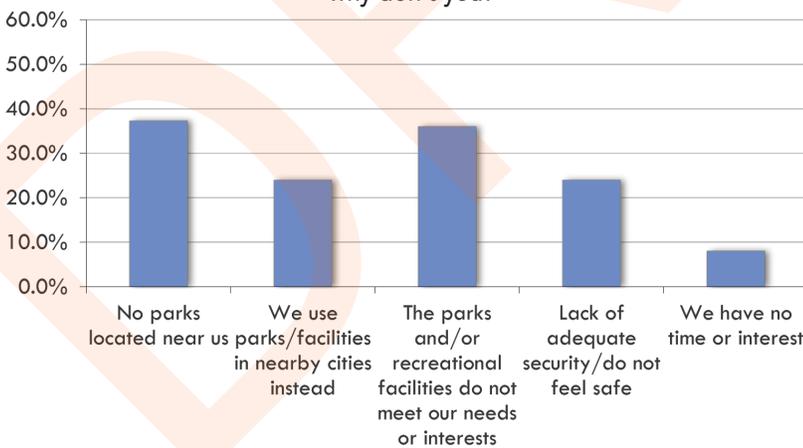
Top Five Daily Recreation Activities in the Past Year

1. Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City
2. Used a non-City fitness center such as a private gym
3. Visited a City park or park facility
4. Participated in a youth athletic league
5. Used the Andy K. Wells or Lions Club Park Hike & Bike Trails



Male or Female Respondents

If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in Killeen, why don't you?



How safe do you feel while in City parks?

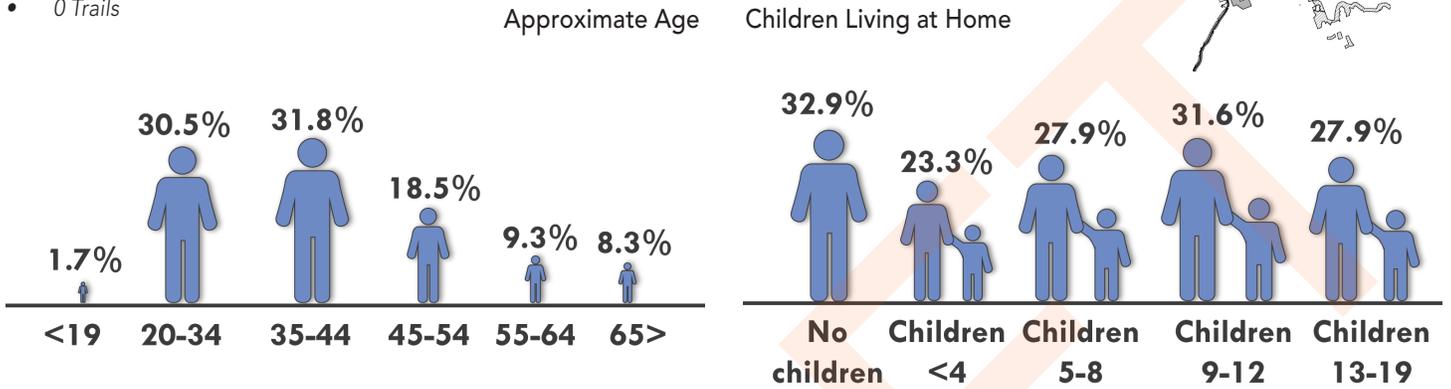


I'm satisfied with the overall quality of parks in my neighborhood.

