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# **PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

**Killeen Parks & Open Space Master Plan**

*for the*

**CITY OF KILLEEN, TEXAS**

*Prepared by*

**HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC.**

## Purpose and Introduction

The purpose of this *Park Improvements Memo* is to detail specific needed improvements to all the existing parks in the Killeen parks and trail system. It relies heavily on information gathered from past planning and implementation efforts, current site evaluations and condition assessments, and through staff, stakeholder, and citizen input. It is guided by the core principles of establishing a Complete Parks system. While associated, this element is different than the separate *Park Conditions Assessment Memo* in that it focuses on improvements or additions to park amenities and facilities, rather than addressing needed or deferred maintenance obligations.

## Relationship to Complete Parks Attributes and Building Blocks Principles

The compilation of individual and specific park-by-park improvements is the mechanism to develop a Complete Parks system. It provides the blueprint, or checklist, of improvements needed to ensure balanced development across most attributes of Complete Parks, including **accessibility, safety and comfort, social connectedness, and activation**. Park maintenance, while an equally important attribute, becomes the focus of sustained effort once these improvements are implemented.

Each of the four attributes addressed in this memo are important to maximize park usage. Providing good accessibility ensures that park visitors can get safely to the park and easily to all the amenities. While accommodations need to be made for the automobile, the primary focus is on maximizing pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. Once in the park, the focus shifts to a strong emphasis on ensuring user comfort and safety. This is first achieved by a creating a framework where the usability of each amenity is considered at the same time as the decision is made to add or install the amenity (e.g., considering shade as a core element of a playscape's installation and usability). Once accessibility, user safety and comfort are addressed, targeted amenity improvements should be considered over time to grow park visitation and usage. This is accomplished through a diversified set of amenities (i.e., active, passive, or community-serving) and reoccurring in-the-park activation and programming.



*A great example of a comprehensive park improvement project was the 2017 rejuvenation of Lions Neighborhood Park. The enhancements included improved accessibility (e.g., ADA parking, pedestrian sidewalk improvements to the adjacent neighborhood, and a linear trail), enhanced safety and comfort (e.g., the addition of trail lights, picnic tables, and trees), and updated amenities (i.e., a new playscape and refurbished basketball courts). Overall, the improvements were modest, but park visitation has grown significantly.*



### Scale and Effort of Park Improvements

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.



In most park systems, “improvements” are predominantly handled through outsourced contractors. To a lesser degree, volunteers assist during special workdays. But, interestingly, staff-led “improvements” are probably the least used type of park improvement effort. This is because in most park systems, staff time is consumed predominantly by keeping up with basic park maintenance tasks like lawn mowing. However, staff-led “improvements” are probably the most productive and cost-effective means to make a significant improvement to a city’s park system. This is particularly true when park “improvements” are funded and made part of staff’s regular work program. This sometimes requires a reconfiguration of park operations, proper staff training and equipment, and dedicated funding, to establish a successful program framework. Staff resources and expertise can be further strengthened with volunteer manhours from dedicated volunteers (e.g., an adopt-a-park program and programmed community improvement days). Using this framework, a large amount of park improvements can be accomplished in a cost-effective manner, saving more intensive capital projects for key improvement priorities.

### Funding of Park Improvements

Funding for improvements can come through annual budget appropriations specifically set up for staff-led park improvements. This could include annual appropriations for painting, landscaping, tree planting, trail construction and other more intensive improvements depending on the availability of staff time, level of skill, and the availability of proper equipment (e.g., dump trucks, skid loaders, etc.). Funding can also come from the city's capital improvement fund, which is oftentimes used to fund specific park redevelopment (i.e., comprehensive improvements to one park) or holistic improvements across a specific category (e.g., improvements to all sports field lighting across all parks). Funding can also come from grants, donations, and in-kind time contributions (e.g., in-the-park volunteer workdays). While park clean ups (i.e., picking up trash) are considered a component of in-kind volunteer time contributions, that volunteer work effort is classified as helping staff to address deferred park maintenance needs. As such, park clean up days are further detailed in the *Park Conditions Assessment Memo*, rather than this one.

### Community Wealth Building Through Parks

It is well documented that parks and recreation promotes public health and wellness and increases environmental stewardship in communities across the country. It is because of this that parks are viewed as important quality of life assets for a city, but oftentimes also viewed as a fiscal drain. What is also well documented, but less known, is that parks and recreations also significantly contribute to a community's overall economic prosperity, including<sup>1,2,3</sup>:

- Parks and recreation are a strong contributor to economic activities in communities, through local employment, contract work, and through sports tourism
- Parks (particularly high-quality parks) play a strong role in both future residential and commercial site-location and relocation decisions
- Parks contribute to the economic development process through business attraction, business retention and expansion, and talent attraction
- Parks (particularly urban parks, natural areas and preserved open spaces) have positive effects on property values

As it relates to the last point, this memo suggests that it is not just the proximity to the park that drives an increase in property values. Rather, it is the proximity combined with the level of "completeness" in adherence to the Complete Parks principles (including quality of maintenance) identified during this planning process. As evidence of support, several test analyses were undertaken in Killeen to identify a possible positive correlation between park proximity and an increase in residential value per acre assessments. The results showed that there was little to no differences in assessable value due to the proximity of a city of Killeen park. This is not surprising in that many (not all) of Killeen's parks are older and have been impacted by significant amounts of deferred maintenance. In addition, they are not designed and configured in a manner that promotes usability nor entices visitation from a diverse number of user groups. Moving forward, this process recommends reanalysis as the adherence to the Complete Parks principles are implemented over time. Actual implementation can take many forms. Historically, many parks departments rely heavily on large-scale, capital intensive outlays. This process suggests a different, more sustainable approach.

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<sup>1</sup> Promoting Parks and Recreation's Role in Economic Development. NRPA. May 2018.

<sup>2</sup> The Economic Benefits of Open Space, Recreation Facilities and Walkable Community Design. Active Living Research. May 2010.

<sup>3</sup> The Impact of Parks on Property Values: Empirical Evidence from the Past Two Decades in the United States. John Crompton. Managing Leisure. October 2005.



