

3 THE SYSTEM TODAY



In order to plan for the future of Killeen's parks and recreation, it is crucial to gain an understanding of the system today. This is done by taking a detailed look at the City's parks, trails, and recreational facilities. An analysis of their condition and level of use helps to determine whether the current facilities are addressing the current and future parks and recreation needs of the community. Through an examination of the existing parks, recreation, and open space system, opportunities and constraints can be identified and planned for; issues regarding programming, maintenance, and use become evident; and the City can ultimately address community needs on a system-wide and individual park basis.

Introduction

The City of Killeen Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 24 parks, a recreation center, two senior centers, and a community center, totaling approximately 409.5 acres. The Department is also responsible for maintenance of the grounds at all City facilities.

The City has an established network of neighborhood, community, and special use parks as well as three recreational trails. This section will define the park categories and existing features of each park type in the City.

Park Classifications

This Plan uses national and state guidelines which identify three broad categories of parks (see Figure 3.1, *Park Classifications*)

When considering the parks and recreation needs of the community, local, close-to-home parks are the most important category as they address the daily recreation needs of the residents. With the exception of a new regional park straddling the border between Killeen and Fort Hood, all parks within the City are local, close-to-home parks. The City's parks network is made up of neighborhood, community, linear, and special use parks.

A description of the general types of parks found in Killeen follows:

Neighborhood

Since they are located close to home and are generally within walking or bicycling distance from residences, neighborhood parks form the foundation for daily recreation in most cities. They are ideally family-friendly destinations providing facilities and recreation options for all ages. Neighborhood parks typically serve one large or two smaller neighborhoods

Figure 3.1, *Park Classifications*



Local, Close-to-Home Parks.

These parks are generally located within the community they serve. They include pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and HOA parks. Trail corridors, greenbelts, and linear parks may also be considered close-to-home parks depending on their location.



Regional Parks.

This park type is usually located within a half-hour to two-hour driving distance from most of its visitors. Parks in this category serve multiple communities and include city regional parks, park preserves, state parks, and national parks.



Unique Parks.

Unique parks may be either local or regional. They can be defined as areas that are unique in some way, be it physical features of the park or the types of facilities provided or uses served by the park. Parks in this category may include linear parks, special use parks, land conservancies, nature preserves, sports complexes, or botanical gardens.





and are not intended to serve more than 2,000 to 4,000 residents per park. These parks should be accessible to residents within a one-quarter-mile (ideal) or one-half-mile (standard) radius and are commonly meant to be accessed by foot. Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and should be easily accessible without requiring residents to cross major streets.

Size. While the size of neighborhood parks vary due to physical conditions and available land, an ideal size ranges from three to 10 acres. However, neighborhood parks commonly range in size from less than one acre to a maximum of 15 acres.

Location. Ideally, neighborhood parks should be centrally located in the neighborhood they serve in order to provide easy access to residents. They should be accessible by foot and located on local or minor collector streets which do not allow high-speed traffic.

Parking. Generally, a minimum of eight parking spaces per new neighborhood park is recommended with an additional two ADA accessible parking spaces per each neighborhood park. The exact amount will vary based on the size of the park, the availability of safe on-street parking, the facilities offered, and the number of users the park is designed to attract.

Facilities. Typical facilities found in neighborhood parks include:

- Playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing
- Unlighted practice fields for baseball, soccer, and football, etc.
- Unlighted tennis courts
- Unlighted multi-purpose courts for basketball and volleyball
- Open areas for unorganized play

- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables, and cooking grills
- Shaded pavilions or gazebos
- Jogging and exercise trails
- Security lighting

Restrooms are not typically provided at neighborhood parks as they increase maintenance requirements and the parks are located close to residents' homes.

Community

Community parks are larger parks which serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a city. They are usually accessed by vehicle, but nearby residents may walk or bike to them. There are two types of community parks: active and passive. Each focuses on a different type of use and thus includes different facilities. Active community parks typically focus on high-intensity recreation such as lighted competitive athletic fields, recreation centers, and highly maintained landscaping. Passive community parks have low-intensity uses such as picnicking, free play, and hiking and generally include a large amount of natural or unprogrammed space. When large enough, a community park can include both types of recreation by having areas that are predominantly active and others that are passive.

Size. A typical community park varies in size from 10 acres to over 50 acres. The typical community park should be large enough so it can provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. In addition, as these types of parks are often one of the gems of a city's parks system, community parks should have room for expansion as new facilities are required.

Location. Community parks frequently include uses that have the potential to generate noise and bright lights at night (if lighted fields or facilities are included). As such, community



parks should generally be buffered from adjacent residential areas. These parks should typically be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the city.

Parking. While parking requirements vary based on the facilities provided and the size of a park, the National Recreation and Park Association recommends a minimum of five spaces per acre, with one ADA compliant parking space per 25 standard spaces. Additional parking for specific facilities within the park such as pools or ball fields may also be needed. The specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the facilities provided in that park.

Facilities. Facilities generally located in community parks may include:

- Play equipment with adequate safety surfacing
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)

- Restrooms
- Jogging, bicycle or nature trails, sometimes lighted for evening use
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Recreation center (if appropriate)
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Lighting for evening use
- Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails or fishing adjacent to ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters, etc.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are dedicated as parkland due to their regional importance or relevance. They are intended to serve an entire region and very often become the premier park



Long Branch Park is an example of a community park in the City.





in that area. This may be due to its natural characteristics including habitat, geological formations, and/or aesthetic beauty. Other reasons may be the role that the particular site plays in issues of regional importance (e.g., historical memorial, habitat protection, or ecological service including water conservation and flood protection).

The size of a regional park can vary from less than 10 acres to several thousand acres, depending on the purpose and character of the site. Regional parks are often under the ownership and control of county or state government.

To allow for convenient, easy access, regional parks should be located near highways or major arterials. Due to the potential for traffic, noise, and bright lights, regional parks should include a buffer between noise-, light-, and traffic-producing uses and adjacent residential areas.

With its varying natural habitats and unique recreational opportunities, once completed, Westside Regional Park will serve as a regional park for residents of Killeen, surrounding cities, and beyond.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. As the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special use park usually provides for very specific activities. Examples of special use parks include:

- Athletic fields or complexes
- Open space preserves or natural area parks
- Linear parks
- Swimming pool centers
- Tennis complexes
- Golf courses
- Dog parks

Linear parks are largely unprogrammed parks which typically follow a natural or man-made feature which is linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad right-of-ways, power line or drainage corridors, or utility easements. Linear parks, when properly developed to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian travel, can greatly contribute to citywide connectivity to parks, schools, and other key destinations. Linear parks should also help to preserve open space. No specific standards apply to these parks other than that they should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain.

Linear parks frequently include pedestrian and bicycle trails. These trails provide active and passive recreation opportunities as well as connection between parks and other citywide destinations. The well-loved Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail is an example of a pedestrian and bicycle trail in a linear park which follows the South Nolan Creek corridor. As noted in Chapter 2, residents of Killeen have voiced a strong desire for a well-connected trail network throughout the City. The Lions Club Park and Andy K. Wells trails are a great start to the system. Even still, when public survey respondents were asked to determine overall facility and activity priorities, the addition of more pedestrian and bicycle trails was the top ranked facility.

Nature parks and preserves are a critical part of the land use system in any city. They provide passive recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and aid with flood control. These parks can greatly vary in size depending on the resources available, but are meant to have a citywide service radius. The benefit and inclusion of places that are natural areas or unprogrammed open space has been largely overlooked in the context of typical park master plans. Conservation and preservation are especially valuable as, over time, natural resources disappear in our cities and natural habitat is diminished. The value of walking through historic and natural places that have been left untouched is immeasurable. Such opportunities are rapidly becoming rare, and the identification and protection of such areas is



urgently needed in most cities today. Cities that proactively conserve natural resources demonstrate the foresight and resolve necessary to ensure that future generations may enjoy something of beauty and timelessness.

The value of natural areas and open space may have visual, historic, and cultural appeal that contributes to a community's sense of place and creates a lasting impression on visitors. Wilderness, bodies of water, prairies, and interesting geologic formations or topographic change may all be considered elements worthy of protection, celebration, and planned public access. As unprogrammed space, there is the added benefit of these areas being self-maintaining. There may be the occasional need to check for hazards, but maintenance is generally not a significant factor. Other than recreational and aesthetic opportunities afforded by natural areas, they also have extensive economic value to society in terms of ecological services provided – functions such as water and air purification, carbon sequestration, flood control, pollination, air cooling, and positively affecting human health and well-being.