Figure 2.20, Council District 4 Survey Highlights

District Overview:

- 2 Parks
- 0 Trails

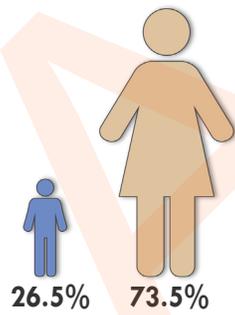


Top Five Favorite Recreation Activities

1. Going to festivals or special events
2. Walking / hiking on trails
3. Playing on playgrounds
4. Swimming for leisure / fitness
5. Basketball

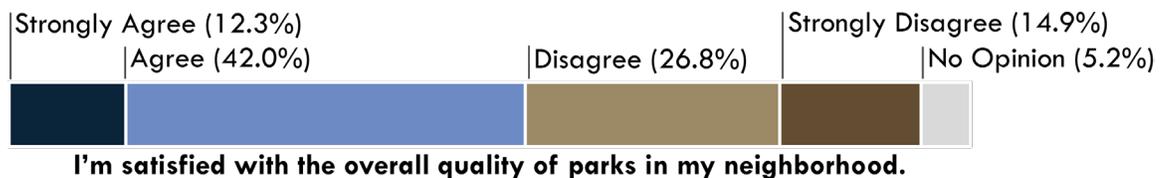
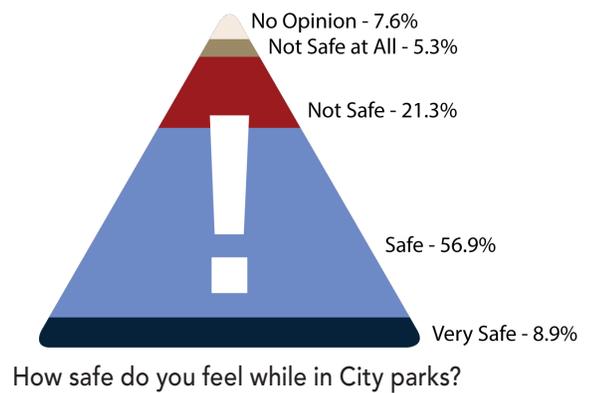
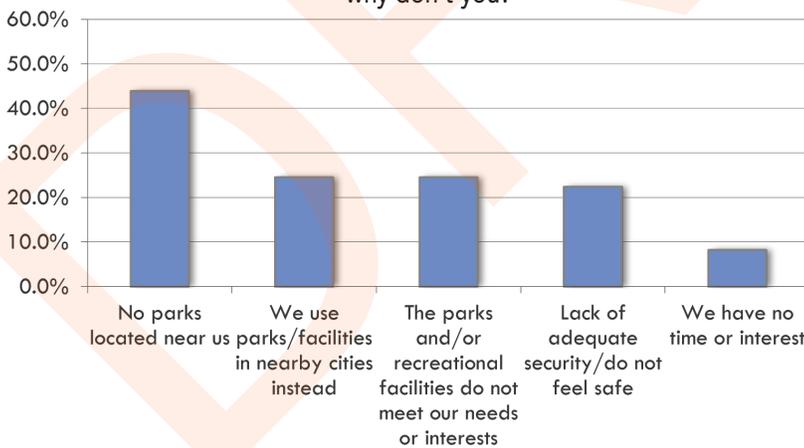
Top Five Daily Recreation Activities in the Past Year

1. Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City
2. Used a non-City fitness center such as a private gym
3. Visited a City park or park facility
4. Participated in a youth athletic league
5. Visited a City playground



Male or Female Respondents

If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in Killeen, why don't you?

