



CHAPTER 3

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

3. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CHAPTER 3 OF THE KINGSVILLE PARKS MASTER PLAN IS THE ANALYTICAL ELEMENT OF THE PLANNING PROCESS WHERE ACTIONABLE ITEMS ARE DERIVED. THIS CHAPTER WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS IN RELATION TO THE CONDITIONS OF CURRENT FACILITIES AND OFFERINGS. AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM'S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY PREFERENCES, WILL BE IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFYING THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE VALUED ENHANCEMENTS TO THE CITY'S PARK SYSTEM AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment utilizes three (3) methodologies to evaluate Kingsville's current and future park needs. These techniques follow methodologies accepted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for local park master plans:

- **Demand-Based Assessment** - This technique uses growth data and citizen input to determine actual and/or anticipated park system usage, and to recommend suitable recreational facilities and programs to meet existing and latent demand.
- **Standard-Based Assessment** - This technique uses locally-developed level of service ratios to compare park land and recreational facilities to existing and projected population. The assessment method identifies park land and facility benchmarks to which the City should aspire to maintain or improve its public park system.
- **Resource-Based Assessment** - This technique recognizes that each community has prominent or unique physical features, and explores how to convert them into recreation or open space assets that help meet local recreational demand.

All three (3) methods are important in their own regard, but individually do not represent the entire picture. This assessment uses the cumulative findings of all three (3) methods to determine the types of recreation facilities and park requirements which are needed in Kingsville

DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

A parks system needs to reflect the desires of those who will be using the facilities. Community input is instrumental in creating the needed consensus and support for the initiatives and funding that make parks and recreation projects a reality. Collecting individual opinions from the entire community would be ideal, but that is not practical as the planning effort is limited by both the time and resources needed to make that happen.

As citizen input is an extremely important component to defining the community needs of a park system, three (3) different approaches were used to garner feedback. These input methods used were stakeholder and PAC interviews, an on-line public survey, and a public open house. All of these methods provide excellent insight into understanding the local demands on system use, programming, and facility needs for the park system.

STAKEHOLDER AND PAC INTERVIEWS

Stakeholder meetings were convened to gather feedback on existing conditions of the parks as well as individual preferences. The stakeholder interviews provided a forum for organizations that are currently using and engaged in the park system to voice their thoughts and concerns. Stakeholder interviews were coupled with the initial meeting of the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) described in Chapter 2 (page 19).

Stakeholder and PAC interview sessions identified key elements and themes about the Kingsville park system. The items with the most consensus were:

- Maintenance. The deteriorated condition of park facilities is currently the primary issue defining the park system.
- Water activities. There was an expressed desire for water activities. The emphasis was specifically for splash pads in the near term, but long term there was a desire for something more substantial.
- Trails. While there are a few walking paths in certain parks, trails linking neighborhoods and parks are desired. There is support for a city-wide trail system.
- Dog Park. The development of a formal space for a dog park with appropriate offerings was desired.
- Sports Fields. Outside of soccer fields, improvement to the current condition and offerings of sports fields was desired.

Additionally, stakeholders noted that Kingsville receives visitors for a variety of reasons and City parks must be attractive and include amenities that would be valued by visitors. Stakeholders also voiced that they want City parks to promote the area's natural assets. One example identified was through capitalizing on attractions such as bird watching, which is known to be a popular activity among visitors to the region.

As a whole, many stakeholders were somewhat hesitant to commit to a specific idea or topic as a "game changer," as they desired to see an overall improvement to the park system before significant additions should be considered.

ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

A public survey was distributed to better understand citizens' perceptions of the City of Kingsville's parks and recreation system. The survey lasted from the middle of June through the end of July, 2016. The survey was promoted via flyers, word of mouth, and a City-led social media outreach.

Of the survey's 590 participants, 67.2 percent were females and 32.8 percent were males. Based on age, the largest cohort of respondents was the age group of 19-34 at 30.5 percent, with the next largest group being the 35-44 age group at 28.4 percent.

Over 76 percent of survey respondents identified Dick Kleberg Park as their favorite, followed by L.E. Ramey Park/Golf Course (6.0 percent). Of the seven (7) remaining neighborhood parks, no park garnered more than five (5) percent of survey responses for being a favorite park.

As the results might suggest, Dick Kleberg Park is the prominent park of the Kingsville park system. While Dick Kleberg Park was intended to receive a fair amount of attention throughout the planning process, the input by survey respondents reinforces this approach.