Large areas that are intended to provide access to nature, or to preserve key natural assets in a city are a unique category of parks. While there are no specifically defined nature preserves in Killeen, there are over approximately 100 acres of protected open space along waterways through the City. Additionally, the future Heritage Oaks Park and Westside Regional Park

provide valuable opportunities to preserve some of the City's natural areas in perpetuity. Recommendations for these and other natural areas in the City will be further discussed in Chapter 5, *Recommendations*.

An additional type of special use park is a “**special interest park**.” These are often skate parks, dog parks, or some other park designed to accommodate a special recreational need. While some cities only include one park of each special interest type (e.g., only one skate park per city), demand from residents determines whether a city can sustain two or more of each type of special interest park. Another popular alternative is incorporating special interest park areas into larger community or regional parks.

Mickey's Dog Park is a perfect example of a special interest park that currently serves a unique, single special interest. The swimming pool and skate park in Long Branch Park are examples of special interest activities incorporated into a larger park.

Inventory Overview

Gaining an understanding of the types of parks available in Killeen and the distribution throughout the community helps determine whether the public is being well-served with recreation opportunities. The number, type, and condition of existing parks and facilities also defines the effort and cost required for operations and maintenance. As such, having a current inventory is a key part of the park planning process. It is used to illustrate which parks and recreation facilities are currently available, to assess the condition of those facilities, and to determine what facilities are lacking in different areas of the City.

The maps and tables on the following pages will summarize the location and quantity of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and open spaces currently provided in the City (see Map 3.1, *Existing Parks System* and Table 3.1, *Killeen's Existing Parks System*).



Mickey's Dog Park is an example of a special use park.





Park Legend

Label	Name	Park Classification
1	Conder Park	Community
2	Killeen Community Center Complex	Community
3	Lions Club Park	Community
4	Long Branch Park	Community
5	Andy K Wells Hike and Bike Trail	Linear Park
6	Fort Hood Regional Trail	Linear Park
7	AA Lane Park	Neighborhood
8	Camacho Park	Neighborhood
9	Fowler Park	Neighborhood
10	Fox Creek Park	Neighborhood
11	Green Avenue Park and Farmers Market	Neighborhood
12	Home & Hope Park	Neighborhood
13	Hunt Park	Neighborhood
14	Iduma Park	Neighborhood
15	Lions Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood
16	Marlboro Park	Neighborhood
17	Maxdale Park	Neighborhood
18	Phyllis Park	Neighborhood
19	Santa Rosa Park	Neighborhood
20	Stewart Park	Neighborhood
21	Timber Ridge Park	Neighborhood
22	Golf Course	Other
23	Mickey's Dog Park	Special Purpose
24	Pershing Park	Special Purpose
25	Rotary Park	Special Purpose
26	Special Events/Rodeo Grounds (Bacon Ranch Park)	Other
27	City Cemetery	Other
28	Heritage Oaks	Potential Future Park
29	Westside Regional Park (Ft. Hood property)	Potential Future Park
30	Westside Regional Park (Killeen property)	Potential Future Park
31	City Annex	Other
32	Military Plaza	Other
33	Yowell Ranch	Private

School Legend

Label	Name	Status
A	Bellaire Elementary	Existing
B	Brookhaven Elementary	Existing
C	Cedar Valley Elementary	Existing
D	Clifton Park Elementary	Existing
E	Dr. Joseph A. Fowler Elementary	Existing
F	East Ward Elementary	Existing
G	Ellison High School	Existing
H	Gateway High School	Existing
I	Gateway Middle School	Existing
J	Hay Branch Elementary	Existing
K	Haynes Elementary	Existing
L	Iduma Elementary	Existing
M	Ira Cross Elementary	Existing
N	Killeen High School	Existing
O	Liberty Hill Middle School	Existing
P	Live Oak Ridge Middle School	Existing
Q	Manor Middle School	Existing
R	Maxdale Elementary	Existing
S	Nolan Middle School	Existing
T	Palo Alto Middle School	Existing
U	Patterson Middle School	Existing
V	Peebles Elementary	Existing
W	Pershing Park Elementary	Existing
X	Rancier Middle School	Existing
Y	Reeces Creek Elementary	Existing
Z	Saegert Elementary	Existing
AA	Shoemaker High School	Existing
BB	Sugar Loaf Elementary	Existing
CC	Timber Ridge Elementary	Existing
DD	Trimmier Elementary	Existing
EE	West Ward Elementary	Existing
FF	Willow Springs Elementary	Existing
GG	Elementary	Future
HH	Elementary	Future
II	High School	Future
JJ	Middle School	Future
KK	Middle School	Future

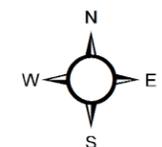




Existing Parks System

Legend

- Existing Parks/Recreation Spaces
- Potential Future Parks
- Other
- City-owned Open Space
- Private Parks
- Existing Trails
- Existing Private Trails
- KISD Property
- Existing KISD School
- Future KISD School
- City Council District Boundaries
- Killeen City Limits
- Nearby City Limits
- Killeen ETJ
- Nearby City ETJs
- Fort Hood
- Counties
- Water Bodies
- Principle Arterial
- Collector & Minor Arterials
- Local Streets
- Railroad



0 1/4 1/2 1 1 1/2 2 Miles



Park Profiles

Killeen's parks and recreation network includes one potential regional park, four existing and one potential community parks, 16 neighborhood parks, two special use parks, and two linear parks. The system also includes 100 acres of open space and a recreation center, two senior centers, and a community center. The following pages will present a breakdown of parks and recreation facilities located within the City, with the exception of 10 parks. A more in-depth analysis of the existing conditions, opportunities, and constraints of those 10 City parks will then follow. While some of the issues identified in the 10 parks are a result of unique circumstances, there are a variety of issues which are a common trend among the City's parks.

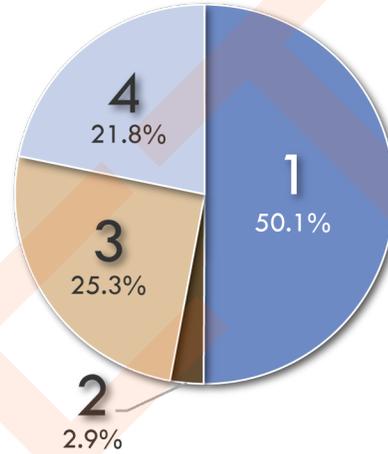
In its current state, the City's parks system includes approximately 410 acres of dedicated parkland. As illustrated in Figure 3.1, *Parkland Distribution by Council District*, of those 410 acres, City-owned parkland is distributed as follows:

- Council District 1 - 50.1 percent or 205.1 acres;
- Council District 2 - 2.9 percent or 11.7 acres;
- Council District 3 - 25.3 percent or 103.5 acres; and
- Council District 4 - 21.8 percent or 89.2 acres.

While the City's developed parkland has nearly doubled since 2000, there remain large areas throughout the City that are underserved.

Killeen is a sports-oriented community. Consequently, many of the City's larger parks are heavily programmed with active recreation facilities (e.g., baseball fields, basketball courts). Meanwhile, the passive facilities available, such as open space in Long Branch Park, the Lions Club Park Trail, and the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail, are very heavily used, and almost overused, by the community. Additionally, while there

Figure 3.2, *Parkland Distribution by Council District*



are numerous athletic fields dedicated to game play, there are not many facilities available for non-programmed pick-up games.

With greater parkland and open space acreage comes greater maintenance requirements and challenges. In order to ensure that vegetation survives in the Texas heat, all trees planted in Killeen's parks are equipped with irrigation and are watered with potable water. To date, City staff have designed and installed most of the City's playgrounds and picnic facilities. All new playgrounds are built with an ADA accessible perimeter concrete walkway.

In order to help with general care, maintenance, and trash removal in City parks, the Parks and Recreation Department has an Adopt-a-Park program. Anyone interested in helping with the parks can adopt a section or the entirety of a park. To date, 14 of the City's 20 available Adopt-a-Park locations have been adopted by local organizations. The parks still awaiting adoption include AA Lane Park, Community Center Complex, Fowler Park, Long Branch (East), and Phyllis Park.



