

CHAPTER 2

KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM

2. KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM

CHAPTER 2 OF THE KINGSVILLE PARKS MASTER PLAN PROVIDES AN INVENTORY OF PARK SYSTEM PROPERTIES, FACILITIES, AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS. SUMMARY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 2 INFORMS THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS.

PARK PLANNING IN KINGSVILLE

Prior to the adoption of this Parks Master Plan, the following two (2) planning documents provided direction for park system development and operations in Kingsville:

- Comprehensive Master Plan for Development, Operation and Maintenance of Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Open Space 2007-2017 (2007) (Joint effort of Kleberg County and Kingsville)
- Kingsville Master Plan (2008) (The City's comprehensive plan)

These two (2) planning efforts were conducted in a context where all park land and recreation offerings in the city were being maintained and overseen by Kleberg County. Roles have changed since the adoption of prior parks and recreation plans. Kingsville is now responsible for the maintenance and administration of all park land and recreation offerings within the municipal limits. The City's responsibilities also include some park land that lies outside of Kingsville (e.g. L. E. Ramey Golf Course and Park). A new City/County agreement (executed in October 2014) commits the County to a \$550,000 transfer of funds to the City for the maintenance of all County-owned park property within Kingsville's planning jurisdiction.

Kleberg County is the principal owner of the majority of park land in the City of Kingsville. Still, the 2014 City/County maintenance and operations agreement grants the City full discretion in determining recreational services offered and fees charged for use of park facilities. Kleberg County maintains the ownership interest in the real property, buildings, fixtures, and equipment. **Figure 2.7: Kingsville, Existing Park Properties by Type** (page 27), distinguishes between City-owned and County-owned park properties which are subject to the recommendations of this Parks Master Plan.

PREVIOUS POLICY

Because prior comprehensive and park planning efforts were led by different jurisdictions, not all previous park system goals and park land acreage metrics were consistent (see facing page). Some inconsistencies can be explained by differences in planning area and organizational capacities. The 2007 City/County parks plan was developed for a larger service area with different park system characteristics. In contrast, the goals and recommendations from the 2008 Kingsville Master Plan are focused on issues related solely to a municipal parks system.

Past park planning efforts recognized the need for making the most of limited financial resources. The adoption of the 2014 City/County maintenance and operations agreement is one (1) obvious method by which both jurisdictions have attempted to implement previous park system goals.

A SURVEY OF CITY OF KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM PLANS

2008 KINGSVILLE MASTER PLAN

GOALS

- Improve the existing park standards and identify strategies for reducing the financial burden of ongoing park maintenance in existing or future parks.
- A balanced and wide variety of public parks, recreational areas, and open space in near proximity to all residents.
- Conservation and public enjoyment of natural resources.
- Incremental development of a complete community trail network.
- Coordinated and cooperative approaches to addressing the area's recreational needs and environmental conservation priorities.

PARKS PLAN

GOALS

- Kleberg County will work to increase the percentage of public parkland available to citizens by providing a system of public parks, recreational facilities, and open space to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the community and the quality of life and mental and physical well-being of Kleberg County's citizens, and to meet local adopted standards.
- Kleberg County will work to increase the availability of recreation opportunities for all citizens.
- Kleberg County will seek to implement this plan using both local and outside financial resources and expertise.

2007 KLEBERG COUNTY - CITY OF KINGSVILLE

FIGURE 2.1: 2008 KINGSVILLE MASTER PLAN, PARK ACREAGE RECOMMENDATION

Park Class	Target Acres per 1000 People	Low	High	Recommended
Community	3 to 5	77	128	103
Neighborhood	1 to 3	26	77	52
Mini	.1 to .3	3	8	6

FIGURE 2.2: KLEBERG COUNTY-CITY OF KINGSVILLE PARK LAND PARK ACREAGE RECOMMENDATION

Park Class	Target Acres per 1000 People	Recommended ¹
Community	2.5	65.9
Neighborhood	2.5	65.9
Mini	N/A	N/A

Based on population of 26,348 from ACS 2010-2015 year estimate

FIGURE 2.3: ASSESSMENT OF ACREAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Park Classification	Current Park Land Acres	2008 Plan Acres	2007 Plan Acres	Current vs. 2008 Plan Acres	Current vs. 2007 Plan Acres
Community	179.7	103	65.9	76.7 Surplus	113.8 Surplus
Neighborhood	16.1	52	68.9	35.9 Deficit	49.8 Deficit
Mini	.3	6	-	5.7 Deficit	-

SPATIAL LEVELS OF SERVICE

The use of park acreage metrics (as presented in **Figures 2.1** through **2.3** above) is not the sole method by which to assess whether or not a community's residents have access to a sufficient amount of park land and open space. A natural conclusion from the data above would be that future park land acquisition should focus on neighborhood parks as opposed to community parks. Kingsville however already has a relatively high number of neighborhood parks, but only a single large community park. The needs assessment contained in **Chapter 3, Needs Assessment** includes additional spatial measures to ensure that Kingsville's future park land acquisition targets place equal consideration on acreage, distribution, and accessibility.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

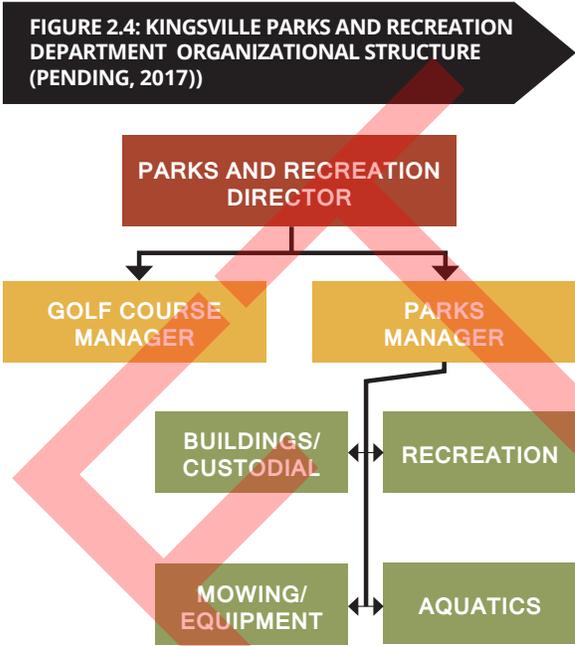
PARKS ADMINISTRATION

Since 2014, the City of Kingsville has assumed the role of overseeing and maintaining all park properties within its municipal planning area. The City inherited the de-facto organizational structure previously utilized by Kleberg County. That administrative structure has seen some changes - most significantly with the operation of the J.K. Northway Exposition Center being removed from the umbrella of the park system.