Pages 38 through 42 contain a series of key survey results that have helped to inform the demand based assessment. The results of the survey are used to support the park system recommendations found in **Chapter 4**.



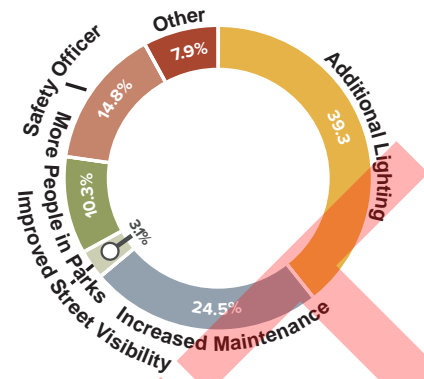
Stakeholder meetings, which occurred early in the planning process, revealed themes that guided the needs assessment analysis.

Top Five Recreation Activities

1. Walking/Hiking on Trails
2. Festivals
3. Swimming
4. Playing on Playground
5. Fishing

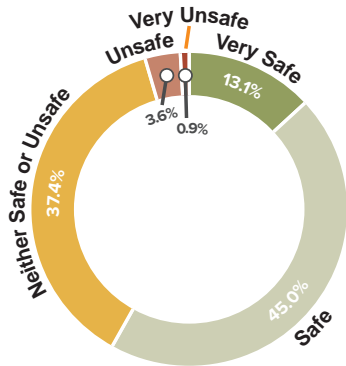
Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

Making Parks More Safe



Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

Safety of Parks



Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

How safe do you feel while in Kingsville parks?

Respondents made it clear that safety concerns are not a major issue within the City parks system, as close to 60 percent stated the parks were either safe or very safe. A small portion of respondents - just under 5 percent - felt parks were unsafe or very unsafe. While the Kingsville park system is viewed as predominately safe, there is still room to improve safety and the perceptions of safety in City parks.

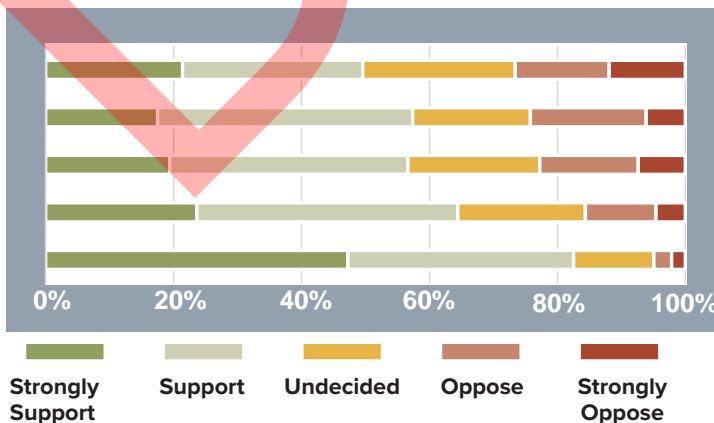
What would make you feel safer in Kingsville parks?

In addressing the safety concerns of survey respondents, "additional lighting" was viewed as the most common item that would help make parks more safe. Park maintenance was identified as the second most important issue to help improve safety in the parks. Park maintenance has also been identified as an area of focus by stakeholders to help improve park perceptions.

How strongly would you support or oppose the following financial strategies?

There is relatively high support for increases to funding mechanisms for parks. Support exceeds the 50 percent mark for fee increases to utilize park facilities and programming. Only a quarter of survey respondents were opposed to the idea of raising taxes to pay for a parks bond. Over 80 percent of survey respondents support an increase to the Parks Department annual budget.

Support for Park Department Funding Increases



- Tax increase to fund bond issuance.
- Increase rental fees for park facilities.
- Increase fees for recreation programming.
- Increase fees for special recreation facilities/athletic complexes.
- Increase the Department's annual budget.

Performance vs. Importance Assessment Matrix.