Neighborhood Parks

Camacho Park

Camacho Park is a small 0.2-acre park that was first established in 1965 and later renovated in 1999. It is located along the western edge of Council District 1. The park is situated in a center median along Walton Walker Road. This small park provides a small, outdated playground and picnic table for the local neighborhood. The park's current location in the center of the road is unsafe and provides no parking for residents choosing to drive to the park. There is also a lack of shade at this park and it is completely visible from adjacent residences. In its current state and location, the park is not meeting the needs of the community. In order to sufficiently serve this neighborhood, the park either needs to be relocated or the facilities updated.

Fowler Park

Fowler Park is a 0.9-acre park located at the northern end of Council District 3, adjacent to a church and a well-developed neighborhood. The park, situated at the intersection of West Fowler Street and South 2nd Street, was originally constructed in 1995 and was renovated in 2002. The park includes a playground and picnic table but lacks any landscaping, shade, or multigenerational facilities. Over the years, the picnic table and pieces of the playground have been replaced. However,

due to the age of the facilities at this point, it is no longer cost effective to replace pieces of the playground. At this point, the City has plans to replace the pea gravel landing area in the playground with more forgiving surfacing.

Since the park was last updated almost 15 years ago, there is a need for park and equipment improvements. There is an opportunity to improve the usability and universal appeal of the park through the addition of landscaping, a shade structure, and additional facilities (e.g., basketball court, grills, and additional picnic tables). Local residents have also voiced a desire for a perimeter fence around the park.

Fox Creek Park

Fox Creek Park is another small 0.6-acre neighborhood park. It is located on a triangular shaped lot in a residential neighborhood in Council District 2. The park was established in 2000 as the result of the Fox Creek Subdivision developer and the City coordinating to build a park on an otherwise undevelopable parcel. The park includes a playground, picnic tables, grill, and basketball court. Due to adjacent uses and the size and configuration of the lot, expansion of this park is not possible. Limited on-street parking is available at the park so use is largely restricted to the surrounding residents.

As there is no shade provided in the park, an opportunity exists to increase the appeal of the park during the summer through the addition of a shade structure and enhanced landscaping.

Green Avenue Park & Farmers Market

Green Avenue Park & Farmers Market is a 0.4-acre park in Downtown Killeen, located at the intersection of West Green Avenue and North 2nd Street. The park includes a playground, large pavilion, and landscaping. The park was built in 2012, with the playground being added in 2015. The park hosts the City's Green Avenue Farmers Market and Food Truck Fridays. As this park is new, the facilities are still in



The large shade structure at Green Avenue Park hosts the City's farmers' market every Friday from May through December.





top condition. However, due to the Downtown location and large shade structure, the City receives complaints about homeless people loitering at the park.

Home and Hope Park

Home and Hope Park is a 0.3-acre park located in a residential area near Downtown Killeen in Council District 1. The park was established in 2001 and included a playground and picnic area. Until 2013, the now-closed Home and Hope Shelter assisted with upkeep and oversight of the park. However, in 2013 there was a fire in the playground and no upgrades have been made since then. The park is unusable in its current state and there are no immediate plans for renovation. While the park was in working order, residents often expressed concern about lighting and safety at the park.

As the City considers future use of this site, an opportunity exists to involve the community in the planning of a replacement park. Gaining community buy-in can help to foster civic pride and ownership over the site, thus likely increasing the use and security of the park.

Hunt Park

Hunt Park is comprised of 1.1 acres of flat, open land with a handful of small trees. The park is located at the intersection of Mountain View Drive and Hunt Drive in a residential neighborhood in the northern portion of Council District 1. It was established in 1984 and renovated in 2000. The park includes a basketball court, playground, and picnic table, but very little shade. The playground currently includes a metal slide which will get very hot with exposure to the sun.

The amount of undeveloped land in this park provides an opportunity for increased facilities, lighting, and off-street parking. Also, there is an opportunity to improve the year-round use of the site through the addition of shade.

Iduma Park

Iduma Park is one of the few parks in Council District 4. The 2.5-acre park is located on the grounds of Iduma Elementary School in a densely populated area. This park was established in 2006 as a result of a joint-use agreement between the City and Killeen Independent School District (KISD). The agreement remains valid until 2026. KISD retains



As with many parks in the community, Hunt Park currently includes very little shade.



full use of the park as a playground and physical education facility during school hours and the City retains full use at all other times. The restricted hours of use also pertain to maintenance of the park and can make scheduling routine maintenance a challenge.

The park includes a playground, full court basketball, multipurpose practice field, and a large picnic pavilion. There is an additional basketball court, three playground areas, and a covered picnic table directly adjacent to the park on the remainder of the school's property. The City plans to add signage and landscaping to the park. Due to the limited size of the property which the City has leased, improvement opportunities beyond those planned are limited.

Lions Neighborhood Park

Established in 1959, Lions Neighborhood Park is one of the City's oldest parks. The park was renovated in 2000 and plans are approved for further renovation. This 3.8-acre park is located on either side of Culp Avenue along Stewart Street in Council District 1. It sits in a residential neighborhood just a few minutes walk from a commercial corridor along Rancier Avenue. The park features full court basketball, two tennis

courts, a playground, picnic tables, and off-street parking. A concrete drainage channel runs the length of the park. Aside from the drainage channel, the southern portion of the park remains undeveloped. Existing facilities in the park are aged and needing improvements.

Planned improvements for the park are being funded via Community Development Block Grant Funds and include adding dual basketball courts, a pavilion, and a playground.

Marlboro Park

Situated just south of East Veteran's Memorial Boulevard, Marlboro Park is located along the northern border of Council District 2. The park was originally established in 1965 and was completely renovated in 2003. This 5.9-acre park includes full court basketball, a playground, large pavilion, multiple covered picnic tables, and off-street parking. The park sign was broken and has been removed until repairs can be made.

Marlboro Park is highly used by the adjacent neighborhood residents and a number of community events are held in the park. As such, residents have voiced a desire for overall general improvements to the park including a new, expanded



Large portions of Marlboro Park remain undeveloped.





play area and improvements to the basketball court and pavilion. Near-term planned improvements for the park include replacing the sign, painting the pavilion, and adding play mulch to the playground area.

The existing basketball court remains unlighted. In an effort to expand the potential use of the park, there is an opportunity to add court lighting. In addition, portions of the northern half of the site are sloped towards a drainage channel that runs down the center of the park. As such, these areas are unsuitable for traditional active recreation elements. However, these areas, plus other undeveloped open space in the park, may provide an opportunity for naturalization and passive recreation options.

Phyllis Park

Phyllis Park was established in 1966 and entirely renovated in 2004. The park sits on 2.3 acres near the intersection of Phyllis Drive and Trimmer Road in a residential neighborhood in Council District 3. The park includes full court basketball, a playground, and picnic tables. Park renovations within the last 15 years included a new playground, basketball court, and irrigation. Following the 2004 renovation, the park still

remains in good shape and is seen as an ideal neighborhood park by the City.

The park includes approximately 1.2-acres of unprogrammed space. Opportunities may exist for further development. Additionally, an opportunity exists to expand the hours of use of the park by adding lighting to the court and play areas.

Rotary Club Children's Park

Located across the parking lot from Mickey's Dog Park is the Rotary Club Children's Park. Built in 2003, this 6.2-acre park includes a playground, fitness stations, picnic tables, and a gazebo. The park remains in good condition, but there are opportunities for improvement through an enhanced covered playscape, increased shade and picnicking opportunities, and additional seating.

Santa Rosa Park

Santa Rosa Park is a small 0.3-acre park located along Santa Rosa Drive between commercial and residential areas. The park is located in the northern portion of Council District 3 and was established in 1970. A 2008 renovation updated the park



The playground at Phyllis Park was renovated in 2004 and provides youth recreation opportunities for the surrounding neighborhood.



to include a playground, signage, landscaping, irrigation, and picnic tables.

Due to size constraints of the park, further development opportunities are limited. In its current configuration, residents have expressed concern about the proximity of the playground to the road.

Stewart Park

Located along the northern boundary of Killeen in Council District 1, Stewart Park is a 5.9-acre park. The majority of the park is dedicated to a concrete drainage channel. The channel is bordered by large areas of mowed lawn. Other features in the park include a playground and covered picnic tables. The park was originally established in 1997 and renovated in 2014.

