

5 *RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS*



In today's society, with the increasingly technology-driven days spent in greater social solitude, the provision of a high-quality parks and recreation system has become even more important. Creating opportunities for residents to interact, participate in physical activity, and enjoy the natural world around them provides a much-needed break from the daily grind that is employment, school, and city life. As the City plans for further growth in the community and its economy, providing quality-of-life improvements also helps to attract and retain residents and new businesses.

Killeen is home to over 140,000 people and a place of employment for nearly 15,000 more.¹ With a population projected to increase by over 47,000 people in the next two decades, planning for the evolution and expansion of the existing parks and recreation system is important to ensure that the City continues to provide for the needs of the community as it grows and ages. Following an in-depth analysis of Killeen’s existing parks and recreation system; identifying key current and future deficiencies through the needs assessment; and receiving feedback from the community; a series of actions are recommended to improve and expand the parks, recreation, and open space system in the City.

¹ OnTheMap. U.S. Census Bureau. <http://onthemap.ces.census.gov> on 08/30/2016

Recommendation Categories

This chapter provides 110 detailed actions which the City can implement over the next 20 years and beyond. Recommendations range from system-wide, all-encompassing policies to more detailed park-specific actions and address the need for improvements to existing parks, acquisition and development of additional parkland, trail planning, recreation facilities and activities, preservation of undeveloped areas, and citywide policies which will guide further development of the parks system. Recommendations will be presented in the sections described in Figure 5.1, *Categorized Actions*.

Figure 5.1, *Categorized Actions*

Parkland Acquisition and Natural Resource Preservation

Recommendations for expansions to the City’s existing parkland and preserving and maximizing potential of the City’s natural resources.

Parkland Planning, Design, and Maintenance

Guidelines for the design and maintenance of parkland.

Park Renovations and Development

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

Connectivity

Developing Citywide connectivity and safe pedestrian use areas.

Recreation Facilities and Programming

Providing ample recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Policies

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





Parkland Acquisition and Natural Resource Preservation

In its current state, the majority of the City’s parkland is concentrated in the northeastern portion of the City. In order to allow for a more even distribution of parkland, additional land will need to be acquired or agreements created for joint-use of land. Additionally, as the population continues to grow, parkland acreage should expand proportionally to allow for equal access to parks across the community. As development in the City continues to expand, precious natural resources can be at risk. It is thus essential for the City to take proactive steps to preserve its natural resources and maximize their potential for recreation, wildlife habitat, ecosystem stability, and stormwater management. To plan for this expansion, the following parkland acquisition actions are recommended. Detailed descriptions of each action are included on subsequent pages.

Table 5.1, Parkland Acquisition and Natural Resource Preservation Actions

Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
PA.1	Evaluate potential for parkland acquisition along key corridors in the City.	Citywide
PA.2	Pursue acquisition of significantly sized parcels to allow for development of community parks in the City’s need areas.	Council Districts 3 and 4 and southern ETJ
PA.3	Coordinate with KISD to develop new neighborhood parks on unused portions of school properties.	Citywide
PA.4	Maximize opportunities to protect and/or create additional green space.	Citywide
PA.5	Proactively identify parkland in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) to allow for future park development.	ETJ



Action PA.1. Evaluate potential for parkland acquisition along key corridors in the City.

As the City looks to expand its parks system, opportunities for citywide parkland and trail connectivity should be considered. Key connectivity opportunities are provided through drainage corridors, within the 100-year floodplain, and along key thoroughfares that provide opportunities for a sidepath or trail. Target connectivity corridors and the 100-year floodplain are illustrated on Map 5.1, *Target Future Parkland and Connectivity Areas*. It is recommended that the City further evaluate parcels in these areas for potential pursuit of acquisition or trail easements. Priority should be given to lands which hold the greatest potential for near-term extension of the City's existing trail system. Parcels providing connection potential in future growth areas should also be proactively identified.

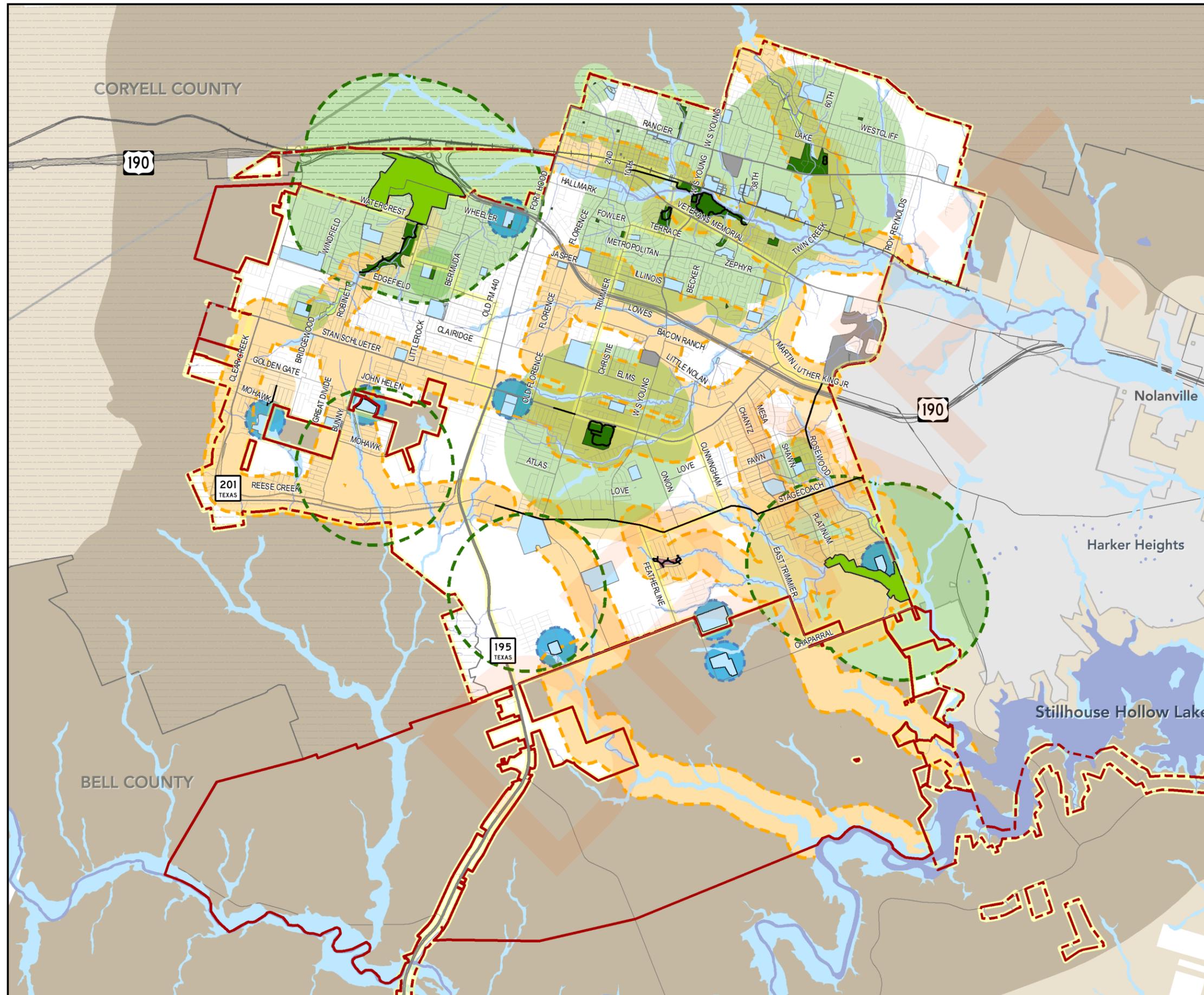
Action PA.2. Pursue acquisition of significantly sized parcels to allow for development of community parks in the City's need areas.

As depicted on Map 4.4, *Community Park Accessibility*, in Chapter 4, there is a need for significant community parkland in the western and southern portions of the City. In addition to current development opportunities found at Heritage Oaks Park and Westside Regional Park, it is recommended that the City evaluate land in the target future community parkland areas depicted on Map 5.1, *Target Future Parkland and Connectivity Areas*, to allow for future park development.



Drainage corridors and floodplain areas provide potential connectivity opportunities as the City extends its trail system.

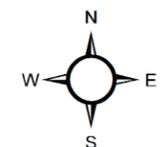




Target Parkland and Connectivity Areas

Legend

- Existing Parks/Recreation Spaces
- Potential Future Parks
- Other
- City-owned Open Space
- Private Parks
- Existing Trails & Oversized Sidewalks
- Existing Trails & Oversized Sidewalks Service Area
- Target Connectivity Corridor
- Existing Parks Nearby Service Area
- Potential Future Park Nearby Service Area
- Target Future Community Parkland Area
- KISD Property
- KISD Future Schools
- Target Joint Use Parks Nearby Service Area
- Killeen's Growth Areas
- City Council District Boundaries
- Killeen City Limits
- Killeen ETJ
- Nearby City ETJs
- 100-Year Floodplain



0 ¼ ½ 1 1½ 2 Miles

Action PA.3. Coordinate with KISD to develop new neighborhood parks on unused portions of school properties.

As illustrated in Map 4.3, *Neighborhood Park and Existing and Future KISD School Accessibility*, in Chapter 4, there are a variety of opportunities for additional joint-use agreements on both existing and future KISD school properties. Joint use of these sites would allow for further development of neighborhood park amenities without requiring the City to acquire additional land. It is thus recommended that the City coordinate with KISD to determine existing schools which have enough land to allow for joint-use facilities. When designing joint-use facilities, care should be taken to ensure that the academic needs of KISD are being met and facilities are not being duplicated between KISD and City-developed areas. Existing schools which may hold potential for joint-use agreements include Pershing Elementary School, Dr. Joseph A. Fowler Elementary School, and Reeces Creek Elementary School, among others.

There are also five future KISD school sites located across the western and southern portions of the City. It is recommended that the City proactively coordinate with KISD to develop joint-use facilities on the sites, where possible, which are mutually beneficial, make best use of available land, and are worked into the original design of the site prior to construction. Target joint-use park locations on both existing and future KISD school sites are illustrated on Map 5.1, *Target Future Parkland and Connectivity Areas*.



Pershing Park Elementary School may hold potential as another joint-use facility.





Action PA.4. Maximize opportunities to protect and/or create additional green space.

There is mounting evidence that interacting with nature results in measurable health and well-being benefits to people, including lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels, fewer medical complaints, and lower stress.¹

However, as the City continues to develop over time, there will be a proportional reduction in the amount of natural green space that is in easily accessible proximity to the urban population. Accordingly, the City needs to proactively maximize opportunities to protect and/or create additional green space. Strategies to achieve this include:

- Establishing regulatory protections of sensitive natural resources including wetlands, stream corridors, or other water bodies, mature tree stands, etc. This could include establishing a 25-foot undisturbed buffer measured from the top of streambanks (providing exceptions for such

¹ How cities use parks to Improve Public Health. City Parks Forum Briefing Papers. <https://www.planning.org/cityparks/briefingpapers/physicalactivity.htm>.

things as passive recreational trails, perpendicular utility and infrastructure crossings, etc.).

- Negotiating conservation easements or acquiring undeveloped land along streams, in floodplains (e.g., the floodplain area east of S. 38th Street and north of Water Street), or large areas of tree canopy.
- Identifying locations within existing parks that can be transitioned to undisturbed natural areas. Contrary to common practice, most areas within the Killeen park system are actively maintained (i.e., mowed) on a continual basis. One exception to this is the area near the Andy K. Wells Trail. As an alternative, the City could identify areas within many parks and set them aside as relatively undisturbed natural areas. This could include planting large wildflower areas and only mowing them once a year, or planting trees and establishing future unmaintained woodland areas. Natural trails could be included with more active maintenance. The benefit of this approach creates more natural parks, different types of amenities, and reduces reoccurring maintenance costs.



Similar to many parks in the Killeen park system, Long Branch Park has a significant area of land that is unprogrammed, but continually maintained (i.e., mowed). Moving forward, the City could consider transitioning some of these areas to less programmed natural areas (e.g., a wildflower meadow or woodland area).





Parkland Planning, Design, and Maintenance

Throughout the public participation component of the planning process, residents and park users voiced their desire for diversified, high-quality, user-friendly park and recreation facilities. With intentions of providing adequate facilities which can be sufficiently maintained by City staff,

the following parkland planning, design, and maintenance action items are recommended. Detailed descriptions of each action are included on subsequent pages.

