

6

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

A photograph of a park area with a river, trees, and people walking. The scene is lush with greenery, including large trees and dense foliage. A river flows through the foreground, with several people walking along the bank. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

This Parks Master Plan is intended to provide a broad vision and a strategy for implementation for the future of Killeen's parks, recreation, and open space system. Both the vision and strategy have been developed based on expressed community preferences for the future. An Implementation Action Plan captures a series of recommended policies, capital and non-capital projects, operational changes, additional studies, and regulatory changes which could be implemented over the next 20 years. Each recommendation is important and has been prioritized for implementation. Some of these will be accomplished over the next one to five years; others may be carried into subsequent plan updates and require additional prioritization. In general, order of magnitude cost estimate ranges have been provided to help identify the amount of funding necessary for implementation. A list of potential funding sources is included to highlight options for funding these improvements.

Introduction

At its core, this chapter identifies the City's priorities for moving forward with implementing the recommendations found throughout this Parks Master Plan. Although it identifies the City's highest priorities today, it also provides guidance towards achieving its longer-term priorities too. In this regard, these longer-term priorities may require further prioritization before implementation.

Beyond recommendations, this Plan identifies a framework for Plan Administration, so that staff and elected and appointed officials know what updates to expect over time.

Since funding is the overarching prerequisite necessary to implement any of these actions, this Plan identifies a series of potential funding sources which may be helpful in achieving the recommended action items in the most cost effective manner possible. Due to current and expected limitations of funding, it is recommended to pursue outside sources whenever possible (see Potential Funding Sources later in this chapter). Outside sources include grants, partnerships with public agencies (e.g., KISD or Fort Hood), and partnerships with private entities.

Coordinated Implementation

Implementation, even more so than the planning process, will take coordinated effort from a host of community leaders, from individual citizens to appointed and elected officials to outside agencies and entities. Increasingly, jurisdictions are acknowledging that ultimate success involves a combination of City and non-City partners, including elected and appointed officials, staff, residents, and land and business owners, among others. This also involves the recognition that the City has a responsibility to partner with all local, state, and federal public and private partners that can be of assistance in bettering Killeen's park and recreation system now and in the future. At a minimum, this includes:

- Killeen's elected and appointed officials;
- City Administration and staff;
- Killeen Independent School District (KISD);
- Killeen Economic Development Corporation (KEDC);
- Bell County;



Effective implementation of this Parks Master Plan will take the coordinated effort of staff, internal and external departments and agencies, and willing and interested community volunteers.





- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT);
- Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce;
- Abutting local municipalities (on projects that benefit both jurisdictions);
- Other affected agencies and entities;
- Area land and business owners and the development community; and
- Interested community volunteers and stakeholders.

Internally, establishing effective interdepartmental coordination is an important consideration for the successful and cost-effective implementation of the projects identified in this Plan. Coordinating these actions with projects from other departments (such as planning, water or wastewater projects, right-of-way acquisition, drainage improvement, and flood management projects) will reduce overall capital costs to the City and speed up the implementation.

There is also a strong, synergistic relationship between high-quality parks and trails, visible and accessible greenspace, and healthy economic development. In particular, high-quality, well-maintained park, recreation, and trail facilities which are equitably distributed across the City indicate both economic prosperity and a high quality of life. This in turn, plays a large role in attracting both new residents and businesses.

Inherently, funding for parks and recreation is dependent on sales and property tax revenues, which increase with sustainable economic development. Consequently, it is important to further capitalize on this relationship. Therefore, it is highly recommended that the City's PARD coordinate with the Killeen Economic Development Corporation (KEDC) and the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce. This mutually beneficial relationship will improve overall quality of life for Killeen citizens while helping to support additional economic development efforts in growing a sustainable economy.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Compliance

One of the primary purposes of this Parks Master Plan is to serve as a parks, recreation, and open space master plan as defined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

High Priority Needs

Consistent with TPWD requirements, Table 6.1, *Summary of High Priority Needs in Killeen*, lists the top priorities for parks, recreation, open space, and trails in Killeen. These priorities have been determined based on community input, needs assessments, site visits, and input from City staff and elected and appointed officials. The identified needs inform an effective set of actions which have been recommended to enhance quality of life in the community for purposes of grant applications. The priorities are broken into two lists: one for outdoor facilities and one for indoor facilities.