## A Strong Towns Approach to Park Improvement

As part of a Strong Towns philosophical approach to park improvement, there are a few key considerations which are important to highlight. It is stated as “philosophical” because Strong Towns does not have a specific approach to park development. Rather, Strong Towns is an advocacy organization whose approach is founded on an overarching focus on community wealth creation by ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability for our cities. It requires a fundamental paradigm shift in how we approach the growth and redevelopment of our cities. It also requires an understanding of a few key Strong Town principles<sup>4</sup> which have been tailored for parks, trails and Killeen’s future needs. They include:

- **An understanding that infrastructure is not just an asset.** Our city’s inherent accounting system views all our parks and trails infrastructure solely as an asset. While this is legally correct, the underlying philosophy is entirely wrong. To the contrary, all our infrastructure, including parks and trails, is a long-term liability—a commitment to repair, replace and maintain in perpetuity. Strong Towns views the overall community’s tax base as an asset. As such, parks and trail investments which increase the surrounding taxable value of properties (i.e., grows community wealth) is a positive outcome.
- **An agreement that we need to be purposeful in our expansion of new infrastructure.** A pure Strong Towns approach would strongly encourage caution before committing to new infrastructure (and new liabilities), going even as far as indicating that it is just not needed. As it relates to the growth and redevelopment of a parks and recreation system, there are always many competing priorities which necessitate new infrastructure. The underlying premise is still important, however. Particularly for Killeen, the city has not had a historically great track record in maintaining its existing parks and trail infrastructure (indicative by the significant amount of deferred maintenance). Moving forward, the city will need to be purposeful in its expansion of parks and trails infrastructure while at the same time greatly improving the productivity of the infrastructure it already has.
- **A strong commitment to incremental improvements.** Across the country, many parks departments heavily rely on large capital outlays and investments to undertake park improvements. This is because most budgets (and associated staffing) are focused on park maintenance and programming, with little resources allocated to non-capital park improvements or enhancements. A Strong Towns approach focuses on the wealth-creating value of smaller, incremental improvements continually implemented over time. In this regard, the smaller park investments (e.g., benches and shade) are also the lowest risk; yet have large impacts on usability and overall quality of life. Many of the proposed improvements highlighted later in this memo for developing a Complete Parks system are also the smaller, incremental investments (e.g., improving shade, adding benches, installing internal crushed granite loop trails, etc.) which helps build lasting community value. The *LoveMyPark! Day* community project workday is the perfect example of how these incremental investments can transform the usability of a community park property.
- **An unrelenting focus on quality maintenance.** A city which cannot prioritize quality maintenance signifies to existing and future residents, business owners and visitors that it is unable to fulfill its long-term obligations for ensuring the continuity of critical functions, including maintaining its assets (i.e., infrastructure liabilities). As such, it should not be trusted to add any more investments that it won’t be able to maintain.

Overall, the Strong Towns approach is simple: “1) Observe where people in the community struggle to use the city as it has been built, 2) Ask the question: What is the next smallest thing we can do right now to address that struggle?, 3) Do that thing. Do it right now., 4) Repeat.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Build Community Wealth with Incremental Investment. Chuck Marohn with Strong Towns. May 2021.

## Park Improvement Opportunities

Overall, there were a series of potential park improvement opportunities which were explored throughout this planning process. These improvements are founded in the opportunities which lead to Complete Parks, including accessibility, safety and comfort, social connectedness, and activation. Many of them embody the incremental improvements approach promoted as part of Strong Towns. These types of improvements were considered as enhancements to each park in the Killeen park system and recommendations are highlighted later in this memo.

### *Accessibility & Connectivity*

- Bike racks
- Crosswalks
- Parking lot, addition (on-street markings)
- Parking lot, ADA accessibility
- Sidewalks, street side
- Speed reduction control (e.g., speed hump)
- Trail, internal loop
- Trail, internal ADA connectivity paths to amenities
- Trail, off-site trail connection
- Transit stops

### *User Comfort / Safety*

- Benches/seating
- Call boxes/security cameras
- Fencing, safety fencing between activities and vehicular areas
- Lighting, amenities (e.g., playscape, sports courts, sports fields, etc.)
- Lighting, parking lot
- Lighting, trails
- Restrooms
- Shade, playscape
- Shade, parking
- Shade, seating
- Shade, trails
- Signage, park identification
- Signage, rules & regulations
- Signage, wayfinding
- Water fountain
- Trees

### *Passive Amenities*

- Amphitheater
- Dog park
- Interpretative education/signage
- Chess/game tables

- Picnic tables
- Picnic tables, shaded
- Picnic shelters
- Nature viewing

### *Active Amenities*

- BMX pump track
- Court, basketball
- Court, futsal
- Court, pickleball
- Court, tennis
- Court, volleyball
- Disc golf, frisbee golf
- Exercise stations
- Playscape
- Playfield, multi-purpose open space
- Splash pad
- Skate park

### *Community Amenities`*

- Community garden
- Education space/group seating area
- Interactive wall (e.g., graffiti wall; question wall)
- Flex seating areas
- Food forest
- Meditation areas
- Natural areas (e.g., tree clusters, native landscape plantings, wildflower conservation areas)
- Public art

### *Programming/Events*

- Classes, City PARD led
- Classes, informal contractor (e.g., boot camp)
- Park, community park clean-up days
- Mobile environmental education
- Mobile interactive play
- Food truck events
- Movie night



### Example Complete Parks Improvements

As part of planning process of this Parks and Open Space Master Plan, a deeper review and evaluation was undertaken for Stewart Park to identify the proposed park improvements which could be completed over time. The identified proposed improvements rely heavily on information gathered from past planning and implementation efforts, current site evaluations and condition assessments, and through staff, stakeholder, and citizen input. The recommendations exhibit a balance 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).

A conceptual master plan (below, at right) shows how a few key improvements focused on accessibility, safety and comfort, social connectedness, and activation provides opportunities for diversifying park usage and maximizing park visitation. Overall, there is not a lot of large-scale capital investments needed for this neighborhood park. To the contrary, a group of volunteers and staff installed a linear crushed granite loop trail with good connectivity to abutting properties will probably be the most heavily used amenity in this park moving forward. Add trail lights and this amenity serves a whole different set of users during early mornings and after dark. Additional Complete Parks recommendations are highlighted on the next page.