Table 5.2, Parkland Planning, Design, and Maintenance Actions

Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
PP.1	Update the Parks Master Plan.	Citywide
PP.2	Implement overall park design guidelines to steer proper design and construction of new and improved facilities and amenities.	Citywide
PP.3	Establish minimum design parameters for community, neighborhood, and linear parks.	Citywide
PP.4	Provide a well-maintained parks system.	Citywide
PP.5	Analyze current staffing to ensure that it is, and remains, adequate to handle the maintenance, programming, and facilitation of park and recreation functions.	Citywide
PP.6	Plan for additional resource needs associated with parkland development.	Citywide
PP.7	Evaluate the City's Park and Recreation Division budget to determine adequacy.	Citywide
PP.8	Develop a Park Maintenance and Management Plan.	Citywide
PP.9	Develop a formalized playground risk management inspection schedule and replacement plan.	Citywide
PP.10	Consider up-front and long-term park and recreation costs.	Citywide
PP.11	During facility and building upgrades, consider opportunities to create more efficient and sustainable buildings.	Citywide
PP.12	Provide accessible parks and amenities.	Citywide
PP.13	Develop a master plan for the expansion and improvement of the parks maintenance facility.	Citywide



Action PP.1. Update the Parks Master Plan.

In order to ensure that the City continues to provide the parks and recreation opportunities and facilities to best serve its residents, the City should update the Killeen Parks Master Plan periodically. As suggested by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Plan should be updated after a five-year period, or before any major developments occur which significantly impact the recreation needs of the City. The following steps are recommended for periodic review of this Plan:

- An annual review by City staff should be conducted to review progress and successes.
- An annual report should be provided to the City Council.
- More frequent updates may be required if special needs or occurrences require modifications to the Plan.
- In all cases, public involvement through citizen meetings, interviews, and workshops should be included in any update process.

Action PP.2. Implement overall park design guidelines to steer proper design and construction of new and improved facilities and amenities.

The City should consider adopting a series of park design guidelines to steer the design and construction of new and improved parks and recreation facilities and amenities. Guidelines should be geared towards high-quality, low maintenance design. The guidelines should indicate that new and improved park facilities, amenities, and landscapes be:

- designed using sustainable, efficient “green” design solutions;
- designed and constructed with durable, long-lasting materials;
- designed using water-efficient and native landscaping;
- designed to require minimal maintenance;
- designed to maximize shade opportunities; and
- designed using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques (e.g., increase natural surveillance, control access, management and maintenance) to increase safety of parks and recreation facilities.



Incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design techniques, such as increased visibility and lighting, into a park design can help to reduce the likelihood of crime and create a safer environment for users.

Image source: <http://www.cptedprofessionaltrainingcentre.com/?lightbox=image11y5>





Action PP.3. Establish minimum design parameters for community, neighborhood, and linear parks.

In order to ensure that the parks system as a whole consistently provides for the needs of the community, the City should consider establishing minimum design parameters for each park classification. Design parameters should include diverse programming to attract and accommodate all users throughout the community. Included amenities should provide active and passive opportunities for all age groups and off-site pedestrian and bicycle connections to surrounding areas.

Neighborhood park elements to be considered include:

- Playscape
- Covered picnic tables with grills
- Basketball court
- Shade trees

- Safe pedestrian and bicycle access
- Bicycle racks

Community park elements to be considered include all of the neighborhood park elements listed above as well as:

- Both programmed and unprogrammed athletic fields
- Concession stands
- Restrooms
- Paved loop trail and connectivity to Citywide trail network
- On-site parking
- Splash pad or other water recreation
- Enhanced play structure



An enhanced playscape, similar to the one at Lions Club Park should be a minimum design feature in all community parks.





Action PP.6. Plan for additional resource needs associated with parkland development.

As part of the parkland acquisition and development process, the City should evaluate the potential additional strain on staffing and equipment, and plan for any additional resources required. For example, development of Westside Regional Park would add hundreds of acres of land to the City's parks system. It will be crucial that the City plan for the funding, maintenance personnel, and equipment needed to upkeep this property and maintain it as a high-quality public park.

Action PP.7. Evaluate the City's Park and Recreation Division budget to determine adequacy.

When comparing the Killeen park and recreation system to its benchmarked communities (i.e., Temple, Harker Heights, Waco, Abilene, Midland, and Round Rock), the City of Killeen has less resources allocated to providing this important service to its citizens (see Table 4.8, *2016 Benchmarking for Killeen's Parks and Recreation System*, in Chapter 4). Despite this, respondents to the online public survey indicated that improving and expanding parks and recreation amenities was a community priority.

Indeed, park, recreation, and trail amenities are increasingly becoming an important decision in relocation decisions. As the City moves forward, it will need to evaluate its staffing and budget allocations for the park and recreation system to ensure it results in a system that is competitive in the region. Increased levels of staffing may be needed to improve the quality of park maintenance in existing and future parks. This could allow for greater attention given to routine maintenance such as playscape maintenance, painting of buildings, increased landscaping, etc. Similarly, an increase in budget could provide for additional cultural or recreational programming offerings (e.g., it could allow for needed expansions in fitness class offerings or expanded childcare hours in Lions Club Park).



As the City's parks system grows (e.g., development of Westside Regional Park), it is important to plan for additional monetary, manpower, and equipment needs to ensure that parks can be adequately maintained in good working order.



Action PP.8. Develop a Park Maintenance and Management Plan.

Having a comprehensive understanding of the park maintenance needs and responsibilities is an important component of developing an annual budget (for staffing and operational funding) and capital expenditures. This includes understanding both current needs for repairs (e.g., knowing that the playscape at Marlboro park needs to be replaced) and routine maintenance (e.g., knowing exactly which areas of each park need to be mowed weekly).

As such, the City should consider establishing a Park Maintenance and Management Plan. The purpose is to clearly define the requirements and actions the City of Killeen Parks and Recreation Division needs to undertake to maintain a high quality, parks, recreation, trails, and open space system.

A follow up assessment of existing conditions in all parks should be done every two years. Repairs and replacements needed should be prioritized based on user safety, the level of use of the park, the degree of damage, and the cost of the repair or replacement. A dedicated Park Maintenance and Replacement Program budget should be allocated every year to allow for the prioritized improvements. Implementation of the program will allow the City to maintain a safe, up-to-date parks system.



A Park Maintenance and Management Plan will help the City plan for routine maintenance and repairs to park facilities, such as this picnic shelter in Conder Park which needs to be replaced.





Action PP.9. Develop a formalized playground risk management inspection schedule and replacement plan.

The City should consider implementing a playground risk management inspection program to conduct routine maintenance, identify and schedule repairs, and address safety issues. 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. Routine playground upgrades should include replacing all metal slides with ones which have reduced likelihood of injuring children.

Action PP.10. Consider up-front and long-term park and recreation costs.

When making park acquisition and design decisions, the City should consider all first and long-term costs (e.g., construction and maintenance costs) for acquisition, design, construction, maintenance, and operations.



Routine playground risk management inspections allow the City to ensure that the playgrounds remain safe for children.



Action PP.11. During facility and building upgrades, consider opportunities to create more efficient and sustainable buildings.

Once a facility is constructed, the predominant long-term costs involve staffing, operations, and repair. Poorly designed facilities can significantly increase long-term costs. Similarly, poorly maintained and managed resources can also be a significant burden on the City's budget and staffing resources. Therefore, the City should consider opportunities to improve long-term efficiency and sustainability with each routine maintenance and repair project. This could include improved HVAC systems, increased weatherization (i.e., more insulated buildings), the use of renewable energy (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal), higher efficiency fixtures (e.g., low water faucets, LED lights), low water or xeriscaped landscaping, reduced areas of continual maintenance (see also Action PA.4), and other actions that reduce staffing needs or costs for routine maintenance.

An initial assessment of opportunities could be identified as part of the initial and biannual Park Maintenance and Management Plan update (see also Action PP.8).

Action PP.12. Provide accessible parks and amenities.

During the public survey, respondents were asked to rank a series of 10 potential Park and Recreation Division actions. The greatest percentage of respondents (35%) indicated that providing parks that can be accessed by people with disabilities was their highest priority. It is thus recommended that the City conduct an accessibility assessment to determine park amenities that are not currently ADA accessible. Improvements to facilities should be implemented based on a prioritized list which considers level of use, extent of the upgrade needed, and the associated cost.



Providing adequate facilities, such as curb ramps, allows all residents to access park amenities, regardless of their physical abilities.





Action PP.13. Develop a master plan for the expansion and improvement of the parks maintenance facility.

One of the first steps in creating a quality park and recreation system is to ensure the Parks and Recreation Division (PAR) has adequate facilities for equipment and materials. Currently, the City's existing maintenance facility (located in Conder Park) is over 40 years old, is not weatherproof, and does not have adequate storage capacity. Consequently, much of the City's equipment is stored outside unprotected, materials (e.g., gravel) are sometimes stored in parking lots out in the park or in other unsecured areas, and chemicals are not adequately protected.

Moving forward, the City should consider establishing a new park maintenance facility. An evaluation should be undertaken to determine the most appropriate location for a new facility, one that allows convenient proximity for staff, equipment, and materials to be transported to each park in the system. Alternately, the City may consider multiple, smaller facilities so that travel distances are reduced to various parks.

The new facility should include adequate office, equipment, and material storage space to meet the needs of the system at build-out. In other words, the site should be of sufficient size to allow for future facility expansion as the City grows over time. Expensive capital equipment (e.g., trucks and tractors) should be covered, chemicals secured, and outdoor storage areas screened from public view.



It is recommended that the parks maintenance facility be redesigned and relocated to another site.



Park Renovations and Development

The City currently owns and maintains 24 parks. Many of the parks have additional potential due to size, location, and/or natural amenities. The following recommendations include enhancements and updates to the City’s parks and development of new parks in order to fill parkland and

recreation deficits and create a memorable, well-loved parks system for residents and the greater community. Detailed descriptions of each action are included on subsequent pages.

Table 5.3, Park Renovations and Development Actions

Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
PR.1	Ensure that all parks include adequate lighting for the safety of users.	Citywide
PR.2	Conduct a restroom survey of existing parks to determine where additional restrooms may be needed.	Citywide
PR.3	Fund lighting and restroom projects.	Citywide
PR.4	Ensure that all parks include signs with the park name, rules, and appropriate contact information for maintenance and other requests.	Citywide
PR.5	Increase shade opportunities in existing parks.	Citywide
PR.6	Beautify existing parks.	Citywide
PR.7	Construct a skate park in the southern portion of the City.	Council District 2, 3, or 4
PR.8	Consider coordinating with the area art guild to develop and maintain a mural or tag wall to allow graphic expression.	Citywide
PR.9	Explore additional opportunities for community gardens in the City.	Citywide
PR.10	Provide at least one “all abilities playground” in the City.	Citywide
PR.11	Provide increased educational opportunities in the parks system.	Citywide
PR.12	Develop a new community park in the southern portion of the City	Council District 3
PR.13	Develop a new community park in the western portion of the City.	Council District 4
PR.14	Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a waterfront park along Stillhouse Hollow Lake.	ETJ
PR.15	Resurface outdoor basketball and tennis courts.	Citywide
PR.16	Continue to provide facilities to meet the target levels of service.	Citywide





Table 5.3, Park Renovations and Development Actions (cont.)

Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
Improve Existing Parks		
PR.17	Relocate Camacho Park.	Council District 1
PR.18	Improve Fowler Park.	Council District 3
PR.19	Improve Fox Creek Park.	Council District 2
PR.20	Redevelop Home and Hope Park.	Council District 1
PR.21	Improve Hunt Park.	Council District 1
PR.22	Improve Iduma Park.	Council District 4
PR.23	Improve Lions Neighborhood Park.	Council District 1
PR.24	Improve Marlboro Park.	Council District 2
PR.25	Improve Phyllis Park.	Council District 3
PR.26	Improve Santa Rosa Park.	Council District 3
PR.27	Improve Stewart Park.	Council District 1
PR.28	Improve Killeen Community Center/Killeen Athletic Complex.	Council District 1
PR.29	Improve Mickey's Dog Park.	Council District 1
PR.30	Improve Rotary Club Children's Park.	Council District 1
PR.31	Develop Westside Regional Park.	Council District 3
PR.32	Develop Heritage Oaks Park.	Council District 2
PR.33	Prepare a Conder Park Master Plan.	Council District 3
PR.34	Improve Conder Park.	Council District 3
PR.35	Implement the Conder Park Master Plan.	Council District 3
PR.36	Prepare a Lions Club Park Master Plan.	Council District 3
PR.37	Improve Lions Club Park.	Council District 3
PR.38	Implement the Lions Club Park Master Plan.	Council District 3



Table 5.3, Park Renovations and Development Actions (cont.)

Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
PR.39	Prepare a Long Branch Park Master Plan.	Council District 1
PR.40	Improve Long Branch Park.	Council District 1
PR.41	Implement the Long Branch Park Master Plan.	Council District 1
PR.42	Prepare an AA Lane Park Design Plan.	Council District 1
PR.43	Improve AA Lane Park.	Council District 1
PR.44	Implement the AA Lane Park Design Plan.	Council District 1
PR.45	Prepare a Maxdale Park Design Plan.	Council District 4
PR.46	Improve Maxdale Park.	Council District 4
PR.47	Implement the Maxdale Park Design Plan.	Council District 4
PR.48	Prepare a Timber Ridge Park Design Plan.	Council District 2
PR.49	Improve Timber Ridge Park.	Council District 2
PR.50	Implement the Timber Ridge Park Design Plan.	Council District 2
PR.51	Prepare a Pershing Park Design Plan.	Council District 3
PR.52	Implement the Pershing Park Design Plan.	Council District 3
PR.53	Prepare an Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex Master Plan.	Council District 1
PR.54	Improve Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex.	Council District 1
PR.55	Implement the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex Master Plan.	Council District 1





Action PR.1. Ensure that all parks include adequate lighting for the safety of users.

While certain parks and trails are closed dusk to dawn, others allow use long after dark. Indeed, in the wintertime, it may be dark as early as 5:00 p.m. This means that certain parks and park amenities will be used after dark. To improve the safety (and perception of safety) for all park users, the City should evaluate and fund improvements to establish adequate lighting in all parking lots, trails, restrooms, and other areas where users will be after dark.

Action PR.2. Conduct a restroom survey of existing parks to determine where additional restrooms may be needed.

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

Action PR.3. Fund lighting and restroom projects.

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



Lighting should be provided in and around all parking lots, restrooms, and other areas where users will be after dark, such as large athletic facilities.





Action PR.8. Consider coordinating with the area art guild to develop and maintain a mural or tag wall to allow graphic expression.

The City has struggled with graffiti in some of its parks. In an effort to provide a positive outlet for those who deface the parks, and in an attempt to reduce the incidences of graffiti, the City may want to consider developing a mural or tag wall. Such an amenity creates a unique artistic element in the City, provides a fun destination for locals and visitors alike, and is an ever-changing expression of the community. The City could also develop a graphic arts day camp program led by local artists to teach art skills to teens in a non-typical environment.

Action PR.9. Explore additional opportunities for community gardens in the City.

The community has expressed interest in an additional community garden. Community gardens provide opportunities for residents to socialize, practice their hobby in a public setting, grow food they may not otherwise have space for, and develop improved eating habits. Dependent on community initiation and support, the City should consider supporting the development of a public community garden. Residents could pay a fee for a specific-sized plot for the season. A community garden can be located within a park or on a separate site. A number of program opportunities are also associated with community gardens including STEM (i.e., science, technology, engineering, math) Programs with local schools, gardening classes taught by local master gardeners, and cooking and food preparation classes.



Community gardens provide health and wellness, educational, and social benefits for communities.

Image source: <https://wasatchgardens.org/news-and-events/events/item/7>



Action PR.10. Provide at least one “all abilities playground” in the City.

Based on residents desires for accessible facilities in the community, the City should consider providing at least one all abilities playground in the City. An “all abilities playground” provides equipment and experiences which can be enjoyed by children of all abilities, including those with physical disabilities, autism, sensory disorders, vision impairments, etc. Potential locations for the playground include Lions Club Park and Rotary Club Children’s Park.

Action PR.11. Provide increased educational opportunities in the parks system.

Killeen has a variety of historical, cultural, and natural resources throughout the community. In an effort to educate the public about their community and the natural world around them, the City should consider providing increased opportunities for education in the parks system. There are a multitude of educational strategies that can be used in parks such as interpretive signage, bringing school classes into the parks, fostering environmental and civic stewardship by encouraging youth to spend time maintaining the quality of City parks, providing educational classes, bringing art-based recreation programs into the parks, and demonstration gardens, among others. During the public open house, attendees most strongly supported the ideas of bringing K-12 classes into the parks, providing art classes in the parks (e.g., drawing classes), developing a safety town (i.e., miniature town used to educate young kids about traffic safety), and encouraging youth to help with park maintenance.



An “all abilities playground,” also known as an inclusive playground, provides activities for all children.

Image source: <http://www.playitsafeplaygrounds.com/inclusive-play/what-is-an-inclusive-playground/>





Action PR.12. Develop a new community park in the southern portion of the City

As development in the City progresses further south, it is recommended that the City develop a new community park in that area (see Map 5.1, *Target Future Parkland and Connectivity Areas*). The park should include passive and active recreation, multigenerational activities, water-based recreation, and potentially an athletic complex.

Action PR.13. Develop a new community park in the western portion of the City.

Similar to Action PR.12, the City should consider developing an additional community park in the western portion of the City (see Map 5.1, *Target Future Parkland and Connectivity Areas*). This currently unserved area would greatly benefit from nearby access to community park amenities.

Action PR.14. Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a waterfront park along Stillhouse Hollow Lake.

Located along the southern extent of the City limits, Stillhouse Hollow Lake provides a unique opportunity for water-based recreation at a scale not possible anywhere else in Killeen. The lake is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It is recommended that the City coordinate with the USACE to continue to preserve the shoreline and floodplain areas and determine opportunities for potential recreational uses along the lake. If feasible, the City should consider ultimately developing a waterfront park.



Target community parkland areas for future acquisition and development are located in the southern and western portions of the City.



Action PR.15. Resurface outdoor basketball and tennis courts.

As part of a Repair and Replacement Program, it is recommended that the City analyze the condition of its outdoor basketball and tennis courts and provide resurfacing where necessary.

Action PR.16. Continue to provide facilities to meet the target levels of service.

The City should continue to provide additional amenities to meet the target levels of service identified in Table 4.6, *Target Level of Service for City-Owned Park Facilities*. On a biannual basis, the City should re-evaluate deficiencies and prioritize development of the facilities with the greatest deficits.

Action PR.17. Relocate Camacho Park.

It is recommended that Camacho Park be relocated. The City should consider removing the recreation elements from the site and converting it to a landscape island. Recreation facilities should be redeveloped on a nearby location with safe pedestrian and vehicular access, such as potentially the West Ward Elementary School. New amenities developed should include a new playground, picnic tables, shade trees or pavilion, and other appropriate uses based on the size of the parcel.

Action PR.18. Improve Fowler Park.

Recommended improvements to Fowler Park include adding a park sign, landscaping and shade trees, picnic pavilion and additional picnic tables, basketball court, a planting buffer or fence around the park, perimeter sidewalks along street frontage, covering the playground, installing improved playground surfacing, and replacing the playground when the next repair or replacement is needed.



Covering all City playgrounds will provide a much more pleasant experience for children.

Image source: <http://vacationrentalpics.com/>





Action PR.19. Improve Fox Creek Park.

It is recommended that a shade structure and enhanced landscaping be added to Fox Creek Park.

Action PR.20. Redevelop Home and Hope Park.

The City should consider redeveloping Home and Hope Park with input from the community. Amenities to consider include a playground, covered picnic table, and security lighting.

Action PR.21. Improve Hunt Park.

Recommended improvements to Hunt Park include replacing the park sign, adding a picnic pavilion and tables, lighting, a small off-street parking area, perimeter sidewalks along the street frontage, covering the playground, replacing the swing set hardware, and replacing the slides with non-metal alternatives.

Action PR.22. Improve Iduma Park.

It is recommended that signage, landscaping, and a playground shade structure be added to Iduma Park.

Action PR.23. Improve Lions Neighborhood Park.

It is recommended that the City use the designated Community Development Block Grant Funds to improve Lions Neighborhood Park as already planned (i.e., playground improvements, two full basketball courts, and a pavilion). Additional recommended improvements include adding park lighting and sidewalks along the street frontage. The City should also consider naturalizing parts of the southern parcel to provide stormwater filtration and reduce routine maintenance requirements.



Picnic pavilions provide shaded places for individuals and groups to enjoy the park. It is recommended that the City add structures to Fox Creek Park and Hunt Park, among others.





Action PR.28. Improve Killeen Community Center/Killeen Athletic Complex.

It is recommended that the City improve the grading and drainage of the baseball and softball fields to address flooding concerns, add two covered playgrounds near the ball fields, and add two large picnic pavilions to provide adequate space for large team gatherings following sporting events. Further recommendations for adjacent to the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail are addressed in Actions PR.53 through PR.55.

Action PR.29. Improve Mickey's Dog Park.

Add park lighting, additional trees, another water fountain to the large dog park, and more shaded seating areas for users.

Action PR.30. Improve Rotary Club Children's Park.

It is recommended that the City enhance Rotary Club Children's Park to become a state-of-the-art play area for children and their families. To do so, the City should consider relocating the existing playground elements to the Killeen Athletic Complex and replacing them with an enhanced covered playscape similar to that at Lions Club Park or developing an all abilities playground. Other elements to consider in the park include a splash pad, a safety town (i.e., a miniature community used to teach children traffic safety), and an additional picnic pavilion.



Rotary Club Children's Park has the opportunity to become a state-of-the-art play destination for children including an enhanced playground and safety town, among other options.

Image source: City of Round Rock, TX



Action PR.31. Develop Westside Regional Park.

In order to fill a great park and recreation void in the northwestern portion of the City, it is recommended that the City develop Westside Regional Park according to the Westside Regional Park Master Plan found in Appendix C. The City is afforded a rare opportunity to cooperate with Fort Hood to develop a regional park with a multitude of amenities, while preserving the stormwater management functions of the site. The City should coordinate with Fort Hood to gather the necessary approvals to proceed with implementation of the Master Plan. The City should then move forward with developing detailed design and construction drawings for the park to solidify the exact location, extent, and configuration of the park elements illustrated on the Master Plan.

Development of Westside Regional Park would increase the City's parkland by over 300 acres or over 80 percent. This would bring the percentage met of the City's regional parkland need up from zero percent to 24 to 48 percent (see Table 4.2, *Percent of Need Met with Development of Potential Future Parks*, in Chapter 4). The park is proposed to include a variety of trail types, select athletics, educational elements, water-based recreation, picnicking facilities, and adventure activities. Additionally, survey respondents indicated that developing signature park facilities, such as festival grounds, was their second highest priority for future Parks and Recreation actions. The Westside Regional Park Master Plan includes a large event area (see the image below) to provide space for free play throughout the year as well as space for large events or concerts. All told, Westside Regional Park has potential to provide daily recreation options for nearby residents, space for community and regional events, and become a weekend destination which draws in visitors from throughout the county and beyond for years to come.



The Westside Regional Park Master Plan includes a large event lawn for daily free play, multipurpose practice fields, and a gathering space for large events.





Action PR.32. Develop Heritage Oaks Park.

Based on the need area illustrated in Map 4.4, *Community Park Accessibility* in Chapter 4, the City's community parkland need areas encompass the entire southern and western portions of the City. Similar to Westside Regional Park, Heritage Oaks Park has potential to meet a key parkland need (see Map 4.5, *Community Park Accessibility with Development of Potential Future Parks*, in Chapter 4) without requiring the City to purchase any land. This is a rare opportunity which the City is strongly advised to act upon as soon as development funding is available. It is recommended that the City develop detailed design and construction drawings based on the Heritage Oaks Park Master Plan found in Appendix B.

Development of Heritage Oaks Park would add over 100 acres to the City's parks system. With the residential development underway in the area, as well as the future KISD elementary school to be located adjacent to the site, this park has potential to serve a growing population. The City should also consider evaluating any partnership opportunities with KISD to develop the outdoor education component of the Plan.

As described in the Heritage Oaks Park Master Plan, the park is proposed to include a network of trails and connections to each area of the park; outdoor activity areas for mountain biking, field sports, and hiking; a large designated area for children's play and learning activities; a parking facility and new access to Rosewood Boulevard; and a connection to existing parks and the Citywide trail system.



The Heritage Oaks Park Master Plan proposes to preserve the City's natural resources and provide appropriate recreational access with trails traversing the site.



Action PR.33. Prepare a Conder Park Master Plan.

Conder Park presents a variety of opportunities for further development. In order to determine the best potential use, layout, and phasing of site improvements, the City should consider preparing a follow up detailed Master Plan of the park. It is recommended that the master planning process include a stakeholder and citizen design charrette to gain the community's input and buy-in on the ultimate development of the park.