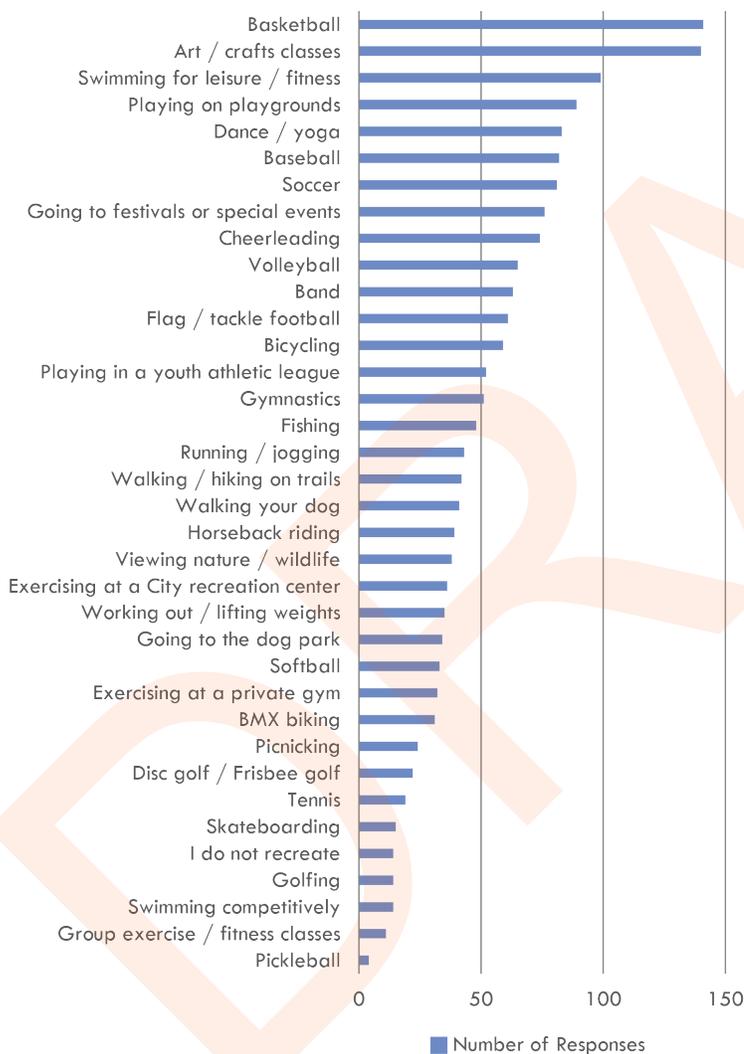




Favorite Recreation Activity

When asked to identify their favorite recreation activity, Killeen youth responded that they most enjoyed basketball (35.3%) and art classes (35.1%) (see Figure 2.23, *Youth Favorite Recreation Activity*). Swimming for leisure and fitness (24.8%) and playing on playgrounds (22.3%) were also among their top favorite activities. Approximately 70 percent of the youth respondents with local access to a private neighborhood park or pool do not visit the private facilities. Conversely, almost 70 percent of respondents have used a City-operated pool or park. Respondents were also asked if having access to WiFi in City parks was important. Approximately 70 percent of the respondents answered that they considered it important or very important.

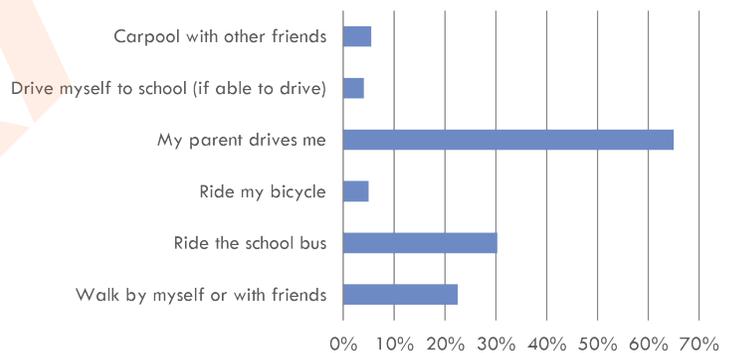
Figure 2.23, Youth Favorite Recreation Activity



Transportation

The survey asked youth how they normally get to school (see Figure 2.24, *School Transportation*). Over 60 percent indicated that their parents drive them while 30 percent of respondents ride the bus and around 22 percent walk alone or with friends. For those who don't walk or ride their bikes to school, most indicated the distance is too far or they do not feel that it is safe.