Existing Park



Conceptual Future Vision





### Stewart Park Complete Parks Proposed Improvements

The following improvements are conceptual examples of the Complete Parks proposed improvements (\* denotes an incremental improvement) for enhancing accessibility, safety and comfort, social connectedness, and activation.



#### Accessibility

- Improved on-site street parking on Stewart St., White Ave. and N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Off-street improved parking on N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Trail head and neighborhood connectivity improvement on N. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. White Ave., and Stewart St.
- Crushed granite linear loop trail around park\*
- Improved accessibility to on-site amenities\*



#### User Comfort and Safety

- Shade structures and shade plantings\*
- Lighted trail and amenities\*
- Purposeful benches and seating\*
- Landscape plantings and irrigated turf areas\*
- Water-based amenities
- Water refill station\*
- Safety separation fence between amenities and vehicular traffic\*



#### Social Connectedness & Activation

- Crushed granite linear loop trail\*
- Updated playscape
- Added splash pad and group pavilion
- Group seating to enhance social connectedness\*
- Group exercise / fitness stations\*
- Multipurpose dual-purpose sports field / open play area\*
- Dog waste stations\*



## Key Takeaways

Overall, the City of Killeen existing parks and open space system does not fare very well as it relates to the implementation of Complete Parks principles. As previously mentioned, many of the parks (excluding Lions Club, Lions Neighborhood, and a handful of others) are older, have not been updated, lack a diversity of amenity offerings, and are affected by a lot of deferred maintenance (see also the separate *Parks Conditions Assessment Memo*).

Despite this, recent staff leadership changes within the Recreation Services Department have initiated fundamental changes in how the department approaches parks development and operations. This includes the recent initiation or implementation of many key community wealth building improvements throughout the parks system. The importance of this cannot be overstated. 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:

- **Purposeful Maintenance Before Improvements.** Before staff can be adequately allocated to support cost effective improvements to the park system, they need to reduce existing maintenance obligations and eliminate ones which do not move the city forward towards the development of a Complete Parks system. As it detailed in a separate Operations & Maintenance Memo, this includes reducing parks staff time on non-parks related maintenance like citywide building maintenance. This also includes a slow transition towards identifying opportunities to reduce reoccurring maintenance obligations in all the parks (e.g., identifying no grow areas).
- **Adherence to Complete Parks principles.** Placing disparate amenities without consideration for Complete Parks principles does not add to overall community wealth. A strong focus on implementing improvements to existing parks (to enhance accessibility, safety and comfort, social connectedness, and activation) should be prioritized before new large-scale investments in new park infrastructure is undertaken. This does not mean that the city should not plan for large scale investments; rather it means that the implementation of those investments should have a different focus (see next takeaway).
- **Incremental Redevelopment and Growth.** Although this memo highlights the need for a balanced approach to growth and development, it is a more difficult path to emphasize incremental growth and redevelopment. But the same amount of investment dollars spread towards incremental Complete Parks improvements across many parks will have a much greater impact on community wealth than a single, large-scale investment in one park in one part of the community. As such, the city should also prioritize a preference towards the Strong Towns approach to community development. The remainder of this memo provides a blueprint or checklist for how this could be implemented across the system, or as part of individual park improvement projects.
- **Fiscal Sustainability.** Although parks are generally not fiscally profitable from a revenue generating standpoint, they do significantly contribute to the overall community's economic prosperity. All efforts should be taken to ensure all parks improvements add to the community's overall wealth and are designed and operated in a manner that prioritizes fiscal sustainability. This includes maintaining an adequate level of highly competent and motivated staff to cost effectively undertake quality maintenance and park improvement activities. This also includes purposeful design and sustainable operations which minimize additional long-term liabilities. This means that the city should prioritize the minimization of long-term costs (e.g., improved durability or longevity, or reduced energy and water usage through such things as more efficient lighting or HVAC systems) even if the upfront investments (i.e., first costs) are higher. This could also include greater consideration for opportunities for improved cost recovery (e.g., increased room or pavilion rental fees).
- **Improved Communication about Parks Contributions towards the City's overall Economic Prosperity.** Improved direct communication is needed with the Killeen community about how the park system contributes towards the city's overall economic prosperity, since parks are not fiscally profitable.

## Preliminary Recommendations

### 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 TBD% 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.

### Systemwide Recommendations

#### **PI1: Establish a Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program.**

Formalize a Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program for undertaking Complete Parks improvements throughout the park system, including the creation of a long-term park donation and endowment program for both financial and land donation offerings. It should also include the establishment of set minimum standards and process for donations, including the programmatic identification of specific Complete Park amenity needs (e.g., shade trees and canopies and other basic site amenities such as benches, seating, lighting, signage, dog waste stations, etc.) which could be advertised on the city's website for solicitation of contributions and/or volunteers. This could include the request for a specific need and location and cost for purchasing and installation. For example, the need for a playscape shade structure could be advertised showing the project location and costs. A volunteer could donate the money for materials and installation so that the City could get it installed. Small donations could be recognized on the city's website, on a small plaque on site, and during an annual recognition program. Large donations (e.g., entire parks) could be given the opportunity for naming rights. This could also be used for solicitation of other park wish lists (e.g., volunteers, materials, and equipment, etc.) for community service park improvement days like the *LoveMyPark! Day* at Stewart Park.

#### **PI2: Improve connectivity and ADA access to all facilities and amenities.**

To provide to the public a park system that everyone can enjoy, it requires the city to proactively establish good accessibility to all park facilities and amenities. This includes ensuring all park visitors have safe and easy access to the park and all the of the amenities. As such, it is important to make the existing park system as accessible as possible for the largest number of users. While providing ADA accessible vehicular accommodations is important, it is of higher priority to ensure ADA accessible pedestrian and bicycle accommodation. In a Complete Parks system, where success is measured by the number of users in the park system, improved ADA accessibility results in a more inclusive community where everyone can access and enjoy the public parks. As such, ADA upgrades to existing facilities should be considered as part of all park improvements, including establishment or redevelopment of trails (e.g., loop and linear trails), sidewalks (e.g., external street side and interior ADA access to all on-site facilities and amenities), and installation of new facilities (e.g., restrooms) and amenities (e.g., playscapes). ADA accessibility could be accomplished by making all facilities and amenities ADA compliant (e.g., all picnic tables and playscapes have ADA accessible components). Alternately, portions of all parks could include some ADA accessible components while certain parks could be designated as ADA parks (i.e., where all facilities and amenities are ADA accessible). Additionally, improving connectivity and access to parks should include off-site considerations. This includes coordination across multiple city departments to improve off-site sidewalk connections and conditions, improvements to transit stops (near parks), installation of ADA access ramps at key intersections and speed control devices, the painting of crosswalks, etc.