Elements to consider as part of the Master Plan include (see also Map 5.2, *Potential Conder Park Improvement Areas*):

- Drainage improvements and streambank restoration;
- Native vegetative buffers along the creek and around the pond to provide stormwater filtration, slow down the flow of water into the creek, and aesthetically improve the area;
- An ADA compliant fishing pier to provide universal access for all park patrons;
- Permanent multipurpose field lighting to allow for youth and adult football and soccer league play;
- Shaded spectator seating at the multipurpose field;
- Splash pad;
- Perimeter sidewalks and crosswalks for neighborhood connectivity to the park;
- Connectivity to the Andy K. Wells trailhead located 0.5 miles north of the park;
- Extending and paving select portions of the trail to create a larger loop which traverses the entire site;
- Skate park expansion and enhancement, including consideration of permanent elements;

- Additional picnic pavilions near the proposed splash pad, adjacent to the pond, and at the southern end of park near the playground;
- An enhanced picnic grove under the heavy tree canopy;
- Additional parking areas;
- Replacing all footbridges in the park with permanent, higher quality elements; and
- Relocation of the parks maintenance facility to another site. If the facility remains in the park, redesign it to include sufficient material and equipment storage, and provide perimeter vegetative buffers to improve the appearance from the remainder of the park.

Action PR.34. Improve Conder Park.

As part of routine upgrades and repairs in the near future, the City should consider addressing the following items.

- Cover the playgrounds.
- Repair or replace damaged picnic shelters, tables, grills, and benches.
- Rehabilitate the fishing pier to address damaged areas until the City decides to further improve the area.
- Repair and pave the washout-prone sections of the trail.

Action PR.35. Implement the Conder Park Master Plan.

Following preparation of a Conder Park Master Plan, it is recommended that the City develop detailed design and construction drawings and proceed with implementation of the plans.



Conder Park



1 Planting additional trees and adding groupings of picnic tables can create a picnic grove for both small and large group gatherings and take advantage of the existing and enhanced shade.

Image source: <http://www.letsenjoyla.com/rocky-oaks-park-in-the-santa-monica-mountains/>



2 Enhancing the skate park to include permanent features and additional elements for varying skill levels can diversify the experience for users. If the skate park is expanded to the west, it can take advantage of the topography and be built into the slope.

Image source: http://californiaskeatparks.com/portfolio/ne-regional-skatepark/elasoimg_4369texas/



3 Providing a paved, extended, and lighted loop trail would address washout issues, provide safety for users throughout the park's hours, provide connection to the south part of the park, and expand the length of the trail to nearly one mile.



4 Developing a splash pad in conjunction with the playground and picnic shelter would provide a family-friendly activity center in the park.



5 The City should consider providing native vegetative buffers around the pond to help maintain the integrity of the banks and water, and to aesthetically improve the area. Signage can be displayed to educate the public about the function of the buffers.

Image source: <http://www.hoosieraquaticmanagement.com/photos-and-projects/>



6 Providing additional picnic pavilions, such as one near the playground, would allow parents to gather and relax in the shade while their children play.

Image source: https://localwiki.org/sac/Steve_Jones_Park

Action PR.36. Prepare a Lions Club Park Master Plan.

Lions Club Park is one of the most extensively used parks from Temple to Copperas Cove, and is the most used park in Killeen. It is thus important that the City plan for potential upgrades, expansions, and general upkeep of the site. In order to ensure that future development of the site progresses in a planned manner, the City should consider preparing an overall Lions Club Park Master Plan for the site. This should incorporate the recommendations presented in the proposed facility master plans for the Family Recreation Center and Senior Center (see Action R.3), and the Family Aquatics Center (see Action R.1). The Lions Club Park Master Plan should include a design charrette with stakeholders and residents to afford them a chance to provide input into the ultimate design of the park and to build buy-in for the development.

Elements to consider as part of the Master Plan include (see also Map 5.3, *Potential Lions Club Park Improvement Areas*):

- A picnic grove in the open area along the southern border of the site to include shade trees, picnic tables, grills, trashcans, etc.;
- Fitness stations and associated small play areas along the trail;
- Additional parking areas;
- An unprogrammed multipurpose field along the southern border of the site to allow for general community use;
- Replacing the basketball court with an all abilities playground;

- Reconstructing an improved basketball court near the soccer field area;
- An expanded Family Recreation Center and Senior Center;
- An expanded Family Aquatics Center;
- A vegetated buffer between the park and adjacent residences; and
- Evaluating potential for acquisition of parcels to the east and west of the park to allow for expansion.

Action PR.37. Improve Lions Club Park.

As part of routine upgrades and repairs in the near future, the City should consider addressing the following items.

- Add improved trail signage.
- Provide shaded spectator seating adjacent to the multipurpose fields.
- Provide enhanced landscaping with an emphasis on shade trees throughout the park.
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to the site from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Action PR.38. Implement the Lions Club Park Master Plan.

Following preparation of a Lions Club Park Master Plan, it is recommended that the City move forward with detailed design and construction drawings and implementation of the plans.



Lions Club Park



1 Developing a shaded picnic grove among a treed area would create additional passive use of the park. The area could either be surfaced with decomposed granite or grass.

Image source: <http://www.tripadvisor.co.nz>



2 The City should evaluate the potential for a non-programmed multipurpose field at the southern end of the park. Locating the field near the picnic grove would provide additional non-league based recreation opportunities in an area geared towards group and family gatherings.

Image source: <http://www.fayobserver.com>



3 Adding an inclusive playground to Lions Club Park would provide play options for all children in a central location within the City.

Image source: City of Round Rock, TX



4 Incorporating small play areas near fitness stations along the trail allows children and their parents to enjoy the trail together and participate in age-appropriate exercise.

Image source: <http://www.gametime.com/product/Butterfly-Net-38003/>



5 The basketball courts developed over the last few years in Conder and Long Branch Parks have set a new standard quality for community park facilities in the City. The City should maintain these standards when reconstructing the basketball court in Lions Club Park.



6 Lions Club Park is heavily programmed. In order to potentially expand the boundaries in the future, the City may want to consider evaluating potential land acquisition opportunities.

Long Branch Park



1 A lighted perimeter loop trail, similar to that at Lions Club Park, would likely be highly used in Long Branch Park. Ultimately, the City should strive to connect Long Branch Park to an eastern expansion of the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail.



2 A full-service multipurpose field complex with associated parking, restroom, and concession stand can provide additional athletic practice and game space in the City.



3 Naturalizing and enhancing the vegetation (e.g., adding wildflower meadows) along the creek edges would reduce maintenance requirements, provide stormwater filtration, and help to diversify the landscape in the park.



4 Covering all the playscapes in the park would provide respite from the heat and sun for children.

Image source: <http://www.buggybuddys.com.au>



5 Planting additional trees will help to create shaded areas for relaxation and gatherings (such as those in Conder Park) in the future.



6 To alleviate overuse of the existing splash pad, the City should consider providing a second splash pad with nearby picnic shelters on the east side of the park in the vicinity of the less used playscape. This would also encourage greater use of the eastern playground.

Image source: <http://freefuninaustin.com/2011/06/splash-pad-feature-falcon-pointe-in-pflugerville/>

Action PR.42. Prepare an AA Lane Park Design Plan.

In its current configuration, AA Lane Park does not get as much use as it should as a 6.6-acre park. One reason for this is that the adjacent neighbors may prefer different amenities. Other reasons may be the community's concerns about the safety of the park and its general upkeep. In order to plan the park to meet its greatest potential, it is recommended that the City prepare a Design Plan for the site. Due to the minimal use by residents, the City should consider including a public input component in the planning process to determine what facilities they would most likely use on the site.

Elements to consider as part of the Plan include (see also Map 5.5, *Potential AA Lane Park Improvement Areas*):

- Removing the baseball field;
- Unprogrammed open space to allow for pickup soccer and football games, Frisbee, etc.;
- Removing the concrete bleachers and replacing with a two-leveled terraced picnic area, including picnic tables and enhanced steps providing entry from the parking lot into the park;
- Multiple picnic pavilions with tables, grills, trash cans, etc.;
- A small splash pad and associated updated playground;
- A lighted perimeter trail with connections to the street and future connectivity to the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail;
- A restroom;
- Enhanced landscaping and trees around the picnic pavilion and along the trail; and
- Creating small level areas to locate picnic tables beneath the existing tree canopy in the eastern portion of the park.

Action PR.43. Improve AA Lane Park.

As part of routine upgrades and repairs in the near future, the City should consider addressing the following items.

- Address safety issues on and around the concrete bleachers (e.g., exposed rebar).
- Cover the existing playground.
- Provide parking lot and security lighting.
- Repair the parking lot near the futsal courts to address the undercutting.
- Repair the existing pavilion and add a barbecue grill.
- Repair or replace any damaged benches.
- Evaluate the potential to naturalize the drainage corridor and severely sloped areas in the park to reduce maintenance requirements and improve the aesthetic appearance of the site.

Action PR.44. Implement the AA Lane Park Design Plan.

Once an AA Lane Park Design Plan is finalized, the City should prepare detailed construction drawings and proceed with implementation of the plans.



AA Lane Park



1 Use of AA Lane Park could be increased through the provision of a small loop trail. Consideration should be given to ultimately connecting the trail to the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail.



2 Through naturalization and wildflower plantings in select areas in the park (e.g., sloped areas, drainage channel), regular maintenance tasks can be reduced while improving the overall appearance of the park.



3 Developing a splash pad near the enhanced playground can create activities for children throughout all seasons of the year.

Image source: <http://www.vortex-intl.com/project/10/broken-arrow-adds-third-easy-to-maintain-splashpadr>



4 An enhanced, covered playscape would create a more inviting experience for kids.

Image source: <http://www.buggybuddys.com.au>



5 Lighting the parking lot and other areas of the park that may be used after dark would improve the overall safety of the park.

Image source: <http://www.lightbulbsandbeyond.com/blog/816/>



6 Providing trees near the picnic pavilions and along the trail would help to provide shade and vertical interest in the park.

Action PR.45. Prepare a Maxdale Park Design Plan.

To date, Maxdale Park is minimally developed. In order to better serve the community and determine the maximum potential of the site, it is recommended that the City prepare an enhanced Design Plan. The Plan would be used to determine the final amenities, general layout, and evaluate additional potential cooperation opportunities with KISD for development of the park.

Elements to consider as part of the Design Plan include (see also Map 5.6, *Potential Maxdale Park Improvement Areas*):

- Lighted perimeter walking trail;
- Expanding the irrigation system and adding enhanced landscaping and trees;
- Additional picnic pavilions;
- An additional multipurpose practice field;
- Shaded spectator areas adjacent to the basketball court;
- Shade structure over the basketball court; and
- A standalone backstop.

Action PR.46. Improve Maxdale Park.

As part of routine upgrades and repairs in the near future, the City should consider addressing the following items.

- Provide park signs adjacent to the entrances from the neighborhood.
- Provide additional picnic tables under the existing pavilion.
- Repair the damaged bench.
- Repair and repaint playground components.
- Cover the playground.

Action PR.47. Implement the Maxdale Park Design Plan.

Once the general design and layout of the site is completed, the City should proceed with development of detailed construction drawings and implementation of the plans.

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Maxdale Park



1 A lighted perimeter trail would create a local walking or running loop for the neighborhood. The relatively level topography of the site would allow for development of a decomposed granite trail, which is often preferred by runners.



2 The site provides adequate space and topography for another multipurpose practice field. The field could be used by athletic programs for practice space but should be prioritized for use by the general public on weekends.



3 An additional picnic pavilion located adjacent to the basketball court would provide space for picnics and gatherings as well as for spectators during community games.

Image source: <http://www.sportsvolusia.com/facilities/daytona-beach/joeharris.shtml>



4 The City should consider providing a shade structure over the basketball court to create a cooler environment for users.

Image source: <http://basketballcourtshade.com/shade-structures/recreational/outdoor-basketball-court-shade/>



5 While full games may not be able to occur concurrently, providing a standalone baseball backstop at the edge of the multipurpose practice field would diversify the athletic opportunities in the park.



6 Additional trees planted on the site in gathering areas and along the loop trail would eventually mature to provide shade and enhance the user experience in the park.

Timber Ridge Park



1 Similar to Maxdale Park, Timber Ridge Park presents an opportunity for a lighted decomposed granite loop trail. Since the adjacent neighborhoods include sidewalks, residents would be able to walk, run, or bike safely to the park, and then continue around the loop (approximately 0.3 miles).



2 Adding one or more standalone baseball backstops to the park would provide a location for neighborhood residents to play pickup games for fun.

Image source: <http://town.middleton.wi.us/index.asp>



3 Through coordination with KISD, there may be an opportunity to improve the basketball court and ultimately provide a shade structure or canopy.