This type of survey mechanism solicits survey respondents views on the City's performance in providing park facilities/recreation activities. Respondents were asked to rank a list of park facilities/recreation activities based on its importance versus the City performance in providing them. Combined answers are then plotted against each other to create the chart below. The chart's quadrants group park facilities/recreation activities into four (4) categories:

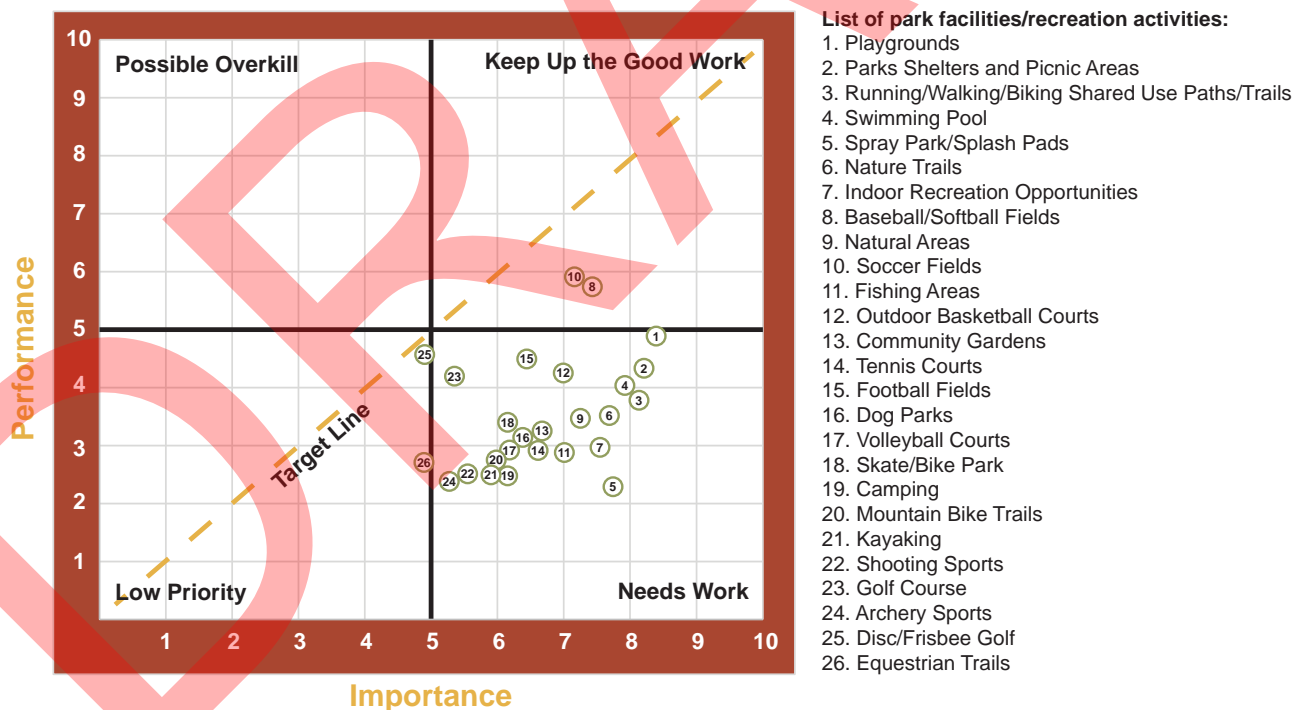
- Keep up the good work category identifies park facilities/recreation activities where the City's ability to provide the park facility/ recreation activities closely matches the strong community desire.
- Needs work category highlights where the city is under-performing in providing a park facility/recreation activity compared to community demand.
- Possible overkill category includes park facilities/recreation activities provided by the city that significantly exceed the community desire for them.
- Low priority category includes park facilities/activities where city provision is low, but so is community demand.

The 'target line' included in the figure is a barometer that represents consistency between the City's provision of a park facility or recreational activity and community expectations.

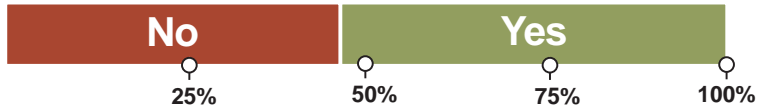
Park facilities/recreation activities as listed below in accordance with their importance identified by survey respondents. A majority of the items listed are found in the "Needs Work" quadrant, reflecting previously identified statements by stakeholders about the need to improve the existing park system offerings.

Spray parks/splash pads, which the city currently does not have in the parks system, is a park facility that is farthest from the target line. This suggests that spray park/splash pads should be a priority recommendation of this planning effort. Other elements such as playgrounds, park shelters, pools, and trails are highly important elements that should be a point of focus in the plan recommendations.

