

THE KILLEEN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

CITY OF KILLEEN, TEXAS



WELCOME STATEMENT

On behalf of the City of Killeen and the Recreation Services
Department, it's with great excitement that we bring you a parks
and open space master plan which prioritizes smaller, incremental
improvements which result in transformational change over time. As
many of you know our parks system is well behind in park acreage
and many of our parks are outdated and in need of re-activation
through well planned, strategic efforts to replace, and in many parks,
build new amenities that invite park users of all types. The core of
this plan is to develop and activate a "Complete Parks" system—one
which serves all users.

We are adhering to the principles set out in this plan as we implement improvements in our existing park system and plan and prepare for longer-term sustainable growth. We are constantly asking ourselves: are our parks adequately maintained, are they accessible (i.e., open and enticing to all), are they safe and comfortable, do they provide for social interaction, and lastly, are they activated?

Your Recreation Services staff will continue to work in step with City Council, area partners, and residents to implement the vision, goals, and actions set out in this plan so that our community truly achieves one "Complete Parks" system.

We look forward to creating and developing the very best parks system possible and hope that this summary plan accurately captures and reflects your aspirations for the future of the Killeen parks and open space system.

Respectfully,

Joe Brown, CPRP

Executive Director of Recreation Services

City of Killeen





The Parks and Open Space Master Plan embodies a new vision for Killeen's future —one which aspires to maximize the number of people in the park system and on the wealth creation parks, trails, and open spaces bring to the community. It explores an innovative approach to parks system planning — one founded on Strong Towns and Complete Park principles—developed with the community during the planning process.

These principles were developed out of necessity, in that there is a lot of opportunity to improve upon the provision of parks-related services moving forward. This includes improving access to unserved and underserved parts of the community and providing for a more diversified set of facilities, amenities, and activation which serve a broader cross-section of the Killeen community. To accomplish this, this plan sets a vision for first improving on the quality of conditions and incremental improvement of existing parks. It then focuses on a smarter, more prudent approach to long-term park growth and development through parkland dedication, donations, further development of other existing City non-park property, and strategic partnerships with area partners.

This Summary Plan is organized as set out below.

History	3
Demographics	5
Existing Parks System	7
Plan Methodology	9
Plan Recommendations	23
Plan Implementation	37
Acknowledgments	43

HISTORY

In 1881, the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway platted a 70-block town on its land near the adjacent community known as Palo Alto. The town was named after the assistant general manager of the railroad, Frank P. Killeen. At this time the population was approximately 40 people.

By 1884, the population had reached 350 people. As Killeen became an important shipping location for cotton, wool, and grain from the surrounding farms, the town continued to grow.

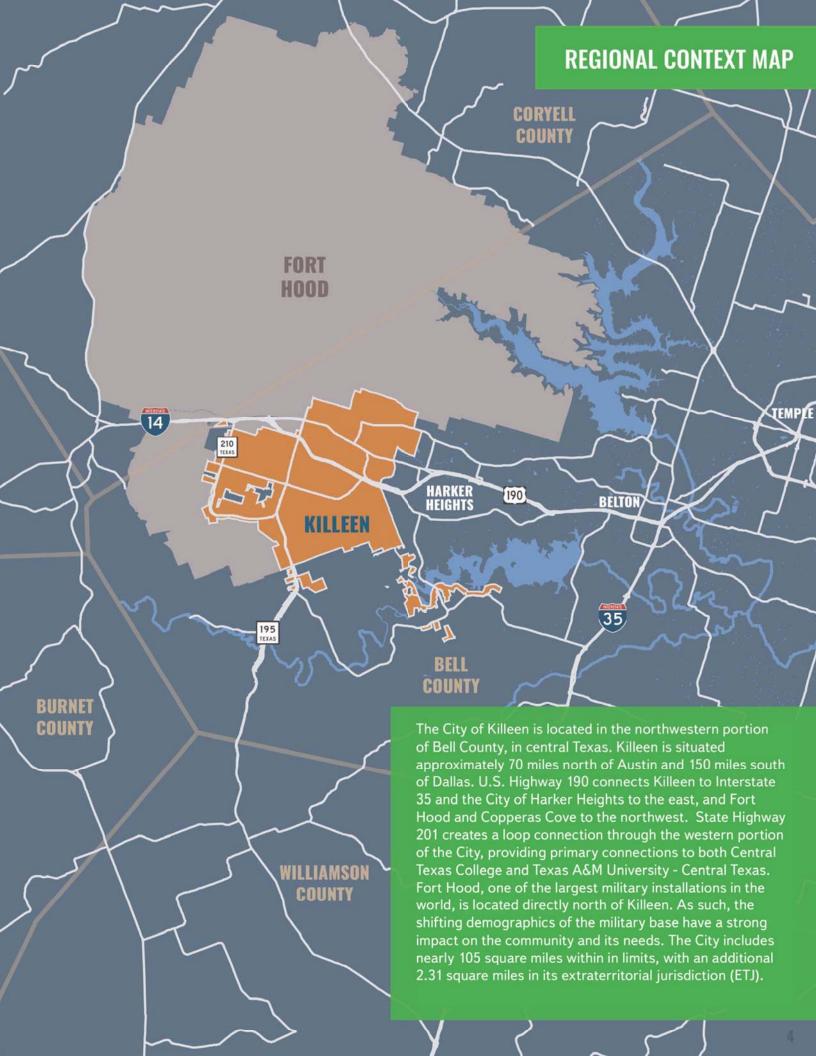
In 1942, the Camp Hood military training base was established to meet the demands of World War II. Thousands of people moved to the area including construction workers, soldiers, and their families. The opening of Camp Hood changed the local economy. In 1949, the adoption of the City Charter established the council-manager form of government for the City.

In 1970, the City developed one of its first larger community parks—Long Branch Park. Over the next 20-30 years, Killeen experienced some of its greatest growth in the park system. Many of the City's original neighborhood parks (e.g., Fowler, Stewart, etc.) and some of the community parks (e.g., Conder) were developed concurrent with growth with good proximity to area residents.

Since 2000, however, public policy disfavored growing the park system concurrent with overall city growth. As such, many of the newer parts of the city are devoid of public park properties. During this same time, limited available resources were focused more on bigger and newer capital investments (e.g., Lions Club Park) and less on keeping up with accessible park growth and deferred maintenance. This resulted in a fragile park system.

Today, Killeen is thriving city of over 150,000 people and this plan identifies a new shift in public policy—one which refocuses efforts on maximizing community benefit and wealth creation of the parks system as an essential part of the City's overall "civic" infrastructure.

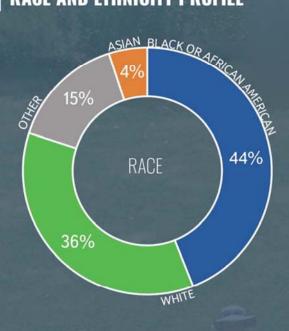


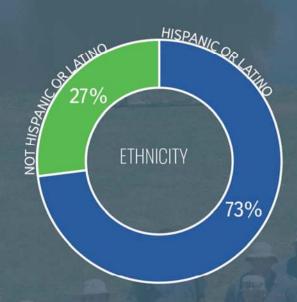


KILLEEN DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

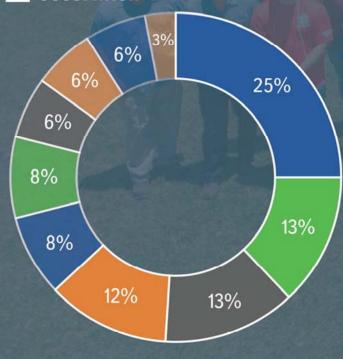
This planning process analyzed the latest demographic trends of the City of Killeen. These demographics were used to set a baseline for the existing conditions, as well as inform the various parks assessments that are outlined on page 17. Population projections were extrapolated directly from the City's concurrently-developed comprehensive plan.

RACE AND ETHNICITY PROFILE



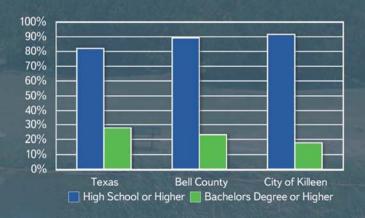


OCCUPATION

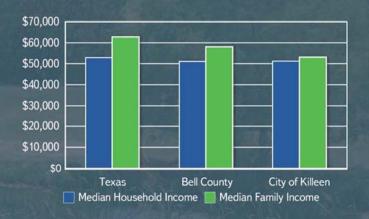


- ■Educational, health care, social services
- Construction
- □ Public administration
- Professional, scientific, management services
- Retail trade
- Other services, except public administration
- ■Transportation and warehousing, and utilities
- Finance and insurance, real estate
- □ Arts, entertainment, recreation, food services
- Manufacturing

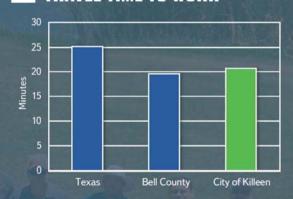
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



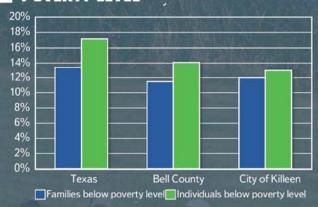
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



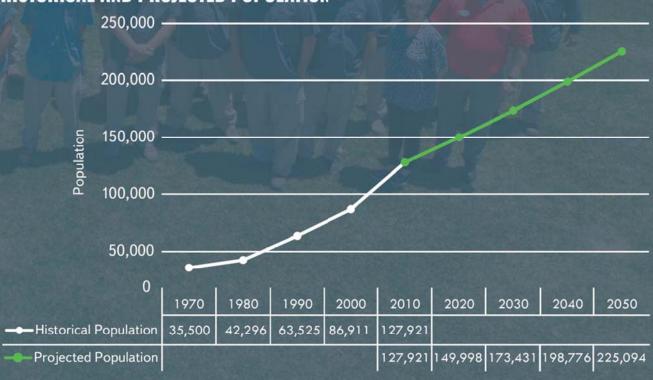
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