The City of Kingsville’s parks manager and golf course manager currently report directly to the city manager. By 2017, it is expected that both positions will report to a Parks and Recreation Department director. **Figure 2.4** shows the pending operational hierarchy of the Kingsville Parks and Recreation Department.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The City’s Parks and Recreation Department facilitates and sponsors recurring recreation programs and events. These offerings take place at City-maintained park facilities as well as facilities operated by other public or private organizations. Recurring programs and events hosted by the Kingsville Parks and Recreation Department are listed in **Figure 2.5: City-sponsored Programs and Events** (page 17). In addition to those activities listed below, the City hosts other “one-time” events at the properties it owns and maintains. For example, the City works with local law enforcement agencies and district attorney’s offices to support healthy family, anti-drug, and anti-bullying programs. The parks department also rents park facilities by reservation for private groups and organizations to hold meetings and events.



The addition of a Parks and Recreation Department to the City of Kingsville has the potential for a more responsive parks system and the opportunity for collaborative relationships with other City Departments. The new city hall building, located in the recently renovated H.M. King High School, illustrates City leadership’s commitment to upgrading municipal facilities.



ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

School districts provide recreational facilities to meet the needs of the students they serve. School recreation facilities - especially those provided at elementary school properties - are often accessed by local citizens when school is not in session (i.e. during weekends and evenings). The “extra-curricular” use of these facilities by the general public means that, while school facilities are not officially recognized parts of the public park system, they often meet latent community demand for recreational opportunities in locations that are close to their homes.

A number of the parks in the Kingsville park system are located adjacent or in close proximity to Kingsville ISD property. The Kingsville ISD has no formal policy endorsing or prohibiting the use of their athletic fields by local community members when school is not in session or being used by school sponsored teams. The adjacency of Thompson Park and Brookshire 1 Park to Kingsville ISD properties however, illustrate opportunities where the City and school district can benefit by inter-governmental agreements allowing for the shared use recreational facilities.

TAMUK

The Texas A & M - Kingsville (TAMUK) campus provides recreation facilities and programming for university students and staff. The City parks and recreation department has partnered with the TAMUK for facility access for a summer track program and City-supported swim program.

TAMUK is located on the northwest side of Kingsville. Access to public park/open space offerings for area residents at the neighborhood level is currently served by Corral Street Park or the TAMUK campus. There exist opportunities for additional partnerships with TAMUK through the development of joint facilities in the area, or through trail linkages between the university and surrounding residential areas.

FIGURE 2.5: CITY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS¹

Type	Program	Target Age	Location	Time of Year
Athletics	Swim Team	Youth	Brookshire Pool	Summer
Athletics	Summer Track	Youth	Javelina Stadium	May-July
Athletics	Kingsville Adult Softball League	Adult	Dick Kleberg Park	Spring-Fall
Aquatics	Open Swim	All Ages	Brookshire Pool	Summer
Special Events	Kingsville Kleberg Junior Live Stock Show	All Ages	JK Northway	January-February
Special Event	Professional Bull Riders Rodeo	All Ages	JK Northway	February
Special Event	St. Gertude's Angel Run 5k	All Ages	Dick Kleberg Park	February
Special Event	Pot of Gold 5K	All Ages	Dick Kleberg Park	March
Special Event	Cinco de Mayo Community Event	All Ages	Downtown	May
Special Event	Pinto Bean Festival	All Ages	Dick Kleberg Park	TBD
Special Event	La Posada de Kingsville	All Ages	Various Locations	December
Athletics	L.E. Ramey Golf Association	Adult	L.E. Ramey Golf Course	All Year
Special Event	Farmers Market	All	Downtown Garden and Pavilion	Fourth Saturday, All Year
Education	Youth programming with AgriLife Extension Kleberg Kenedy County	Youth	Various	Spring, Summer

¹This information was provided by city staff in 2016, there may be additional city sponsored programs and events in addition to those identified the above table.

RECREATION PARTNERS

Kingsville’s park system also hosts other community organizations that provide recreational programming. Many of these organizations - and their associated recreational services - are identified in **Figure 2.6: Kingsville Recreation Partners**. The City’s relationships with these organizations is typically defined by a fee-for-use agreement and/or routine maintenance agreement.

FIGURE 2.6: KINGSVILLE RECREATION PARTNERS¹

Organization	Type	Program	Target Age	Location	Time of Year
Kingsville Youth Soccer Organization	Athletics	Soccer	Youth	Dick Kleberg	Fall, Spring
Boys and Girls Club	Athletics	Baseball	Youth	Dick Kleberg	March-May
Boys and Girls Club	Athletics	Volleyball	Youth	B & G Facility	June-July
Boys and Girls Club	Athletics	Basketball (Winter)	Youth	B & G Facility	Nov.-Feb.
Boys and Girls Club	Athletics	Basketball (Summer)	Youth	B & G Facility	June-July
Boys and Girls Club	Athletics	Flag Football	Youth	B & G Facility	Aug.-Oct.
Boys and Girls Club	Athletics	Cheerleading	Youth	B & G Facility	Aug.-Oct.
Thunder Fast-Pitch Association	Athletics	Softball	Youth	Dick Kleberg	Spring-Summer
Kingsville Youth Texas Football League	Athletics	Football	Youth	Dick Kleberg	Fall
Santa Gertudis Academy High School	Athletics	Softball	High School	Dick Kleberg	Spring
Kingsville ISD	Athletics	Various	Middle and High School	Dick Kleberg	Fall-Spring

¹This information was provided by city staff and citizen survey responses in 2016, there may be additional recreational partners in addition to those identified the above table.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Community feedback is an essential element in developing the content and direction found of the Kingsville Parks Master Plan. Three (3) specific methods were used to ensure that public input was received at different points throughout the planning process. Those methods are: **A)** The Parks Advisory Committee (PAC); **B)** An on-line community survey; and, **C)** a public open house.

Input received through all three (3) public engagement methods has been used to generate a “demand-based” assessment of the Kingsville park system (see **Chapter 3, Needs Assessment**).