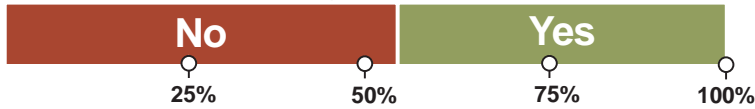
Performance versus Importance Assessment



Do You Go Outside Kingsville for Recreational Activities?



Are the Majority of Your Recreational Needs Met through a Private Provider?



Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

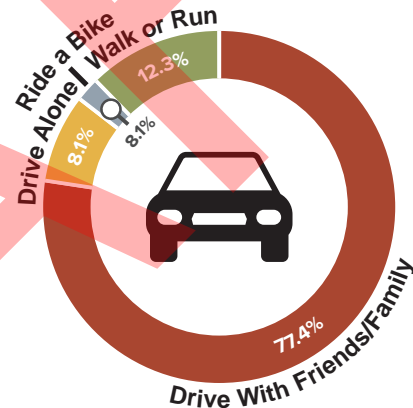
If you are going to go to a Kingsville park, you are most likely to....

Survey respondents clearly stated that the main way they access parks is via the automobile. Their responses also indicate that people are typically going to the park in group settings. Access to parks via bicycle is very minimal, with only 2.2 percent of respondents stating they are most likely to ride a bicycle to the park. Some of the explanation for the high driving rates is likely related to the popularity of Dick Kleberg Park and its location south of a majority of the City's residential neighborhoods. The distance between these residential neighborhoods and Dick Kleberg Park makes bicycling or walking less feasible.

Accessing Recreation.

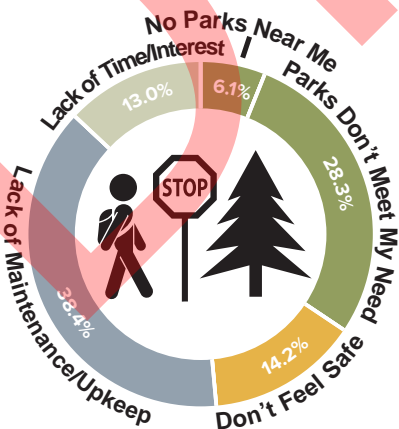
While a majority of survey respondents occasionally leave the Kingsville community to address some of their recreational needs, a large percentage of respondents either choose not to or are unable. In addition, more than half of the community is likely to rely on the City to meet at least some of their recreational needs.

How Do You Get to the Park?



Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

What Keeps You from Going to the Park?



Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

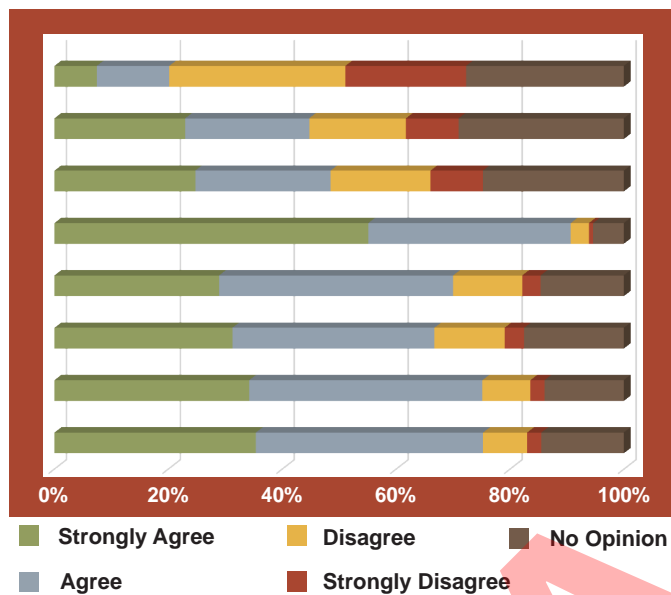
What is keeping you from using Kingsville parks and recreation facilities more?

Only 6.1 percent of respondents felt that proximity of park was an issue that kept them from going. This means there is likely a high perception that Kingsville has provided park land in a manner that is highly accessible. The most common reason identified by survey respondents for not utilizing City parks is the lack of maintenance/upkeep. Another prominent reason for not utilizing City park facilities or programs was that current park offerings don't meet the needs of survey respondents.

Responses to trail statements.