POVERTY LEVEL



HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED POPULATION



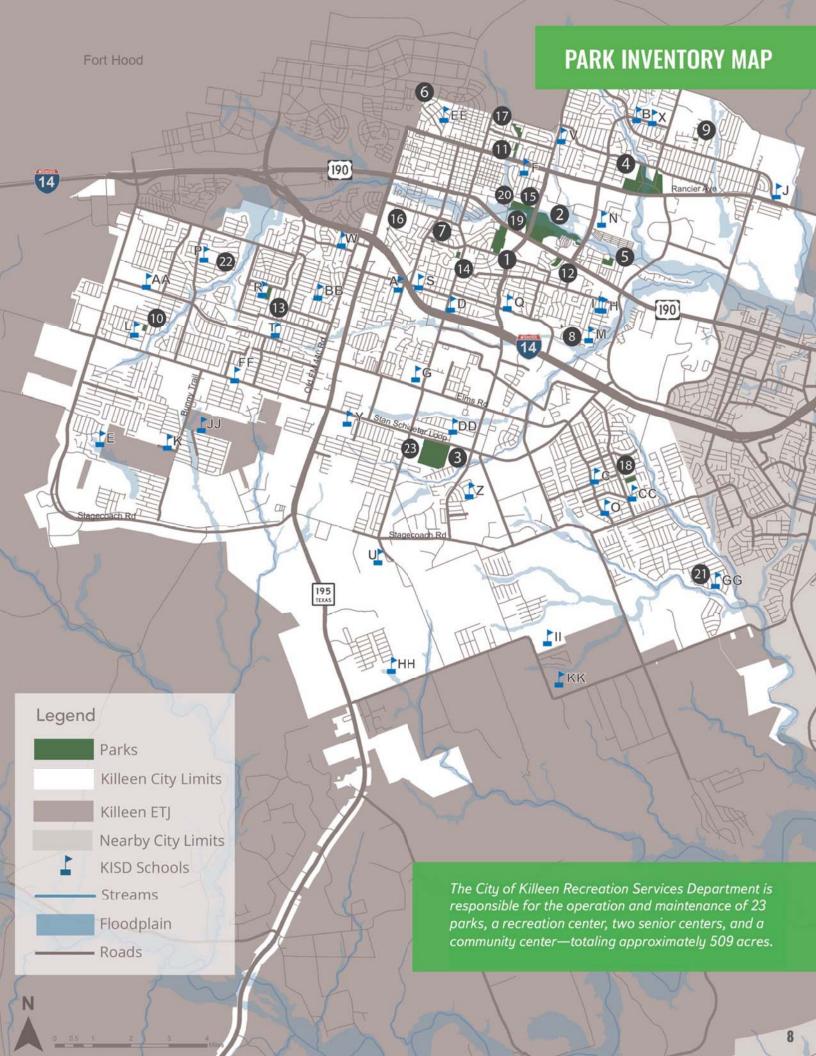
CITY OF KILLEEN EXISTING PARKS SYSTEM

Killeen Parks and Amenities Inventory Table

Park#	Park Name	Athletic Fields ¹	Playscapes	Sport Courts ²	Aquatics ³	Walking Paths (Miles)	Open Play Areas	# of Parking Spots	Pavillions	BBQ Grills	Picnic Units	Benches	Drinking Fountains	Dog Park	Disc Golf Course	Gazebo	ADA Parking	Skatepark	Address	Acreage
	Community Pa	arks																		
1	Conder Park	1	1	2	0	1.5	1	120	2	4	11	13	2	0	1	0	18	1	810 Conder Street	31.4
2	Killeen Community Center	9	0	1	0	1.1	1	492	0	0	5	2	2	0	0	1	25	0	2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.	29.1
3	Lions Club Park	14	2	2	1	1.3	1	166	3	0	0	24	5	0	0	0	39	0	1600 E. Stan Schlueter Lp.	67.8
4	Long Branch Park	0	3	6	2	.25	6	229	2	5	0	22	0	0	0	0	16	1	1101 Branch Dr.	78.7
	Total Community Parks	24	6			4.2	9	1007	7	9			9	0			98	2		207.0
	Neighborhood	l Pa	rks																-112	
5	AA Lane Park	1	1	2	0	0	1	50	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	400 48th Street	7.0
6	Camacho Park	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1706 Walton Walker Dr.	0.2
7	Fowler Park	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100 W. Fowler Street	0.9
8	Fox Creek Park	0	1	.5	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1909 Grey Fox Trail	0.9
9	Hunt Park	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2301 Hunt Drive	1.1
10	Iduma Park	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4400 Foster Lane	2.4
11	Lions Neighborhood Park	0	1	2	0	.25	1	11	1	0	8	7	0	0	0	0	4	0	1307 Culp Ave.	4.3
12	Marlboro Park	0	2	1	0	0	2	7	1	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	2902 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.	6.5
13	Maxdale Park	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2500 Westwood Dr.	4.6
14	Phyllis Park	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	405 Phyllis Dr.	2.4
15	Rotary Club Children's Park	0	2	0	0	0	2	54	3	0	9	5	1	0	0	0	8	0	2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.	5.6
16	Santa Rosa Park	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	901 Eva St.	0.4
17	Stewart Park	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1702 24th St.	6.4
18	Timber Ridge Park	0	1	3	0	0	1	58	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5402 White Rock Dr.	4.6
	Total Neighborhood Parks	1	19	12.5		.25	17	180	9	3	55	37	1	0			19			47.3
	Special Use Pa	arks																		
19	Mickey's Dog Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	4	0	4	2	1	0	0	2	0	2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.	4.7
	Linear Parks																			
20	Andy K. Wells Trail	0	0	0	0	2.5	0	456	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	2201 E Veterans Memorial Blvd.	28.3
21	Heritage Oaks Trail	0	0	0	0	3.8	0	50	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	8001 Pyrite	123.0
22	Fort Hood Regional Trail	0	0	0	0	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3450 Robinett Road	88.8
23	Lions Club Park Hike and Bike Trail	0	0	0	0	1.4	0	166	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	39	0	1600 E. Stan Schlueter Loop	9.5
	Total Linear Parks	0	0	0	0	8.9	0	672	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	72	0		249.6
	Total Park System			- 10		0 2													60.	508.5

^{1.} Baseball, softball, football, and soccer, 2. Basketball, tennis, volleyball, and pickleball, 3. Swimming pools or splash pads. Source: National Recreation and Parks Association

7



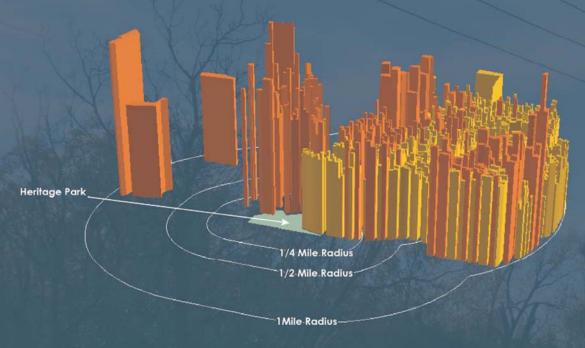




STRONG TOWNS PRINCIPLES

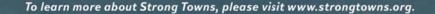
While there is no actual Strong Towns approach to park growth and development, there are a few philosophical considerations which are important to parks and open space. A Strong Towns approach to overall community development requires a fundamental paradigm shift in how we approach the growth and redevelopment of our cities—and by association, our provision of parks, trails, and recreation resources.

One of the primary considerations is that parks should be an essential part of the civic infrastructure and create community wealth for the surrounding areas. As part of this plan, a fiscal assessment on a few key parks was undertaken and determined that the existing parks system did not significantly add to the overall community wealth (see example below).



Moving forward, this plan identifies a future which adheres to Strong Towns principles by focusing on both smaller, incremental improvements and a more prudent growth strategy which, when implemented, can result in substantial changes over time. The recommendations explored later in this plan were all developed using the Strong Towns paradigm shift as a foundational principle. These include:

- Understanding that parks and other civic infrastructure should create community wealth
- Acknowledging that all cities (and parks) go through life cycles of investment, disinvestment, and rejuvenation
- Prioritizing purposeful maintenance and reallocating staff time for park improvements
- Prioritizing incremental improvement and redevelopment, not just new growth
- Being strategic about new growth targets and future commitments
- Targeting fiscal sustainability in design and operations to minimize long-term liabilities
- Improving communication about how parks contribute towards the City's overall economic prosperity
- Maximizing usage through adherence to Complete Parks principles (see pg. 13)





COMPLETE PARKS PRINCIPLES

The true measurement of success for a parks and open space system should be about maximizing the number of people who use the system. For too long parks planning has primarily focused just numbers and metrics, which are important, but do not tell the whole story. This plan proposes a new vision for Killeen—one that aspires to develop a Complete Parks system which better serves existing and future residents and visitors alike.

This Complete Parks model, developed by Halff, is comprised of five attributes which cover all aspects of a park (and park system) through its full life cycle of development, use, maintenance, and redevelopment. The five attributes include a detailed focus on accessibility, safety and comfort, social interaction, activation, and maintenance. These attributes are further delineated by 10 essential building blocks which comprise the Complete Parks model (below). The recommendations explored later in this plan were all developed using the Complete Parks model as it foundational principle.

Complete Parks Model



TYPES OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR COMPLETE PARKS



ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

- Crosswalks. Painted crosswalks at all intersections which abut the parks
- **Bike Racks.** Bike racks which let park users secure their bicycles so that they can actively engage park amenities
- Parking. On-street parking (preferably) for neighborhood parks; off-street parking for regional, community, and linear (at trailheads) parks
- Sidewalks & Off-site Connectivity. Connected sidewalks and/or trail linkages to surrounding areas



USER COMFORT & SAFETY

- Lighting. If parks are open to users during dark hours, lighting is recommended to keep users safe
- **Sight Visibility.** Good site visibility from the public rights-of-way; abutting properties should be designed/encouraged to have their front doors face the park to keep eyes on the park



SOCIAL INTERACTION

- **Drinking Fountains/Bottle Refill Stations**. Because of the hot temperatures much of the year in Texas, the addition of water stations in a park is important to keep trail users and pets hydrated; these should include bottle filling stations
- Restrooms. Regional, community, and linear parks should include restrooms; neighborhood parks generally do not need restrooms as they typically serve immediate neighborhoods
- **Shade.** Shade should be a central focus in Texas parks including the provision of shade canopies over target amenities like playgrounds, social seating, and some sport courts like basketball; should also include a large focus on protecting existing trees or adding new shade trees throughout the park and near amenities
- Trash/Recycling/Dog Waste Stations. Good access to trash/recycling/dog waste stations



- Socially-Oriented Amenities. Purposeful design which orients the location and configuration of amenities to promote social interaction (e.g., shade playscape, mini splash pad, and centralized social group seating all oriented together so that parents can interact and socialize while watching over multiple children who are active at multiple play elements)
- Seating and Socialization Areas. Shaded places for seating near park amenities.



MAINTAINED

- Multi-generation/Multi-user Design. Design and programming considerations which maximize the largest number of users (of all age groups) at all times of the day or night
- Loop Trails. In-the-park ADA loop trails around the exterior of the park (with off-shoot connections to key destinations and amenities) and off-site trail and sidewalk connectivity
- Fitness Stations. Fitness stations along loop trails or in fitness courts; could include passive (e.g., chin up bar) or active station design
- **Programming.** Proactive consideration as to on-going City-sponsored events and programming to bring community members into the parks (e.g., in-the-park classes, food trucks, special events, etc.)

GROWTH MODEL

In the U.S., park system growth has undergone a continuous evolution for hundreds of years. From the Boston Common in (1634) to Frederick Law Olmstead/Calvert Vaux's Central Park in New York City (1859) to Olmstead's "Emerald Necklace" in Boston (1878), parks were viewed as center pieces of city growth and development. Following World War II, however, the nation turned its attention towards suburban, auto-centric growth and development and interest in public parks and civic spaces waned. Focus turned to the private spaces and places in people's back yards and in semi-public spaces of individual subdivisions. During this time, as downtowns and inner cities declined, so did many of the great existing city park systems.