Table 6.1, Summary of Priority Facility Needs in Killeen

<p>Additional facilities needed based on <u>citizen input</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pedestrian and bicycle trails 2. Restrooms in parks 3. General park lighting 4. Indoor fitness program space at Family Recreation Center 5. Public swimming pools 	
<p>Additional facilities needed based on <u>level of service</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pedestrian and bicycle trails 2. Developed City parkland in southern and western portions of the City 3. Standalone baseball backstops 4. Picnic facilities 5. Multipurpose practice fields 	<p>Upgraded facilities needed based on <u>existing condition</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General park lighting 2. Shade structures/trees 3. Upgraded and covered playscapes 4. Family Recreation Center expansion 5. Bob Gilmore Senior Center renovation
<p>Top 10 Cumulative Outdoor Facility Needs Based on Above Summaries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pedestrian and bicycle trails 2. General park lighting 3. Shade structures/trees 4. Restrooms in parks 5. Upgraded and covered playscapes 6. Standalone baseball backstops 7. Public swimming pools 8. Picnic facilities 9. Multipurpose practice fields 10. Developed City parkland in southern and western portions of the City 	<p>Top Cumulative Indoor Facility Needs Based on Above Summary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand the Family Recreation Center 2. Renovate the Bob Gilmore Senior Center 3. Expand the Senior Center in Lions Club Park 4. Construct a natatorium/indoor pool 5. Construct a Teen Recreation Center





Prioritized Action Plan

Implementation Tools

There are a few overarching types of implementation tools which help define post-adoption actions taken by the City. These include:

- **Operational Change.** New or changed programs, staffing, or operational procedures.
- **Policy.** Official procedures or policies used to guide City decisions. In some cases, it includes a movement towards a general direction which may involve a combination of other implementation tool types.
- **Regulation.** Council adopted regulations used to guide development or other actions within the City.
- **Study.** An official further study or investigation needed to determine the most appropriate solution.
- **Capital Investment.** Larger scale capital improvements incorporated into the greater Capital Improvement Program or five-year capital improvement plan (CIP).
- **Non-Capital Investment.** Smaller scale improvements which may more likely be funded through the annual budgeting process.

Prioritization

The actions of this Park Master Plan can be further delineated into three levels of priority. These include:

- **High Priority Actions.** Actions which need to be initiated within the next one to five years (2017 - 2021). In many cases, these actions will be initiated and completed during this time frame. In other cases, these actions may be initiated during this time frame, but completed over time. These are the City's highest priorities for implementation.

- **Moderate Priority Actions.** Actions which need to be initiated within the next six to 10 years (2022- 2026). Some of these actions may become the highest priorities identified during the City's next Parks Master Plan update.
- **Longer-Term Priority Actions.** Actions which are intended to continually guide the City towards its ideal future parks and recreation vision. Most of these actions are intended to be implemented over the long term (2026+) and will be further prioritized in subsequent Plan updates.

Prioritization Criteria

Note that the prioritization shown in this Plan is intended to guide staff and Council actions, and any item may be initiated sooner than recommended if unique circumstances or opportunities arise. Prioritization of the action items is presented in Table 6.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, using the following criteria:

- Level of need based on citizen input (online survey results, stakeholder interviews, public open house meetings, etc.);
- Level of need based on the needs assessment; and
- Site assessments of existing park facilities in the City.

The City's high, moderate, and longer-term priorities are summarized in Table 6.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, starting on the next page. Needs meeting all of the criteria were ranked as very high priority elements and are to receive the highest level of attention of the next one to five years.