There are currently large areas of unprogrammed mowed lawn adjacent to the drainage channel. As such, the concrete channel is the most notable feature in the park and provides an unsightly view for the neighborhood. An opportunity to increase the aesthetic appeal of the park, provide stormwater filtering through naturalization of some areas in the park, and reduce maintenance requirements may exist.

Special Use Parks

Killeen Community Center/Killeen Athletic Complex

The Killeen Community Center/Killeen Athletic Complex is located at the intersection of East Veterans Memorial Boulevard and South W. S. Young Drive in Council District 1. It is a 76.4-acre complex which includes five adult softball fields, two baseball fields, a concession stand, restroom, and pavilion. The Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail traverses the site and the Killeen Community Center and Bob Gilmore Senior Center are located on the property. In addition, the Rotary Club Children's Park and Mickey's Dog Park are adjacent to the complex, on the west side of South W. S. Young Drive. The athletic complex was built in 2002 and is considered one of the state's premier softball facilities, hosting state and national softball tournaments throughout the year. All of the fields in the park are lighted and two baseball fields and one softball field are always open to the public.

This park is highly used by residents from throughout the community and beyond. As one of the largest parks in the



Segments of the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail wind through the Killeen Community Center/Killeen Athletic Complex allowing pedestrian access to the fields.





City and one of the only ones with a natural water feature, residents flock to this site and the adjacent parks for access to facilities for all ages and opportunities to view and interact with nature and wildlife along the South Nolan Creek. There are a number of acres of unprogrammed space in the park.

Grading and drainage improvements are necessary in the infields of the baseball and softball fields as they flood easily. In addition, while the Rotary Club Children's Park is across the street, there is no play area in the direct vicinity of the playing fields. Adding a playground near the fields would allow children to play while parents play ball and allow for more use by the whole family during events. Increased shade throughout the park would greatly improve the usability of the site during the hot summer months.

Mickey's Dog Park

Throughout Texas and the country, dog parks have been gaining popularity in recent years. These parks provide opportunities for pets and their owners to exercise, play, and socialize with others in the community. Mickey's Dog Park is one the newest parks in the Killeen. Constructed in 2015, this 3.4-acre park includes areas for both small and large dogs,

covered picnic tables and pavilions, water fountains, and an obstacle course for dogs. Aside from expressing a desire for lighting and additional water fountains, residents are largely happy with this park, as illustrated by its frequent use.

Planned improvements to the park include adding lighting and concrete pads beneath the picnic tables and pavilions. Additional shaded areas for seating and relaxation would improve the park experience for users and likely increase the use of the park.

Recreation Facilities

Family Aquatics Center

The Family Aquatics Center is a unique water park open to both residents and non-residents. The facility opened in 2009 and is located within Lions Club Park. This gated facility includes a bath house; multiple pools including a competition pool, leisure pool, and plunge pool; a variety of play elements such as water slides and a splash pad; and numerous picnic tables and pavilions. Pavilions can be rented for small gatherings or parties and the entire water park can be rented for large parties.



The Family Aquatics Center provides a unique opportunity for playful water recreation.



While the facilities remain in relatively good condition, there are some elements that need addressing such as the plaster within the pools, replacing shade structures, and replacing the kiddie play structure. As the facility is approaching eight years of use, there is a need for a site master plan and feasibility study for the future development and redevelopment of the facility. This should include a comprehensive review of the pool mechanics such as pumps and filtration systems, as well as identifying additional features to be added to the park. As facilities of this type age, maintenance costs inevitably increase. Having a master plan and feasibility study complete will help the City prepare for improvements and keep the facility successful into the future. In addition to the City's plans for the facility, residents have requested a lazy river and additional play structures for small children.

Family Recreation Center and Senior Center

The Family Recreation Center and Senior Center were built in 2008 and are located along East Stan Schlueter Loop in Lions Club Park. The Family Recreation Center is a 41,000-square foot facility which includes the Tommie Harris Fitness Center and offers a wide variety of athletic and fitness classes for facility members. The facility includes a child care room with enclosed outdoor play area for children up to age 10, an indoor gymnasium with two full-sized basketball courts, one room for fitness classes, and a fully functioning gym including

cardio and weightlifting equipment as well as an indoor track. The Tommie Harris Fitness Center is only available for members ages 13 and older.

The facility currently offers approximately 20 fitness classes per week. There is a desire for additional fitness classes but the facility lacks the space, staffing, and funding to accommodate the classes. Additionally, the indoor gymnasium is very highly used for athletics and fitness classes. There are frequently scheduling challenges due to the number of people wanting to use the facility.

The Senior Center in Lions Club Park is a 14,000-square foot facility which includes a game room, library, small fitness center, kitchen, and a variety of spaces for meetings or classes. The Senior Center offers daily activities, games, and fitness classes.

Based on community and staff feedback, there is a need for expansions to the recreation center including additional fitness classrooms and gymnasium space, and to the senior center to provide increased meeting space and fitness equipment. An opportunity exists to holistically review the Family Recreation Center and Senior Center with a new master plan for the future growth of the facilities.

Killeen Community Center

The Killeen Community Center, located at the Community Center Complex, typically offers non-athletic programs. The 26,000-square foot facility was built in 1972 and recently underwent a full renovation including a number of indoor and outdoor facility upgrades and room realignment to add three additional meeting rooms for public usage. With the addition of public meeting space, a need for additional staffing is becoming apparent.



Fitness classes at the Family Recreation Center are highly attended and the schedule is already at capacity.





Bob Gilmore Senior Center

The Bob Gilmore Senior Center is one of two senior centers in the City. The Center provides recreational and educational activities and classes, and serves a low-cost lunch daily for seniors. The 6,000-square foot facility was built in 1977 and is in need of major renovations including HVAC replacement, weather proofing, roofing, an upgraded kitchen, addressing accessibility issues, and a redesigned patio enclosure and layout.

Summary of Other City-Owned Facilities

The City also owns, operates, and/or maintains a variety of other civic, recreation, or open space sites including the Stonetree Golf Club, Killeen Rodeo Grounds, City Cemetery, Military Plaza, and City Annex.

The Stonetree Golf Club is a public golf course offering four sets of tees to provide challenges to all skill levels. The Golf Club is located on Stonetree Drive in Council District 1 and is operated and maintained by the Golf Course Division of the City's Community Services Department. The Killeen Rodeo Grounds are located along Little Nolan Road in Council District 2. The site hosts the annual rodeo and is maintained by the Killeen Civic and Conference Center and Visitors' Bureau. The City Cemetery is located along East Rancier Avenue. The Cemetery currently includes approximately 9,500 plots, some of which date back to 1856. The Cemetery is operated by the Cemetery Division of the Community Services Department. Lastly, the Parks and Recreation Division maintains Military Plaza, a plaza including military equipment paying tribute to the U.S. Armed Forces, and the City Annex which is a plaza in Downtown Killeen.

Killeen Independent School District Facilities

Killeen Independent School District (KISD) operates 29 elementary, middle, and high schools within the City of Killeen, and 19 schools in adjacent cities and Fort Hood.

There is also one elementary school and one middle school currently under construction. As previously illustrated on Map 3.1, *Existing Parks System*, KISD schools are spread throughout the City, many times in areas lacking park and recreation facilities. There are also five separate sites in Killeen which are already slated for future development by KISD. These include a middle school along Bunny Trail in Council District 4, an elementary school north of Chaparral Road in Council District 3, a high school east of Chaparral Road in Council District 2, a middle school just south of the future high school in the City's ETJ, and an elementary school near Rosewood Drive and the potential Heritage Oaks Park in Council District 2.

KISD has a defined recommended minimum for recreational facilities at all new schools. Elementary schools include a one-acre playground with wood chips, two large and one small swing sets, Little Tike climbing equipment, and separated play areas for pre-kindergarten through first grade and second through fifth grades. Middle schools include four to six tennis courts, two multi-purpose practice fields, one main lighted field with bleachers and concessions.