**PI3: Improve and strengthen park identity by incorporating new signage throughout park system.**

Part of keeping a city's park system valued by the community is establishing a unique visual and functional identity for each park (i.e., park system branding). A park's identity can be strengthened by establishing similar looking high-quality park signage elements. Displaying prominent signage elements helps users or potential users locate the parks they want to visit. Park signage should be both durable and updateable. For example, a monument entry sign could have a limestone block base with a mounted sign with park name and city logo. As the city logo or overall park branding changes over time, mounted signage could be easily replaced.

**PI4: Apply environmental design principles as a key component of crime prevention to provide patrons a greater sense of safety and comfort.**

Once in a park, adherence to Complete Parks principles calls for a proactive focus on providing for user comfort and safety. It is important to note that there is no difference (in the public's eye) between the actual *presence* of unsafe conditions (i.e., crime) and the *perception* of unsafe conditions. In Killeen, over 52% of the survey respondents felt that they felt "Not Safe" or "Not Safe at All" while in the park system. As such, identifying all opportunities to reduce both the presence and perception of unsafe conditions is paramount. There is a well-established framework for using environmental design principles to reduce the potential for crime. In this regard, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles use design to increase safety of parks and recreation facilities by increasing natural surveillance of high and low use areas, controlling access, and by improving management and maintenance. During this plan horizon, the City should consider CPTED principles in the development of all new conceptual master site plans and in other project considerations. Additionally, survey respondents also identified the following potential physical or programming safety improvements in order of priority: Additional lighting (83% of the survey respondents felt that this would increase their feeling of safety in the city's park system), more police presence (55%), better maintenance (53%), increased design considerations (i.e., CPTED) (50%), improved visibility from the street or surrounding areas and the addition of a park ranger (both at 47%), increased activation (i.e., more people in the park) (25%), and additional programming to increase user visitation (13%).

**PI5: Identify funding and resources to improve the provision of additional site amenities throughout the park system.**

As identified in the *Park Conditions Assessment Memo*, the City's park system lacks the provision of quality supporting site amenities. For example, there may be a playscape or basketball court, but no associated benches or seating, tables, or shade; or the access to the amenity is poor. In a Complete Parks system, ensuring user comfort and usability is as important as the amenity itself. Particularly in the hot Texas sun, providing good supporting amenities, like shade or lighting for expanded hours of use, means the difference between no or ok usability, and great usability. Moving forward, the city needs to comprehensively address a lack of supporting site amenities which is impacting park use. This could include identifying funding and resources for purchasing and installing benches and other seating, shade trees and canopies, picnic tables, water fountains and water bottle refill stations, trash cans and recycling facilities, bike racks, dog waste stations, etc. Improvements can be undertaken by adding a support amenity across the entire park system (e.g., upgraded trash receptacles) or multiple support amenities could be address comprehensively through park-by-park improvement efforts. Specific recommendations on a per park basis have been provided below.

**PI6: Identify funding and resources to improve the provision of social gathering spaces in the park system.**

As identified in the *Park Conditions Assessment Memo*, the city's park system also lacks the provision of quality public gathering spaces. This is not a reference to conference rooms or other public meeting facilities. Rather, it is a purposeful design consideration where proactive attention is given to establishing opportunities for social interaction to maximize social connectedness. Social considerations are one of the attributes of a Complete Park. Moving forward, the city should identify opportunities for enhancing social gathering spaces as part of all park improvements. As can be seen in the conceptual image below, specific concentrations of social activity can be grouped to maximize social connectedness. This should include the basic provision of designing future playscapes with potential water features and socially-oriented group seating. In this regard, a single parent or guardian could socially interact with other parents or guardians while one or more children are individually playing on the playscape or water feature. Nearby or integrated picnic shelters or pavilions expands this concentrated activity maximize visibility during parties and other social group gatherings. This configuration promotes allows for multiple opportunities for structured play, all with good visibility (and perceived sense of protection and safety). When combined with adequate shade, lighting (for early morning and/or evening hours) and other appropriate associated site amenities, this configuration can promote maximum usability.



*Integrated social gathering spaces with synergistically-placed amenities (like playscapes, splash pads, picnic facilities, restrooms, etc.) can promote and enhance usability by providing diversified amenity choices, safety (through good site lines), and comfort.*

**PI7: Identify funding and resources to diversify uses and improve the activation throughout the park system.**

One of the overarching attributes of a Complete Parks system is activation. As is evident in many of the parks throughout the Killeen park system, just providing a singular amenity (or serving one user group) is not enough to promote good park usability. In other words, the presence of a park property, facilities, or amenities does not guarantee that it will be used. In fact, without additional and continual efforts to activate these “spaces,” many will remain underutilized without realization of their full potential as vibrant centers of community life.

Activation of park properties can be accomplished in two primary ways. First is through the diversification of uses (or amenities) which entice various types of users, including all age groups, genders, races, and socio-economic backgrounds. In this regard, attention to the diversity of amenities provides multiple opportunities to bring more user groups into the park. Survey respondents identified the following physical activation improvements as lighting for evening or early morning use, shade, trails (internal loop trails)(all at over 95% identifying these as Very Important or Important); linear greenway trails, picnic tables, and seating and socialization areas (all at over 90%); sports courts, nature play and self-guided nature walks, picnic pavilions for group events, splash pads, interactive play areas, and exercise stations (all over 80%); and dog parks, food truck events, group exercise / fitness classes in the park, community gardens, sports fields, and special events (all over 70%), among many other unique categories like food forests. Secondly, activation can be achieved through in-the-park programming, including city- and vendor-led classes, special events, sponsored and informal group activities, etc.