Figure 2.24, School Transportation



Public Open House

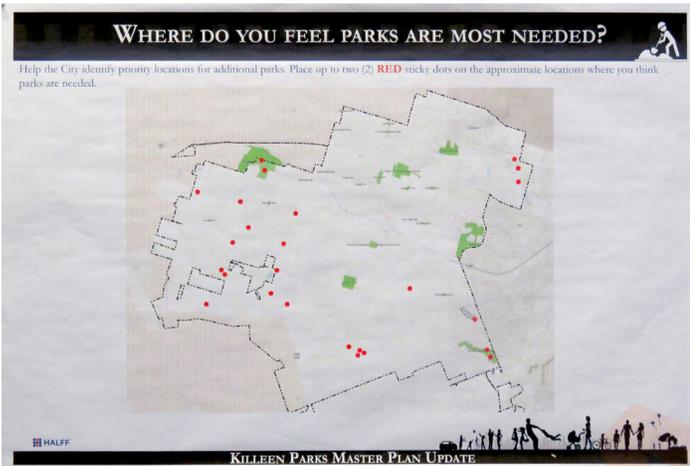
In November 2015, a public open house was held to solicit feedback from the general community. A variety of exercises were used to gain input regarding parks and recreation wants and needs in the City including park types and locations, park and trail design and amenities, and multi-generational recreation programming. A total of 35 attendees were at the open house. Those who attended evenly represented the different areas of Killeen. Additionally, some residents who live in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and in Harker Heights were in attendance. Some key results of the public open house exercises are listed below and depicted on this and the following page.

Park Need Areas

During the stakeholder meetings and public survey, a need for a more evenly distributed parks system was identified. As a follow up, open house attendees were asked to identify up to two locations they felt were priority areas for additional parks. The majority of responses indicated parks in the western and southern portions of the City are most needed. Attendees also felt that a park in the far northeast section of the City is needed.

What Types of Parks are Most Needed?

During the open house, attendees were asked to identify the types of parks they felt were most needed in the community. Indoor facilities, neighborhood parks, and community parks were the top three choices. Pocket parks and special use parks were identified as a lower priority among attendees. Attendees were also asked to identify what types of special amenities they would be most interested in having in select parks. A challenge course, community garden, public art in parks, and mini golf were the top choices. Horseshoe pits and futsal courts received no votes from attendees.



Select public open house response boards





Water-Based Recreation

Attendees were asked to choose their top two priorities for new water-based recreation in the City. Approximately 65 percent of attendees selected an indoor pool as their most desired water-based recreation type. Kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding, and a kid's adventure water play park were the next most desired recreation types.

Park Design Elements

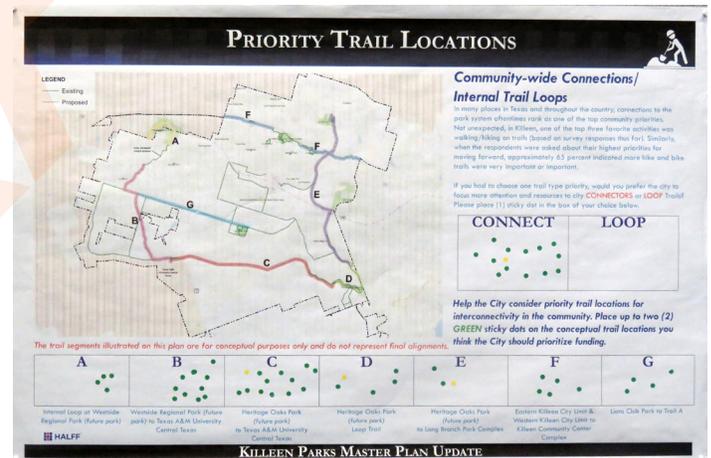
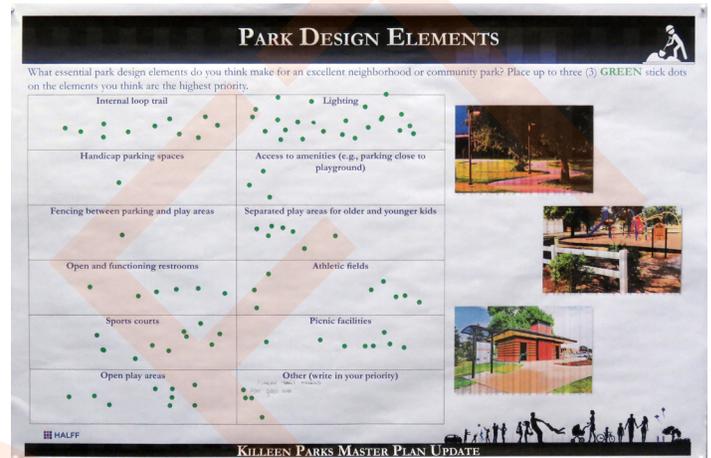
As the City considers developing new parks and upgrading existing parks, it is important to understand residents' priorities for various park design elements. Attendees were asked what essential park design elements they think make an excellent neighborhood or community park. Lighting was selected by over 65 percent of respondents as a high priority. Additional priority elements included an internal loop trail and sports courts.