Your Opinion Matters! Please Take Our Online Community Survey!



Parks Master Plan Update

All who live in the Kingsville community are invited to take a survey for the future of parks in Kingsville!



Visit www.cityofkingsville.com/ or
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KingsvilleParksMasterPlan>
 to take our Online Survey before Sunday, July 31st, 2016

For more information please visit www.cityofkingsville.com or contact Susan Ivy, City of Kingsville (361) 595-8591



City residents express their park system preferences at a public open house.

Kingsville Parks Master Plan Open House

Public Input Sheet

(Board 8) Do the plan goals best reflect what's needed for Kingsville Park System? If you have comments or other preferences on plan goals elaborate below:

(Board 14) For neighborhood park you identified as needing the most improvements, please state your recommendations:

(Board 17) Which statement best reflects what should occur in Area A and Area B:

Area A: _____

Area B: _____

Other, please specify area: _____

General comment section, please reference board # when relevant:

Questions continue on backside of this page

Public input sheets completed at a September 2016 open house confirmed initial findings from the parks master plan on-line public survey.

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Parks Advisory Committee (PAC), was a citizen stakeholder group organized by City staff to provide oversight throughout the planning process. The fourteen-member PAC included representatives from local schools, youth organizations, civic foundations, and other community group liaisons. This group met three (3) times during the planning process. The PAC was responsible for providing input on the development of the Parks Master Plan goals, objectives, and implementation strategies.

ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Parks Master Plan on-line community survey was an instrumental component in quantifying the parks and recreation demand of the local community. The survey participation period extended from June 17 through July 31, 2016. There were 590 total survey respondents. The public was informed of the survey through word-of-mouth, from City staff and PAC members, informational fliers, and a social media outreach effort. Key survey findings are provided in **Chapter 3, Needs Assessment**.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

An open house was held in on September (XX) and was attended by (XX) residents. Attendees were asked to provide comments on plan goals and objectives, park system analysis, and preliminary recommendations on City park system enhancement. The public open house also provided an initial forum on public preferences related to detailed conceptual plans being developed for Dick Kleberg Park and Los Hermanos Flores Park (**Appendix ? and ?**).

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Organizing park land into a classification system is important for both the management and evaluation of the park offerings and services being rendered to the local citizenry. Park classifications identified in this plan are similar to those used in previous planning efforts. The Parks Master Plan follows standard national, state, and industry practices for evaluating and classifying park land. They include the following categories:

- Civic Space - These spaces are limited in their recreational use - serving as structured gathering spaces in urban and suburban areas. Often less than three (3) acres in size, these spaces include: greens, squares, plazas, and in some instances parkways.
- Local "Close to Home" Space - Local parks are usually integrated as a component of the neighborhoods, subdivisions, or developments of which the facility is intended to serve. The local park category includes the following park types: mini parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks.
- Regional Space - Regional parks are typically located within a one (1) to two (2) hour driving radius to the areas that they serve. Parks in this category serve a number of communities and may include: metropolitan, county, state, and even regionally-accessible national parks.
- Special Use Space - These parks may be either local or regional. They are defined as areas that are unique in some way - either because of the physical features of the park, or the types of facilities offered. Parks in this category may include: special interest parks, linear parks, nature preserves, sports complexes, botanical gardens, etc.

Six 6 Essential Public Benefits of Parks

	Health and Wellbeing		Involvement, Socialize		Safe Haven for Youth
	Increase Tourism		Contribute to Economy		Promote Conservation

Each type of park space contributes to a public parks and recreation system in different ways. The above symbols are used to express the most common benefits that each individual park type offers the general public. More information on the "Six 6 Essential Benefits" of parks can be found in **Chapter 1** (pages 2 and 3).



Kingsville's existing downtown civic spaces are suitable for small activities, but are not large enough to host major community festivals or events.

CIVIC SPACE

Civic Space: Public Benefits (described on page 20)



Principally located within historic city centers, or dense urban environments, formal civic space can serve as a community's 'front porch' - providing critical gathering and event space. Civic spaces differ from other park categories in that their function - outside of activities and events - is as a casual gathering space. Active recreational opportunities is not a priority in urbanized civic spaces. The presence of civic spaces provide important focal points in highly built environments.

GREENS

Greens are large lawns characterized by landscaping and trees planted in strong geometric fashion. Greens provide small amounts of space for un-programmed recreation. Greens may contain architectural structures such as gazebos, arbors, or pavilions, and pedestrian elements such as benches and seat walls.

SQUARES

Found at significant junctions and nodes, squares may provide for programmed space for organized and unstructured recreation. Additionally, these spaces are often utilized for activities such as open air markets, concerts, or even civil assemblies. Unlike greens, squares are fronted by roadways. Surrounding buildings may be used for civic purposes, but may also consist of other mixed land uses. Similar to greens, squares may contain lawns, trees, landscaping, architectural and pedestrian elements.

PLAZAS

Plazas may be found in civic, commercial, or even residential settings as dominant, celebrated intersections or peaceful neighborhood gathering spaces. Plazas are noticeably associated with building frontages and are typically paved. Landscaping and trees are optional, but when present provide shade or aesthetic function.

PARKWAYS

Are aesthetically landscaped areas adjacent to or integrated within the area street system. Parkway enhancements on prominent streets are used to bolster the community image. These areas are typically developed to incorporate seating elements, walking paths, and gathering areas. Parkway treatments are typically located in excess right-of-way or parallel greenways.



Opal Cochran Park's small size, location, and emphasis on landscaping features are characteristics that are typical of parkway elements and/or pocket parks.

LOCAL "CLOSE TO HOME PARKS"

MINI PARKS

In urban contexts, mini parks typically take the form of plazas, piazzas, court yards, and other formal spaces (similar to the previously described civic spaces). In suburban areas mini parks may also be referred to as a pocket park. They may take the form of small greens, trailheads, or even "tot-lots" equipped with small-scale play-scapes or other recreational elements. The utility of pocket parks can be enhanced when serving a dual purpose (such as a neighborhood trailhead) or incorporating a unique feature of relevance in the community.