Image source: <http://www.shadecomforts.com/media/shade-canopy-outdoor-basketball-court-1/1169/>



4 Multipurpose practice fields with adjacent spectator seating areas will further help to diversify the location of athletic facilities in the City. Similar to Maxdale Park, general public use of the property should be prioritized on the weekends.



5 Between Timber Ridge Park and the adjacent KISD facilities, there are three playgrounds on the site. Enhancing the play area in the park to include a water element (to operate only outside of school hours) could supplement the park's offerings and draw in users from a greater distance.

Image source: <http://vortexaquaticplaygrounds.com.au/landing/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Spray-Point-00.jpg>



6 Enhanced landscaping planted adjacent to the parking lot and at the park entrances, and trees planted along the trail would visually and physically enhance the environment in the park.

Action PR.51. Prepare a Pershing Park Master Plan.

The pool in Pershing Park is in need of major repairs and the City has determined that it is no longer cost effective to repair it. As such, this property provides a unique opportunity for an enclosed, rentable space for parties and large gatherings. When not reserved for parties, the park could remain open for general public use.

There are also over three acres owned by KISD which are located directly adjacent to the park. It is recommended that the City pursue a joint-use agreement with KISD for development of the unprogrammed Pershing Park Elementary School land. It is then recommended that the City prepare an overall Pershing Park Master Plan for both the pool area and the KISD land to determine the best use of the site and how the two areas should interact, if at all.

Elements to consider as part of the Master Plan include (see also Map 5.8, *Potential Pershing Park Improvement Areas*):

Pershing Park Pool area:

- Pool removal;
- A central wet/dry playground;
- Redesign the entry building/bath house to include restrooms, changing areas, and locked storage areas;
- Replace picnic pavilions and add additional pavilions;
- Unique, mobile play equipment which can be stored during general public use of the site but made available as part of facility rentals for parties;
- Lighting; and
- Improved landscaping and additional trees.

Dependent of a joint-use agreement with KISD for development of the Pershing Park Elementary School land, the following additional elements could be considered:

- A multipurpose practice field;
- A second standalone backstop;
- Shaded spectator seating areas;
- Improved parking;
- A picnic pavilion with tables, grills, trashcans, etc.;
- A lighted perimeter trail; and
- Enhanced plantings and trees.

Action PR.52. Implement the Pershing Park Master Plan.

Once the City has determined if a joint-use agreement is a possibility at Pershing Park Elementary School, it should proceed with preparation of final design and construction plans and implementation of the design.





1 Dependent on the creation of a joint-use agreement for Pershing Park Elementary School land, a lighted perimeter trail would provide a recreation and exercise loop for nearby residents.



2 The Pershing Park Elementary School land provides sufficient space and appropriate topography for the development of one or more multipurpose practice fields.

Image source: <http://athletics.capital.edu/facilities/grass>



3 Shaded spectator seating provided adjacent to the multipurpose fields and baseball backstops would create a much more enjoyable space for parents.

Image source: <https://beaonathletics.com/store/for-facilities/shade-cover-bleachers/>

Pershing Park



4 This park provides a unique opportunity for the City. Since the site includes lockable storage areas, the City could consider providing unique mobile play equipment which patrons could choose to rent as part of the Pershing Park rental agreement. The play equipment includes large-scale, loose elements that children manipulate, either on their own or together, to create countless fun configurations.

Image source: <http://www.aastateofplay.com/snug-play-starter-kit/>



5 The existing water infrastructure on site provides an opportunity for a wet/dry playground. The facility would include safety surfacing and could function as a standard playground when the water wasn't on. However, water features could be activated during warmer months to create fun water recreation for children.

Image source: http://lazymumfussychild.blogspot.com/2014_09_01_archive.html



6 New and improved picnic pavilions could be rented on an individual basis by residents. The park could also be rented as a whole to allow for larger gatherings and parties.

Image source: <http://playgroundsandpicnics.blogspot.com/2012/08/eddie-deussen-park-ponder-texas.html?view=timeslide>

Action PR.53. Prepare an Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex Master Plan.

As part of the public survey, respondents indicated that providing additional pedestrian and bicycle trails was the most needed park and recreation facility. As one of the two primary trails in the City, the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail currently includes 2.4 miles of paved trail which is largely located parallel to South Nolan Creek. The trail is used daily with the heaviest use on weekends. Being located adjacent to the Rotary Club Children's Park, Mickey's Dog Park, Killeen Athletic Complex, Killeen Community Center, and the Bob Gilmore Senior Center, the trail complex ties the entire area together. With future extension, the trail could provide community access from the surrounding neighborhoods to the complex as well as a number of additional parks in the area. Due to the variety of opportunities that the site presents, and the inter-workings of the adjacent parks, it is recommended that the City prepare an Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex Master Plan. The Master Plan should include potential upgrades to each of the adjacent parks and a public participation component to ensure that the final Complex design and layout meets the needs of the community.

Elements to consider as part of the Master Plan include (see also Map 5.9, *Potential Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Improvement Areas*):

- Educational signage along the trail;
- Fitness stations and play pods along the trail;
- A restroom at the eastern trailhead;
- Volleyball court and picnic areas near the western trailhead;
- Basketball court near the trail;
- Natural trails through the wooded areas;

- Upgrading trail lighting to LED fixtures;
- Non-concrete trail surfacing in select trail extension areas; and
- Evaluate and pursue opportunities to expand the trail to the east and west and provide connections to Conder Park, AA Lane Park, Long Branch Park, and Marlboro Park.

Action PR.54. Improve Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex.

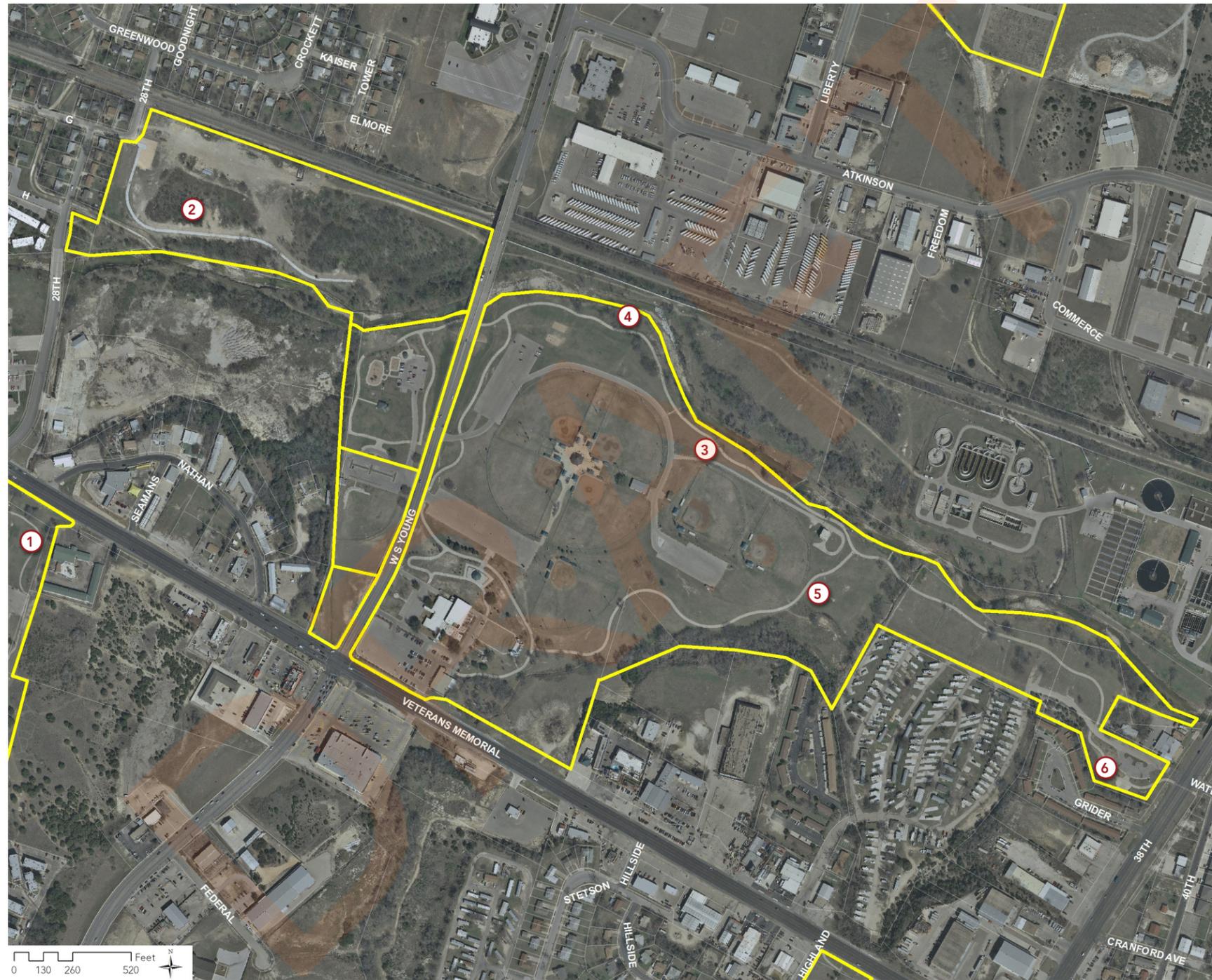
As part of routine maintenance and upgrades in the near future, the City should consider providing additional trees along the trail for shade and naturalized wildflower meadow areas between the trail and South Nolan Creek.

Action PR.55. Implement the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex Master Plan.

After the City has developed an Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex Master Plan, it is recommended that it prepare detailed design and construction drawings to determine the final layout and phasing for improvements and include the ultimate alignment determined as part of a Citywide Trail Plan (see Action C.1). The City should then proceed with funding and implementation of the construction plans.



Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail



1 As funding allows, the City should extend the trail to provide a Citywide loop including connections to key destinations such as schools, shopping areas, and nearby parks (e.g., Conder Park).



2 The natural area near the northwest portion of the trail may provide opportunities for natural trails. The City should evaluate the area to determine viability of this option based on topography, vegetation, and access opportunities.



3 Installing educational signage along the trail would provide opportunities for residents to learn about the City's natural, cultural, and historic resources.



4 Select areas between the creek and the trail can be further naturalized to enhance the user experience along the trail and reduce maintenance requirements.



5 The existing fitness park located along the trail provides outdoor exercise opportunities. However, they are all concentrated in one area. If the City spreads the facilities along the trail, people could incorporate interval training into their exercise.

Image source: <http://www.gametime.com/itrack-fitness/itrack-trails/>



6 There is currently a restroom located at Rotary Club Children's Park and the Killeen Athletic Complex. In the future, the City should consider adding an additional restroom at the eastern trailhead. The restroom in Conder Park (pictured above) is a good example of a small-scale restroom appropriate for a trailhead.

Connectivity

Repeatedly throughout the public engagement process, trails (both off-street and on-street bike lanes) received a high level of support. Indeed, walking or hiking on trails was the second most favorite activity (after attending special events) identified by the community (see Figure 2.11, *Favorite Recreational Activities*, in Chapter 2). Not surprisingly, respondents also had strong interest in expanding the trail system throughout the City, including more trails closer to where they live (72.8%) and more trails developed as a means for alternative transportation (71.6%) (see Figure 2.12, *Trail-Related Statements*, in Chapter 2).

Indeed, demand for these types of facilities are increasing throughout the City and nationwide. In many cases, they are quickly becoming required quality of life improvements. Disregarding this demand could result in the City being less competitive to those in surrounding jurisdictions who are prioritizing on- and off-street trails as a quality of life amenity.

The following connectivity actions are recommended. Detailed descriptions of each action are included on subsequent pages.