**PI8: Identify funding and resources to incorporate shade features throughout the park system.**

Texas is known for its long, hot summers. As such, public demand for shade is always one of the highest priorities. Not surprisingly, requests for improved shade opportunities were some of the highest ranked requests across multiple surveys. This includes an almost 100% agreement by respondents to the overall community survey (where respondents felt that adding shade was Very Important or Important) and almost 95% agreement by respondents to the senior survey. Moving forward, the city will need to critically prioritize all facets of shade protection to promote increased usability of the park system. This should include a strong tree planting program; the installation of shade structures over sport courts, pavilions, and picnic facilities; and the installation of shade canopies over playscapes, social seating areas, group exercise stations, etc. The planting of trees should be purposeful in that they provide shade along pathways, in parking areas, and particularly to reduce the urban heat impact in proximity to park activities.

**PI9: Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.**

Like shade, the long, hot Texas summers can limit park usability. Adding water or any water-based amenity greatly expands opportunities throughout the park system. Historically, this was addressed through the addition of community pools throughout urban cities (like the community pool at Long Branch Park). Over time, many of these pools have been impacted by the same deferred maintenance needs exhibited throughout all facets of the park system. Today, while community pools are still important, lack of funding and greater competition for limited resources has forced many cities to change course. This has led to the increase in use of zero depth splash pads, which still provide significant relieve to summer heat, but are less impactful to operate and maintain. As such, splash pads are an excellent complement to other parks amenities and provide for an appealing amenity in the summer. The Killeen Family Aquatics Center at Lions Club Park reflects a large-scale, regionally-drawing destination water-based amenity. The splash pad at Long Branch Park is another example of a community-serving splash pad which is intended to serve multiple neighborhoods. However, the city should also consider the addition of smaller scale, more intimate water features or splash pads at key neighborhood parks, like the one proposed at Stewart Park. In the instances where these water-based amenities are synergistically designed and located with other associated site amenities (see recommendation PI6, above), they can account for a significant community wealth building contribution.

**PI10: Consider development of new dog parks in areas of need.**

Nationwide, dog parks are becoming a highly coveted “third places,” which are social gathering spaces separate from the two usual social environments of home and the workplace. Despite being in an age where everyone is “connected,” we are increasingly becoming more socially isolated. In this regard, many cities are reinvesting in opportunities to facilitate face-to-face connection in these third places, particularly in places like parks, trails, and libraries. Some of the most successful examples of third places are dog parks because they provide dedicated facilities to bring people and their pets together. This type of activity typically occurs every day, or at least every weekend. Some of the specific dog park benefits include improvement to the health of dogs, heightened sense of community, and greater neighborhood cohesion. Interestingly, urban non-park users (or low users) have also been found to have benefitted from the presence of dog parks—i.e., the “just knowing that it is there” phenomenon. In particular, the presence of dog parks has been found to decrease crime rates and drug usage in a neighborhood and is a selling point for home buyers. Further, research has shown that dog park proximity to residential uses with good walkability, or other convenient access, improves park usage. Currently, the city provides Mickey’s Dog Park in the northeastern part of the city. However, at a current population of over 150,000 (and with a 2030 projected approximate population between 167,000 and 177,000), there are opportunities to incorporate multiple well-distributed dog parks throughout the city.





*Dog parks are sometimes classified as a “third place.” What are “third places” (sometimes also called spaces)? They are components of overall community building which refer to social surroundings separate from the two usual social environments of home and the workplace. Dog parks make great third spaces in that they meet multiple public purposes including enhanced public health, improved social connectedness, and strengthening of the overall community fabric. The Cedar Bark Park in Cedar Park, Texas provides an excellent example of a regionally serving dog park. It includes separation of big and small dogs, water features, shade, internal loop trail connections, socially-oriented seating, wash facilities, among many other design features.*



**PI11: Identify funding and opportunities to enhance site lighting throughout the parks system for security, light-sensitive amenities, and after hour uses.**

While most parks and trails are closed dusk to dawn, there is oftentimes an unmet demand for use before dawn and long after dark. This is particularly important during the temperate Texas winters where it is nice out, but largely dark before most people even leave work. Although the *Park Conditions Assessment Memo* indicated that overall site lighting throughout the parks system was in a moderate condition, it did so because the absence of site lighting did not negatively affect the overall score. But, the lack of site lighting was very evident throughout the park system. Moving forward, the city should consider enhancements to site lighting particularly in parks and along trails, particularly for those which indicated no site lighting facilities on the *Parks Condition Assessment Memo*. Enhancements should be in adherence with Complete Parks principles and include a focus on establishing adequate lighting in all parking lots, trails, tunnels and underpasses, restrooms, and other amenity areas where users will commonly be after dark.

**PI12: Evaluate hours of operation for certain parks and facilities to determine if adjustments could be made for flexibility and usability.**

As identified by the public engagement process, there was an expressed need for longer hours at certain parks as many patrons are unable to enjoy recreational pursuits during the work week due to other obligations during the day. Oftentimes, longer hours are simply hindered because of a lack of staffing to open and close park gates. In these instances, many park systems have added such things as automated opening and closing gates. Oso Bay Park in Corpus Christi and Cullinan Park in Sugar Land are good examples of this type automated access control extending hours of operations without disruptions to staffing.

**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.**

One of the key opportunities to reduce perpetual maintenance costs includes transitioning portions of every park property to less intensive, more natural conditions. This is particularly important in Killeen to repurpose staff hours and resources from basic maintenance obligations and towards more productive park improvements. As such, the city should explore opportunities to reduce the amount of turf grass and replace it with managed meadows and natural landscapes. Turf grass, the predominant choice for most park systems, requires large up-front costs for equipment and installation and continuous and perpetual costs for labor, maintenance, fertilizer, pest management and fuel. While turf areas are essential in certain areas of the park system, there are opportunities to reduce overall turf coverage and replace it with less costly natural solutions which provide additional benefits. These include increased wildlife and pollinator habitat and biodiversity, reduced air pollution, stormwater control, among others.