PRELIMINARY DRAFT NOTE:

In the preliminary draft of this Plan, the actions set out in Table 6.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, are in the order in which they occur in Chapter 5, *Recommendations and Actions*. In the final draft, the actions will be prioritized into high (1-5 years), moderate (6-10 years), and longer-term (10+ years) priority actions by public feedback and City Council.

Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan

Rank	Action ID	Action	Timeframe			Action Type
			1-5	6-10	10+	
Parkland Acquisition and Natural Resource Preservation Actions						
	PA.1	Evaluate potential for parkland acquisition along key corridors in the City.				Capital Investment
	PA.2	Pursue acquisition of significantly sized parcels to allow for development of community parks in the City's need areas.				Capital Investment
	PA.3	Coordinate with KISD to develop new neighborhood parks on unused portions of school properties.				Capital Investment
	PA.4	Maximize opportunities to protect and/or create additional green space.				Capital Investment
	PA.5	Proactively identify parkland in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) to allow for future park development.				Capital Investment
Parkland Planning, Design, and Maintenance Actions						
	PP.1	Update the Parks Master Plan.				Study
	PP.2	Implement overall park design guidelines to steer proper design and construction of new and improved facilities and amenities.				Policy
	PP.3	Establish minimum design parameters for community, neighborhood, and linear parks.				Policy
	PP.4	Provide a well-maintained parks system.				Non-Capital Investment
	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.				Study / Non-Capital Investment
	PP.6	Plan for additional resource needs associated with parkland development.				Non-Capital Investment
	PP.7	Evaluate the City's Park and Recreation Division budget to determine adequacy.				Non-Capital Investment
	PP.8	Prepare a Park Maintenance and Management Plan.				Study
	PP.9	Develop a formalized playground risk management inspection schedule and replacement plan.				Operational Change
	PP.10	Consider up-front and long-term park and recreation costs.				Policy

Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Rank	Action ID	Action	Timeframe			Action Type
			1-5	6-10	10+	
	PP.11	During facility and building upgrades, consider opportunities to create more efficient and sustainable buildings.				Policy / Study / Capital Investment
	PP.12	Provide accessible parks and amenities.				Study
	PP.13	Prepare a master plan for the expansion and improvement of the parks maintenance facility.				Study / Capital Investment
Park Renovations and Development Actions						
	PR.1	Ensure that all parks include adequate lighting for the safety of users.				Policy / Study
	PR.2	Conduct a restroom survey of existing parks to determine where additional restrooms may be needed.				Study
	PR.3	Fund lighting and restroom projects.				Capital Investment
	PR.4	Ensure that all parks include signs with the park name, rules, and appropriate contact information for maintenance and other requests.				Policy / Non-Capital Investment
	PR.5	Increase shade opportunities in existing parks.				Capital Investment
	PR.6	Beautify existing parks.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.7	Construct a skate park in the southern portion of the City.				Capital Investment
	PR.8	Consider coordinating with the area art guild to develop and maintain a mural or tag wall to allow graphic expression.				Operational Change
	PR.9	Explore additional opportunities for community gardens in the City.				Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
	PR.10	Provide at least one "all abilities playground" in the City.				Capital Investment
	PR.11	Provide increased educational opportunities in the parks system.				Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
	PR.12	Develop a new community park in the southern portion of the City				Capital Investment

Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Rank	Action ID	Action	Timeframe			Action Type
			1-5	6-10	10+	
	PR.13	Develop a new community park in the western portion of the City.				Capital Investment
	PR.14	Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a waterfront park along Stillhouse Hollow Lake.				Capital Investment
	PR.15	Resurface outdoor basketball and tennis courts.				Study / Non-Capital Investment
	PR.16	Continue to provide facilities to meet the target levels of service.				Study / Non-Capital Investments
Improve Existing Parks						
	PR.17	Relocate Camacho Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.18	Improve Fowler Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.19	Improve Fox Creek Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.20	Redevelop Home and Hope Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.21	Improve Hunt Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.22	Improve Iduma Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.23	Improve Lions Neighborhood Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.24	Improve Marlboro Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.25	Improve Phyllis Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.26	Improve Santa Rosa Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.27	Improve Stewart Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.28	Improve Killeen Community Center/Killeen Athletic Complex.				Capital Investment
	PR.29	Improve Mickey's Dog Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.30	Improve Rotary Club Children's Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.31	Develop Westside Regional Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.32	Develop Heritage Oaks Park.				Capital Investment
	PR.33	Prepare a Conder Park Master Plan.				Study

Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Rank	Action ID	Action	Timeframe			Action Type
			1-5	6-10	10+	
	PR.34	Improve Conder Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.35	Implement the Conder Park Master Plan.				Capital Investment
	PR.36	Prepare a Lions Club Park Master Plan.				Study
	PR.37	Improve Lions Club Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.38	Implement the Lions Club Park Master Plan.				Capital Investment
	PR.39	Prepare a Long Branch Park Master Plan.				Study
	PR.40	Improve Long Branch Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.41	Implement the Long Branch Park Master Plan.				Capital Investment
	PR.42	Prepare an AA Lane Park Design Plan.				Study
	PR.43	Improve AA Lane Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.44	Implement the AA Lane Park Design Plan.				Capital Investment
	PR.45	Prepare a Maxdale Park Design Plan.				Study
	PR.46	Improve Maxdale Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.47	Implement the Maxdale Park Design Plan.				Capital Investment
	PR.48	Prepare a Timber Ridge Park Design Plan.				Study
	PR.49	Improve Timber Ridge Park.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.50	Implement the Timber Ridge Park Design Plan.				Capital Investment
	PR.51	Prepare a Pershing Park Master Plan.				Study
	PR.52	Implement the Pershing Park Master Plan.				Capital Investment
	PR.53	Prepare an Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex Master Plan.				Study
	PR.54	Improve Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex.				Non-Capital Investment
	PR.55	Implement the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex Master Plan.				Capital Investment

Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Rank	Action ID	Action	Timeframe			Action Type
			1-5	6-10	10+	
Connectivity Actions						
	C.1	Prepare a Citywide Trails Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations				Study
	C.2	Prioritize and develop Citywide trail network.				Capital Investment
	C.3	Support the establishment of the regional bicycle and pedestrian system.				Policy
	C.4	Fund and construct the remainder of the Fort Hood Regional Trail.				Capital Investment
	C.5	Coordinate with local public transportation providers to ensure that routes are available to City parks.				Policy
	C.6	Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to parks through sidewalks and crosswalks to adjacent neighborhoods.				Policy /Regulation
	C.7	Prepare an Active Transportation Plan identifying on-street bike lane connectivity between parks and other Citywide key destinations.				Study
	C.8	Preserve drainage corridors and key connections to the existing and future Citywide trail network.				Policy / Regulation / Capital Investment
Recreation Facilities and Programming Actions						
	R.1	Prepare a Family Aquatics Center Expansion Feasibility Study and Master Plan.				Study
	R.2	Improve the Family Aquatics Center.				Capital Investment
	R.3	Prepare a Family Recreation Center and Senior Center Expansion Master Plan.				Study
	R.4	Consider expanding the Killeen Community Center hours to allow for greater use.				Operational Change
	R.5	Rehabilitate the Bob Gilmore Senior Center.				Capital Investment
	R.6	Develop a Natatorium Complex.				Capital Investment

Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Rank	Action ID	Action	Timeframe			Action Type
			1-5	6-10	10+	
	R.7	Develop a Teen Recreation Center.				Capital Investment
	R.8	Increase regularly scheduled and special activities and events in parks to encourage community-wide usage of the parks system.				Operational Change
	R.9	Consider providing a full 18-hole disc golf course.				Capital Investment
	R.10	Provide increased passive and family-friendly recreation opportunities throughout the community.				Capital Investment
	R.11	Provide increased water-based recreation opportunities.				Capital Investment
	R.12	Provide additional unprogrammed athletic space for community use.				Capital Investment
	R.13	Create additional indoor athletic practice space.				Capital Investment
	R.14	Develop additional outdoor athletic practice and game space.				Capital Investment
	R.15	Conduct a Recreation Programming Assessment.				Study
	R.16	Explore partnership opportunities to expand athletic-based recreation programming.				Policy
	R.17	Expand non-athletic recreation programming.				Operational Change
	R.18	Provide adult-oriented recreation programming.				Operational Change
	R.19	Provide increased senior recreation programs.				Operational Change
Policy Actions						
	P.1	Adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance.				Regulation
	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.				Regulation

Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Rank	Action ID	Action	Timeframe			Action Type
			1-5	6-10	10+	
	P.3	Annually review and assess the need for including parks and recreation projects in the City's 5-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP).				Operational Change
	P.4	Leverage partnerships with private developers and the KISD to emphasize oversized pedestrian accommodations in proximity to existing and new schools.				Policy
	P.5	Support "purple pipe" infrastructure expansion to increase water reuse in City parks.				Policy
	P.6	Pursue opportunities to increase the use of technology as part of the park system.				Operational Change
	P.7	Evaluate strategies to improve the safety of users while visiting City parks.				Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
	P.8	Develop a formalized program for accepting and acknowledging private assistance and/or funding for parkland development or maintenance.				Operational Change
	P.9	Develop a Complete Streets policy.				Policy
	P.10	Develop a high-quality park and recreation system to improve the economic attractiveness of the community.				Policy



Plan Update

Through a robust public engagement process, this Plan identifies the community's long-term vision for moving forward. It includes a 20-year strategy of prioritized implementation actions which, if implemented, will achieve the envisioned future. In other words, it ensures the City is incrementally responding to the community's needs and desires.

However, this does not mean that this Plan will serve the City for the next 20 years. To the contrary, it is intended to provide specific guidance for implementation actions that are prioritized in the near- and mid-term. In this regard, the following recommendations are intended to keep this Plan current and up to date:

- **Annual Progress Report and Update.** Prior to the start of the annual budget process, City staff should prepare and present an annual progress report on the status of the actions identified in the Implementation Action Plan. In addition, they should work with elected and appointed officials to determine which recommendations should move up in prioritization.
- **5-Year Update.** While not required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to remain eligible for grant funding, undertaking an official plan update every five years helps the City to remain competitive in a very competitive grant process as TPWD places a higher point value (during grant funding evaluation) on submittals that demonstrate a plan update has been done within the past five years. Plan updates can be published in short report format and attached to this Parks Master Plan for easy use.

Potential Funding Sources

City Generated Funding Sources

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

Municipal Bonds

Debt financing through the issuance of municipal bonds is the most common way in which to fund park and open space projects. This type of funding is a strategy wherein a city issues a bond, receives an immediate cash payment to finance projects, and must repay the bond with interest over a set period of time ranging from a few years to several decades. General obligation bonds – the most common form of municipal bond – is the primary bond type for park and open space projects.

Tax Increment Financing/Public Improvement Districts

These related tools allow a development district to divert a portion of its property taxes to fund infrastructure improvements within its area. This can include plazas, pocket parks, linear parks, and other types of facilities.

Electric Utility Partnerships

This type of partnership can be established for the purpose of providing and enhancing linear parks and trails along utility easements. This partnership typically does not involve monetary contributions. However, through use agreements and/or easements, it makes land for trail corridors accessible at little or no cost to the community.



Park Improvement Fee Funds

For many cities, this funding received from developers is a very helpful revenue source for park development. The requirement for such a fee needs to be written into the City's Parkland Dedication and Development Ordinance.

Cash in Lieu of Conveyance of Land

As part of many cities' Parkland Dedication and Development Ordinance, subject to specific prescribed conditions, a cash amount may be accepted in lieu of the conveyance of land. The goal is for the city to have the option to purchase land of an equal amount that was to be conveyed, elsewhere in the city.