Park Design Policies

Attendees were then asked whether they supported a variety of park design policies. Approximately 45 percent of attendees indicated their support for designing park facilities using sustainable, efficient "green" design solutions. The use of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) techniques and the design of park landscapes using water-efficient and native landscaping were the second and third highest selected park design policies.

Trail Types Needed

It is understood that Killeen residents largely support the idea of additional trails in the City. To better identify the types of trails that are most desired, attendees were asked to choose two types of trails the City should prioritize for funding. Crushed granite trails and shared-use paths were the top types of trail design that were selected. Attendees were also asked if they support the City building fitness stations in conjunction with the trail network. Over 70 percent



Select public open house response boards





Public open house attendees provided their opinions on the recreational needs of the City.

of attendees responded that they want fitness stations along City trails.

Priority Trail Locations

Open house attendees were asked two questions regarding priority trail locations. They were asked whether the City should prioritize City connector trails or internal loop trails. All attendees who answered this question selected connector trails over loop trails. Attendees were then asked to choose two priority connector trails through the City. Trails connecting Heritage Oaks Park (future park) to Texas A&M University Central Texas and Westside Regional Park (future park) to Texas A&M University Central Texas were the first and second priorities, respectively.

Bike Facilities

In order to determine the bicycle facilities that should be considered for use in the City, attendees were asked what types the City should prioritize for funding. Mountain bike trails, buffered bike lanes, and cycle tracks were the highest

priorities. Non-buffered bike lanes and sharrows were among the lower priority types that attendees selected. When asked if Killeen should consider striping on-street bicycle lanes on existing streets where the street width, traffic volume, and parking configuration can accommodate it, over 60 percent of attendees supported this idea.

Recreation Programs

Attendees were asked what types of recreation programming they and their families are most interested in. Over 45 percent of attendees indicated athletics as a top interest. The arts and health and fitness were the second and third top activities that attendees expressed interest in.

Adult Recreation Programs

Attendees were next asked what types of adult-oriented recreation programming they are most interested in. Entertainment, social exercise clubs, adult sports, and adventure races were the top activities selected.





Support for Grand Ideas

The community has expressed interest in some new big ideas for the City. Attendees were asked to select each item they supported and/or write in their own unique idea. A teen recreation center received the greatest amount of support. A City natatorium and youth and adult sports complex received the second and third highest support, respectively.

City Council Meetings

As the legislative body of Killeen, the City Council plays a crucial role in both setting the City's strategic direction and implementing the Parks Master Plan recommendations. Accordingly, the City Council was engaged early and often throughout the planning process. The first City Council presentation was held in October 2015. The presentation provided a project introduction and identified the Council's thoughts and priorities for the Parks Master Plan. A second mid-point briefing was held with the City Council in Spring 2016 to overview identified needs and provide guidance as to Parks Master Plan recommendations. A later workshop was held with the City Council to present the draft plan and establish priorities. Following a successful public engagement strategy, and strong community support, the City Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan on _____, 2016.