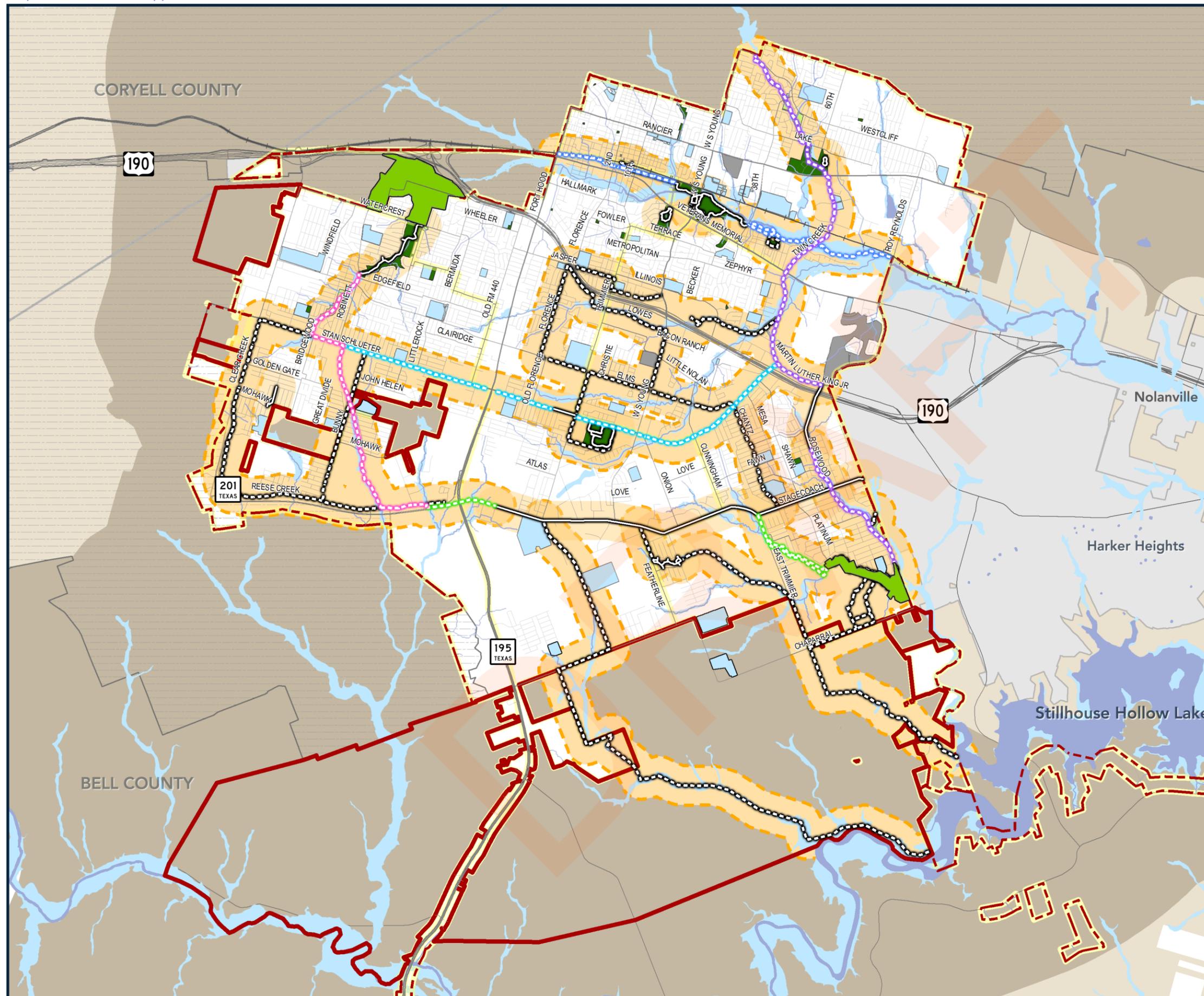
Action C.1. Prepare a Citywide Trails Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations.

In response to demand, the City should prioritize the development of the Citywide trail network. As a first step, the City should prepare a detailed comprehensive Citywide Trails Plan to identify specific trail segment alignments and ultimately create a connected Citywide loop. This could include the development of both off-street trails (e.g., Andy K. Wells Trail) and near-street sidepaths (e.g., the trail along West Stan Schlueter Loop).

As set out on Map 5.10, *Killeen Trail Opportunities*, there are several segments that should be considered as part of the Trail Plan.

Table 5.4, Connectivity Actions

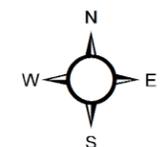
Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
C.1	Prepare a Citywide Trails Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations.	Citywide
C.2	Prioritize and develop Citywide trail network.	Citywide
C.3	Support the establishment of the regional bicycle and pedestrian system.	Regional
C.4	Fund and construct the remainder of the Fort Hood Regional Trail.	Council District 4
C.5	Coordinate with local public transportation providers to ensure that routes are available to City parks.	Citywide
C.6	Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to parks through sidewalks and crosswalks to adjacent neighborhoods.	Citywide
C.7	Develop an Active Transportation Plan identifying on-street bike lane connectivity between parks and other Citywide key destinations.	Citywide
C.8	Preserve drainage corridors and key connections to the existing and future Citywide trail network.	Citywide



Trail Opportunities

Legend

- Existing Parks/Recreation Spaces
- Potential Future Parks
- Other
- City-owned Open Space
- Private Parks
- Existing Trails & Oversized Sidewalks
- Other Potential Trail Corridors
- Potential Trail Segment A
- Potential Trail Segment B
- Potential Trail Segment C
- Potential Trail Segment D
- Potential Trail Segment E
- Existing Trails & Oversized Sidewalks Service Area
- Target Connectivity Corridor
- KISD Property
- KISD Future Schools
- Killeen's Growth Areas
- City Council District Boundaries
- Killeen City Limits
- 100-Year Floodplain



0 ¼ ½ 1 1½ 2 Miles

Action C.2. Prioritize and develop Citywide trail network.

Based on the results of the Citywide Trails Plan, the City should prioritize and develop the trail network. Prioritization should include a public input component. As part of this Parks Master Plan Update, the community was asked early on to identify their priorities for conceptual trail corridors (see the *Priority Trail Locations* section in Chapter 2). The corridors have been extended during the planning process (see Map 5.10, *Killeen Trail Opportunities*) and now include extending the Fort Hood Regional Trail from the proposed Westside Regional Park south to the Texas A&M University - Central Texas campus (Segment A), developing a new sidepath predominantly along Stagecoach Road from the University east to the proposed Heritage Oaks Park (Segment B), developing a new Eastside Trail from Fort Hood, through Long Branch Park down to the proposed Heritage Oaks Park (Segment C), completing an off-street greenbelt trail from Fort Hood through Downtown, connecting through the Andy K. Wells Trail, east to Harker Heights (Segment D), and extending the Stan Schlueter sidepath west to the Westside Trail and east to U.S. Highway 190 (Segment E). Completion of these routes, over time, would create a centralized, connected loop trail system. Smaller spurs could then be developed connecting other key destinations either through additional capital projects or concurrent with development.

Action C.3. Support the establishment of the regional bicycle and pedestrian system.

The Killeen-Temple Metropolitan area already has a multitude of walking and biking trails that are used on a regular basis (see the Killeen-Temple MPO Regional Thoroughfare and Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan). As the central City of this region, Killeen has the opportunity to create the core network which connects the entire region.

As identified in Table 4.8, *2016 Benchmarking for Killeen's Park and Recreation System*, the City is not leading the region in the provision of trails. In fact, out of all the benchmarked communities, Killeen has by far the largest population (over 140,000) but has the lowest number of linear miles of trails (only six). Indeed, the City's per capita provision of trails is significantly lower than each of the benchmarked communities.

Moving forward, the City should take the lead in coordinating with all regional partners to improve overall bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. This could include spearheading or participating in a regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, seeking partnerships (e.g., Fort Hood, Texas A&M University - Central Texas, KISD, adjacent communities), and private development partners to maximize joint implementation projects and regional grant applications, among other implementation strategies.



Developing additional bicycle and pedestrian trails can further connect residents to destinations both within and eventually beyond the City.





Action C.4. Fund and construct the remainder of the Fort Hood Regional Trail.

Portions of the Fort Hood Regional Trail are already completed, funded, and developed by the City of Killeen in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administrations, and the Texas Highway Commission through the statewide Transportation Enhancement Program.

With the proposed development of the Westside Regional Park, extension of this trail would create a significant regional trail amenity for the entire west side of Killeen and the greater region. This includes extending an off-street trail from the park through the existing segments connecting eventually to the Texas A&M University - Central Texas campus. Completion of this trail would predominantly follow undeveloped greenbelt areas surrounded by established neighborhoods. This would provide both new recreational opportunities and serve as an alternative transportation corridor to key destinations.

Action C.5. Coordinate with local public transportation providers to ensure that routes are available to City parks.

The City of Killeen is served by the Hill Country Transit District (HCTD) which operates the HOP, the regional public transportation transit system which serves a nine-county region, covering over 9,000 square miles of service area.

Currently, there are eight fixed routes that provide bus service throughout the City. Several of these routes have stops at or near key park and recreation destinations, including the Killeen Community Center, Lions Club Park, Long Branch Park, among others. Moving forward, the City should proactively coordinate with HCTD to add stops at other existing parks. Additionally, the City should proactively lobby new stops in coordination with the two proposed large community parks (i.e., Westside Regional and the Heritage Oaks Parks).



The northern segment of the Fort Hood Regional Trail is nearly completed. Extension of the trail to the south would provide increased connectivity and access to Westside Regional Park.



Action C.6. Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to parks through sidewalks and crosswalks to adjacent neighborhoods.

Equally as important as providing on-site connectivity in and through the park to various amenities, is connecting visitors safely to the park system. As such, the City should prioritize the development of design solutions which provide safer connections to and from the City's parks and trails system.

In established areas, this could include painting designated crosswalks in proximity to parks, filling in missing sidewalk connections, developing new off-street trail connections to the Citywide trail system, and establishing Safe Park Zones (i.e., monitoring and enforcing traffic violations). In new development, the City should require mid-block and cul-de-sac easements in subdivisions, improved sidewalk connectivity, and required connections to park properties and the Citywide off-street trail system. Implementation actions should include Safe Routes to Parks considerations.

Action C.7. Develop an Active Transportation Plan identifying on-street bike lane connectivity between parks and other Citywide key destinations.

At the regional level, a conceptual future bicycle and pedestrian network was prepared for the Killeen / Fort Hood area (see the Killeen-Temple MPO Regional Thoroughfare and Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan). It included conceptual level facilities for proposed on-street bike routes, on-street bike lanes, near-street sidepaths, and off-street trails. While a good starting point, this regional plan lacks the detailed analysis and implementation recommendations necessary to achieve results on the ground. Since demand is evident in the City of Killeen, it is recommended that the City pursue the creation of an independent Active Transportation Plan to ensure effective implementation of this on-street Citywide bike lane network. While many cities pursue this as an independent plan separate from their trails plan, there is an opportunity to combine this study into an on- and off-street bicycle and pedestrian plan.



As part of an Active Transportation Plan, opportunities for bicycle lanes to provide safe on-street facilities for bikers are identified.





Action C.8. Preserve drainage corridors and key connections to the existing and future Citywide trail network.

The City's existing natural drainage corridors are predominantly not developable, they serve as essential drainage channels, and they contain larger amounts of tree canopy (due to the proximity of water). Consequently, they provide a key opportunity to create the Citywide off-street trail system that connects the entire Killeen community. In developed portions of the City, many of these areas have been paved over, channelized, or marginalized as secondary thoughts to overall development. Moving forward, the City should place high priority on protecting these corridors, making them essential elements serving the public good. This includes stormwater conveyance, habitat protection, wildlife connectivity, and to provide Citywide recreational and transportation options connecting the entire Killeen community.



Drainage corridors provide opportunities for an expansion of the City's trail network as well as stormwater conveyance, habitat conservation, and wildlife connectivity.



Recreation Facilities and Programming

The City of Killeen provides a diverse variety of recreational facilities and programs. Programs offered by the City include youth and adult athletics, fitness classes, day camps and lessons, a variety of senior programs, and over 25 annual community events. The City's programs and facilities are well used to the point that there is not currently capacity

for all those who would like to participate. The following recreation facilities and programming recommendations include strategies to diversify the current offerings, provide increased space for programming, and plan for the future needs of the community. Detailed descriptions of each action are included on subsequent pages.

Table 5.5, Recreation Facilities and Programming Actions

Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
R.1	Develop a Family Aquatics Center Expansion Feasibility Study and Master Plan.	Council District 3
R.2	Improve the Family Aquatics Center.	Council District 3
R.3	Develop a Family Recreation Center and Senior Center Expansion Master Plan.	Council District 3
R.4	Consider expanding the Killeen Community Center hours to allow for greater use.	Council District 1
R.5	Rehabilitate the Bob Gilmore Senior Center.	Council District 1
R.6	Develop a Natatorium Complex.	Citywide
R.7	Develop a Teen Recreation Center.	Citywide
R.8	Increase regularly scheduled and special activities and events in parks to encourage community-wide usage of the parks system.	Citywide
R.9	Consider providing a full 18-hole disc golf course.	Citywide
R.10	Provide increased passive and family-friendly recreation opportunities throughout the community.	Citywide
R.11	Provide increased water-based recreation opportunities.	Citywide
R.12	Provide additional unprogrammed athletic space for community use.	Citywide
R.13	Create additional indoor athletic practice space.	Citywide





Table 5.5, Recreation Facilities and Programming Actions (cont.)

Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
R.14	Develop additional outdoor athletic practice and game space.	Citywide
R.15	Conduct a Recreation Programming Assessment.	Citywide
R.16	Explore partnership opportunities to expand athletic-based recreation programming.	Citywide
R.17	Expand non-athletic recreation programming.	Citywide
R.18	Provide adult-oriented recreation programming.	Citywide
R.19	Provide increased senior recreation programs.	Citywide



Citywide recreation opportunities ranging from athletics to educational programs to community events, such as the City's Family Campout, provide opportunities for residents to exercise, learn, and build relationships with their community.



Action R.1. Develop a Family Aquatics Center Expansion Feasibility Study and Master Plan.

Since opening in 2009, the Family Aquatics Center has been well loved and used by the community. As it approaches its eighth year of operation, the City should begin to consider options for expansion and/or reconfiguration to ensure that the facility remains successful as usership increases. As such, it is recommended that the City develop an Expansion Feasibility Study and Master Plan to determine the practicality of expanding the park and changing the layout within the next six to 10 years to accommodate for growth and new interest in the park. This plan should also include a comprehensive review of the facility's pump and filtration system to determine necessary upgrades. Current requests for the facility voiced by the community include a lazy river and additional play structures for small children.

At some point in the future, as the facility continues to age, the City will be required to invest a significant amount of capital to perform necessary maintenance and replacements. Having a plan in place for expansion and reconfiguration will allow the City to approach this process from a holistic point of view.

The findings and recommendations of the Feasibility Study and Master Plan should be incorporated into the Lions Club Park Master Plan.

Action R.2. Improve the Family Aquatics Center.

As part of routine upgrades and repairs in the near future, the City should consider addressing the following items.

- Replastering the pools.
- Replacing shade structures.
- Replacing the kiddie play structure.



In order to ensure the Family Aquatics Center remains successful into the future, the City should proactively plan for an expansion and/or reconfiguration.





Action R.3. Develop a Family Recreation Center and Senior Center Expansion Master Plan.

The Family Recreation Center and Senior Center are both highly used on a daily basis. There is a desire among users and residents for increased facilities to allow for additional health and fitness classes; recreational programs; and workout, athletic, and childcare space. In their current configuration, both facilities have largely maxed out their offering capabilities. It is thus recommended that the City develop a joint Family Recreation Center and Senior Center Expansion Master Plan to accommodate growth of spaces and programs.

The findings and recommendations of the Expansion Master Plan should be incorporated into the Lions Club Park Master Plan.

Action R.4. Consider expanding the Killeen Community Center hours to allow for greater use.

According to survey respondents, providing both additional adult-oriented recreational programming and overall recreational programs are two of the top five most needed recreational activities. With the recent renovation of the Killeen Community Center, the facility is now better equipped to offer space for additional programs. However, the facility is only open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturdays and is closed on Sundays. It is thus recommended that the City consider expanding the Community Center hours of operation to allow for additional use for programming.



Killeen's seniors love the Senior Center in Lions Club Park and have requested additional space to allow for expansion of the programming and facilities offered.



Action R.5. Rehabilitate the Bob Gilmore Senior Center.

The Bob Gilmore Senior Center was built in 1977. As such, it is recommended that the City rehabilitate the facility through a comprehensive renovation. Notable issues to address include replacement of the HVAC system, weatherproofing the facility, replacing the roofing, addressing ADA accessibility issues, upgrading the facilities to include a commercial kitchen, and redesigning the patio layout and enclosure. The City's active senior community has voiced desires for increased recreation options. Upgrading the Bob Gilmore Senior Center would provide improved facilities to allow for additional programming options.

Action R.6. Develop a Natatorium Complex.

During stakeholder meetings, the public survey, and the public open house, residents of all ages expressed desire for a natatorium. In fact, survey respondents indicated that providing additional public swimming pools and a natatorium/indoor pool were in their top 10 most desired park and recreation improvements. It is recommended that the City evaluate the feasibility of a natatorium complex as well as opportunities to partner with KISD, area colleges, the Armed Services YMCA, and Killeen Economic Development Corporation. Partnership opportunities could include land contributions, development funding, and facility staffing. User fees received throughout the year could cover the majority of the annual operating costs. Consideration should be given to providing both indoor and outdoor pools at the facility. The complex could be used for aquatic fitness, team practice space, and host to a number of swim tournaments annually. Through provision of an outdoor pool, the facility could also fill the need for an additional public swimming pool. Development of a natatorium complex would not only provide for fitness, recreation, and tournament space for the community, but would also draw in users from throughout the region, thus bringing economic benefits to Killeen.



A natatorium complex, such as the Recreation Center and Natatorium in Pearland, TX, provides an opportunity for intergovernmental and other partnerships to provide high-quality, multigenerational recreation opportunities.

Image source: <http://www.emjcorp.com/project/recreation-center-and-natatorium-pearland-tx/>





Action R.7. Develop a Teen Recreation Center.

Over 18 percent of Killeen's population is currently between the ages of zero and nine and an additional 12 percent of the population are between the ages of 10 and 19. Within the lifespan of this Plan, that means that over 30 percent of the population would have been teenagers. The City currently offers a variety of athletic-based programs for teenagers, but not many other recreation opportunities for them. Based on this and requests from the public, it is recommended that the City develop a Teen Recreation Center to provide positive opportunities for teenagers to interact and recreate. Amenities to consider in the Recreation Center include indoor athletic space, a gaming center, computer room, tabletop games, snack bar, and other open socializing areas.

Action R.8. Increase regularly scheduled and special activities and events in parks to encourage community-wide usage of the parks system.

In response to public desire, the City should consider providing increased events in the parks system. These programs should include regularly scheduled events, such as a monthly community picnic or quarterly paint-in-the-park event, as well as special events such as live concerts. Events can be free or the City could consider charging a small registration fee which would cover the costs of supplies and an instructor for an event such as a community paint-in-the-park day. Providing additional, varied community events in the parks with multigenerational activity options will help to encourage community-wide usage of the parks system.



Regularly scheduled events, such as paint-in-the-park days, bring the community together for fun experiences in the parks that residents can look forward to. This type of event also provides opportunities for local artists to showcase their craft.

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



Action R.9. Consider providing a full 18-hole disc golf course.

Over the past ten years, popularity of disc golf has quickly increased nationwide. The activity can be enjoyed by many age groups as an informal, relaxing activity or for fun competitive play for hours. The City currently offers a nine-hole disc golf course at Conder Park. In order to increase the length of the course offered, and to provide a relatively low-cost recreation amenity, it is recommended that the City consider providing a full 18-hole disc golf course. This could include expanding the course at Conder Park or developing an additional course at Westside Regional Park or Heritage Oaks Park.

Action R.10. Provide increased passive and family-friendly recreation opportunities throughout the community.

Killeen is home to a large number of families. Being located adjacent to Fort Hood, the City includes a number of families that have relocated to the area for military duty. Opportunities for family-friendly recreation are important in any City, and possibly even more so in Killeen, where families may not always have the chance to be together due to military deployment. In response to this and desire voiced by the public, it is recommended that the City provide increased opportunities for passive and family-friendly recreation, such as additional covered picnic facilities, large shaded gathering areas with outdoor tabletop game areas, and hike and bike trails, among others.



The nine-hole disc golf course at Conder Park provides a good start for the City. Expanding the course or providing a full 18-hole course in another park will allow for greater use by the community.





Action R.11. Provide increased water-based recreation opportunities.

In the hot Texas summers, water-based recreation provides multigenerational fun and relief from the heat. In order to provide aquatic fun for residents throughout the community, it is recommended that the City provide increased water-based recreation opportunities such as swimming, splash pads, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. A splash pad should be provided in each planning area of the City to ensure that all residents have fair access and to prevent overuse of one facility. While there are not many opportunities for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking in Killeen, Heritage Oaks and Westside Regional Park can provide additional opportunities once developed. Additionally, improving the Conder Park fishing pier could increase its use and provide an accessible location for those who may have trouble traversing lawn areas.

Action R.12. Provide additional unprogrammed athletic space for community use.

The City of Killeen maintains a number of athletic fields, most of which are programmed for league use and are thus unavailable to the general public. In an effort to provide athletic space for residents who may not be part of a team, it is recommended that the City provide additional unprogrammed athletic space for community use. This includes baseball backstops in neighborhood parks; basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts; and multipurpose fields. As the City decides which elements to develop, it should continue to reference the facility level of service recommendations described in the *Park Facilities* section of Chapter 4.



Providing universally accessible fishing piers allows people of all ages and abilities to safely enjoy the facility.

Image source: <http://uplanddesign.com/spring-lake-fishing-pier/>





Action R.16. Explore partnership opportunities to expand athletic-based recreation programming.

Residents have expressed a desire for increased athletic-based recreation programming including both team sports and summer camps. It is recommended that the City explore partnership opportunities to expand these programs. Specific program expansions should be based on the results of the Recreation Programming Assessment but could include additional athletic teams to allow more children and teens to participate, as well as creating one- to two-week camps which allow participation on a shorter term, thus requiring less time commitment. Some of the Youth Volleyball and Basketball Association coaches expressed a desire to provide additional instruction beyond the current length of the season. The City should consider allowing this on a volunteer basis.

Action R.17. Expand non-athletic recreation programming.

Additional non-athletic recreation programming ranked as one of the top five facilities or activities most needed during the public survey. The City should consider expanding its recreational programming. Following completion of the Recreational Programming Assessment, the City could consider additional programs to develop or offer more frequently such as day camps (e.g., science camp), arts-based programming (e.g., painting, drawing), health and fitness (e.g., zumba, pilates), and teen-oriented fitness programs, among others.



It is important for cities to provide a well-rounded recreation system including both athletic and non-athletic programs.



Action R.18. Provide adult-oriented recreation programming.

Based on community input, it is recommended that the City consider opportunities to provide additional adult-oriented programming. Open house attendees expressed the most interest in entertainment-based programs (e.g., wine tastings, social dancing, game nights), social exercise clubs (e.g., cycling, running), adventure races (e.g., obstacle course), and additional adult athletics. Based on the results of the Recreation Programming Assessment, the City should consider developing some of these programs.

Action R.19. Provide increased senior recreation programs.

The Bob Gilmore Senior Center and Senior Center in Lions Club Park provide a variety of recreation programs for Killeen residents age 55 and over. However, Killeen seniors have expressed a desire for additional diversified programming. Based on the Recreation Programming Assessment findings, the City should consider increasing program offerings. During the stakeholder meetings, seniors expressed an interest in athletic programs (e.g., granny basketball), health and wellness programs, aquatic fitness, and arts and crafts programs.



Social exercise clubs create fun ways for adults to interact with others who enjoy the same activities.
Image source: <http://www.socialpacers.com/>





Policies

While this Plan includes numerous recommendations to add or improve specific parks or park properties, there are also more higher level, non-locational specific recommendations which, if implemented, can have a dramatic impact on the development and use of the City's park and recreation system.

These broader level recommendations include such things as developing a parkland dedication ordinance, adopting a Complete Streets policy, maximizing the use of partnerships, establishing a formalized program for private assistance, among other recommendations. The following policy actions are recommended. Detailed descriptions of each action are included on subsequent pages.