Survey respondents made it clear that trails are an important part of the future of the Kingsville parks system. There was overwhelming support for trails to be located in close proximity to residences. Survey respondents also stated their preference for trails over on-street bicycle facilities.

Survey Responses to statements About Trails and Bicycling

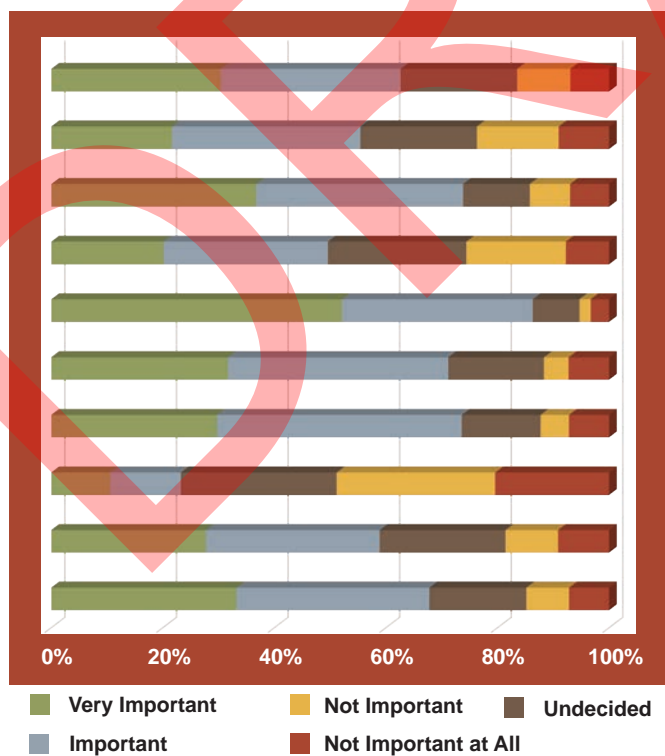


I'd prefer to ride bike on-street instead of trail.
 I'd let my kid bike to school on trails if available.
 I'd bike to work if trails or bike lanes made a route.
 Trails should have amenities, such as benches.
 I'd use exercise stations along trail.
 I'd prefer soft surface trails like crushed granite.
 Trails near were I live
 As alternative means of transportation.

How important are the connections to community locations.

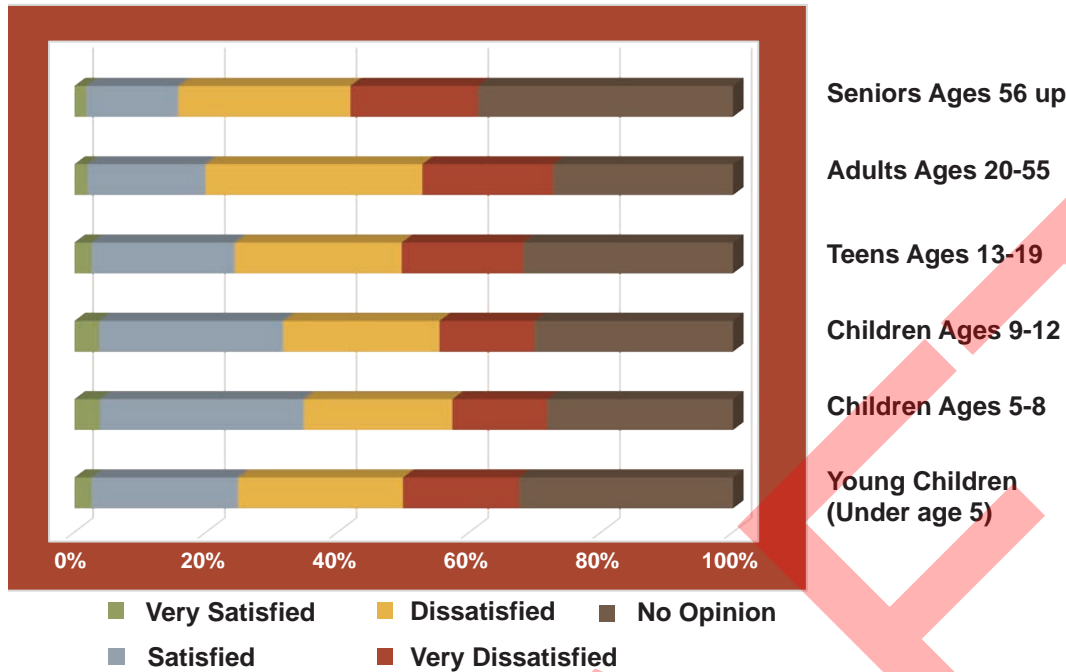
Survey respondents thought it was very important to connect trails to park locations. Overall responses indicated that a trails system should connect most areas of the Kingsville community. This type of community feedback lends support to the need for establishing a city-wide trails network.