Parks and Recreation Vision

A vision statement incorporates an understanding of a community's wants and needs and illustrates a collective aspiration for the future. The City's vision for their parks and recreation system provides direction for the goals and objectives which form the framework for this Parks Master Plan.

The Killeen Parks and Recreation Division is comprised of nine different internal divisions including the Community Center Operations, Parks, Lions Club Park Operations, Family Aquatic Center, Recreation, Athletics, Cemetery,

Senior Citizens, and Pools. Each internal division has a unique description and major goals. In order to ensure that the nine divisions are working cohesively towards a common goal, the following overarching vision statement has been developed for the Killeen Parks and Recreation Division.

By the year 2036, Killeen will be known for a safe, well-distributed, well-connected, and well-maintained system of parks, recreation, and preserved open space. Community-wide access to diverse, affordable, high-quality recreational, athletic, aquatic, and health and fitness programming will provide emotional, educational, and physical health benefits, opportunities for social interaction, and promote a high quality of life for residents and visitors.

Killeen envisions achieving this by continuing to foster positive relationships and partnerships with businesses and both governmental and non-governmental organizations in the community. Through the provision of adequate resources, increased efficiency, and accurate record keeping, Killeen will enhance, promote, and provide improved multi-generational, passive and active, indoor and outdoor, cultural and recreational services in a cost-effective manner.

To implement this vision, the following mission statement guides daily decision making of the Parks and Recreation Division staff:

The mission of the Killeen Parks & Recreation Department is to enhance, promote, and provide parks, recreation facilities, and programs to all citizens for a better quality of life.



Plan Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives are an important element in the planning process. They provide the underlying philosophical framework by which the Parks Master Plan recommendations and actions will be developed. They also provide guidance for future decisions and development of the parks and recreation system as the City evaluates the need for improvements.

Goals describe the desired outcome for a plan. They differ from the overall vision in that they speak directly to a particular component of the parks and recreation system.

Objectives are identified statements or policies that work towards the goal. They are more specific than a goal and address particular issues related to meeting the needs the goal addresses.

The following goals for this Parks Master Plan are based on input received from the public survey, public open house, and stakeholder meetings.

Goal 1. Continue to develop an interconnected pedestrian/bicycle trail system throughout the City.

Objective 1.1. Work towards creating bicycle and pedestrian trails, pathways, and routes to provide safe connections to all parts of the City including residences, parks, civic facilities, schools, and businesses.

Objective 1.2. Appropriately develop greenbelts and linear parks which preserve and utilize drainage, utility, and natural creek corridors as potential Citywide linkage corridors.

Goal 2. Provide an even and adequate distribution of park facilities Citywide.

Objective 2.1. Identify park and recreation need areas using diverse and reasonable criteria, including analysis of needs by planning area, reasonable calculations of the potential level of use, and the

walkability of each facility to cost-effectively respond to Citywide needs.

Objective 2.2. Provide sufficient funding and resources to ensure that park and recreation needs of all residents are being met.

Objective 2.3. Seek opportunities to acquire land for parks in key locations throughout the City.

Objective 2.4. Seek partnership opportunities to meet parks and recreation needs and avoid duplication of services throughout the City.

Objective 2.5. Encourage and provide opportunities for residents to participate in the planning, development, maintenance, and operation of the City's parks and recreation system.

Objective 2.6. Preserve the ability to respond to unique development opportunities as they arise, if they address key needs and goals, even if out of the proposed sequence of improvements.

Goal 3. Preserve and protect unique natural open spaces, floodplain corridors, and drainage corridors for public use within the City and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) lands.

Objective 3.1. Preserve as much as possible of the remaining undeveloped 100-year floodplain within the city limits and ETJ.

Objective 3.2. Establish criteria, policies, and methods to identify and preserve key open space and natural areas worthy of preservation throughout the City and ETJ.