To date, on three KISD school sites including Maxdale, Iduma, and Timber Ridge Elementary Schools, the City and KISD have created joint-use agreements to allow KISD facilities help fill the recreational needs of the community. These agreements maintain exclusive use of the sites by KISD during normal school hours. During these hours, the joint use areas are used by KISD as school playgrounds and physical education facilities. At all other times, the City has the right to use the facilities as public parks and playgrounds. In the instance of these three schools, KISD provided their standard equipment and the City provided additional facilities. However, unfortunately in most cases this resulted in duplication of facilities. Through greater cooperation and partnerships, potential opportunities exist on numerous sites to provide high quality park and recreation facilities to nearby residents, without duplicating facility types.



Westside Regional Park

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Fort Hood
- U.S. Highway 190

Accessibility

Westside Regional Park is located along Watercrest Road at the northern end of Council District 3. The site is bordered on the south by Watercrest Road, on the north by U.S. Highway 190, and is bisected by the boundary between the City of Killeen and Fort Hood. There are currently no improved parking facilities on the site and pedestrian access is limited to the areas lacking a perimeter fence.

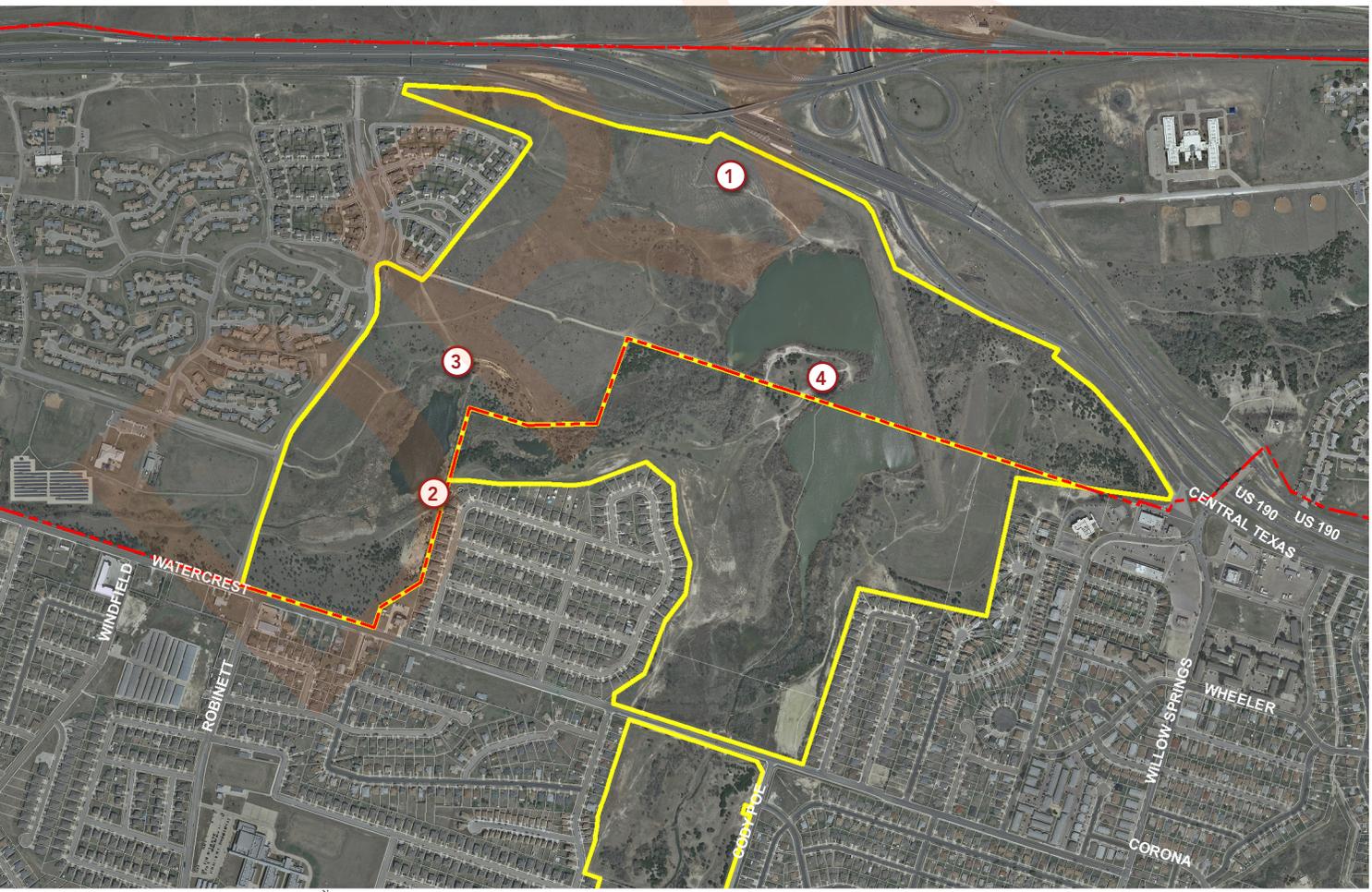
Description

Westside Regional Park is a potential future regional park comprised of 338.6 acres. The site includes hundreds of acres

of natural land which have been well preserved over the years. The site includes a series of water bodies, including the 30-acre Pershing Lake, Cantonment Pond, and a creek. There are also a variety of natural environments ranging from drainage channels to wetlands to expansive open space. To date, the primary usage of the land has been stormwater management through runoff collection during large storm events. Stormwater from adjacent roadways and neighborhoods to the south and west is collected on site and contained behind a 30-foot high earthen dam at Pershing Lake.

While perimeter fencing prohibits pedestrian access to some of the site, people use the site for fishing and natural recreation. Posted signs at the pond indicate that fisherman must possess a Fort Hood area access permit, fishing permit, and Texas fishing license.

Directly south of Westside Regional Park, the first phase of the Killeen Fort Hood Regional Trail was recently constructed.



The 1.3-mile trail parallels a drainage channel running from Watercrest Road to Robinett Road. The trail will ultimately be extended further south to provide increased community-wide connectivity.

Opportunities & Constraints

As a potential partnership between the City and Fort Hood, this unique site has potential to provide a variety of recreational opportunities at a scale found nowhere else in the City. Potential uses of the site include walking/running/biking trails, carefully developed athletics, nature-based outdoor education, water-based recreation, unstructured play, picnicking, large events, and adventure activities, among others.

With further build-out of the City's trail network, this site will be accessible by vehicle, bike, and foot. With opportunities for daily recreational use by neighbors, as well as access to

beautiful natural areas which draw users from throughout the county and beyond, this site holds great potential for the City of Killeen.

A large portion of the site is located in the floodplain. While the opportunities are great, any development of the site will need to be done carefully to minimize changes to the waterways and stormwater collection areas in order to maintain the site's stormwater management functions.

Westside Regional Park presents a unique opportunity for park users to experience the City's natural environment in ways not possible elsewhere in the City. In addition, with dedication and development of this site, the City's parkland acreage would increase by over 80 percent! With this in mind, a park master plan was recently developed as a precursor to this overall Parks Master Plan Update. The full Westside Regional Park Master Plan can be found in *Appendix C*.