Today, cities are undergoing a renaissance in growth and redevelopment, including renewed interest in public parks and civic spaces (i.e., where parks, trails, and other outdoor civic spaces became top priorities during the Covid-19 pandemic). City's are in a position to advance a new growth model—one where parks and trails systems are viewed as an interconnected system, and a critical component, of the overall city "civic" infrastructure.

TRADITIONAL MODEL







ASSESSMENT METHODS

After gaining an understanding of the parks and recreation system as it is today, and the historical and projected populations, a growth needs analysis was used to begin to identify the current and future needs of the community. The intent of the analysis was to develop a clearer picture of the overall system (i.e., understanding the gaps, overlaps and deficiencies) and to make targeted recommendations for the future. This plan used a five-part growth needs analysis (developed using accepted methodologies identified by the TPWD) to help determine recommendations for the future.

Types of Assessments



Demand Based Assessment

Uses citizen input to determine actual and/or anticipated park usage that reflect the desires of the local community. This assessment type provides a qualitative analysis of the park system from the user perspective.



Standards Based Assessment

Uses locally developed level of service ratios to compare existing park land and recreation facilities to the projected need based upon the current and future projected population, park land and facility benchmarks.



Resources Based Assessment

Recognizes the opportunities offered by the built environment, the natural environment, or other relationships. The City can pursue obtaining land, developing facilities, or partnering with local organizations to address recreation demands.



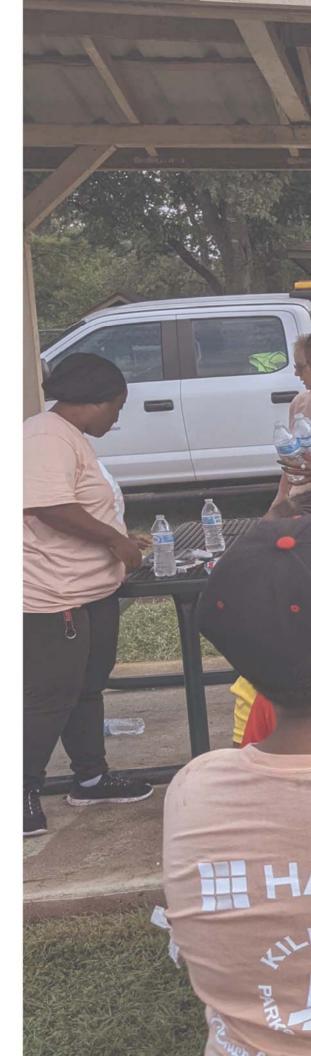
Fiscal Based Assessment

Evaluates the existing community wealth that parks have on surrounding neighborhoods. This assessment evaluates a few select parks to identify the potential impacts that parks have on abutting property market values.



Condition Assessment

Analyzes the physical condition of facilities and amenities to reach conclusions regarding the performance of the system as a whole and of individual elements within the system.





COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

To ensure that this Plan embodies the vision of the citizens, an extensive public engagement process was undertaken to identify the needs and desires of where the community wants to go, and equally as important, what they are willing to support during implementation. The information collected during this process created the foundation from which the goals and actions were built. This summary contains the City's public engagement process and key takeaways.

5 -

PARK MASTER PLAN WORK GROUP MEETINGS (FROM 8 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS) 2 智

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETINGS

5 FOCUS GROUPS

3 🖫

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

575

SURVEY RESPONDENTS FROM 13 ONLINE SURVEYS

175 ATTENDEES LOVE YOUR PARK DAY COMMUNITY EVENT

200 ATTENDEES



MOVIES IN THE PARK COMMUNITY EVENT



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Concern that there is not enough lighting within the parks and trails during early morning and evening hours
- Concern that majority (86%) of residents are not involved in City athletic leagues
- Concern that restrooms within the park system are not kept clean enough
- Concern that there is not enough shade at most parks
- Need for more joint-use facilities
- Need for smaller neighborhood parks located near HOA's and schools
- Need for parks to be located within safe walking or biking distances
- Need for more gathering places like benches, picnic areas, and pavilions
- Need for additional restrooms
- Desire for additional diversified facilities & amenities
- Desire for additional skateparks, sport courts & fields, and aquatic centers
- Desire for more youth programming, like arts & crafts and special events
- Desire for more free public WiFi access within the park system
- Desire for an equitable quality of park conditions similar to some of the City's greatest park system assets—Lions Club Community Park, Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail, and Killeen Community Center & Ballfields

Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.

- Jane Jacobs

GROWTH TARGETS

Level of Service (LOS) is an assessment method to determine the quantity of park facilities needed to adequately serve a given ratio of population, oftentimes expressed as a per capita ratio of acres to 1,000 residents. Analyzing the current level of service (CLOS) and identifying future target levels of service (TLOS) helps a community understand how responsive they are in meeting the needs of their existing and future citizens as the community grows over time.

As part of this plan, TLOS was reduced compared to previous plans. This reduction was purposeful as a continued means to advance Strong Towns and Complete Park principles as it relates to future park growth and development. It acknowledges that the City is significantly behind in the provision of parks and recreation resources (compared to comparison Texas communities and national systemwide averages analyzed through NRPA's Park Metrics database). It also acknowledges that the City will not be able to retroactively reach the acreage level of service targets set out in the previous plans while still adhering to the fiscal priorities set out in this plan. As a summary, the changed level of service targets are as follows:

Parkland Level of Service

PARK CLASSIFICATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE (AC. PER 1,000 PERSONS)							
	2005 PLAN	2017 PLAN (UNADOPTED)	2021 PLAN					
Neighborhood Parks	1.0 to 2.0	1.0 to 1.5	1.0					
Community Parks	5.0 to 8.0	5.0	4.0					
Special Use Parks	No Standard	No Standard	No Standard					
Regional Parks	N/A	5.0 to 10.0	4.0					
Linear Parks/Open Spaces	No Standard	10.0 to 20.0	4.0					
Greenway Trails	1 mile / 5,000 persons	No Standard	1 mile / 5,000 persons					

As seen below, the City's current inventory of parkland does not adequately serve the existing or future needs of the population. It shows that the City's 2020 current overall acreage inventory is woefully deficient—over 500 acres or 33% deficient even factoring in the reduced targets. Once the City catches up to current TLOS benchmarks through strategic and purposeful growth expansions and partnerships, the incremental addition of needed parkland moving forward is much less.

Parkland Needs as Growth Occurs

TARGET YEAR	EXISTING ACREAGE	CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (AC. PER 1,000 RESIDENTS ¹)	TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE (AC. PER 1,000 RESIDENTS ¹)	TARGET ACREAGE	SURPLUS / DEFICIT ACREAGE	PERCENT OF NEED MET (2020)
2020	254.3	1.7	5.0 ac.	764.1	509.8 ac. deficit	33%
2025	254.3	1.6	5.0 ac.	813.1	558.8 ac. deficit	31%
2030	254.3	1.5	5.0 ac.	862.1	607.8 ac. deficit	29%



CLASSIFICATION AND STANDARDS

Equally important to setting target levels of service (TLOS) is establishing classifications and standards for what new park and trail growth, development, and improvement looks like. This requires establishing thresholds for different types of facilities which serve different purposes and areas of the community.

Set out below are standards for four trail classifications utilized as part of this plan, but will need to be further explored in separate planning efforts (e.g., a future trails plan).

Trail Classifications

TRAIL INTENT	TRAIL WIDTH	PREFERRED SURFACE MATERIAL	MINIMUM CORRIDOR WIDTH	POTENTIAL AMENITIES	CROSS-SECTION							
	Greenway Trails											
Multipurpose off- street pathways which provide escape from noise, traffic, and urban conflicts. Preferred location is along creeks and other natural spaces.	10' – 12' (12' preferred)	Concrete	25'	Parking, signage, lighting, water foundations, benches, trees and consideration of Complete Parks amenities.	12'							
		Th	oroughfare C	Connector Trails	5							
Multipurpose near- street shared-use sidepaths located within the rights-of- way of thoroughfare roadways to serve to create a citywide, connected recreational trails system.	8' – 10' (10' preferred)	Concrete	15'	Trees, benches, and lighting (if not provided by thoroughfare)	10' 7'							
		Nei	ghborhood (Connector Trails	s							
Neighborhood Connector Trails are located in residential areas (e.g., in drainage areas and along collector streets) providing internal linkages and connecting to other external trail types. They may also serve as neighborhood greenways.	6' – 10' (8' preferred)	Concrete	N/A	Wayfinding signage, crosswalks, lighting, etc.	10'							
	In-Park Trails											
In-park trails provide opportunities for walking and exercising inside of a park.	Varies	Concrete	N/A	Trees, benches, and lighting	Varies							

Similarly, five park classifications have been established to identify types of park facilities to serve the Killeen community. Although the City does not currently have a regional park, one is being explored in the northwest area of the City in partnership with Ft. Hood.

Parkland Classifications

PARK CLASSIFICATION / INTENT	SIZE	LOCATION / ACCESSIBILITY	FACILITIES/AMENITIES (COMPLETE PARKS CONSIDERATIONS)	TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE (PER CAPITA)	TARGET SERVICE RADIUS
Neighborhood Parks serve a single neighborhood or are central to several smaller neighborhoods	3 acres	Centrally located within the neighborhood(s) prioritizing maximum walkable connectivity	 Loop trail Playscape/splash pad/social group seating Sport court(s)/sports field Multipurpose open space Picnic tables or a pavilion Trees and shaded amenities General use lighting for targeted amenities On-street parking or no parking Natural areas/no grow zones 	1.0 acre per 1,000 residents	1/4 to 1/2 mile (or a distance that takes a typical pedestrian roughly five to 10 minutes to walk); 1/2 mile is generally accepted as standard
Community Parks provide multiple amenities and sized enough to host community/ athletic events, tournaments, and other large-scale activities	From 10 acres to over 50 acres	Good access to citywide thoroughfare network; prioritizing good bike/pedestrian connectivity; buffering against abutting residential uses (to offset lighting and noise)	Same as neighborhood parks, plus: Restrooms Off-street parking Multiple sports fields with lighting (including competitive) Pavilions and grills Off-street parking	4.0 acres per 1,000 residents	1 to 2 miles (or a reasonable one-mile walking distance and a two- mile biking distance
Regional Parks are very large parks which mimic community or special use parks, but with regionally- serving destination amenities	From less than 10 acres to several thousand acres	N/A	Depends on property characteristics and intended use (e.g., large regional nature park or destination sports complex), but should mimic the facilities and amenities set out for the other classification it matches	4.0 acres per 1,000 residents.	5 to 10 miles
Linear Parks and Open Spaces	N/A (based on use)	Good connectivity to thoroughfare connector and in- park trails; maximized access to abutting neighborhoods, schools, and other destinations	Depends on property characteristics, but generally: Linear greenway trails Informal hiking and mountain biking trails Trailhead parking, restrooms, and wayfinding Trail lighting Trees, benches, and shade Natural areas/no grow zones Integrated neighborhood park amenities (as applicable)	4.0 acres per 1,000 residents	1/4 to 1/2 mile (or a distance that takes a typical pedestrian roughly five to 10 minutes to walk); 1/2 mile is generally accepted as standard
Special Use Parks include specialized or single use amenities	N/A (based on use)	Good access to citywide thoroughfare network	Depends on property characteristics, but could include: Athletic fields or complexes Swimming pool centers Tennis complexes Golf courses Dog parks	Varies with the special use(s) of the park	Varies with the special use(s) of the park.