Mini Parks: Public Benefits *(described on page 20)*



POCKET PARKS/PRIVATE RECREATION SPACES

A pocket park is a small green gathering space typically ranging from 1/8 acre to one (1) acre in size. Due to the size of a pocket park, parking is typically not provided or required. These parks are suburban in character and they are typically accessed by foot or bicycle. Benches, fountains, landscaping, playgrounds or other small recreation facilities are common items found in pocket parks. Meeting a size benchmark should not be a driving factor in pocket park development, but rather the quality of landscaping and other design features.

Pocket parks may often be privately provided recreation spaces associated with a residential subdivisions or apartment complexes. Development codes can dictate that private development construct and maintain these areas to specific standards. These parks may not sufficiently serve all users, and the compatibility of recreation offerings can be an issue, especially when considering young children. In a suburban context, this type of park classification may be better suited and served through private development - allowing the local government to focus on larger parks that provide a greater range in recreational opportunities and service to all users.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks should be within easy walking or bicycling distance to the neighborhoods, subdivisions, or developments they serve. This "proximity" requirement makes neighborhood parks the most prevalent type of municipal park.

Neighborhood parks provide amenities for an entire family and typically serve one (1) large or several small neighborhoods. Ideally, neighborhood parks serve a population of between 2,000 and 4,000 persons, and range from one (1) to 10 acres in size.

Neighborhood Park: Public Benefits *(described on page 20)*



The center median plantings and tree lined streets on the TAMUK campus are common parkway features.

The following additional factors also guide typical neighborhood park placement and design:

Accessibility - Neighborhood parks should be accessible within a 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile radius of residents. Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible without having to cross major streets.

Location - Neighborhood parks should be centrally located within the neighborhoods they serve. The park should also be bordered on at least two (2) sides by local or minor collector streets to allow for easy pedestrian and bicycle accessibility from adjacent residential areas.

Parking - Generally, a minimum of eight (8) parking spaces per new neighborhood park is recommended with an additional two (2) ADA accessible parking spaces per park. The exact amount will vary based on the size of the park, the availability of safe on-street parking, the facilities offered, and the number of users the park is designed to attract. On-street parking adjacent to the park provides a physical separation between the park and adjacent traffic, particularly along collector and arterial roads.

Facilities - Restrooms are not typically placed in neighborhood parks because they increase maintenance costs. (Neighborhood parks are ideally located within walking distance of a visitor's home.) Typical neighborhood park facilities may include:

- Playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing;
- Unlighted practice fields for baseball, soccer, and football, etc.;
- Unlighted tennis courts;
- Unlighted multi-purpose courts for basketball and volleyball;
- Open areas for unorganized play;
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables, and grills;
- Shaded pavilions or gazebos;
- Jogging and exercise trails; and,
- Security lighting

Design - It is important to design neighborhood parks that are unique in character, respond to the surrounding environment, and provide unique experiences for the park's users.

Neighborhood parks should be designed with programmed space - playgrounds, pavilions, basketball courts, etc. - clustered into an "active zone" within the park. These areas should be located along park edges, and accessorized with seating and shade to be hospitable year round.

Open/un-programmed neighborhood park space should be visible from activity areas, but should be clearly delineated through plantings or hard scape features such as looped trails, berming, landscaped edges, or decorative fencing.

The manner in which neighborhood parks integrate with surrounding land uses - residences, a school, a wooded area, etc. - is crucial to the quality of experience within the park. When a road borders the park, houses across the street should face the park. When houses must back up to a park, ensure that fencing between residential areas and the park is transparent wrought iron fencing (or similar) rather than wooden, tall, privacy fencing. Transparent fencing allows a softer transition between parks and residences with the added benefit of providing informal surveillance. When a park is constructed adjacent to a school ensure that the two (2) sites interact. Work with school districts to accommodate paved walkway connections between the school and the park.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are larger spaces which serve a group of neighborhoods or portion of a city. They are usually accessed by motor vehicle, but may also be accessed by nearby residents through walking or biking. A variety of recreational facilities may be provided within community parks including: playing fields (often lighted) for organized sports, hike/bike trails, and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other users.

Community Park: Public Benefits *(described on page 20)*



The typical community park should be large enough to provide multiple facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. A typical community park varies in size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.

Type - Community parks can provide both active and passive recreation areas. Active recreation typically includes high-intensity facilities such as lighted competitive game fields, recreation centers, and manicured vegetation. Passive recreation incorporates low-intensity uses such as hiking, picnicking, and free play. Passive recreation parks generally reserve a large amount of natural and un-programmed space.

Location - Community parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide for easy vehicular access. Due to the potential for noise and bright lighting (if lighted fields or facilities are included), community parks should also be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

Parking - Parking needs vary based on the facilities provided and the size of the park. Additional parking is needed to accommodate facilities, athletic fields, swimming pools, or other special uses. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum of five (5) spaces per acre with one (1) ADA compliant parking space per 25 standard spaces, with additional parking for added facilities. The specific amount of parking provided in a park should be determined by the facilities provided in each.

Facilities - Community park facilities typically include:

- Play equipment with adequate safety surfacing;
- Active free play areas;
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s);
- Restrooms;
- Jogging, bicycle or nature trails, sometimes lighted for evening use;
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events;
- Recreation center (if appropriate);
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park;
- Lighting for evening use; and,
- Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics.

Design - The overall design and layout of a community park is important to the final quality and timelessness of a community park, just as it is with a neighborhood park. Similarly, activity zones of programmed space are also important. Playgrounds, pavilions and sports courts make up one type of activity zone, while athletic fields, concession stands, and storage buildings make up another type. Providing shade by means of constructing amenable facilities near existing stands of trees is strongly recommended.

In community parks and other large parks, it is often desirable to delineate between activity zones and un-programmed areas by the use of natural features such as stands of trees or drainage corridors where available. This helps to break up the park visually and delineate space. Paved trails should connect these various areas with each other, as well as to provide walking/jogging loops for recreational use.

The interaction between a community park and surrounding areas is crucial to the quality of park experience. It is important that a community park is bordered by roadways, or by creeks or other natural areas. When development does border the park, treatments will differ based on land use and intensity. If development is residential, ensure that the fencing between the houses and the park is transparent. If the development is industrial in nature or otherwise aesthetically unpleasing, the border should be fenced and heavily planted with trees and shrubs to soften the edge.