1 Rolling hills in the park provide respite from busy city life.



2 Park users frequently fish in Cantonment Pond



3 Due to its stormwater management function, water levels vary in some areas of the park.



4 Pershing Lake is the largest body of water in Killeen.

Conder Park

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

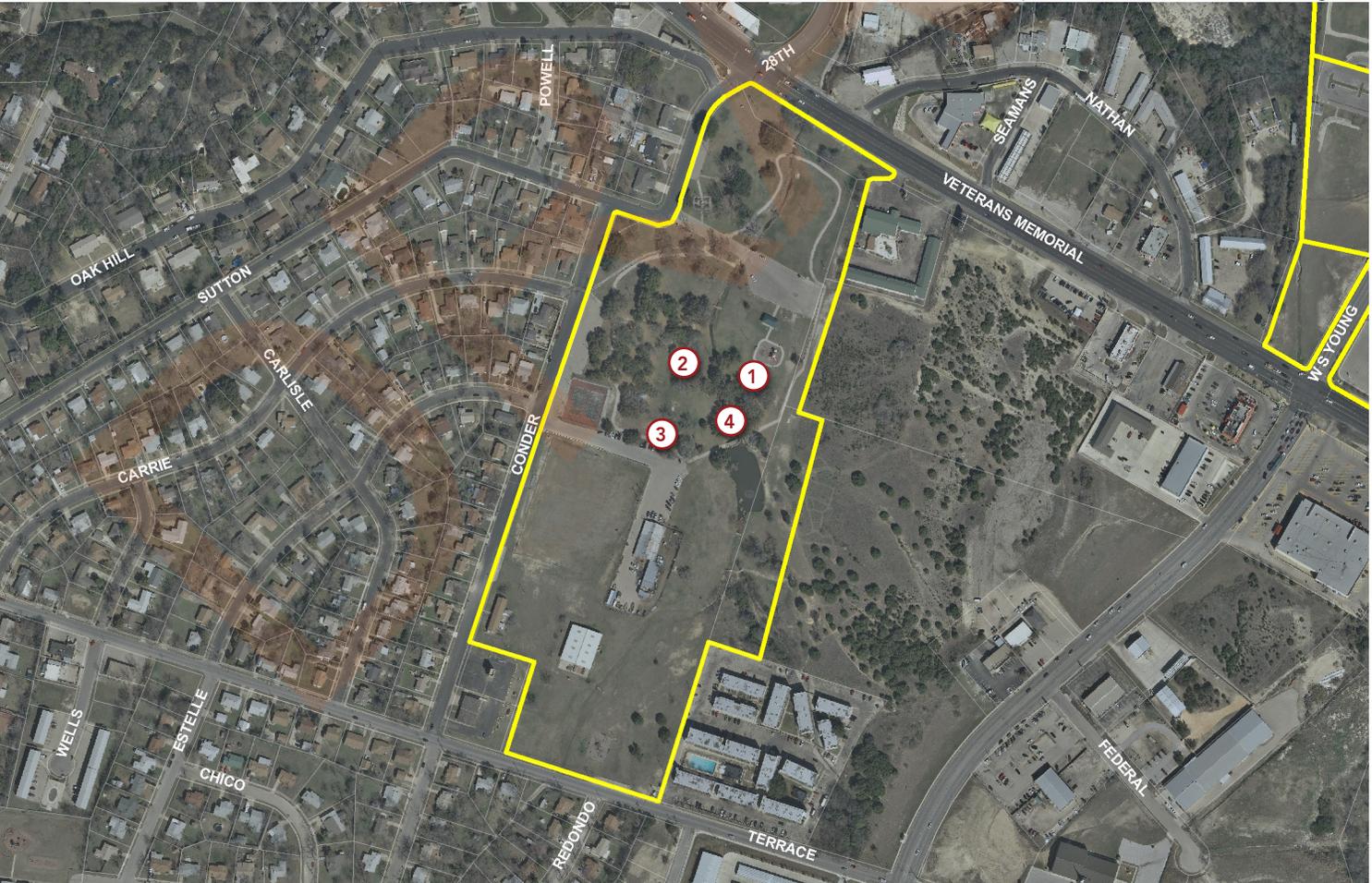
- Single and multi-family residential
- E. Veterans Memorial Boulevard commercial corridor
- Killen Community Center Complex

Accessibility

Conder Park is accessible by car from the north, west, and south via E. Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Conder Street, and Terrace Drive, respectively. Vehicular parking is provided in four parking lots throughout the site. Sporadic sidewalks are provided on Conder Street and Terrace Drive but no sidewalks are provided along the borders of the park. While Terrace Drive and Conder Street are not large roads, E. Veterans Memorial Boulevard is a major thoroughfare and is lacking pedestrian crosswalks. Notably, a Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail trailhead is located approximately one-half mile north along S. 28th Street / Conder Street.

Description

Conder Park is a 28.9-acre community park located south of E. Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Council District 3. The park is the oldest in the City's parks system, having been established in 1949. Over the years the park has been renovated and further developed. The park features a lighted multi-purpose field, the City's first skate park, the City's first nine-hole disc golf course, two playgrounds, two basketball courts, and restrooms. The skate park, multi-purpose field, disc golf course, restrooms, and basketball courts were all added to the park since 2006. Most recently, the City replaced tennis courts with two basketball courts. The basketball courts and skate park are very well used and the increased foot traffic created by the addition of the basketball courts provides a greater feeling of safety in the park. However, the population who previously used the tennis courts has expressed a desire for replacements elsewhere in the City. The park also includes a well-used half-mile unpaved walking trail, man-made pond with a fishing pier, two large pavilions, and a number of covered and uncovered picnic tables with barbecue grills.



Many of the picnic tables and grills are in need maintenance. The City's parks maintenance facility is located directly in the center of the park and the material and equipment storage creates an unsightly view from many areas in the park.

A drainage channel runs through the center of the site with a series of small footbridges providing access across. All of the footbridges are in need of repair or replacement.

The southern playground in the park is adjacent to a small parking area on Terrace Drive. This playground is relatively far away from the remainder of park facilities and is completely lacking shade. As such, it is less frequently used than the other facilities in the park.

Opportunities & Constraints

Conder Park is unique as it is one of the more heavily treed parks in the City. Areas of dappled shade provide prime areas for picnicking and passive recreation along the creek which runs through the site. The park is characterized by sloping terrain, well established trees, and open spaces

between facilities. While the sloping terrain and pond access provide attractive potential for park users, the park suffers from drainage issues, streambank erosion, and frequent trail washout.

While residents have expressed positive reviews of the upgrades over the years, they still voice concern about the need for additional security lighting.

As a heavily used community park, there are opportunities for further upgrades and enhancements to improve usage and reduce maintenance requirements of the park. Potential opportunities include upgraded lighting for the multi-purpose field, expanded picnic and passive recreation facilities, shade over the playgrounds, a splash pad, lighted concrete perimeter trail, additional skating facilities, additional parking, and streambank restoration and improvements. Additionally, as the park maintenance facility is over 30 years old, it would benefit from a remodel to improve function and aesthetics, or relocation to another site.



1

Shaded areas create prime picnicking spaces in the park.



2

Conder Park includes the City's only disc golf course.



3

Frequent washout of the trail requires maintenance staff to continually resurface it.



4

Erosion along the creek is beginning to impact the surrounding uses and facilities.

Heritage Oaks Park (future park)

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- Future single-family residential
- Future elementary school

Accessibility

Heritage Oaks Park is located at the end of Rosewood Drive. There is no improved parking at the site currently, but the road along the northern border of the site is under construction. While the adjacent neighborhoods to the north and south are not completely built, there will ultimately be sidewalks provided throughout them.

Description

Heritage Oaks Park is a future 103.1-acre community park. It is located in a previously undeveloped area and thus contains many acres of unspoiled land. The site includes wooded areas, open grassland prairies, and over a mile of Trimmier Creek. The site is situated north of the future Heritage Oaks subdivision, which is currently under construction. The land designated for Heritage Oaks Park has been donated to the City by the Heritage Oaks developer and provides much needed parkland at the southern end of Council District 2. Development of Heritage Oaks Park will grow the City's parkland by approximately 25 percent.



Opportunities & Constraints

As a previously undeveloped area, Heritage Oaks Park has potential to provide unique access to nature, currently found in a only few other parks in the City. The diverse landscapes create opportunities for natural exploration, athletics, children’s play and activity areas, and extensive trail connections within the park and beyond.

Located in the fastest growing part of the City for new neighborhoods, directly adjacent to a future KISD elementary school, and along the western boundary of Harker Heights, this park will fill a recreational void in this area of the City. It has potential to provide recreational opportunities for all ages and allow for future regional connectivity to Harker Heights.

With all the opportunities afforded by this site, come a variety of development challenges. In addition to the natural beauty of the site, there are areas with steep grades and an active

floodway. Design and development of the park will need to carefully consider solutions to these challenges.

In recognition of the potential for this site, the City previously underwent a master planning process for this park. The full Heritage Oaks Park Master Plan can be found in *Appendix B*.



Open areas on the site provide potential for passive recreation.



Some areas along Trimmier Creek include steep streambanks.



Low-lying areas along the creek provide potential access for nature play.



Heritage Oaks Park includes numerous acres of woodlands.

Lions Club Park

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- E. Stan Schlueter Loop commercial corridor
- Single-family residential
- Clements Boys & Girls Club

Accessibility

Lions Club Park is located along E. Stan Schlueter Loop. The main entrance is located along this road and an informal pedestrian entrance is located at the end of Western Swing Court. There are minimal sidewalks along the road but a safe pedestrian crosswalk is provided at the main entrance. A bus station is located along the frontage of the park, providing convenient public access to the park and facilities on the site.