Trails Should Connect to...



Swimming Pools
 Shopping Areas
 Schools
 Restaurants
 Parks
 Other Trails
 Nearby Neighborhoods
 Golf Courses
 Employment Areas
 Downtown

Satisfaction with Athletic or Other Recreational Programming



Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current athletic or other recreational programming in Kingsville?

Survey results show that recreational programming satisfaction is lacking for all age groups. The group with the lowest level of satisfaction in recreational programming is seniors aged 56 and above. The highest satisfaction level is for the age group of 5 to 8 which is followed closely by the 9 to 12 age group.

Greatest need for athletic or other Recreational programming

1. Teen Ages 13-19
2. Children Ages 9-12
3. Children Ages 5-8
4. Young Children, under 5
5. Adults Ages 20-55
6. Seniors Ages 56 up

Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

Which age groups has the greatest need for athletic or other recreational programming?

Survey results identify that the 3-19 age group has the greatest need for recreational programming options. The age group with the lowest need for recreational programming is 56 and up, which had the lowest satisfaction rates for recreational programming.

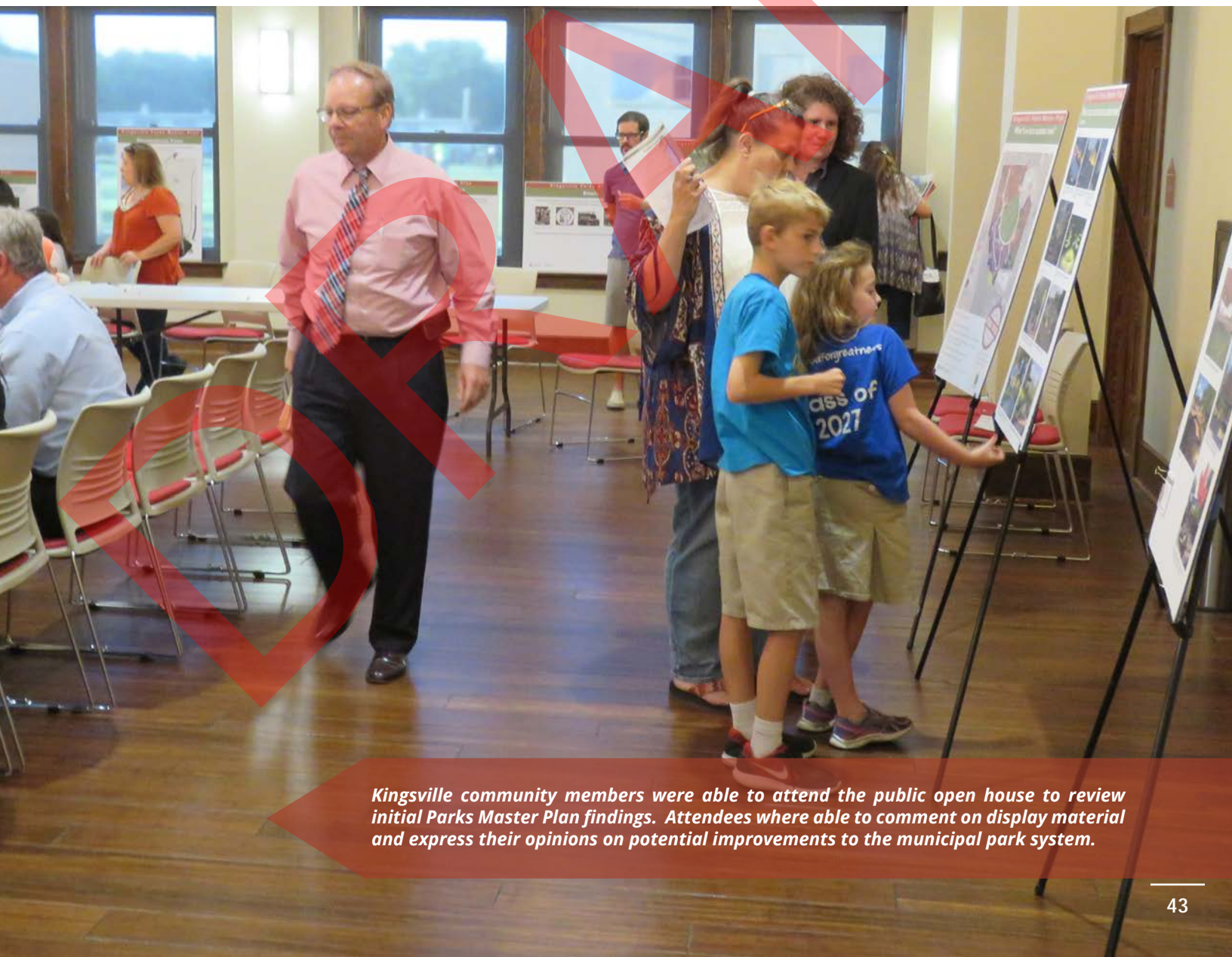
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