As a final consideration, it is important to understand that active community parks can themselves sometimes be a nuisance if near residential neighborhoods. Bright lighting at night, excessive noise from cheering spectators, or the overflow of parking onto neighborhood streets can all become major issues. If an active community park is to be developed in close proximity to a neighborhood, it should be designed so that parking areas are not in close proximity to adjacent housing. Additionally, adequate landscape buffer should be present to provide visual screening and sound reduction.

REGIONAL SPACE

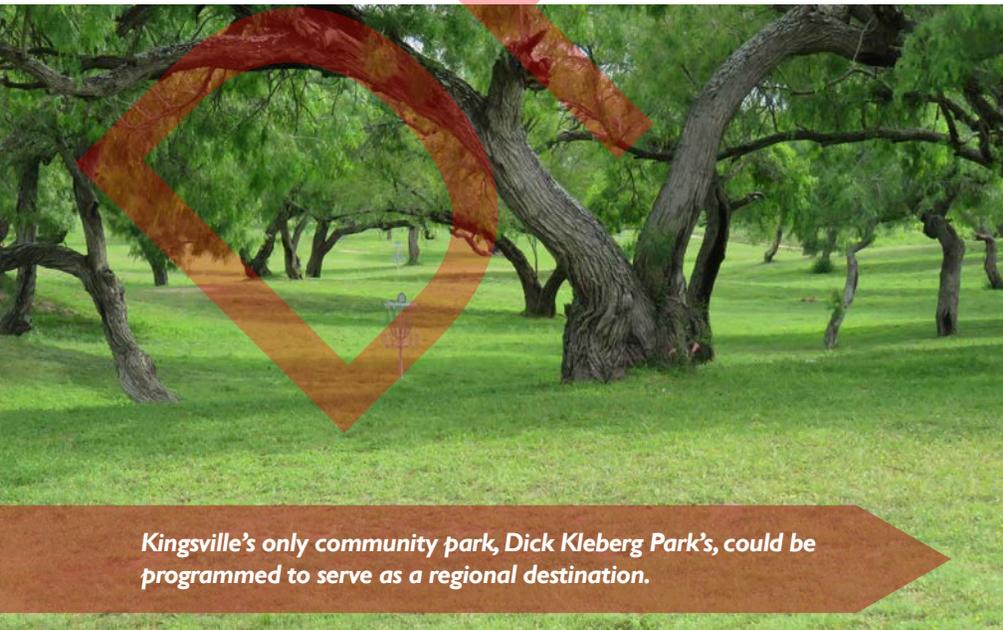
REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are intended to serve multiple communities or a larger geographic area. Regional park land is often dedicated as such due to its regional, state, or national importance or relevance. This may be due to its natural characteristics including habitat, geological formations, and/or aesthetic beauty. Other reasons may be the role that the particular site plays in issues of regional importance: e.g. historical memorial, habitat protection, or ecological service including water conservation and flood protection. The size of a regional park can vary from less than 10 acres to several thousand acres, depending on the purpose and character of the site. Regional parks are often under the ownership and control of a county or state government.

Regional Parks: Public Benefits (described on page 20)



Regional parks should be located near highways or major arterials to provide easy access from different parts of the region. Because of the potential for traffic, noise and bright lights, regional parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.



Kingsville's only community park, Dick Kleberg Park's, could be programmed to serve as a regional destination.

Special Use Spaces

Special use space accommodates particular or unique recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity are distinct, each special use park usually provides only one or a few activities. Examples of some of the recreational needs that may be exclusively served by a special use park include (but are not limited to):

- Athletic complexes;
- Swimming pool/aquatic centers;
- Tennis complexes;
- Skate parks;
- Dog parks;
- Golf courses;
- Natural area parks and nature preserves; and,
- Linear parks.

Special Use Space: Public Benefits *(described on page 20)*



Some types of special use parks are described in more detail on pages 25 and 26.

ATHLETIC COMPLEXES.

Provide fields for organized play in an area that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. Athletic complexes should include sufficient fields so that leagues can congregate at one facility and not dispersed to different locations across the community for competitive play. Evening activities at athletic complexes necessitate high-intensive lighting that can be a nuisance when the complex is located too close to residential areas. To address this, wide buffers should be placed around such complexes and/or they should be located adjacent to commercial or industrial areas.

NATURE PARKS AND PRESERVES.

Provide wildlife habitat, flood control, and places for passive recreation. These parks can vary greatly in size depending on the resources available, but are meant to have a city-wide service radius. The benefit and inclusion of places that are reserved as natural areas have been largely overlooked in many urban areas. Conservation and preservation are especially valuable as, over time, areas of natural habitat disappear from our urbanizing areas.

As un-programmed space, nature parks and preserves are largely self-maintaining. Maintenance is generally not a significant factor - other than to check for hazards or invasive plant species. Besides recreational and aesthetic opportunities afforded by natural areas, they also have huge economic value to society in terms of ecological services provided - functions such as water and air purification, carbon sequestration, flood control, pollination, air cooling, and positively effecting human health and well being.

OPEN SPACE

Open space refers to publicly or privately owned land that will typically remain undeveloped. The incorporation of open space as a component of new development can provide for overlapping community benefits.

Topographically constrained lands, such as wetlands and other flood prone areas, can serve a passive recreational need simply by offering places of solitude and views of natural habitat. Other physically constrained lands reflect infrastructure needs of the built environment such as storm water infrastructure (detention areas) and utility corridors, can provide circumstantial open space that may be informally used from time-to-time for recreational purposes.

The recreational benefit that can be derived from the natural and man-made open spaces referenced above can vary greatly. **Chapter 3, Needs Assessment**, includes parameters by which miscellaneous open space may be counted by the City of Kingsville in meeting the park land acreage objectives of the Parks Master Plan.

“SPECIAL INTEREST” PARKS.

Typically serve a unique or niche use such as a skate park, dog park, or some other park designed to accommodate a special recreational need. Similar to other cities the size of Kingsville, the park system may only accommodate one park of each special interest type (e.g. only one skate park per city). In the future however, demand from residents might be able to sustain greater numbers of each type of special interest park. Alternatively, special interest park facilities are commonly integrated into larger community or regional parks.

LINEAR PARKS.

Are park areas that generally follow a natural or man-made corridors such as creeks, abandoned railroad right-of-ways, drainage corridors, or utility easements. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, linear parks may link other parks, as well as schools, neighborhoods, civic buildings, and other major destinations. They should also serve to help preserve open space. No specific acreage standards apply to linear parks other than the park should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain.