PARK CONDITIONS

Ensuring quality park conditions is a fundamental component of a Complete Parks system. Low quality or poor maintenance in and of itself can lead to a declining park system and continuing cycle of poor park usage. Park research has clearly shown that good maintenance is crucial to maintain public perceptions that park properties are low risk. Broken equipment, run down conditions, and vandalism all contribute to perceptions of fear because such things as litter, graffiti, and broken furniture all suggest a place is uncared for and possibly unsafe. This is inline with the community input survey, where almost 44 percent of survey respondents indicated that they do not feel save while in City of Killeen parks.

As such, a systemwide park condition assessment was undertaken to measure the state of parkland grounds and facility repair. The conditions-based assessment measures whether a park space and the facilities located on the site are maintained in a condition suitable to be used safely, or to otherwise entice continued visitation and usage by surrounding residents and other potential users.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Overall, the Killeen parks system scored 3.3 out of 5 on a weighted scale. This means that the system scored on the lower end of the moderate condition category. As illustrated on the map on the next page, no parks scored high enough to be considered in great condition (5.0), which is not too uncommon. Only four parks scored high enough to be considered maintained in good condition (4.0-4.9). Most of the parks scored in the moderate condition category (3.0-3.9), although many of them ranked at the lower end of the range. Five parks scored low enough to be considered in poor condition (2.0-2.9). No parks scored low enough to be considered failing.

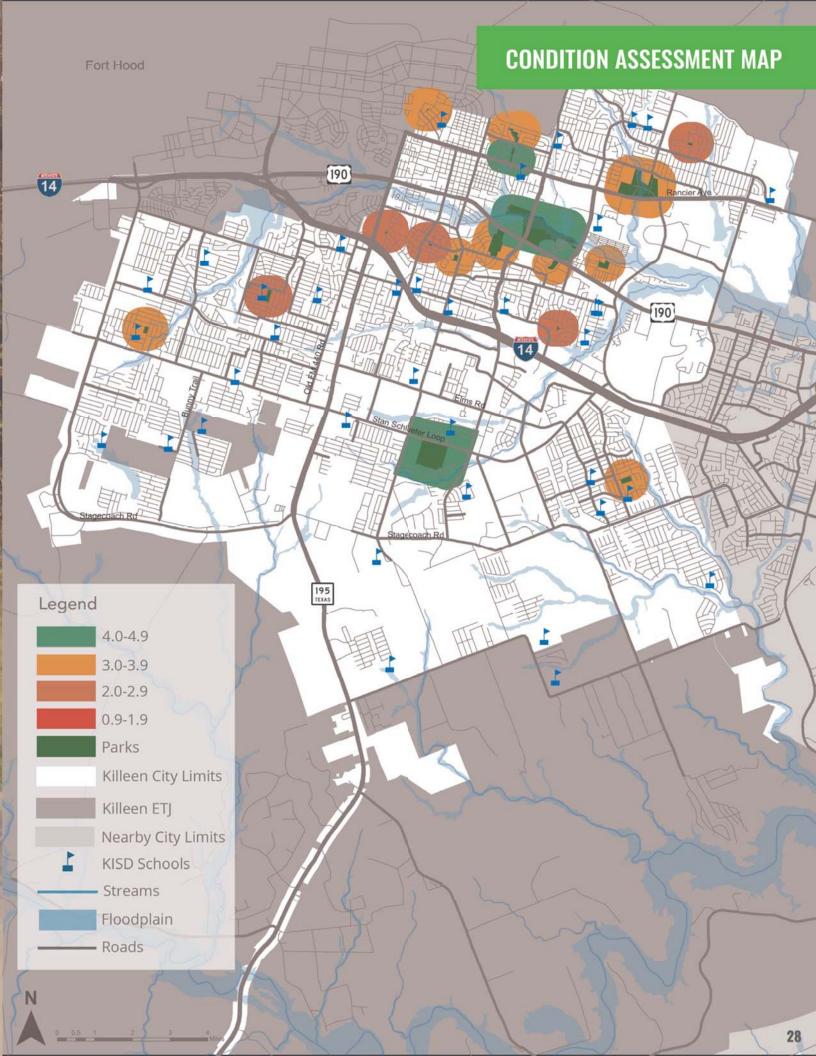
COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to establish and maintain a parks and trails system where all facilities and amenities are maintained in a good condition (i.e., 4.0 or better on a park condition reassessment).

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Achieve full adopt-a-park participation for every park and trail by 2024.
- Improve and maintain the condition of all parks and trails to achieve a moderate condition by 2024.
- Improve the condition of at least 50% of the overall parks and trails system to achieve good condition by 2025.
- Improve the condition of at least 75% of the overall parks and trails system to achieve good condition by 2026.
- Improve the condition of all parks to good condition by 2031.





PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Park improvement is a critical component of a Complete Parks system, particularly once there is an acknowledgment that parks go through lifecycles just like cities. Today, there is a policy shift which recognizes the need for smaller incremental investments which can transform the usability of a community park property over time.

This plan identifies a series of investment opportunities per each park which can be implemented through of combination of smaller scale, incremental improvements (many of which can be implemented by volunteer and staff efforts) and more longer-term intensive capital investments (e.g., installation of a bridge, splash pad, and pavilion).

The LoveMyPark! project workday is a perfect example of how these incremental investments can be undertaken by resident and neighborhood volunteers, and staff, to build community cohesion and create a lasting difference in their specific park property (see the Stewart Park vision on the next page where community volunteers planted trees and other park improvements).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Moving forward, adherence to the Complete Parks principles can provide for significant improvements within the City's parks and trails and added community wealth. As it relates to parks improvements, key considerations should include:

- Being purposeful about reducing maintenance obligations to repurpose time towards park improvements
- Balancing incremental redevelopment with larger capital investments
- Adherence to Complete Parks principles

COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to develop a fiscally sustainable Complete Parks system through a balance of smaller scale, incremental improvements and purposeful longer-term intensive capital investments.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Reduce and reallocate the percentage of staff hours spent on reoccurring maintenance activities to park improvement activities by 15-20% by 2024 over base year 2021.
- Increase the amount of in-the-park improvement projects undertaken by staff and volunteers year over year.
- Schedule and facilitate a minimum of four volunteer in-the-park community park improvement days annually.





PARK GROWTH

Park growth should be concurrent with city growth. In Killeen, there was a lot of park development in the 1980s and 90s in the original parts of the City. Although the City continued to grow exponentially over the next two decades, park development did not keep up. This resulted in large parts of the City with no convenient access to public park property and an overall fragile parks system.

Moving forward, the City must think strategically about how it can improve the provision of parks and recreation in the areas of the City which are unserved, or underserved. A priority focus will be on continual investment in existing park properties. Without continual investment, and eventually redevelopment, the embodied wealth of the property or area will decrease over time, further increasing the fragility of the overall system. It also requires a priority focus on being more strategic about new park growth.

This plan identifies a series of prudent park growth strategies which maximize equitable access through a new vision of growth focused on thinking more strategically and maximizing partnerships with area partners.

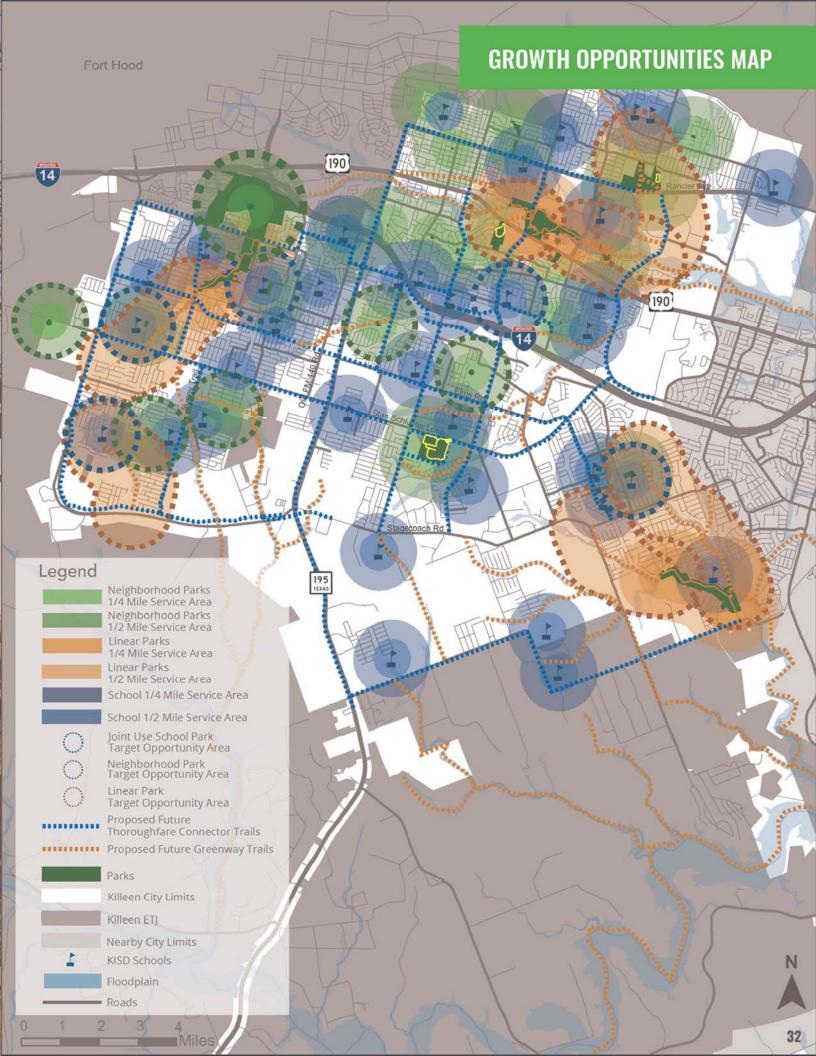
KEY TAKEAWAYS

The key takeaways regarding park growth are further detailed on the following pages (orange tabs) related to:

- New Parks
- Joint-Use School Parks
- Greenway Trails
- Parkland Dedication and Development

Each of these contain their own goals and benchmarks for moving forward.





NEW PARKS

Although a priority focus of this parks planning process was on improving the quality and usability of existing parks, it also identified several key new park properties which could be more quickly developed by maximizing relationships with area partners. Some of these partners include the Fort Hood and the Killeen Independent School District (KISD). During the last planning process, preliminary discussions were held and opportunities identified, but no action was followed up on as part of post-plan implementation. During this process, discussions with both organizations focused on solidifying the action items needed to take the existing partnership to a new level.