Table 5.6, Policy Actions

Action ID	Action	Planning Area Impacted
P.1	Adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance.	Citywide
P.2	Evaluate the City's zoning, subdivision, and other development related regulations to incentivize park and recreation related improvements as part of private development.	Citywide
P.3	Annually review and assess the need for including parks and recreation projects in the City's 5-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP).	Citywide
P.4	Leverage partnerships with private developers and the KISD to emphasize oversized pedestrian accommodations in proximity to existing and new schools.	Citywide
P.5	Support "purple pipe" infrastructure expansion to increase water reuse in City parks.	Citywide
P.6	Pursue opportunities to increase the use of technology as part of the park system.	Citywide
P.7	Evaluate strategies to improve the safety of users while visiting City parks.	Citywide
P.8	Develop a formalized program for accepting and acknowledging private assistance and/or funding for parkland development or maintenance.	Citywide
P.9	Develop a Complete Streets policy for all new streets or existing street improvements.	Citywide
P.10	Develop a high-quality park and recreation system to improve the economic attractiveness of the community.	Citywide



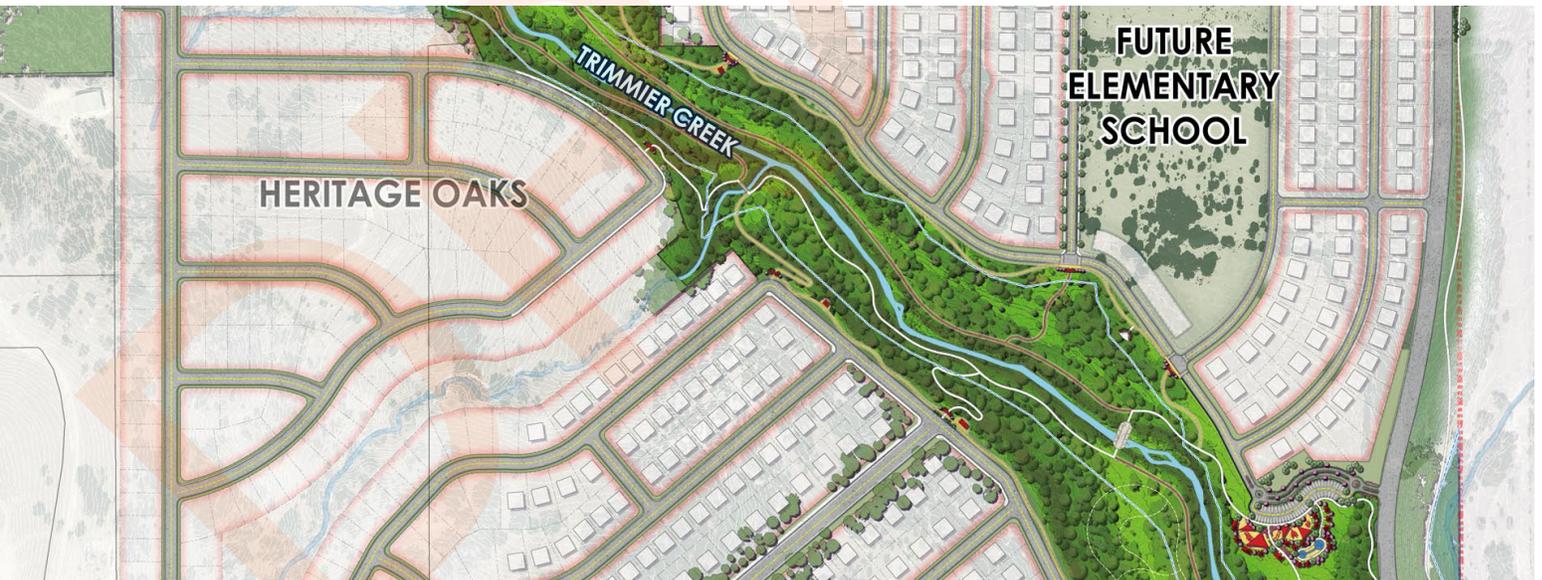
Action P.1. Adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance.

As is evident in the City's recent growth and development, the public expansion of the park and recreation system has not kept up with private sector development. Indeed, much of the existing park system acreage was acquired and developed decades ago. Much of this land exists in what is now considered Council District 1 (see Map 1.1, *Planning Area*, in Chapter 1). As identified in Map 2.2, *Growth Context*, in Chapter 2, there has been relatively little new park development in any of the growth areas going as far back as the mid-1990s. Without further assistance as part of new private sector development, there is a strong likelihood that this trend will continue. This is particularly true considering post-recession nationwide trends where increasing demand for new or expanded services is being met with stronger calls for fiscal conservatism.

As set out in Table 4.4, *Percent of Need Met with Development of Future Parks, 2036*, in Chapter 4, the City only has about

one-third of its park acreage need met by 2036. That means that over two-thirds of the projected need still has to be accommodated over the next 20 years. Meeting this projected need, will most likely require the City to further pursue future park development in concert with private sector development. One way many jurisdictions accomplish this is through a parkland dedication and development ordinance. While not the result of an ordinance requirement, the proposed development plan for the Heritage Oaks development shows how the design of new residential developments can set aside new park and trail property concurrent with development.

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



As part of the preliminary design of the Heritage Oaks development, the developer worked with the City to set aside, in this case, sensitive natural resource areas, in order to establish a new City park which could provide new easily accessible park amenities, internal and external pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, and excellent protection of green space along Trimmier Creek.





things as establishing or improving community parks which serve a greater area than just individual park zones.

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

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

Establishment

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

Dedication

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

Development

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



Action P.2. Evaluate the City's zoning, subdivision, and other development related regulations to incentivize park and recreation related improvements as part of private development.

While implementation of a parkland dedication and development ordinance would significantly increase the availability and distribution of parkland resources, it will also increase the cost of development. As such, this recommendation is oftentimes met with resistance from the development community.

As such, the City should consider opportunities to streamline and improve the flexibility of the development process. This could include an evaluation of the City's zoning, subdivision, and other development related regulations to see if there are opportunities to develop more flexible lot size provisions in exchange for commonly protected natural resources; dedication of land; development of private amenities, pocket parks, or on-site trails; connections to off-site trails, etc.

This could also include identifying opportunities for streamlining the development process for those developers

who willingly propose to include these types of features in their development proposals. This will require coordination with the City's Planning and Development Services Department.

Action P.3. Annually review and assess the need for including parks and recreation projects in the City's 5-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

Park related capital improvement projects are capital expenditures of public funds for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of a physical park facility or an associated component of its infrastructure. As part of the annual budgeting process, the City's Park and Recreation Division (PARD) should evaluate the priority projects set out in this Park Master Plan to determine which high priority projects warrant inclusion in the 5-year CIP. In some cases, projects may be larger than what can be accommodated within the 5-year CIP. In these instances, the City may pursue inclusion as part of a bond issue. Moreover, many cities group several large park and recreation capital projects into a consolidated bond issue to let voters determine whether it is an appropriate time to move forward with these projects.



Trail development is an example of a capital improvement to be included on the City's 5-year CIP.





Action P.4. Leverage partnerships with private developers and the KISD to emphasize oversized pedestrian accommodations in proximity to existing and new schools.

As set out in Figure 2.23, *School Transportation*, in Chapter 2, almost a quarter of survey respondents indicated that they walked to school. Building upon the partnerships set out in the interlocal agreements for the joint-use parks, the City should work with private developers and KISD to install and maintain oversized sidewalks and crosswalks within a specified distance from K-12 schools. This could also include wider roadways to accommodate student drop off and pick up queuing or space for on-street drop off parking.

Action P.5. Support “purple pipe” infrastructure expansion to increase water reuse in City parks.

Parks are oftentimes one of the larger water users in a water distribution system. At a minimum, athletic practice and game fields (e.g., football, baseball, softball, soccer)

require large amounts of water to keep the fields green and healthy. In many cases, additional open space multipurpose areas and landscaping also require watering. As such, many park and recreation systems rely on potable water to supply their irrigation water. This increases costs and places additional demand to expand water supply capacity and treatment capacity. Alternatively, many jurisdictions pursue treated recycled wastewater for irrigation. This water meets minimum standards for irrigation and is oftentimes cheaper.

As set out in the 2015 Reuse Water Master Plan, the City’s PARD should proactively support the extension of reuse water infrastructure (often called “purple pipe”) to City parks, including: Killeen Community Center Complex, City Cemetery, and Maxdale, Phyllis, Santa Rosa, Lions Club, Marlboro, Long Branch, Bacon Ranch, Iduma, Conder, Pershing, Hunt, and Fowler Parks.

Over time, the total buildout average and peak demands for reuse water for all park facilities would be 0.84 to 2.28 millions of gallons a day (MGD).



Use of recycled water infrastructure, or “purple pipe,” to irrigate parks can boost sustainability of the City’s parks system and reduce the demand for potable water used to maintain the parks in a green and healthy state.



Action P.6. Pursue opportunities to increase the use of technology as part of the park system.

According to an article posted by NRPA, we live in an age where both adults and children are basically inseparable from smartphone technology.¹ A growing realization is that parks and recreation plays an important role in getting people out into nature – and that might involve using technology to get them out there. One of the most recent examples is the national interest in such mobile gaming as Pokemon Go, which has been documented to get people out into parks and many other places of the City.

As such, the City’s PARD should evaluate ways to increase the use of technology to connect to its citizens and get them out into the parks.

1 <http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2013/May/Really--We-Want-Kids-to-Use-Technology-Now/>

This could include such things as providing Wi-Fi at City parks (or at least during City sponsored special events), creating QR code quick links to apps or City sponsored resources (e.g., to report a problem, to provide additional information, or to otherwise educate users about a particular topic), setting up a park-to-park passport check-in program (offering rewards for any person who checks-in at every park), allowing or offering in-park geocaching sites, among other initiatives.



QR code technology can be incorporated into City signage to direct people to additional site information, educational elements, and instructional videos or graphics.

Image source: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/suburbs/germantown/collierville-stresses-fitness-with-new-technology-at-park-ep-1098644022-324393361.html>, <http://backpackersblaze.blogspot.com/11071/scouts-trail-to-eagle-blazed-with-qr-codes/>





Action P.7. Evaluate strategies to improve the safety of users while visiting City parks.

Ensuring the safety of visitors is an essential element of operating a park and recreation system. While there is no guarantee that issues will not arise, or problems will not occur, the City still needs to do everything it possibly can to improve overall safety, and the perception of safety, for its park users. As such, the City should evaluate the following strategies as part of the development of an overall park safety program:

- Install lights in high traffic areas, particularly for areas that may get used closer to or after dark (e.g., parking lots, trails, trailheads, restrooms, basketball courts, etc.).
- Increase evening programming of the parks to bring greater human presence into the parks after dark.
- Establish a volunteer park watch program in coordination with a "friends of" group or nearby neighborhood watch program.
- Establish a Park Ranger position to conduct regular patrols of the City park system, including patrol and enforcement of large community gatherings or special events.
- Increase police department patrols of park parking lots as part of their daily patrols.
- Establish regular bike patrols on Citywide trails.
- Develop and disseminate safety awareness literature (in cooperation with the Killeen Police Department).

- Install surveillance and recording cameras in areas of greater concern.
- Install clearly marked signage providing contact information to report problems, requests for maintenance, or for information.
- Immediately mitigate impacts of vandalism and otherwise ensure the timely cleanliness of park properties.
- Evaluate the design of park facilities using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques and make changes as appropriate (see also ACTION PP.2).



Increasing evening programming of parks can help to alleviate illicit activities in the park by encouraging the presence of other people.

Image source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/seeminglee/8481017480>



Action P.8. Develop a formalized program for accepting and acknowledging private assistance and/or funding for parkland development or maintenance.

Consider establishing an official Parks Donation Program. This would include establishing a policy document that details acceptable types and procedures for donations. Many jurisdictions provide opportunities for commonly requested items, such as donation and naming of a memorial bench or tree program. Since increasing opportunities for shade in the park and recreation system is a priority, the City should consider establishing a strong tree donation and naming program. In some cases, jurisdictions establish specialized donation programs for specific projects (e.g., sponsoring a brick as part of a new central plaza, or for a new dog park, etc.). In addition, some jurisdictions establish an unspecified park donation program (that supports the general park fund) for small or large donations where no requests for naming rights is presented. Finally, some jurisdictions allow for land donation. In this regard, the City would need to have established procedures to determine whether the proposed land donation contributes to the goals and objectives of the overall parks and recreation system. If it does not, then the proposed land donation should not be accepted.

Action P.9. Develop a Complete Streets policy for all new streets or existing street improvements.

Complete Streets are those that provide safe access for all users - pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities. In particular, Complete Streets can provide Killeen with the following benefits:

- Safer streets for walking and bicycling connectivity to and from park and recreation resources;
- A healthier community by encouraging walking and bicycling;
- Encouraging Killeen's youth to walk and bicycle to school, a key strategy to keep kids active and healthy; and
- Expanding transportation options oftentimes has the secondary benefit of lowering transportation costs.

As such, the City should consider adopting a "Complete Streets" policy and commit to designing and constructing "Complete Streets" in the remaining areas of new development (and in any area undergoing revitalization or redevelopment).



Through provision of Complete Streets in the City, all user types can gain safe access to the City's streets.





Action P.10. Develop a high-quality park and recreation system to improve the economic attractiveness of the community.

Well planned, constructed, and maintained parks provide positive economic benefits to the City, including enhancing property values, increasing municipal revenue, and attracting home buyers, workers, and retirees.

The bottom line is that quality parks are a financial investment for a community and they provide a calculable return on investment. As such, the City should identify minimum requirements to establish and maintain a high quality park system. This could include quality entrance monuments and signage, enhanced landscaping in select areas, regular routine maintenance and upkeep, the establishment of irrigated landscaping in key areas (in and around parking areas and along road frontages), and attention to when equipment or amenities need replacing.

This could also include coordination with the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce and the Killeen Convention and Visitors Bureau to ensure the Killeen parks and recreation amenities are adequately marketed to prospective residents and companies, and to market park-related events to the greater region and beyond.



Providing enhanced park entrances (e.g., monument signage and landscaping) helps to create a high quality park.