MULTI-USE TRAILS.

Often found in linear parks, multi-use trail provide active and passive recreation as well as connections between parks and other destinations within a community. A multi-use trail system should be established to serve both recreation needs and as a means of active transportation. Such a system should provide each resident with quick and easy access to parks, retail, and employment areas.



Drainage channels are a type of open space meeting an infrastructure need. These areas could also serve a recreational purpose by supporting a network of multi-use trails, and linear parks where the channel reverts to a natural waterway.

Kingsville's neighborhood parks are well-distributed throughout the City's existing residential areas.

EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

A cursory review of Kingsville's existing park properties and facilities is necessary before any assessment or evaluation of service can be accomplished. The City of Kingsville's existing park lands and their corresponding locations are identified in: **Figure 2.7: Kingsville, Existing Park Properties By Type; Map 2.1, Kingsville Park Properties** (page 28) ; and **Map 2.2, Kingsville Park Properties, Core Area** (page 29).

Kleberg County owns the majority of park land in the City of Kingsville's park system. The park property owned by Kingsville is centrally located in close proximity to the City's residential neighborhoods - making them easily accessible by walking or bicycle. The largest properties in the City's park system - Dick Kleberg Park and L. E. Ramey Park - are located on the periphery of the community and are principally accessed by motor vehicle due to distances and roadway characteristics that make walking or bicycling unfeasible for most.

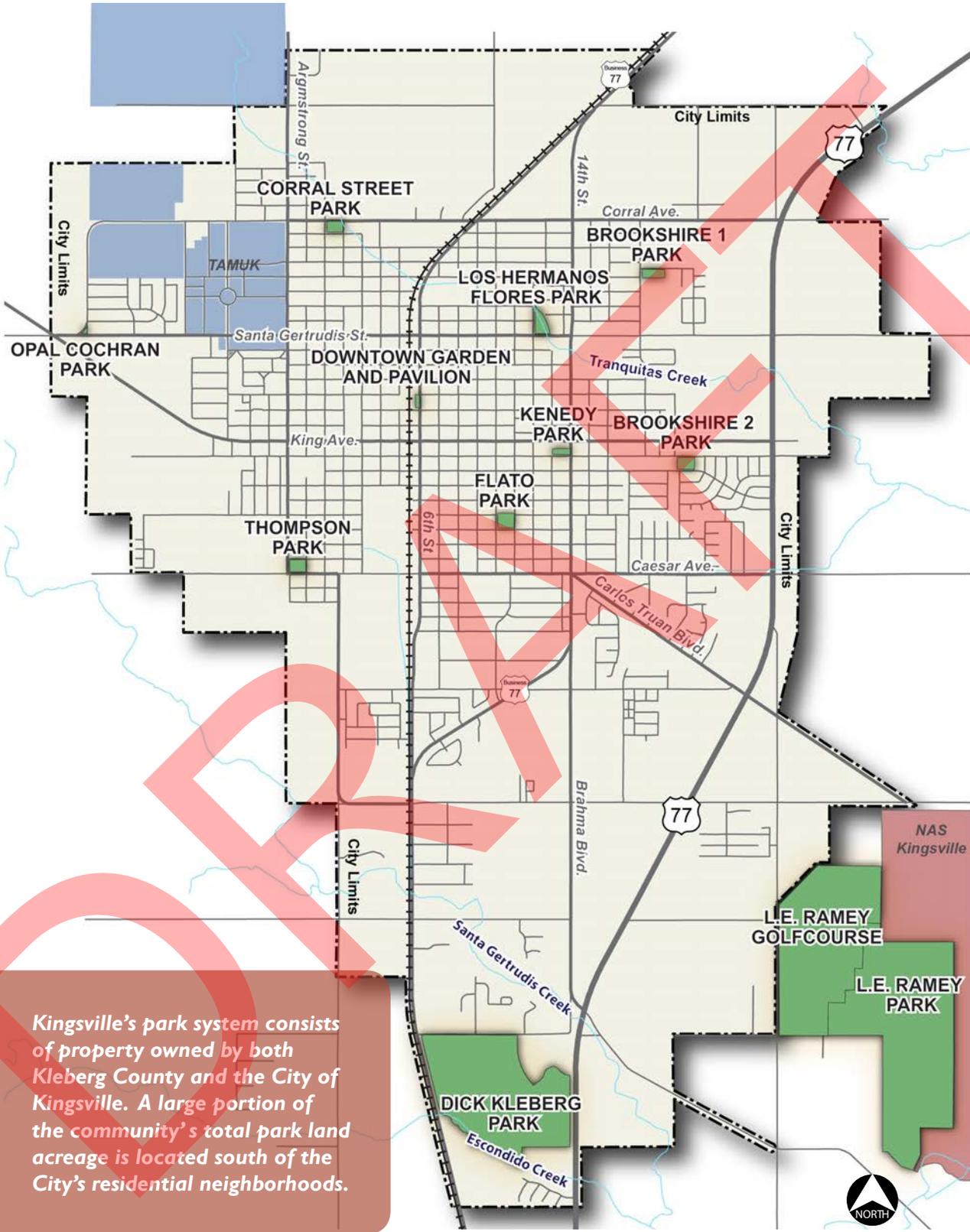
FIGURE 2.7: KINGSVILLE, EXISTING PARK PROPERTIES BY TYPE

Park Name	Park Classification	Owner	Area ¹ Acres
L.E. Ramey Golf Course	Special	Kleberg County	180.2
L.E. Ramey Park	Special	Kleberg County	252.0
Kleberg Park	Community Park	Kleberg County	179.7
Thompson Park	Neighborhood	City of Kingsville	2.8
Flato Park	Neighborhood	City of Kingsville	3.3
Kenedy Park	Neighborhood	City of Kingsville	1.4
Los Hermanoes Flores Park	Neighborhood	City of Kingsville	3.6
Downtown Garden and Pavilion	Mini Park	City of Kingsville	0.8
Brookshire I Park	Neighborhood	Kleberg County	2.6
Brookshire II Park	Neighborhood	Kleberg County	2.8
Corral Park	Neighborhood	Kleberg County	2.4
Opal Cochran Park ²	Mini Park/Parkway	City of Kingsville	0.3
Park Acreage Totals	City of Kingsville: 12.2 acres	Kleberg County: 619.7 acres	Combined: 631.9

¹ Information is based on parcel data from Kleberg County Appraisal District 2016.