As part of the discussions with Fort Hood, a revised conceptual master plan was prepared identifying a new regional park in the northwest part of the City. This new park would serve as a destination amenity for Fort Hood personnel, Killeen residents, and visitors alike. It would include a passive recreation oriented program of activities including an extension and northern terminus of the Fort Hood Regional Trail, and other facilities and amenities such as a kiosk kayak rental station, picnicking, fishing piers, miscellaneous hiking and biking trails, etc. (see the concept on the next page). The transfer of the Fort Hood portion of the property to the City of Killeen was initiated during the planning process.

As part of the discussions with KISD, a conceptual re-envisioning of a joint use school park was developed identifying how a single set of facilities and amenities could better serve both students during school and the community outside of school hours (see the concept on page 34). A new Master Lease Agreement was drafted as part of the planning process, five school parks were identified as target opportunities (see the areas denoted with blue dashed lines on the map on page 32), and Maxwell Park was identified to serve as a prototype new joint use school park demonstration project.

The plan also identified several properties already owned by the City, and targeted parcels in private ownership, as potential targets for new neighborhood and community park development in areas of need. These six properties (see the areas denoted with green dashed lines on the map on page 32) help improve access in areas of the City which are already largely developed. Similarly, seven targeted areas were identified as low hanging fruit for expanding community connectivity and access to a growing greenway trail system (see the areas denoted in orange dashed lines on the map on page 32 and page 38). Finally, parkland dedication and development regulations were developed as part of the planning process to ensure the parks system grows concurrent with new City growth (see page 32).

COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to grow the park system using a fiscally prudent toolbox of park growth solutions including parkland dedication, donations, further development of other existing City non-park property, and strategic partnerships with area partners.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Identify appropriate property and develop access to a regional park by 2026.
- Increase the amount of designated linear park acreage by 140 acres by 2026.
- Increase the amount of designated neighborhood park acreage by 75 acres by 2026
- Increase the amount of designated community park acreage by 50 acres by 2026.





LEGEND

- Main Entrance
- 2 Animal Shelter
- 3 Dog Park at Animal Shelter
- Controlled Entry Gate
- 5 Outer Loop Trail (5k Trail)
- 6 Boardwalk System
- 7 Fishing Piers
- 8 Nature/Interpretive Trail

- Interpretive Stations/Outdoor Classrooms
- 10 Wildflower Meadow
- 11 Event Lawn
- 12 Water Turbine Pond and Dam
- 13 Amphitheater
- 1 Inner Loop Trail (1 Mile)
- 15 Artistic Wind/Solar Farm
- 16 Iconic Lookout Tower

- 1 Large Lakeside Pavilion
- 13 Family Pavilions
- 19 Kayak Launch Facility
- 20 Archery Zone
- 21 Agility Course
- 22 BMX Course
- 23 Visitor Center
- 24 Artistic Solar Panels



JOINT-USE SCHOOL PARKS

Historically, the City and KISD executed joint use lease agreements for three school properties for the purposes of allowing the City to erect and maintain the premises for public park purposes. The three leases were at Maxdale Elementary School (2000), Iduma Elementary School (2005), and Timber Ridge Elementary School (2006). Besides the development the large Lions Club Community Park, off E. Stan Schlueter Loop, in 1997, there were no other new park properties outside of the original core areas of the city. The leases were for a 20-year period and renewable. Currently, the lease for the Maxdale property has expired. The other two lease agreements expire in 2026 (Iduma) and 2027 (Timber Ridge).

During this planning process, several good conversations between City and KISD staff have led to an interest in taking next steps in the partnership. This involved an acknowledgment that the City had not historically prioritized good maintenance on the existing properties. Moving forward, the City and KISD staff agreed to expand upon the partnership to be better stewards of limited available resources.

The Maxdale Park Concept Plan illustrates a development of a true Complete Park. It includes areas immediately south of the school building designed to meet the basic needs of school children during the school day, including a covered sports court, covered playscapes and social seating. It also includes a mini-splash pad/water feature which would not be turned on during school hours but could be activated by push button outside of school hours. It also includes a raised seating berm (#14) providing separation and enclosure of the primary area serving school kids during school hours. An additional in-the-park-fence could be considered to further provide separation/enclosure (with signage) of the typical school play areas. Improving Maxdale Park would add a quality neighborhood park to Council District 3.

The benefits of joint use for both entities include: (1) Gives kids and communities a safe, accessible places to exercise and socialize after school and/or on weekends; (2) Maximizes use of limited community resources; (3) Reduces the cost burden on both entities (all paid by the taxpayer) in that one entity does not have to buy land and other does not have to buy and maintain equipment; (4) Increases physical and social activity levels of both children and adults; and (5) Increases "eyes on the street" for both the school and the park.

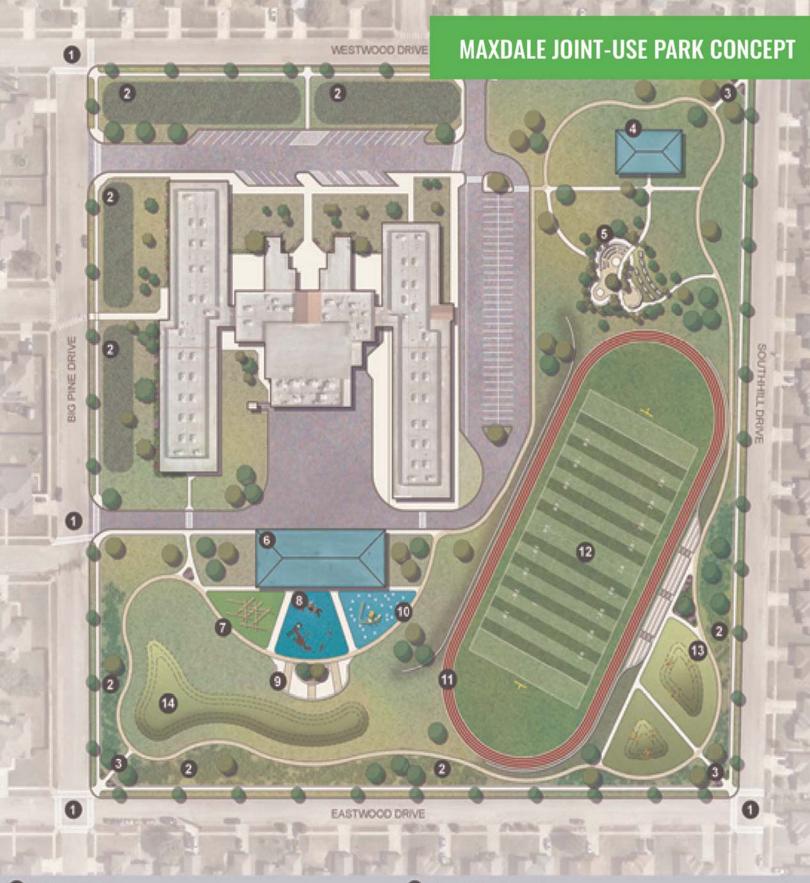
COMMUNITY GOAL

Maximize opportunities to partner with KISD and other area partners to develop Complete Parks in areas of need in a fiscally responsible manner.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Execute a new master joint use agreement by 2023.
- Fund a pilot joint use Complete Park at Maxwell Park by 2023.
- Master plan and budget for Complete Park retrofits at Iduma and Timber Ridge Parks by 2024.
- Master plan and budget for two additional joint use parks in areas of need by 2025.





- 1 Painted Crosswalks
- No-Mow Areas
- Entrance Areas and Signage
- Pavilion
- Outdoor Education Classrooms
- 6 Covered Basketball Court
- Climbing Structure

- 8 Playscape (2 age ranges)
- Social Group Seating
- Splash Pad / Water Feature
- 4 Lane Track
- Pootball / Multi-Purpose Field
- (B) Climbing Skills Course
- 14 Seating Berm

TRAILS

Trails are seeing continued growth in popularity throughout the country and are increasingly an implementation goal for community planning efforts. Trails improve the quality of life of users and provide alternative commuting options. Additionally, trails improve marketability of public and private property, which benefit from proximity and access to the trails.

Trails also create multi-generational recreation opportunities, promote health, improve the overall quality of life, and provide non-vehicular transportation alternatives. Having close access to trails has become important for communities all over the country as people are gaining more interest in pursuing a healthier lifestyle—even more so since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. As facilities intended for pedestrian and bicycle access, trails have a service area of one-quarter-mile to one-half-mile. As desired by the residents of Killeen, trails should be planned and constructed for the benefits of today's and tomorrow's population.

Although the City has only a few existing trail segments, this plan identified future trail system opportunity areas for both near-street (i.e., thoroughfare connector trails) and off-street (i.e., greenway linear trails) trail linkages. Together, these two trail types help create an interconnected trail system maximizing access to all parts of the community.

Since the City is significantly behind in its provision of public park property, a priority focus on expanding the greenway trail system serves as a great opportunity to quickly improve level of serve and resident access to the City's parks system.

This plan identified seven priority low hanging fruit trail segments—on property already owned by the City, or on property owned by potential area partners who would also benefit from improved connectivity—which improve community access to key destinations such as parks, schools, etc. The plan also identifies the importance of cross-purposing floodplains and drainage corridors throughout the City for future greenway trail opportunities.

COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to develop a connected, enhanced citywide trail system though the purposeful acquisition and development of properties and partnerships.

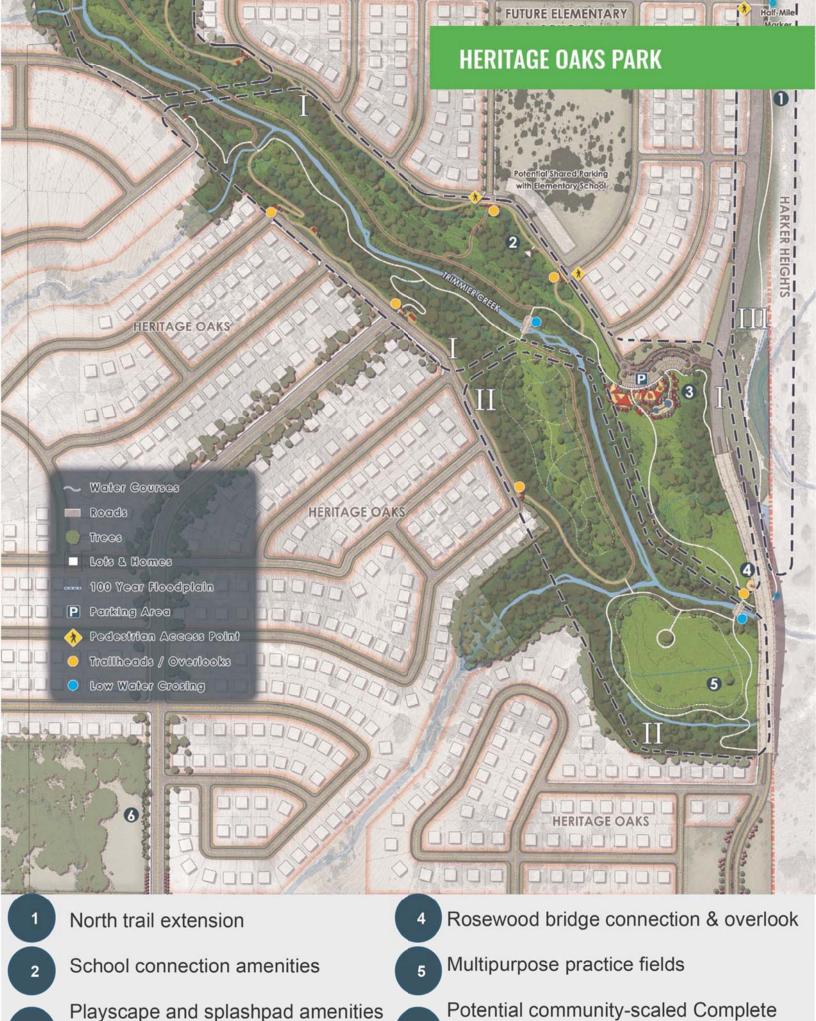
BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Achieve improved trail connectivity and development standards by 2023.
- Target a doubling of the citywide greenway trails system (i.e., adding 8.7 more miles) by 2026.