Utility Bill Contributions

In many cities, residents are allowed to electively add a small amount to their utility collection bills to fund park improvements. As an example, the City of Colleyville has a Voluntary Park Fund, which allows citizens to donate \$2.00 per month contribution through their water utility bills. This results in approximately \$150,000 per year, which is used to fund park improvements throughout their community.

Tree Restoration Funds

The source of this type of fund is typically derived from cities that levy fines against developers for removing quality trees for development. The revenue generated is used to plant trees and to irrigate City properties enhancing the City.

Governmental Grant Sources

State Government

A variety of grant sources exist, but three general sources account for most of the major potential sources of grants for parks in Texas. These include programs administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Texas

Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the Department of the Interior through the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program. The following is an overview of major grant programs.

TPWD – Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) funds the following grants:

■ Outdoor Recreation Grants (TPWD)

This program provides 50 percent matching grant funds to municipalities, counties, Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs), and other local units of government with a population less than 500,000 to acquire and develop parkland or to renovate existing public recreation areas. There will be two funding cycles per year with a maximum award of \$500,000. Eligible sponsors include cities, counties, MUDs, river authorities, and other special districts. Projects must be completed within three years of approval. Application deadlines are typically January 31st and July 31st each year (the master plans submission deadline is 60 days prior to application deadline). Award notifications occur six months after deadlines.

■ Indoor Recreation (Facility) Grants (TPWD)

This program provides 50 percent matching grant funds to municipalities, counties, MUDs and other local units of government with a population less than 500,000 to construct recreation centers, community centers, nature centers and other facilities (buildings). The grant maximum will increase to \$750,000 per application. The application deadline is typically July 31st each year (with master plan submission deadline 60 days prior to application deadline). Award notifications occur the following January.





Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grants (TPWD)

The CO-OP grant helps to introduce underserved populations to the services, programs, and sites of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. This is not a land acquisition or construction grant; this is only for programs. Grants are awarded to non-profit organizations, schools, municipalities, counties, cities, and other tax-exempt groups. Minimum grant requests are \$5,000 and maximum grant requests are \$50,000. The application deadline is typically February 1st and October 1st with awards on April 15th and December 15th.

The purpose of the Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) is to expose participants to environmental and conservation programs as well as outdoor recreation activities.

Recreational Trail Grants (TPWD)

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The grants can be up to 80 percent of project cost for trails (the contact number for motorized trail grant funding availability is 512-389-8224). Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors. Application deadline is typically May 1st each year.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants (TPWD)

TPWD administers the Texas apportionments of LWCF through the Texas Recreation Park Account. If an entity is applying for an Indoor Grant, Outdoor Grant, or Small Community Grant, TPWD may consider the application for LWCF funding. No separate application is required.

Regional Park Grants administered by TPWD

This grant program was created to assist local governments with the acquisition and development of multi-jurisdictional public recreation areas in the metropolitan areas of the state. It allows cities, counties, water districts, and other units of local government to acquire and develop parkland. The program provides 50 percent matching fund, reimbursement grants to eligible local governments for both active recreation and conservation opportunities. Master plans submission deadline is 60 days prior to application deadline. Grants are awarded yearly by TPW Commission when funds are available. There is no ceiling on match amounts, but grant awards are dependent on the number of applicants and the availability of funds. Past recipients for the Regional Park Grant have ranged from \$750,000 to \$1,200,000. In the past deadlines were held on January 31 of each year.

Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grants

Grants for projects meeting the following types of eligibility: historic structures, archaeological sites, archaeological curatorial facilities, and heritage education projects.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) awards grants for preservation projects from the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF). Created by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the TPTF is an interest-earning pool of public and private monies. The earned interest and designated gifts are distributed yearly as matching grants to qualified applicants for the acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation or for the planning and educational activities leading to the preservation of historic properties, archaeological sites and associated collections of the State of Texas. Competitive grants are awarded on a one-to-one match basis and are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred during the project. Applications are typically available early each year.



The TPTF grant cycle is typically once a year. Information for the next grant cycle is posted on the web site (www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/trpa/) when funds become available.