² Opal Cochran Park has the characteristics of both a mini park and a parkway.

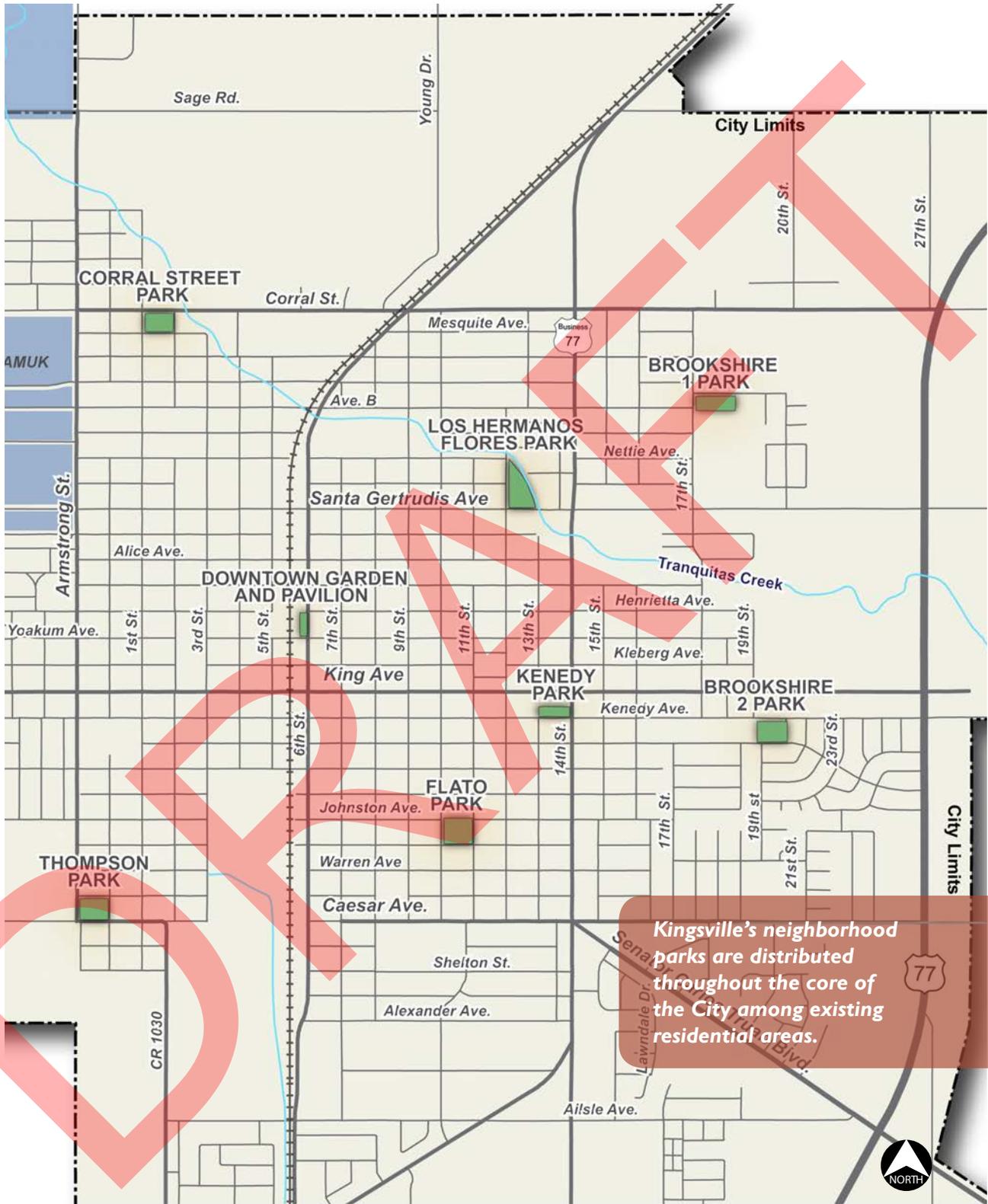
Map 2.1, Kingsville Park Properties



Kingsville's park system consists of property owned by both Kleberg County and the City of Kingsville. A large portion of the community's total park land acreage is located south of the City's residential neighborhoods.

Map Not to Scale.

Map 2.2, Kingsville Park Properties, Core Areas



DICK KLEBERG PARK

Dick Kleberg Park is the most popular park within the Kingsville park system. On April 25, 1958, Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Richard M. Kleberg Jr., trustees of the Alice G. Kleberg Foundation donated a large tract of land to Kleberg County. The park was named after Dick Kleberg Sr., a congressman and chairman of the board of King Ranch from 1950-1955.

The facilities within Dick Kleberg Park provide Kingsville residents with the widest range of possible recreational and athletic activities of all City-maintained park properties. Annual activities hosted at Dick Kleberg Park include organized sports and other special events promoted by both the City and various non-profit groups from the community. The park is adjacent to the J.K. Northway Exposition Center - which hosts events throughout the year - but is operated separately from the park system by the City's Tourism & Heritage Department. The exposition center's close proximity to Dick Kleberg park increases the park's potential to serve a regional audience.

FIGURE 2.8: DICK KLEBERG PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Baseball fields (5 with press boxes), lighted	6
Girls softball fields (1 with press box)	3
Adult softball field (1 with press box)	3
Soccer fields	8
Football field	1
Barbecue building	1
Community center	1
Basketball Court	1
Fishing Pier (currently in disrepair)	1
Walking Trail	1
Dog Park	1
Restrooms	3
Playground Areas	3
Disc Golf Course	1

L.E. RAMEY PARK

L.E. Ramey Park was founded by Dr. L.E. Ramey of Kingsville. In 1973, Dr. Ramey petitioned the federal government to acquire land located south of the Kingsville Naval Air Station. In response to the petition, the Navy donated 432 acres of surplus land to Kleberg County on March 16, 1973, for recreational use.

L.E. Ramey Park contains a golf course, trap and skeet range, and eight tennis courts. The trap and skeet range and tennis course have since ceased operational status.