Objective 3.3. Identify important natural space corridors and lands, and prioritize preservation of key areas.

Objective 3.4. Establish mechanisms to acquire lands for protection through acquisition, purchase of easements, or outright dedication of parkland or floodplain lands to ensure that adequate parkland and open space is maintained as the City continues to





It is important to provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

develop. Focus on areas with high quality natural or open space value that are likely to be developed with incompatible uses in the near future.

Objective 3.5. Establish policies that encourage private owners to preserve and protect key natural areas within the City.

Objective 3.6. Encourage educational institutions, and public and semi-private organizations to acquire, manage, and maintain high value natural and open space conservation areas within the City.

Goal 4. Consider first and long-term maintenance, operation, and staffing costs when planning for new or improved parks and trails.

Objective 4.1. Establish criteria to determine the viability of perpetual maintenance, operation, and staffing of new facilities. Coordinate with all Parks and Recreation internal divisions to incorporate their feedback during the creation of the feasibility criteria.

Objective 4.2. Provide City parks staff with the manpower and resources to maintain all parkland and

facilities in a superior manner.

Objective 4.3. Provide additional operations and maintenance resources as new recreational facilities are developed and added to the Killeen parks system.

Goal 5. Increase public access to water-based recreation.

Objective 5.1. Develop additional water-based recreation opportunities (e.g., splash pads), in key community and neighborhood parks throughout the City.

Objective 5.2. Provide affordable access to indoor and outdoor aquatic activities for City residents.

Goal 6. Provide educational opportunities in the City's parks system.

Objective 6.1. Collaborate with educational institutions, public, and private organizations to provide programs that encourage education in the City's parks system.

Objective 6.2. Provide park amenities that encourage use by educational classes, workshops, and day camps.



Objective 6.3. Provide educational activities and events about Killeen’s historical, cultural, and natural resources in City parks.

Goal 7. Diversify activities and amenities to increase the number of people using the parks, recreation, and trail system and ensure the safety and well-being of multigenerational users.

Objective 7.1. Provide activities that encourage community involvement in a quality environment.

Objective 7.2. Analyze the programming of existing parks and facilities to determine potential changes in order to increase the usage by residents and visitors.

Objective 7.3. Provide a balance of recreational facilities that meets the needs of all age groups, young and old, active and passive, athletic and non-athletic, and in all socioeconomic categories.

Objective 7.4. Create master plans for future parks and recreation amenities to best program the space to meet current and future recreation needs.

Goal 8. Promote partnerships with other public (e.g., KISD), semi-public, and private entities to reduce duplication of facilities and most efficiently use public funding to provide parks and open space in Killeen.

Objective 8.1. Explore partnership opportunities for public use of recreational spaces on educational campuses during non-school hours.

Objective 8.2. Create multi-purpose spaces that can be used by both the public and private groups.

Objective 8.3. Work to strengthen local organizations that can assist with providing parks and recreation programming and amenities in the City.

Objective 8.4. Actively pursue mechanisms that allow the private sector to fund or build park and recreation facilities in the City.

Goal 9. Provide increased consideration of safety when designing park and trail facilities.

Objective 9.1 Create guidelines that prioritize safety in the design of parks and trail systems.

Objective 9.2. Incorporate the use of specific design-based strategies to increase the safety of park and trail users.

Objective 9.3. Provide well-programmed parks which encourage use by a range of user types to increase activity and social awareness.

Goal 10. Maximize sustainability and efficiency of City parks and recreation facilities.

Objective 10.1. Utilize re-use water wherever appropriate and feasible in parks and on City properties.

Objective 10.2. Promote the use of native, water-efficient plant materials to reduce maintenance and irrigation costs in parks and on City properties.

Objective 10.3. Develop guidelines that prioritize water and energy efficiency, use of durable and long-lasting materials, and flexibility of use for parks and recreation facilities.