Park

PARKLAND DEDICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

As is evident in the City's recent growth and development, the public expansion of the parks and recreation system has not kept up with private sector development. Indeed, much of the existing park system acreage was acquired and developed decades ago and most of it is located in the original core area of the City. There has been relatively little new park development in any of the growth areas going as far back as the mid-1990s. Without further assistance as part of new private sector development, there is a strong likelihood that this trend will continue. This is particularly true considering post-recession nationwide trends where increasing demand for new or expanded services is being met with stronger calls for fiscal conservatism.

As set out on page 21, the City is over 500 acres or 33% deficient in the provision of public parkland even factoring in the reduced targets set out in this plan. Overcoming this projected deficit will require the City to pursue future park development in concert with private sector development. One way many jurisdictions accomplish this is through the enactment of parkland dedication and development regulations.

The purpose of the regulations are to ensure that there is sufficient land dedicated or otherwise set aside, and resources for development, to meet the public demand for parks, trails, and open space that arises from population growth. In this way, when new growth and development occurs, a proportionate and reasonable contribution of land dedication, park development, fees in lieu of land conveyance or park development, or combination thereof, allows the parks, trails, and open space system to grow concurrently. All dedication of parkland and improvements, or fees-in-lieu thereof, must be applied within the same park benefit zone (see the map on page 42). This is to ensure that property dedicated and money collected directly benefits the residents of those same geographic areas.

As part of this planning process, new parkland dedication and development regulations were developed. While not the result of a regulatory requirement, the Heritage Oaks subdivision shows how the design of a new residential neighborhood can set aside new park and trail property to serve the Killeen community (see page 40).

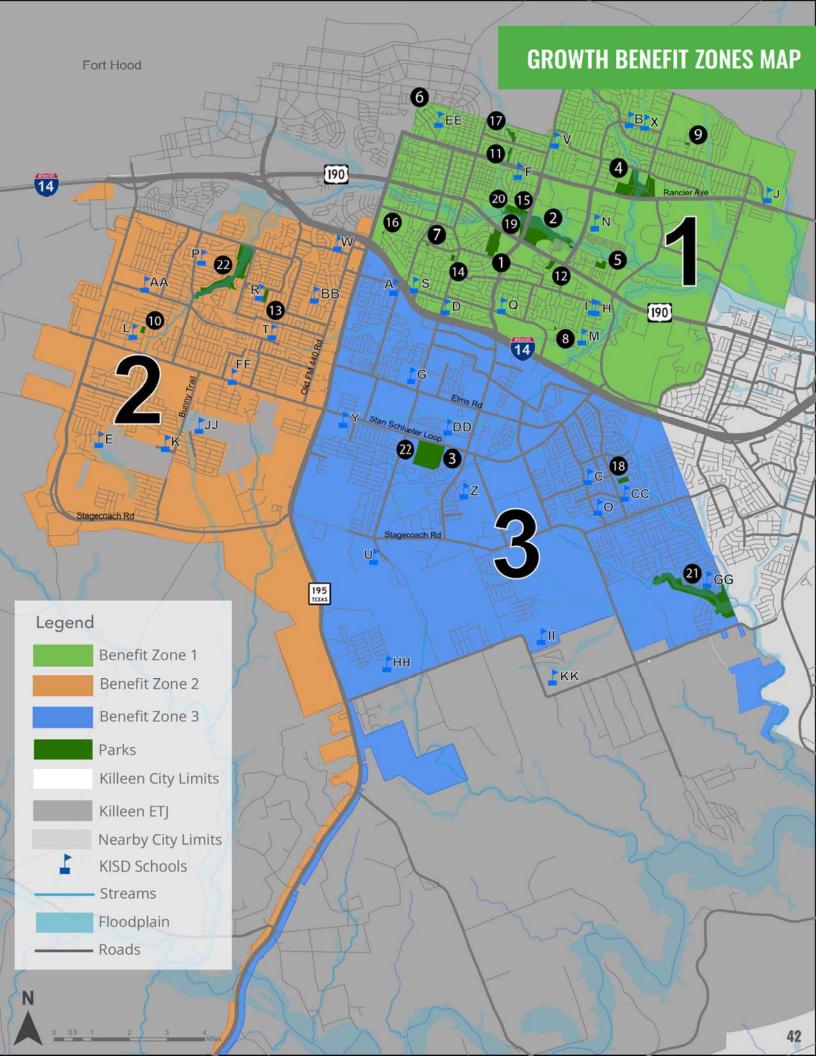
COMMUNITY GOAL

Draft, develop, and implement a parkland dedication development ordinance to have new parks concurrent with growth.

BENCHMARK TARGETS

Adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance within 2022.





OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

The Recreation Services Department had a total operating budget for FY2021 of a little under \$7.5M. It is estimated that approximately 40% of that or \$2.9M is dedicated to maintenance of the City's parks and facilities. They currently employs about 95 full-time employees (FTE's). Approximately 39 of those are dedicated to park operations and maintenance by focusing on litter control, mowing, maintenance of sports fields, playscape inspection and maintenance, tree maintenance, trail maintenance, pool maintenance and miscellaneous cleaning and repair of parks and associated facilities.

As part of this planning process, an operations and maintenance assessment was undertaken for the City's four community-scaled parks to establish appropriate levels of service and best management practices based on existing conditions/analysis, City staff input, community expectations and availability of resources. A new O&M framework was developed as template so that City staff could self-expand the assessment to their neighborhood-scaled parks in the future.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Approximately 34% of the acreage (171 acres of the approximate total of 509 acres) that is maintained by Recreation Services is not related to a park, recreation facility, trail or greenbelt. Parks are unnecessarily mowed curb-to-curb increasing reoccuring maintenance costs. Establishing "grow zones" throughout the park system provides an opportunity to repurpose limited staff availability for other important purposes like park improvement and incremental investment.

COMMUNITY GOAL

Strive to establish and maintain a parks and trails system where all facilities and amenities are maintained in a good condition (i.e., 4.0 or better on a park condition reassessment).

BENCHMARK TARGETS

- Execute a contract to outsource building maintenance by 2022.
- Establish a grow zone pilot program in each community park by 2022.
- Target 25 acres of grow zones in community parks by 2024.
- Reduce the cost of mowing by 5% by 2023.
- Target CAPRA certification by 2026.



NRPA FTE'S PER NUMBER OF ACRES MAINTAINED

250 acres or less

3,500 acres or more



17 FTE's

266.7 FTE's

COST PER MAINTAINED ACRE





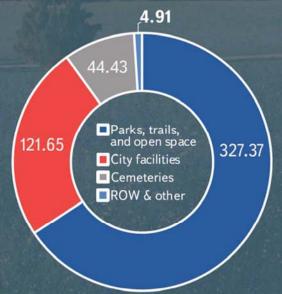


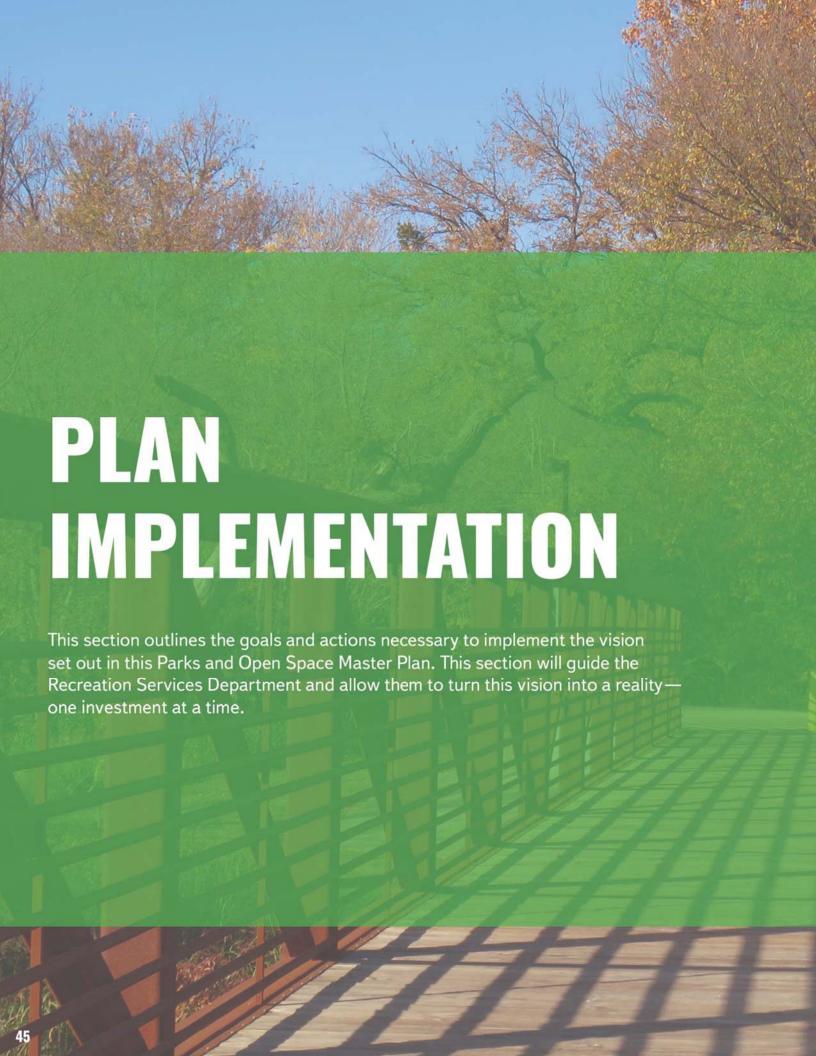
Killeen \$5,811.62 Georgetown \$3,000.00 Waco \$1,600.00