The installation of a managed meadows and natural landscapes does require up-front time and resources. This includes a proactive plan of action, established process and framework; proper site preparation; the purchase of appropriate native-seed mix; establishment support; community messaging and outreach. Although establishing a program like this will result in quantifiable and measurable reductions in long-term park maintenance, it does not mean that the cost savings immediate.

Moving forward, the city should identify areas within each of the existing parks to transition to managed meadows and natural landscapes. The amount of transitioned acreage needs to be tracked and quantified over time per park. Additional guidance on the steps of creating a successful managed meadow or natural landscape can be found in a blog in the Parks and Rec Business Magazine at: <https://www.parksandrecbusiness.com/articles/how-to-raise-a-meadow>.





*Walnut Creek Park in Seguin, Texas illustrates how park properties can be cross-managed for differing levels of park maintenance.*

**PI4: Build upon the *LoveMyPark!* park improvement day to fund and schedule reoccurring community improvement volunteer days.**

Building upon the successful implementation of new park facility enhancements at Stewart Park as part of the *LoveMyPark!* volunteer workday, the city should continue to fund and schedule reoccurring park improvement days. The focus of these regularly scheduled events should be on implementing low cost, Complete Parks enhancements, rather than just clean-up efforts. These should be widely advertised and viewed as an opportunity to communicate the parks system contributions to their neighborhood and the overall City’s economic prosperity. These could also be good opportunities to test temporary enhancements like installation of a mobile skate park, the addition of picnicking facilities, and other enhancements.

**PI15: Evaluate opportunities to increase food access and safety in parks and during special events.**

Across the nation, food trucks are increasingly popular in city parks. Accordingly, it can be a win-win for the city and the food truck vendor. For cities, they do not need to construct, operate, and maintain costly concession stands; yet they can still collect permitting fees and sales tax money. For private vendors, it provides additional opportunity for patrons, especially on busy days or during special events. In many cases, food trucks are diversifying the typical offerings beyond the traditional hot dog/hamburger fare and are even generating additional park visitation just for the food itself. Moving forward, the city should formalize a policy for allowing and/or increasing private sector food truck access in city parks and during special events. In the near-term, this could include identification of a single point of contact for food inspections for both food trucks and other concessionaires. Over a longer-term, it could include retrofitting specific facilities to tailor to food trucks rather than providing permanent concession stand facilities. This decreases annual facility maintenance costs, while contributing to economic development efforts through increased public-private partnerships.



**PI16: Improve communications to the public regarding parks, events, and for other park promotions.**

Park activation is one of the attributes of a Complete Parks system. One of the key methods of “activating” parks is through park promotion. This involves bringing awareness about the overall park system or a scheduled park activation activity or event (e.g., a regularly scheduled class or special event like an in-the-park workday). One of non-traditional, but equally as important, components is continual attention to how the parks system brings value to the citizens of Killeen and contributes to overall community wealth building and economic prosperity. This requires the Recreation Services Department to have greater control over their website and other social media accounts.



**LOVE YOUR PARK**  
**Stewart Park**  
 1702 24th St.

Day of Service

Volunteers needed to put some love into Stewart Park. This one day community project will focus on installing a crushed granite trail and planting trees

Saturday, July 10, 2021  
 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
 Stewart Park, 1702 24th Street  
 Volunteer Deadline: July 1, 2021

More info  
 rmcabain@killeentexas.gov  
 254-200-7947  
 www.killeentexas.gov/REC

HALFF  
 Recreation Services



Your input is needed! Attend Our Public Open House!

**Killeen Parks Master Plan**



Monday, March 22, 2021  
 4:30 - 6:30pm (arrive anytime)  
 Lions Club Park Senior Center



**KILLEEN TEXAS**

Home About Downloads Meetings Engagement Contact

**Killeen Parks Master Plan Update**

We need your ideas to help create Killeen's blueprint for the future!

Page last updated 02.04.21

The City of Killeen has begun the process of updating the City's long-range park planning documents. The City's Park Plan will rely on community collaboration to position the City for success in the future.

*Park promotion about programs, special events, and other opportunities is a critical component of Complete Parks.*

**PI7: During facility improvements and building upgrades, identify more holistic opportunities to create more efficient and sustainable sites and buildings.**

Once a facility is constructed, the predominant long-term costs involve staffing, operations, and maintenance. While this is obvious, there is a significant difference between traditional and sustainable building design and construction. Traditional building design and construction occurs in silos (i.e., the design professionals do not work together to improve efficiency) and oftentimes prioritizes first costs over long-term cost savings. Poorly designed and maintained facilities can significantly increase long-term costs. Therefore, the city should consider opportunities to improve long-term efficiency and sustainability with each routine maintenance and repair project. This could include improved HVAC systems, increased weatherization (i.e., more insulated buildings), the use of renewable energy (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal), higher efficiency fixtures (e.g., low water faucets, LED lights), low water or xeriscape landscaping, reduced areas of continual maintenance, and other actions that reduce staffing needs or costs for routine maintenance.

An initial assessment of opportunities could be identified as part of the staff-led operations and maintenance assessments for neighborhood parks recommended as part of the *Operations & Maintenance Memo*.

**PI18: Implement overall park design guidelines to steer proper design and construction of new and improved facilities and amenities.**

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

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



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

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



### **Park-by-Park Recommendations**

The following park-by-park recommendations are for 10 neighborhood parks which were further evaluated in detail as part of this planning process. The recommendations rely heavily on information gathered from past planning and implementation efforts, current site evaluations and condition assessments, and through staff, stakeholder, and citizen input. Additional specific public engagement and outreach for these 10 parks was undertaken, including individual in-the-park improvement surveys (using a QR code to collect individual on-site intercept surveys) and a separate neighborhood public meeting.

The recommendations are also guided by the core principles of establishing a Complete Parks system. Proposed improvements are organized into three broad categories: *Accessibility*, *User Comfort / Safety*, and *Amenities and Activation*. The identified recommendations may be implemented by improving specific park improvements across multiple parks (e.g., improving site lighting in all parks) or through comprehensive improvements to any one park (e.g., Stewart Park). Further, identified order of magnitude cost estimates will be provided so that staff have a better idea of how to allocate funding for changes in operations, capital- and non-capital investments, etc. The recommendations are for informational purposes only and can be used by staff as a checklist for each park.