Description

Lions Club Park is one of the most frequented and treasured community parks in the City. This 69.7-acre park is located along the northern boundary of Council District 3 and is home to the Family Recreation Center, Family Aquatic Center, and the Senior Center. The park was established in 2000 and has become the flagship park within the City's system. The park features fenced-in athletic fields including four baseball fields, four softball fields, and six soccer/football/multi-purpose fields. There is also a basketball court, one covered and one uncovered playground, large parking areas, four pavilions, and a number of picnic tables. The lighted concrete 1.5-mile Lions Club Trail loops around the park and is highly used from dawn to dusk every day.



Opportunities & Constraints

Planned improvements by the City include replacing the basketball court with an all abilities playground, relocating the basketball court elsewhere on site, and planting additional trees on the southern side of the Family Aquatic Center. In addition, the City may eventually expand the Family Recreation Center, Family Aquatic Center, and Senior Center. At that point, there will need to be more parking, above and beyond the additional parking which is already needed.

While the park is well maintained and equipped with numerous facilities which draw hundreds of people every day, it is lacking in landscaping, trees and shade, and requires additional parking to accommodate users.

In its current configuration, most of the site is dedicated to active recreation with controlled access to the majority of the athletic facilities. The basketball court is currently the only athletic facility which is open to public use. There are,

however, numerous acres of currently undeveloped land along the southern edge of the site which have potential to provide additional public recreation opportunities including an unprogrammed athletic field and picnic grove, among other things. Also, based on the number of trail users who already stop to engage in fitness activities (e.g., leg lifts, push ups) while on the trail, fitness stations would likely be well used.

Even though there are minimal safe pedestrian connections to the park now, a wide right-of-way and shoulders provide opportunity for greater pedestrian connectivity to the site.

As the park facilities expand, there may be potential to acquire additional land to the southwest of the park.



1 The covered playground is well-loved and used daily by children and their parents.



2 Trail users often use the spaces adjacent to the trail for fitness activities.



3 An open area south of the baseball fields provides a potential opportunity for unprogrammed practice space.



4 The Lions Club Trail is highly used all day long, every day.

Long Branch Park

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- Single and multi-family residential
- E. Rancier Avenue commercial corridor
- Killeen Adventist Junior Academy
- Funeral home and cemetery

Accessibility

Long Branch Park is located between E. Rancier Avenue and Lake Road along Branch Drive. Branch Drive and Lake Inks Avenue traverse the park and vehicular parking is provided in a variety of lots throughout the park. There are no sidewalks along E. Rancier Avenue and minimal sidewalks along the northern side of Lake Road. As such, there is no safe pedestrian access to the park.

Description

Long Branch Park was established in 1970 and includes 70 acres of rolling terrain, expansive lawn areas, scattered trees,

and the Long Branch Creek running through the park. It is the largest community park in the City and is located in Council District 1. The park features two basketball courts, three multi-purpose practice fields, four tennis courts, three playgrounds, a skate park, a recently renovated pool, splash pad, and 0.3-mile paved trail. There are also numerous covered picnic tables, four pavilions, restrooms, and a maintenance facility dedicated to the park. There are narrow areas along Long Branch Creek which are maintained in a naturalized way. Aside from these areas, the remainder of the park is mowed.

This park sees heavy traffic, especially on the weekends when it is used by approximately 2,000 people per weekend. Some of the most well-used elements in the park are the skate park and the picnic pavilions which are typically full all weekend. As a result of parking areas being located far from some of the pavilions, users occasionally park on the grass near the pavilion they're using. This, in turn, creates additional maintenance concerns for the City.



As an older park, the drainage, electrical, and lighting infrastructure are in need of upgrades to keep the park sustainable for the future. The City also frequently encounters maintenance issues with the splash pad due to its frequency of use.

Of the three playgrounds in the park, the newest one, located along the eastern edge of the park is the least used. This is likely due to the fact that the majority of the picnic pavilions are located a far distance from the playground. The addition of more family-friendly activities near the playground would likely improve its usage.

Opportunities & Constraints

In an effort to plan for the future of the park, the City has solicited estimates for electrical upgrades to the park. The City is also considering a feasibility study for a remodel of the park's restrooms.

The park currently includes many acres of unprogrammed space, some of which are relatively flat. In recognition of the opportunities this creates, the City has started to discuss the idea of developing a multi-purpose field complex with concessions and restrooms. There have also been discussions with a local organization regarding the potential for a neighborhood recreation center to be located within the park.

Additional opportunities afforded by the size, layout, and terrain of the park include pedestrian safety improvements, a lighted loop trail, additional picnicking facilities, more paved parking, shade covers for the playgrounds, a second splash pad, additional trees and vegetation, and further naturalization along Long Branch Creek.



The centrally located playground gets significant use and would benefit from a shade cover.



Covered picnic tables in the park are typically occupied all weekend long.



The newest playground is rarely used.



Narrow areas along Long Branch Creek are being maintained in a more naturalized way with longer grass.

AA Lane Park

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- Single-family Residential
- Ground level water tanks
- Killeen Community Center Complex

Accessibility

AA Lane Park is a neighborhood park located along S. 48th Street in Council District 1. It is surrounded primarily by residences and two large water tanks. The site is accessible by vehicle along S. 48th Street and there are no sidewalks in the surrounding neighborhood. The Killeen Community Center Complex and Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail are located one mile to the west of this park.

Description

AA Lane Park was first established in 1964 and facilities were added in 1999 and 2015. The park is 6.6 acres in size and includes a non-lighted softball field with concrete bleachers, a playground, two futsal courts, and a covered picnic table. The outfield of the softball field is also used as a multi-purpose practice field.

Overall, this park is in need of a face lift. While the playground appears to include some newer components, it would benefit from a full upgrade. Benches on site show evidence of vandalism and the concrete bleachers behind the softball field have exposed rebar in places, creating a potential safety hazard. The futsal courts are a new addition to the park and are in great condition. The parking lot adjacent to the courts, however, is being severely undercut by erosion and will require maintenance or replacement.



Opportunities & Constraints

Even though the majority of the eastern half of the park is undeveloped, it's severe slope inhibits any significant development. This is however, the only area in the park currently with trees. If the drainage channel was cleaned up, locating picnic tables beneath the trees, where possible, could provide shaded relaxation areas in the park. There may also be the potential to allow some of the sloped areas to naturalize to reduce maintenance requirements in the park.

Any redevelopment of this park will need to strongly consider safety and security. The sloped area inhibits views from one side of the park to the other, thus creating potential safety issues. Due to this, inadequate lighting, and prohibited evening use of the park by some people, the community has significant concerns about safety in the park. The addition of lighting and redeveloped uses to draw more people to the park could help improve safety.

As currently developed, the adult softball field is infrequently used. There may be opportunities to reprogram the site to get greater usage by nearby residents. Potential uses might include picnic facilities, an enhanced covered playground, a lighted perimeter trail, and restrooms.

The South Nolan Creek runs through the property located directly north of the park. Opportunities may exist for an extension of the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail along the creek corridor to provide access to AA Lane Park.



The adult softball field doesn't get as much use as it needs to warrant the maintenance requirements.



The slopes adjacent to the parking lot are eroding and undercutting the pavement.



Sloped areas in the park create development challenges.



The concrete bleachers are clearly dated and in serious need of improvement or reprogramming.

Maxdale Park

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Maxdale Elementary School

Accessibility

Maxdale Park is located on the property of Maxdale Elementary School in a residential neighborhood. Unlike many of the other parks in the City, there are sidewalks on all of the adjacent roads and thus safe pedestrian access is provided to the site. There is an on-site school parking lot and street parking is available on adjacent roads.

Description

Maxdale Park is a 5.1-acre neighborhood park. The park is located on Westwood Drive in Council District 4. This park is one of three joint-use parks between the City and KISD. As discussed earlier in this chapter, per the joint-use agreement, KISD maintains full use of the site during school hours and the public is free to use the site for the remainder of the day and on weekends.

The park is currently minimally developed to include a basketball court, playground, picnic pavilion, and multi-purpose field.



Opportunities & Constraints

Planned improvements for the park include upgrading the irrigation system to allow for additional trees and planting beds. Since there are only a handful of trees on site currently, this upgrade and the addition of shade trees has potential to greatly increase the usability of the park.