Federal Government

National Park Service (NPS) Programs include the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR), which provide funds for parks and recreation. Congress appropriates both funds. Typically, the funding sources have supported traditional parks rather than linear systems.

In some instances, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can provide funding for projects with money collected in pollution settlements.

Other Governmental Sources of Funding

Purchase and Transfer of Development Rights

Purchase of development rights (PDR) and transfer of development rights (TDR) are programs for landscape preservation whereby a municipality, county, or other entity can pay landowners (typically farmers and ranchers) to limit development on their land. Through PDR, land-owners are paid an amount relative to the development potential of their land, required to maintain their land generally as-is (greatly limiting any future development), and maintain ownership of the land and residence. The land is thereby conserved, either in a natural or cultivated state. Taking the PDR model a step further, TDR programs conserve rural landscapes through “trading” potential development intensity between sending areas and receiving areas. Areas to be protected (significant cultural, rural, or natural landscapes) are designated as sending areas while areas where more intense development is desirable are designated as receiving areas. In this model,

landowners in sending areas are allowed to sell their right to develop their land to developers in receiving areas. Both of these programs can offer a financially competitive alternative to selling land for development.

Other Private and Quasi Private Funding Sources

Partnering with Developers and Private Land Owners

Partnering with developers and private land owners is possible by implementing parkland dedication and development regulations, whether voluntary or mandatory. Such an ordinance provides a vehicle for land acquisition and development of parks, open space, and trails as land is developed in a city. Proper preparation of this ordinance ensures land is set aside for parks and sufficient funding is provided so that tangible park improvements can be made, rather than token improvements.

Other Foundation and Company Grants

Some foundation and company grants assist in direct funding for projects, while others exist to help citizen efforts get established with small seed funds or technical and publicity assistance. Before applying for any grant, it is crucial to review The Foundation Directory and The Foundation Grants Index published by the Foundation Center to learn if a particular project fits the requirements of the foundation.

Grants for Greenways

Grants for Greenways is a national listing that provides descriptions of a broad spectrum of both general and specific groups who provide technical and financial support for greenway interests.





Private Sponsorship Programs/Naming Rights

Obtaining private sponsorship for parks and recreation facilities – often by selling naming rights – can be an effective tool for acquiring additional financing. The long-term success of this financing tool depends greatly on a concerted effort by the City to ensure the ongoing prominence of the sponsored facilities through appropriate marketing efforts and a commitment to an excellent maintenance program.

National Endowment for the Humanities

As part of its “We the People” initiative, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has a grant program designed to help institutions and organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for humanities activities that explore significant themes and events in American history, thereby advancing knowledge of the founding principles of the United States in their full historical and institutional context.

Grants may be used to support long-term costs such as construction and renovation, purchase of equipment, acquisitions, and conservation of collections. Grants may also be used to establish or enhance endowments that generate expendable earnings for program activities.

Because of the matching requirements, these NEH grants also strengthen the humanities by encouraging non-federal sources of support. Applications are welcome from colleges and universities, museums, public libraries, research institutions, historical societies and historic sites, public television and radio stations, scholarly associations, state humanities councils, and other nonprofit entities. Programs that involve the collaboration of multiple institutions are eligible, as well, but one institution must serve as the lead agent and formal applicant of record.

Land Trusts

Land trusts provide a valuable service to municipalities across the country in helping to acquire natural areas, open space, and other land for public use. Typically, land trusts not only assist in funding land acquisition but also assist in managing the transaction and financing. Often, each land trust will have a specific set of requirements for the types of land they are willing to help acquire and/or how that land will be used.

In some cases, cities can partner with land trusts to quickly secure land that may otherwise be converted into development. Once cities raise (or reallocate) the necessary funding, they reimburse the land trust and take ownership of the property. The reimbursed funds can then be used by the land trust to proactively protect the next available property. In this regard, cities and land trusts can work together to maximize protection of critical properties; typically quicker than a city can act alone. The Texas Land Trust Council can be contacted for more information.