As part of the final plan, these will be combined with additional recommendations addressing park conditions for each park.

#### **PI19: Evaluate opportunities to improve Camacho Park.**

##### *Accessibility*

- Add bike rack
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Add park slow down sign on Walton Walker Drive (incremental)
  - » Paint / delineate crosswalk on Walton Walker Drive (longer-term)
  - » Add speed table to slow down traffic (longer-term)
- Delineate on-street parking spaces with paint
- Add crushed granite loop trail around park (incremental)
  - » Replace with concrete trail with ADA compliant curb cuts/access ramps (longer-term)

##### *User Comfort / Safety*

- Add benches / seating around amenities (incremental)
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade (longer-term)
- Add divider fencing along Walton Walker Drive
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Add park rules signage
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Replace lighting with solar lighting (longer-term)

##### *Amenities and Activation*

- Upgrade playscape
- Add mini-basketball half court w/ lighting (longer-term)

**PI20: Evaluate opportunities to improve AA Lane Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Add bike rack
- Update park monument sign
- Create natural surface path walking path around east side of park
- If baseball field is converted, add crushed granite loop trail on upper part of park
- Add trail connection across Water St. to link to future expansion of the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail (longer-term)

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Add call boxes or security cameras to the park
- Add lighting to the ballfield, playground, and futsal court
- Add lighting to the parking lot
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Add shade along the trail
- Add park rules signage
- Add a water fountain
- Add shaded benches around playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add shaded seating / picnic tables around sport courts
  - » Create a centralized group picnic area with shade in proximity to sport courts
- Add barbecue grills
- Add park rules signage
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Replace lighting with solar lighting (longer-term)
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Add no mow / naturalized pollinator areas throughout the park with signage
- Replace surfacing of the sports court
- Repair the bleachers
- Replace pavilion
- Replace playscape (in the process)
  - » Integrate small integrated water feature with playscape area (longer-term)
- Convert baseball field to:
  - » Unprogrammed flexible open space; or
  - » Soccer field; or
  - » Amphitheater; or
  - » Community garden
- Explore movies and music in the park



**PI21: Evaluate opportunities to improve Phyllis Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Delineate on-street parking spaces with paint
- Establish central entrance into park
- Establish formalized pedestrian access point on South 8th Street
- Add bike rack
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Add park slow down signs on Phyllis Drive (incremental)
  - » Paint / delineate crosswalk on Phyllis Drive (longer-term)
  - » Add speed table to slow down traffic (longer-term)
- Add crushed granite loop trail around park (incremental)
  - » Replace with concrete ADA lighted trail (longer-term)

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Add lighted covered canopy over basketball court
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Add park rules signage
- Add a water fountain
- Add shaded benches around playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add shaded seating / picnic tables around sport courts
  - » Create a centralized group picnic area with shade in proximity to basketball courts
- Add barbecue grills
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Replace lighting with solar lighting (longer-term)
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Add an all abilities playground
- Add a multi-purpose open play field
- Replace surfacing on basketball courts including removing burn marks and replacing backboards
- Repair sidewalks
- Repair playground
- Add screening between adjacent residential areas and park.
- Add no mow / naturalized pollinator areas in the north areas of the park with signage

**PI22: Evaluate opportunities to improve Fox Creek Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Delineate on-street parallel parking spaces with paint on Grey Fox Trail
- Identify opportunity to create pedestrian access point to Primrose Lane
- Add bike rack
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Repair in-park sidewalks to amenities
- Add park slow down signs on Grey Fox Trail (incremental)
  - » Add speed table to slow down traffic (longer-term)
- Add crushed granite loop trail around park (incremental)
  - » Replace with concrete ADA lighted trail (longer-term)

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Add solar lighting to the playground and basketball court (longer term)
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Add lighted covered canopy over basketball court
- Add park rules signage
- Add a water fountain
- Add shaded benches around playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add shade to the picnic tables.
- Add shaded seating / picnic tables around basketball court
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to basketball courts
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Repair foundation cracks in basketball court (incremental)
- Replace existing court with expanded two net court (longer-term)
- Replace the playscape for younger children



**PI23: Evaluate opportunities to improve Iduma Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Add bike rack
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Add park slow down signs on Vahrenkamp Drive and Pennington Avenue (incremental)
- Add crushed granite loop trail around park (incremental)
  - » Coordinate with KISD to determine feasibility of loop trail expansion onto KISD property
  - » Replace with concrete ADA lighted trail (longer-term)
- Repaint crosswalks at Vahrenkamp Drive and Pennington Avenue
- Add new crosswalks at Penning Avenue and Boots Drive
- Add new crosswalks at Penning Avenue and Michael Drive
- Add loop trail connecting amenities

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Add lighted covered canopy over basketball court
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Add park rules signage
- Repair water fountain
- Add call boxes or security cameras to the park
- Add shade to the benches around the playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Remove graffiti at basketball court and repair netting
- Repair tables and roof at the pavilion
- Add an integrated mini splash pad with seating and playscape areas
- Add solar lighting to the playgrounds and basketball courts
- Add no mow / naturalized pollinator areas in portions of the park with signage
- Add a community garden
- Coordinate with KISD to explore opportunity to establish a joint use running track; alternately, could consider a joint community garden/school garden



*Iduma Park is a typical example of the lack of adherence to Complete Park principles indicative of the overall Killeen park system. There are disjointed and scattered amenities, oftentimes serving very few user groups. The safety and comfort of associated general site facilities (e.g., benches, shade, water, connectivity, etc.) are nonexistent or are an afterthought. The emphasis on social connectedness is limited. The overall conditions of existing facilities and amenities indicate a lot of deferred maintenance issues, and a lack of funding and resources.*

**PI24: Evaluate opportunities to improve Stewart Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Delineate on-street parallel parking spaces with paint on Stewart Street and end of White Avenue
- Add sidewalks along Stewart Street, White Avenue, and 22nd Street in the park to connect to dead ended sidewalks on abutting properties
- Add new crosswalks at Duncan Drive and Stewart Street
- Add new crosswalks across N 24th Street at Duncan and 22nd Street
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Add park slow down signs on Duncan Drive (incremental)
  - » Paint / delineate crosswalk on Duncan Drive (longer-term)
- Add crushed granite loop trail around park on both sides of the drainage channel (incremental)
  - » Delineate a walking crossing across the drainage channel connecting White Avenue to 22nd Street
  - » Replace with concrete ADA lighted trail (longer-term)
- Connect loop trail across Duncan Avenue through undeveloped area to Lions Neighborhood Park
- Establish formalized pedestrian access point from White Avenue and 22nd Street
- Add bike racks at each entrance at Stewart Street, White Avenue, and 22nd Street