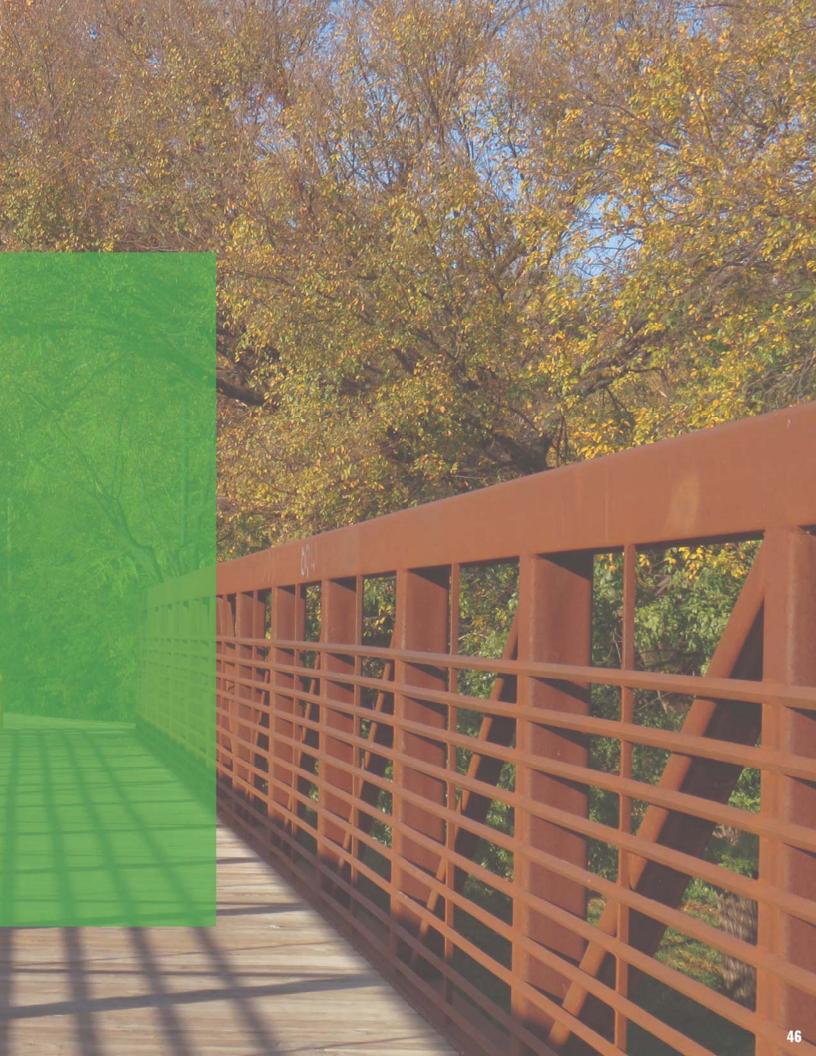


~34% OF TOTAL ACRES MAINTAINED ARE NOT RELATED TO PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

CITY OF KILLEEN MAINTAINED ACRES = 498.46







SHORT-TERM WORK PROGRAM

SHORT TERM (0-3 YEARS) PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION SERVICES

- Finalize and adopt the parkland dedication and development ordinance
- Apply the operation and maintenance framework to all neighborhood parks in the park system
- Execute a Master Lease Agreement with KISD to expand park acreage within park system (on-going)
- Establish grow zones within the park system at several parks (on-going)
- Utilize the parks condition assessment to build on replacement cycles through FY O/M and capital budgets
- Launch the YAC Park Ambassador program
- Establish new park properties so that park deficiencies start to be addressed
- Continue City staff led incremental park improvements
- Expand the "Love My Park" workday into a quarterly park investment program
- Work towards benchmark targets identified in the various plan memos
- Focus on maximizing the number of people in the parks

SCALE OF IMPROVEMENT

STAFF / VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE TO CAPITAL PROJECT



increasing skillset and expertise

VOLUNTEER

- PARK CLEAN UP
- TREE PLANTINGS
- PAINTING

VOLUNTEER/ STAFF SUPPORTED

- PROPERTY CLEAN UP
- PROPERTY PREP (E.G. TREE PLANTING PREP)
- NO MOW AREA PREP & SIGNAGE

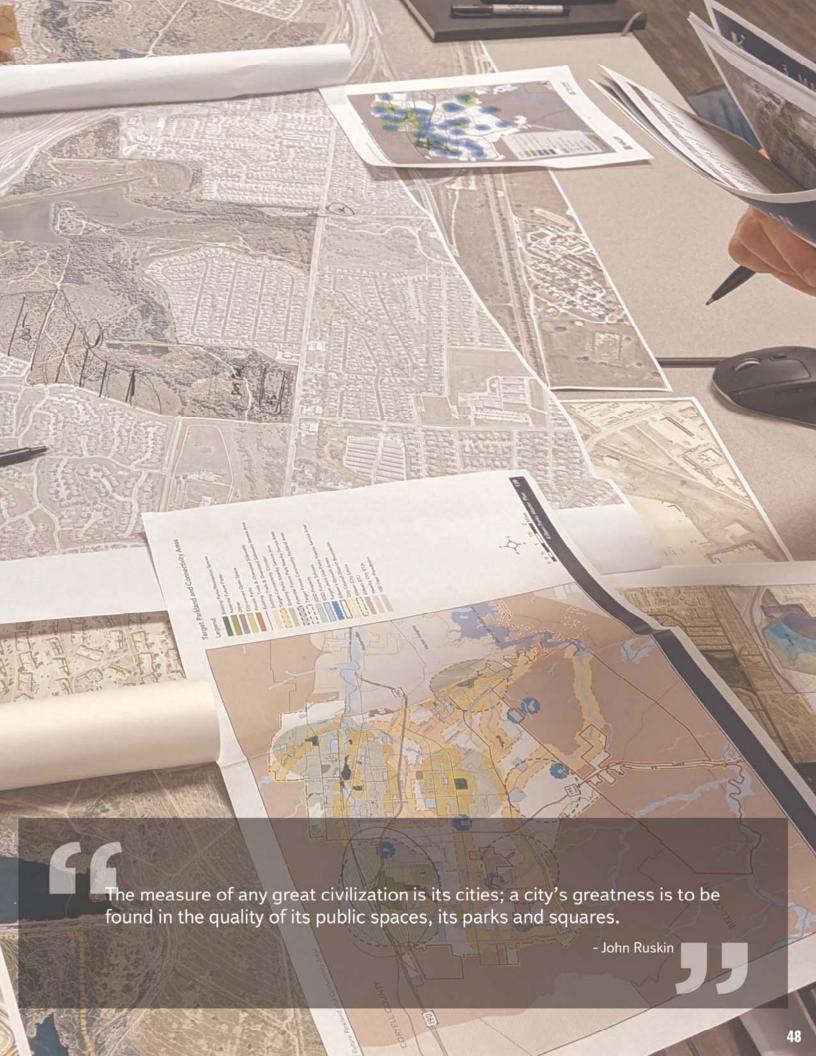
STAFF

- TURF MAINTENANCE
- EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION
- EQUIPMENT
 REPLACEMENT

CAPITAL PROJECT

- SHADE CANOPIES
- CONSTRUCTION
 OF PAVILIONS
- CONCRETE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION
- LIGHTING

Park improvements can occur through a variety of different mechanisms, from small-scale quick enhancements to large-scale capital projects. The involved effort can come from staff as part of their normal work program or through paid contractors. It can also occur through volunteer park improvement workdays which oftentimes require staff support. In general, the scale and extent of potential improvements grow as the work effort increases in skillset and expertise.



IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

		Initiation Time Frame	me						
Action #	Action Recommendation	Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On- going	Involved entities	Action Type(s)		
Park G	Park Growth Focused Recommendations								
dedica	Strive to grow the park system using a fiscally prudentation, donations, further development of other existin rea partners.								
PS1	Adhere to Complete Parks principles regarding the future design and development of new parks as it relates to general park features and amenities.					City	Operational		
PS2	Develop the new Westside Regional Park in the northwest portion of the city.	•				City	Capital		
PS3	Identify a property to develop a new community park in an area of need in the western side of the city.	•				City	Study		
PS4	Identify properties and develop two additional community parks in areas of need in the southern portion of the City as growth continues to the south.		•			City	Study, Capital		
PS5	Identify properties and develop additional neighborhood-scaled parkland in areas of need.		•			City	Study, Capital		
PR6	Evaluate opportunities to develop a new 4.57-acre neighborhood park on City-owned property to serve the Bellaire Heights and Loma Vista subdivisions.		•			City	Study		
PR7	Evaluation of acquisition opportunities for three new neighborhood parks in need areas.			•		City	Study		
PR8	Explore opportunities to improve existing and future indoor recreation centers to better serve multi-generational users.		•			City	Operational, Study		
PR9	Explore opportunities to serve multigenerational users across the entire outdoor park system.				•	City	Study		
PR10	Continue to explore opportunities to develop additional unprogrammed athletic space for open community use.					City	Study		
PR 11	Develop a second gym at the Killeen Community Center.					City	Capital		
PR 12	Identify opportunities to add Complete Park amenities to linear park properties.				•	City	Study, Capital		
PR13	Identify opportunities to fund and construct the additional neighborhood-scaled park amenities originally conceptualized for the Heritage Oaks Linear Park.	•				City	Study, Capital		
Joint l	Jse Focused Recommendations								
	Maximize opportunities to partner with KISD and othe n a fiscally responsible manner.	er area	partner	s to de	velop C	omplete Par	ks in areas of		
JU1	Coordinate with Killeen Independent School District (KISD) to execute a new master city-school joint use agreement for the sharing of resources related to school parks.	•				City, KISD	Coordination, Study		
JU2	Utilize Maxdale Park as a pilot project to design and develop a joint-use Complete Park.	•				City, KISD	Capital		

44		Ini	tiation 1	ime Fra	me		
Action #	Action Recommendation	Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On- going	Involved entities	Action Type(s)
JU3	Maxdale Park Joint Use Concept Plan,		•			City, Consultant	Study, Capital
JU4	Coordinate between the City and KISD to master plan Complete Park opportunities for Iduma and Timber Ridge Parks.		•			City, KISD	Coordination
JU5	Coordinate between the City and KISD to determine opportunities to develop two additional joint-use Complete Parks on existing KISD properties in areas of need.				•	City, School Districts	Coordination, Study
JU6	Continue to coordinate between the City and KISD to determine opportunities to proactively identify and develop joint use Complete Parks as part of new future school design and development.				•	City, KISD	Coordination., Study
JU7	Continue to coordinate between the City and KISD to determine opportunities to proactively identify and develop additional joint recreational facilities which mutually serve both entities.					City, KISD	Coordination, Study
Linear	Park / Trail Growth Focused Recommendations						
	Strive to develop a connected, enhanced citywide trai opment of properties and partnerships.	l system	thoug	h the p	urposef	ul acquisitio	on and
TR1	Prepare a Citywide Trails Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations.	•				City, Consultant	Capital
TR2	Add sidewalks along City streets to complete missing segments on all park properties.	•				City	Capital
TR3	Support the establishment of the regional bicycle and pedestrian system.		•			City	Policy
TR4	Update the City's subdivision regulations to improve trail connectivity and development standards.	•				City, Consultant	Capital, Regulation
TR5	Develop an Active Transportation Plan identifying on-street bike lane connectivity between parks and other citywide key destinations.		•			City, Consultant	Capital
TR6	Preserve drainage corridors and key connections to the existing and future Citywide trail network.				•	City	Policy
TR7	Coordinate with local public transportation providers to ensure that routes are available to City parks.				•	City	Coordination
TR8	Adhere to trail development standards as part of new trail development and redevelopment.				•	City	Regulation
TR9	Adhere to Complete Parks principles for expanding the usability of City greenways and other trails as it relates to for general trail features and amenities.				•	City	Policy
TR 10	Coordinate directly with the cities of Nolanville and Harker Heights to explore regional partnerships in connecting the Killeen greenways system to their systems along Nolan and Trimmier Creeks.				•	City	Coordination
TR11	Identify funding and develop a southwest greenway extension of the Ft. Hood Regional Trail.	•				City	Study
TR12	Identify funding and develop a greenway extension between Conder Park and the Andy K. Wells Trail.		•			City	Study
TR13	Identify funding and develop a greenway trail connection along South Nolan Creek between the eastern terminus of the Andy K. Wells Trail and AA Lane Park.		•			City	Study