Maxdale Park is one of only three parks currently located in Council District 4. With its minimal current development, there are opportunities to provide increased recreational options for nearby residents. Potential additional development of the site could include a shade structure over the playground, a walking/jogging trail, an expanded play area, a non-programmed backstop to allow for pick up games, and an additional multi-purpose field.

Being a joint-use site, use by students during the school day creates a maintenance challenge for City staff. With further development, maintenance needs and scheduling will have to be considered.



1

The pavilion provides the only shade in the park.



2

One of the few existing trees needs to be replaced.



3

The uncovered playground is used by children from the school and neighborhood and would benefit from a shade structure.



4

The large undeveloped area provides potential opportunities for a variety of different amenities.

Timber Ridge Park

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Timber Ridge Elementary School

Accessibility

Timber Ridge Park is located on White Rock Drive and is on the grounds of Timber Ridge Elementary School. Similar to Maxdale Park, there is a school parking lot on site, street parking available, and sidewalks in the surrounding neighborhood.

Description

Timber Ridge Park is a 5.2-acre neighborhood park. Established in 2007 as a result of another joint-use agreement with KISD, the City built and maintains a playground and pavilion. All other facilities in the park, including a now low-quality basketball court and two multi-use courts, were provided by KISD. The remainder of the site includes relatively flat lawn areas.

Timber Ridge Park is an example of the unfulfilled potential of a joint-use agreement with KISD. The remainder of the Timber Ridge Elementary School site includes two additional playgrounds, so the playground provided by the City duplicates services already provided on site.



Opportunities & Constraints

Aside from the existing minimal development, the park contains a few acres of undeveloped land which provide additional recreational potential for facilities such as a multi-use practice field, standalone backstop, an enhanced playscape with water element, a shade structure over the playground, and an exterior loop trail. With cooperation with KISD, there may also be an opportunity to improve upon the existing basketball facilities.

In its current condition, Timber Ridge Park includes very minimal landscaping and shade. However, an irrigation system is in place to allow for more tree plantings. As additional facilities and plantings are added to the site, consideration must be given to maintenance requirements. Similar to Maxdale Park, facility usage by school students creates maintenance scheduling challenges for the City.



The large picnic pavilion provides space for neighbors to gather in the shade.



The open land on site creates further development potential in the park.



The basketball court is missing nets and would benefit from benches and vegetation around it to allow for community spectators.



The playground provided by the City (photo foreground) duplicates the services of the KISD playgrounds (photo background).

Pershing Park Pool

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- Single and multi-family residential
- Pershing Park Elementary School
- U.S. Highway 190

Accessibility

Pershing Park Pool is located at the intersection of Wheeler Avenue and Bonnie Drive. Off-street parking is provided at the pool and sidewalks provide access from adjacent neighborhoods to the east, west, and south. U.S. Highway 190 is located to the north of the Pershing Park Elementary School property and prohibits safe pedestrian access from the other side of the highway. Access to the site is controlled with a lockable gate.

Description

Pershing Park Pool is a 1.4-acre special use park located in Council District 3. It is directly south of Pershing Park Elementary School and is adjacent to the school's playing fields. The property is a public aquatics facility including a pool, bathhouse, two picnic pavilions, and a handful of covered picnic tables. However, the pool is in need of extensive repairs and the City has determined that it is no longer cost effective to repair it. Instead the City has closed the facility to the public and is looking to reprogram the site to provide recreation for the adjacent neighborhood.



Opportunities & Constraints

The Pershing Park Pool property provides a unique opportunity for the City. As one of the only fully gated facilities in the community, it provides opportunity for controlled rental use. Considering the existing water utilities on site, potential programming could include a playground and splash pad, enhanced picnicking facilities, and an upgraded restroom to create a unique party venue.

Additionally, KISD owns over three acres of land directly west of the site. There is a standalone backstop used for community recreation in this area. This land provides a potential opportunity to pursue another joint-use agreement with KISD to allow the City to further develop site.



1 The sole entry point to the site is through this gated building.



2 The existing pool is no longer open to the public.



3 There are a variety of spaces for improved picnic facilities around the pool.



4 Residents use the backstop on the adjacent KISD property as practice space on the weekend.

Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail Complex

Amenities



Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- E. Veterans Memorial Boulevard commercial corridor
- Killeen Athletic Complex
- Killeen Community Center
- Bob Gilmore Senior Center
- Mickey's Dog Park
- Rotary Club Children's Park
- Railroad

Accessibility

The Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex is located along South W.S. Young Drive. Vehicular and pedestrian access to the trail is provided at a trailhead along S. 28th Street and in the Rotary Club Children's Park and Mickey's Dog Park parking lots. No sidewalk access exists along South W.S. Young Drive, but sidewalks in the neighborhood to the west connect to the S. 28th Street trailhead.

Description

The Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail Complex is a 21.4-acre linear park characterized by wooded areas and streamside ecosystems. The site is located along the southern border of Council District 1. The trail itself extends beyond the site for a total of 2.4 miles. From the trailhead on S. 28th Street, the trail follows the South Nolan Creek corridor and provides access to the Rotary Club Children's Park, Mickey's Dog Park, Killeen Athletic Complex, Killeen Community Center, and the Bob Gilmore Senior Center.

The lighted concrete trail is well-used by residents from throughout the community for exercise, socializing, and relaxation. Currently, the linear park and trail are some of the only facilities in the City that provide access to a relatively consistent-flow stream. Other parks include drainage channels or small creeks but many run dry for much of the year. That being said, the South Nolan Creek corridor is used



by residents for fishing, wildlife observation, and general interaction with nature.

Opportunities & Constraints

When it travels through the Killeen Athletic Complex, there are many areas of open space adjacent to the trail. These areas provide opportunities for off-shoot recreation including playgrounds, fitness stations, educational signage, seating and observation areas, picnicking facilities, and increased shade.

Additionally, the linear park on the west side of South W. S. Young Drive is currently undeveloped except for the trail. If care is taken so as to minimize disturbance to the natural areas, opportunities may exist for a basketball court near the trailhead and off-shoot nature trails through the woodlands.

The Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail is a gem in the community. Being that there are another four parks within

two miles or less of the trail, the South Nolan Creek continues to the east, and the railroad extends to the west, there are numerous opportunities for expansion of the trail network. Over time, the trail could potentially provide access to Conder Park, AA Lane Park, Long Branch Park, and Marlboro Park.



1

The trail can be enjoyed by residents of all ages.



2

South Nolan Creek provides residents with a fun opportunity to interact with nature.



3

Trees provide shade along the trail in select areas.



4

Unprogrammed areas along the trail provide opportunities for off-shoot recreational amenities such as playgrounds or fitness stations.

Existing Connectivity

As previously described in this chapter, there are three public recreational trails in the City, Lions Club Trail, Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail, and the newly constructed Killeen Fort Hood Regional Trail. These trails total six miles. While the Lions Club Trail and Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail include access to the parks they are located in, the Killeen Fort Hood Regional Trail is located in an otherwise unimproved drainage corridor. This trail is primarily intended for walking, running, and biking in a natural setting and will provide connectivity to the potential Westside Regional Park.

In addition to the off-road trails, the City has initiated an oversized sidewalk program. As part of this program, the City is partnering with developers to install oversized sidewalks along select roads through the community such as Stagecoach Road and Rosewood Drive, among others. The agreement

allocates that the developer pays for the standard four or five-foot sidewalk width and the City pays the additional cost to increase the sidewalk to seven or eight-feet wide. Through provision of oversized sidewalks on select thoroughfares, safe pedestrian access is provided to key destinations such as schools, parks, and off-street trails. There are currently seven miles of oversized sidewalks. The full network of existing off-street trails and oversized sidewalks is illustrated on Map 3.2, *Existing Trail Network*.



The Killeen Fort Hood Regional Trail, shown here during construction, could provide pedestrian access to the potential Westside Regional Park.





Existing Trail Network

Legend

- Existing Parks/Recreation Spaces
- Potential Future Parks
- Other
- City-owned Open Space
- Private Parks
- Existing Trails
- Existing Private Trails
- Existing 8' Oversized Sidewalks
- Existing Sidewalks
- KISD Property
- Existing KISD School
- Future KISD School
- City Council District Boundaries
- Killeen City Limits
- Nearby City Limits
- Killeen ETJ
- Nearby City ETJs
- Fort Hood
- Counties
- Water Bodies
- Principle Arterial
- Collector & Minor Arterials
- Local Streets
- Railroad