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Add divider fencing along Stewart Street and between playscape and drainage area
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Add park rules signage
- Add a water fountain
- Add shaded benches around playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add shaded picnic tables along trail
- Add barbecue grills
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Replace lighting with solar lighting (longer-term)
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park
- Add call boxes or security cameras to the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Update playscape and add lighting
- Add no mow / naturalized pollinator areas along trails with signage
  - » Integrate seating areas for contemplation
- Add food forest / community garden in open area behind existing playscape
- Add public art
- Add exercise stations along trail
- Add wayfinding to the trail



**PI25: Evaluate opportunities to improve Lions Neighborhood Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Add four-way crosswalks at Gray Drive and Stewart Street
- Add three-way crosswalks at Culp Avenue and Stewart Street
- Add three-way crosswalk at E. Rancier Avenue and Stewart Street
- Add mid-block trail crosswalk across Culp Avenue
- Add mid-block trail crosswalk across Gray Drive
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Add park slow down signs on Gray Drive (incremental)
- Add park slow down signs on Culp Avenue (incremental)
- Connect loop trail across Gray Drive through undeveloped area to Stewart Park
- Extend loop trail to E. Rancier Avenue
- Add bike racks at each entrance at Culp Avenue and Gray Drive

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Replace fall surface under playscape
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Repair foundation cracks at pavilion and repair shade structure.
- Repair tables at pavilion
- Add park rules signage
- Add a water fountain
- Add shaded benches around playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add barbecue grills
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Replace lighting with solar lighting (longer-term)
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park
- Add call boxes or security cameras to the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Add an integrated mini splash pad with seating and playscape areas
- Add lighting at basketball courts
- Identify opportunities to establish mobile interactive play near playscape
- Identify opportunities to hold movie nights and food truck events
- Add no mow / naturalized pollinator areas along the trails with signage
- Add a restroom near Culp Avenue
- Add exercise stations along trail; alternately a centralized outdoor fitness circuit
- Add wayfinding to the trail
- Remove trees in area near playscape to provide for an open play field
- Add interactive graffiti wall along trail

**PI26: Evaluate opportunities to improve Hunt Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Add three-way crosswalks at Mountain View Drive and Hunt Drive
- Add sidewalks along Mountain View Drive and Hunt Drive in the park to connect to dead ended sidewalks on abutting properties
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Add park slow down signs on Mountain View Drive (incremental)
- Add park slow down signs on Hunt Drive (incremental)
- Add crushed granite loop trail around park (incremental)
  - » Replace with concrete ADA lighted trail (longer-term)

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Add divider fencing along Mountain View Drive and Hunt Drive
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Repair cracks in concrete of the basketball court surfacing.
- Repair cracks in concrete of the sidewalk.
- Replace playscape ground material
- Replace metal slides at the playscape.
- Add lighted covered canopy over basketball court
- Add park rules signage
- Add a water fountain
- Add shaded benches around playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Replace lighting with solar lighting (longer-term)
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park
- Add call boxes or security cameras to the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Add no mow / naturalized pollinator areas along the trails with signage



**PI27: Evaluate opportunities to improve Fowler Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Add four-way crosswalks at West Fowler Avenue and South 2nd Street
- Add sidewalks along West Fowler Avenue and South 2nd Street in the park to connect to dead ended sidewalks on abutting properties
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Add park slow down signs on West Fowler Avenue (incremental)
- Add park slow down signs on South 2nd Street (incremental)
- Add crushed granite loop trail around park (incremental)
  - » Replace with concrete ADA lighted trail (longer-term)

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Add divider fencing along West Fowler Avenue and South 2nd Street
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Repair cracks in concrete of the basketball court surfacing.
- Repair cracks in concrete of the sidewalk.
- Replace playscape ground material
- Replace metal slides at the playscape.
- Add park rules signage
- Add a water fountain
- Add shaded benches around playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Replace lighting with solar lighting (longer-term)
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park
- Add call boxes or security cameras to the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Add no mow / naturalized pollinator areas along the trails with signage
- Add exercise stations along trail; alternately a centralized outdoor fitness circuit
- Replace the playscape
- Add lighted covered canopy basketball court
- Explore movies in the park

**PI28: Evaluate opportunities to improve Maxdale Park.**

*Accessibility*

- Add bike rack
- Upgrade park monument sign
- Add three-way crosswalks at Westwood Drive and Southhill Drive
- Add three-way crosswalks at Eastwood Drive and Southhill Drive
- Add park slow down signs on Eastwood Drive, Westwood Drive and Southhill Drive (incremental)
- Add crushed granite loop trail around park (incremental)
  - » Coordinate with KISD to determine feasibility of loop trail expansion onto KISD property
  - » Replace with concrete ADA lighted trail (longer-term)

*User Comfort / Safety*

- Add lighted covered canopy over basketball court
- Add shade canopy to the playscape
- Add park rules signage
- Replace surfacing of basketball court
- Regrade sidewalk to be ADA compliant
- Repair pavilion
- Repair playground
- Repair turf in open play areas
- Upgrade trash receptacle
- Repair washout on slope around the park sign.
- Add call boxes or security cameras to the park
- Add shade to the benches around the playscape
  - » Create a centralized group seating area with shade in proximity to playscape
- Add combined pet waste station w/ upgraded trash receptacle
- Add additional shade trees throughout the park

*Amenities and Activation*

- Add an integrated mini splash pad with seating and playscape areas
- Add solar lighting to the playgrounds and basketball courts
  - » Add a lighted cover pavilion
- Add no mow / naturalized pollinator areas in portions of the park with signage
- Coordinate with KISD to explore opportunity to establish a joint use running track; alternately, could consider a joint community garden/school garden/soccer field/football field/baseball field with backstop