2,34	X	In	itiation '	Time Fra	me		Action Type(s)
Action #	Action Recommendation	Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On- going	Involved entities	
TR14	Identify funding and develop a greenway trail connection along South Nolan Creek and Long Branch to connect AA Lane Park to Long Branch Park.			•		City	Study, Capital
TR15	Identify funding and develop a greenway extension of the Heritage Oaks Trail north along Acorn Creek/Rosewood Drive.			•		City	Study, Capital
TR16	Identify funding and develop a greenway extension of the Heritage Oaks Trail along Trimmier Creek.			•		City	Study, Capital
TR17	Identify funding and develop a southwest greenway extension of the Ft. Hood Regional Trail.					City, Fort Hood	Study, Capital
Parkla	nd Dedication and Development Focused Recommend	lations					
dedica	Strive to grow the park system using a fiscally prudentation, donations, further development of other existing real partners. Adhere to Complete Parks principles regarding the future designand development of new parks as it relates to general park features and amenities.						
Park I	mprovements Focused Recommendations						
Goal: 9	Strive to develop a fiscally sustainable Complete Park vements and purposeful longer-term intensive capital			gh a bal	ance of	smaller scale,	incremental
PI1	Establish a Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program.					City	Operational
PI2	Improve connectivity and ADA access to all facilities and amenities.				-	City	Policy, Capital
PI3	Improve and strengthen park identity by incorporating new signage throughout park system.				-	City	Capital
PI4	Apply environmental design principles as a key component of crime prevention to provide patrons a greater sense of safety and comfort.				•	City	Policy
PI5	Identify funding and resources to improve the provision of additional site amenities throughout the park system.		•			City	Study
PI6	Identify funding and resources to improve the provision of social gathering spaces in the park system.						
PI7	Identify funding and resources to diversify uses and improve the activation throughout the park system.	•				City	Study
PI8	Identify funding and resources to incorporate shade features throughout the park system.				-	City	Study
PI9	Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.					City	Study
PI10	Consider development of new dog parks in areas of need.		•			City	Capital
PI11	Identify funding and opportunities to enhance site lighting throughout the parks system for security, light-sensitive amenities, and after hour uses.				•	City	Study, Capital
PI12	Evaluate hours of operation for certain parks and facilities to determine if adjustments could be made for flexibility and usability.				-	City	Operational
PI13	Identify opportunities to add "no grow" areas to reduce maintenance and increase the amount of areas of natural landscapes within each of the parks.				•	City	Study, Operational
PI14	Build upon the LoveMyPark! park improvement day to fund and schedule reoccurring community improvement volunteer days.				•	City	Operational

44		In	itiation [*]	Time Fra	me		
Action #	Action Recommendation	Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On- going	Involved entities	Action Type(s)
PI15	Evaluate opportunities to increase food access and safety in parks and during special events.					City	Study, Operational
PI16	Improve communications to the public regarding parks, events, and for other park promotions.				-	City	Operational
PI17	During facility improvements and building upgrades, identify more holistic opportunities to create more efficient and sustainable sites and buildings.				•	City	Policy
PI18	Implement overall park design guidelines to steer proper design and construction of new and improved facilities and amenities.				•	City	Regulation
PI19	Allocate funding to begin incremental investment to improve Camacho Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PI20	Continue the incremental investment to improve AA Lane Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PI21	Continue the incremental investment to improve Phyllis Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PI22	Allocate funding to begin incremental investment to improve Fox Creek Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PI23	Continue the incremental investment to improve Iduma Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PI24	Continue the incremental investment to improve Stewart Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PI25	Allocate funding to begin incremental investment to improve Lions Neighborhood Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PI26	Continue the incremental investment to improve Hunt Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PI27	Allocate funding to begin incremental investment to improve Fowler Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PI28	Continue the incremental investment to improve Maxdale Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
Park C	Conditions Assessment Focused Recommendations						
	Strive to establish and maintain a parks and trails syst condition (i.e., 4.0 or better on a park condition reasse			cilities	and ame	enities are ma	intained in a
PC1	Develop an official Parks to Standards Program to ensure all parks and trails are all consistently maintained across the system.					City	Policy
PC2	Conduct a park condition assessment every five years or with each plan update.				-	City	Study
PC3	Continue to pursue sponsors and community volunteers for the Killeen Adopt-a-Park program.				-	City	Coordination
PC4	Develop a formalized playground risk management inspection schedule and replacement plan.				•	City	Operational, Policy
PC5	Identify best practices and target necessary funding to improve trash management within the parks and trails system.				•	City	Study
PC6	Identify and prioritize funding to proactively and comprehensively improve the general site conditions of parks categorized as poor condition by 2024.		•			City	Study, Capital
PC7	Identify and prioritize funding to proactively improve the general site conditions to good by 2025 for at least 50% of parks currently categorized as moderate condition.		•			City	Study, Capital

**		In	itiation ⁻	Time Fra	me		
Action #	Action Recommendation	Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On- going	Involved entities	Action Type(s)
PC8	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Fox Creek Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PC9	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Timber Ridge Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC10	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Lions Club Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC11	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Iduma Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC12	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Fort Hood Regional Trail.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PC13	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Maxdale Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC 14	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Santa Rosa Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PC15	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Flower Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PC 16	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Phyllis Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC 17	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Green Avenue Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PC 17	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Camacho Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PC 19	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Stewart Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC20	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Lions Neighborhood Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PC21	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Rotary Club Children's Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
PC22	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Killeen Community Center Athletic Complex.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC23	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Condor Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC24	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Marlboro Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC25	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of AA Lane Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC26	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Long Branch Park.				•	City	Incremental Investment
PC27	Evaluate opportunities to improve the conditions of Hunt Park.	•				City	Incremental Investment
	tions and Maintenance Focused Recommendations						
	Strive to establish and maintain a parks and trails syst condition (i.e., 4.0 or better on a park condition reasse			cilities	and ame	nities are ma	intained in a
OM1	Continue to identify opportunities to add No Mow Zones across the parks system.					City	Incremental Investment
OM2	Continue to identify opportunities to continue outsourcing non- park or trail related efforts to protect park's staff resources.				•	City	Study

44		In	itiation '	Time Fra	me		
Action #	Action Recommendation	Short term (1-2 yrs.)	Mid term (3-10 yrs.)	Long term (10+ Yrs.)	On- going	Involved entities	Action Type(s)
ОМЗ	Develop an official Parks to Standards Program to ensure all parks and trails are all consistently maintained across the system.					City	Capital
OM4	Develop a formalized playground risk management inspection schedule and replacement plan.	•				City	Capital
OM5	Identify best practices and target necessary funding to improve trash management within the parks and trails system.	•				City	Study
OM6	Identify and prioritize funding to proactively and comprehensively improve the general site conditions of parks categorized as poor condition by 2024.					City	Study
OM7	Identify and prioritize funding to proactively improve the general site conditions to good by 2025 for at least 50% of parks currently categorized as moderate condition.		•			City	Study
OM8	Pursue CAPRA Certification.					City	Capital
ОМ9	Prioritize budget and resources to continue to develop and digitize park infrastructure and assets into the Cityworks AMS asset management system.				-	City	Capital
OM10	Continue to enter parks system and operations data into NRPA's Park Metrics system.				-	City	Coordination
OM11	Replace or renovate the Conder Park maintenance facility.					City	Capital
OM12	Evaluate the need to add satellite park maintenance facilities concurrent with growth to maximize staff resource proximity to different parks and trails in the City.	•				City	Study
OM13	Consider the establishment of a tree nursey on City park property so there is a cost-effective resource for near- and longer-term tree saplings.		•			City	Capital
OM14	Evaluate strategies to improve the safety of users while visiting City parks.				•	City	Incremental Investment

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Killeen Parks and Open Space Master Plan was developed by the City of Killeen with the technical assistance from Halff. Special thanks goes to the many residents and community leaders for their insight and support throughout the duration of this study. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of the 2022 Master Plan.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Jose L. Segarra, Mayor Debbie Nash-King, Mayor Pro Tem, Councilmember District 2

Ken Wilkerson, Councilmember at Large Mellisa Brown, Councilmember at Large

Rick Wlliams, Councilmember at Large Jessica Gonzalez, Councilmember District 1

Nina Cobb, Councilmember District 3

Michael Boyd, Councilmember District 4*

PLANNING AND TONING COMMISSION

Kirk Latham, Chairman

Louie Minor, Vice Chairman

Ramon Alvarez

Sandra O'Brien

Leo Gukeisen

Randy Ploeckelmann

Michael Hodges

Luvina Sabree

Riakos Adams

RECREATION SERVICES ADVISORY ROARD

Holly Teel, District 1*

Harry Feyer, District 2*

Joe Davis, District 3*

Paul Passamonti, District 4*

David Fleming, At-Large*

Emilio Fenderson, At-Large*

Anthony Kendrick, At-Large*

PARKS MASTER PLAN WORKGROUP

Rodolfo Alvarez - Youth Advisory Commission

Patsy Bracey - Former RSAB

R. David Cole - Former RSAB

Kelly Flading - Former RSAB

Jason Johnson - KISD

Michael Love - Fort Hood

Tanida Mullen - Visitor Bureau

Dr. Marc Nigliazzo - TAMU Central

Brian O'Connor - Chamber of Commerce

Kama Rangel - Youth Advisory Commission

Note: members of the PMPW who are also members of another board or commission are denoted with an * on this page

KILLEEN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Joe Brown, Executive Director of Recreation Services
Heather Buller, Assistant Director of Recreation Services
Joseph Dyer, Parks & Recreation Manager
Luke Behrens, Grounds Superintendent

HALFF ASSOCIATES INC

Matt Bucchin, AICP, LEED Green Associate

Chelsea Irby, AICP

James Hemenes, PLA, ASLA, CPRE

Kyle Hohmann

Jim Carrillo, FAICP, ASLA

Julian Salas-Porras

Jill Amezcua, PLA, ASLA

Brandon Hay, PLA, ASLA, CLARB



Effective implementation of this plan necessitates ongoing community engagement. New programs established as part of this planning process (e.g., the Youth Advisory Commission Park Ambassador Program and the Love Your Park Day!) are a mechanism to continually engage the citizens of Killeen in capacity building and the incremental investment in their park system—one which leads to a Complete Parks system founded in Strong Towns principles and increased community wealth building over time.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