FIGURE 2.9: L. E. RAMEY PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Tennis courts (not in use)	8
Skeet range (not in use)	2
Trap range (not in use)	2

L.E. RAMEY GOLF COURSE

The L.E. Ramey Golf Course was built on a portion of the land acquired by Dr. Ramey. With the help of his hired architect and PGA golfer, Tommy Aycock, Dr. Ramey designed a golf course to suit the needs of the Kingsville community. The golf course currently operates as part of the park system, but is independently run by a golf course manager. The golf course is an 18 hole facility which includes a club house, driving range, and putting green.



Brookshire #2 Park pool is the park system's sole aquatic facility.

BROOKSHIRE #1 PARK

Brookshire Park #1 was established on May 4, 1966 when the Kingsville Independent School District Board of Trustees donated 4.76 acres of land to Kleberg County at 17th Avenue and Avenue B. The County installed tables with shaded areas, swing sets, a slide, grills, and a basketball court. The park was named after B.C. and Addie Brookshire. The Brookshire family donated money and land for the welfare of children through the Brookshire Foundation. The foundation continues to support projects and activities that involve children to this day.

FIGURE 2.10: BROOKSHIRE #1 PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Basketball court	1
Playground	3
Barbecue grill	5

BROOKSHIRE #2 PARK

The Kingsville Independent School District donated 3 acres of land east of A.D. Harvey Elementary School grounds (20th Street and Kenedy Avenue) on January 16, 1969. Brookshire #2 has a swimming pool equipped with diving board and seating facilities. This park also contains swing sets and monkey bars. At this time, the Brookshire pool serves as Kingsville's only public swimming pool during the summer. B.C. and Addie Brookshire contributed generous sums of money to help fund construction of the pool. The Brookshire Foundation continues to support ongoing pool maintenance needs.

FIGURE 2.11: BROOKSHIRE #2 PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Basketball court	1
Barbecue grill	1
Pool and bath house	1
Playground area	1

CORRAL STREET PARK

R.M. Kleberg and Robert J. Kleberg Jr., executors of the estate of Alice G. Kleberg sold 2.4 acres of park land at West Corral Street and 1st Street to the City of Kingsville on December 23, 1947. The City of Kingsville maintained Corral Park until June of 1973 when it donated the property to Kleberg County. This park is unique in that it includes a fitness path with exercise stations.

FIGURE 2.12: CORRAL STREET PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Basketball court	1
Playground area	1
Barbecue grill	1
Fitness path with exercise stations	7 stations

KENEDY PARK

The Kleberg Town and Improvement Company sold 1.4 acres of land at 14th and Kenedy Streets to the City of Kingsville on November 10, 1944. Kenedy Park was named after Captain Mifflin Kenedy. Captain Kenedy was a King Ranch founder and Captain King's business partner. This park has been dedicated by the City of Kingsville for development of a community garden, which is no

FIGURE 2.13: KENEDY PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Playground Area	1
Landscape Garden	1

LOS HERMANOS FLORES PARK

On March 24, 1956, Filiberto and Delfina C. Garcia donated 3 acres of land to the City of Kingsville at 12th and Santa Gertrudis Streets. The City of Kingsville later named this park in honor of two (2) brothers who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. Los Hermanos Flores Park is a very colorful and beautiful park. Flores Park offers a lighted basketball court, picnic areas, water fountain, playground areas, gazebo and a small covered pavilion. The park is used to host celebrations each year for Diez y Seis de Septiembre and for Cinco de Mayo.

FIGURE 2.14: LOS HERMANOS FLORES PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Basketball court, lighted	1
Playground Area	4
Barbecue Grill	5
Covered gazebo	2
Restrooms	1

FLATO PARK

On January 3, 1924, the Kleberg Town and Improvement Company sold the City of Kingsville 2.75 acres of land at the corner of 11th Street and Johnston Avenue. The City used this land to build a neighborhood park known as Flato Park. The park was named after Charles Flato, Jr., who was the first developer in Kingsville and helped found the Kingsville Lumber Company and the Kleberg Bank. He was related to Robert Kleberg of the famous King Ranch family.

2.15: FLATO PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Basketball court, lighted	1
Playground area	3
Barbecue grills	5
Pavilion	1

THOMPSON PARK

Thompson Park was established on August 7, 1943 at S. Armstrong and Caesar Streets. The Kleberg Town and Improvement Company sold the City of Kingsville 2.8 acres of land to be used for a neighborhood park. The park was named after Will Thompson, a prominent African American businessman in Kingsville. The park has several other dedications to prominent African American Kingsville residents. The park hosts celebrations each year for Black History Month and for Juneteenth Freedom Day.

The park contains two (2) large play structures, several picnic areas, a large barbecue pit, and popular location for hosting family gatherings, birthday parties and weekend barbecues.

FIGURE 2.16: THOMPSON PARK FACILITIES

Facility	Count
Basketball Court	1
Playground Area	2
Barbecue Grill	4
Pavilion with barbecue smoker	1
Restroom	1

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The review of existing City park facilities, and previous planning efforts yield a handful of consistent themes. The following observations are combined with the park system assessment methodologies referenced in **Chapter 3, Needs Assessment**, to generate the final recommendations contained in the subsequent chapters of this plan:

- Kingsville's neighborhood parks provide park land access within walking distance to a number of existing residential neighborhoods.
- Many of the existing neighborhood parks include standard recreation offerings - such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and barbecue grills - that support family visits.
- Size constraints at most City neighborhood parks make organized athletic play unfeasible (except for sports courts).
- Opportunities for partnerships with adjacent school district campuses could result in more active recreation space in close proximity to neighborhood parks (particularly, for a greater distribution of athletic fields).
- Creeks and other drainage ways provide an opportunity for increased park access without requiring the addition of park land in established neighborhoods.
- The City has no regulatory tool to enable park land acquisition as part of new development.
- There are opportunities for additional downtown gathering spaces to serve as a community focal points and to facilitate large events.
- There exists an opportunity to incorporate additional water features in City parks to increase utilization.
- There are opportunities to incorporate "special interest" facilities in some City park properties (i.e. skate park, dog park, pump track, etc.) which may cater to teens or other user groups.
- Dick Kleberg Park may serve a regional audience depending on the level of investment dedicated to facility upgrades.

Neighborhood parks in Kingsville, such as Thompson Park, are popular destinations for weekend picnics and barbecues. Opportunities exist to add unique recreational facilities to neighborhood park land to increase utilization.

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