A public open house in September 2016 was conducted to engage the community during the park planning process. The open house was used to showcase some of the findings from the on-line public survey and the proposed goals for the Master Plan. The public open house featured a series of over 20 display boards with information related to the Master Plan.

The open house provided an opportunity to solicit feedback through attendee evaluations and comments about information found on the display boards. The boards included opportunities for attendees to identify their preferences on park facilities and recreation opportunities, and on specific prompts about the park system. Additionally, attendees were asked questions about Dick Kleberg Park as a means to provide guidance for subsequent conceptual site plans for Dick Kleberg Park.

Key findings from the public open house include:

- Maintenance and improvements to existing park land is a priority, as opposed to expanding the park system with additional parks.
- A trail system has strong support. Walking and exercise trails located within the parks are also a high priority.
- Strong sentiments for the improvement and increased offerings for aquatic facilities, including both pools for swimming and splash/spray pads as a means to “beat the heat.”
- Desire for a plaza space to compliment downtown shopping and dining opportunities.



Kingsville community members were able to attend the public open house to review initial Parks Master Plan findings. Attendees were able to comment on display material and express their opinions on potential improvements to the municipal park system.

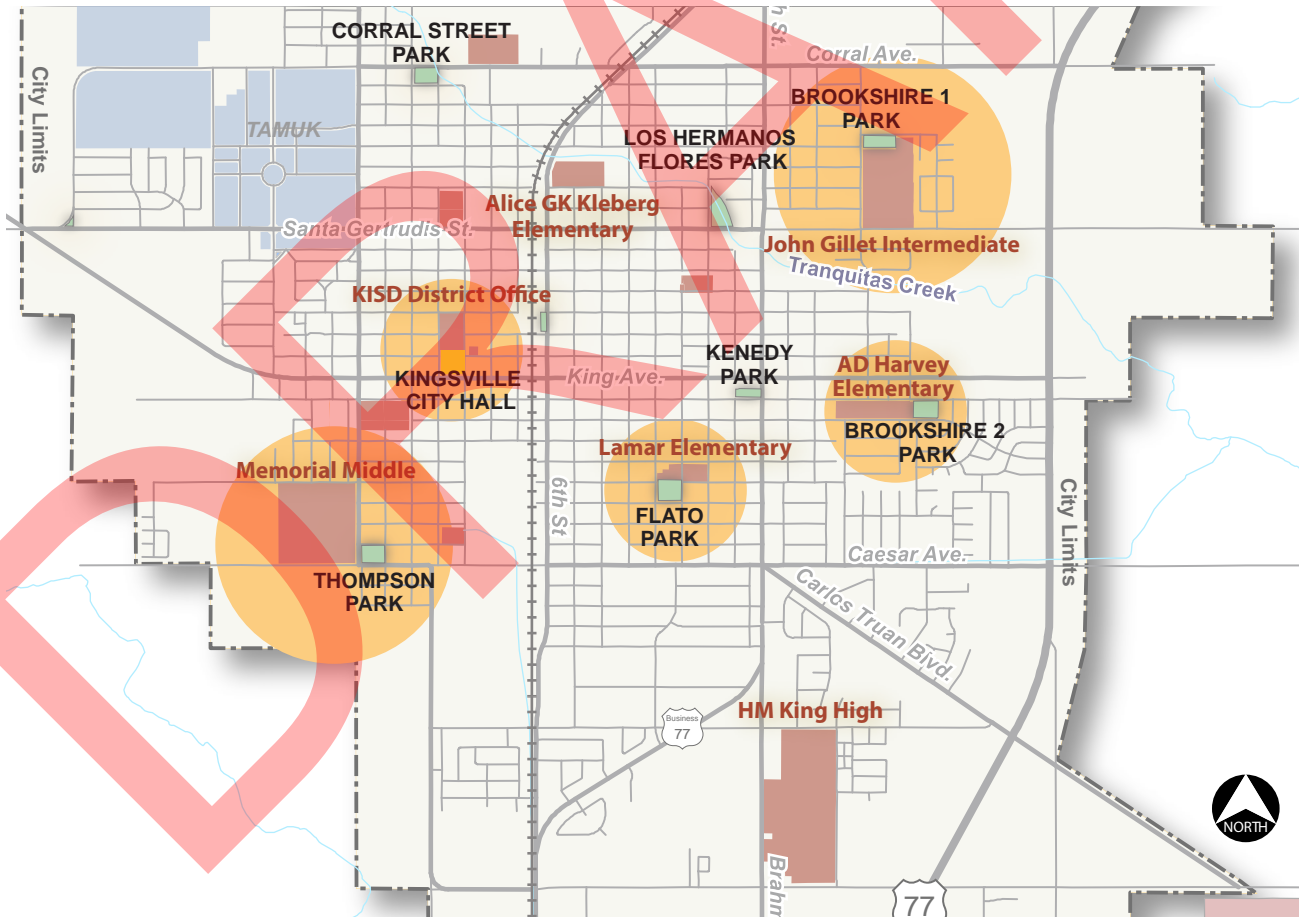
RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Resource-based assessment looks at the inherent opportunities afforded to a community by natural areas or amenities, the characteristics of the built environment, and local partnerships. The resource-based assessment contains elements that are unique to the local community. The use of the resource-based assessment has the potential to highlight underutilized or overlooked elements to enhance the park system offerings without the need for intensive capital projects that include acquisition of new property. In the instances where property acquisition is unavoidable, this type of assessment can assist in the development of recommendations of where investments in the park system can be maximized.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS

In many cities the largest land owners are very likely to include both the City itself and the local school district. The Kingsville Independent School District (KISD) is the primary public school district serving the City of Kingsville. While there are other school districts and school systems in the Kingsville community these schools are not located in close proximity to the properties within the Kingsville park system. KISD schools and City parks are both strategically located next to the residential neighborhoods they are intending to serve - and are often on adjacent sites. To leverage this relationship the City and KISD should examine partnership opportunities in meeting the recreational demands of the community while being good stewards of the resources afforded to them. These potential relationships are identified in **Figure 3.3, School District Properties and Park System Relationship** and are discussed in more detail on pages 45 and 46.

FIGURE 3.3: SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTIES AND PARKS SYSTEM RELATIONSHIP



Map Not to Scale.

Memorial Middle School/ Thompson Park



Memorial Middle School.

Thompson Park is a 2.8 acre park that has an exceptional canopy of mesquite trees and is located across the street from Memorial Middle School. It does however lack lawns or fields for recreational sports. The park itself is not large enough to accommodate the addition of sport fields. The Memorial Middle School grounds include a large amount of non-programmed open space. This excess space would be an opportunity for the parks and recreation department to use City resources to improve field space that could be used for athletic practice fields or free play. Some of the improvements that would make the space more functional include irrigation, backstops, parking, tree plantings, seating, and shade structures.

John Gillett Intermediate School/ Brookshire 1 Park



John Gillett Intermediate.

Brookshire 1 park is another park that is relatively small in size at 2.6 acres. For some of the parks visitors it likely feels much larger as it has open borders with the adjacent John Gillett Intermediate School. Like Thompson Park, much of Brookshire 1 Park is already programed with existing recreation facilities. It currently lacks a lawn or field space that park visitors would use for certain recreational activities. Using the school's adjacent property to provide fields for formal or informal sports use, would allow for existing space in the park to be improved with landscaping, tree plantings, picnic structures, and possible a signature element to the park (like a bicycle pump track).

KISD District Office / Kingsville City Hall



KISD District Office.

A lawn space between the new Kingsville City Hall and the KISD district office affords the opportunity to create a type of civic space that can be used for community gatherings and informal recreation. The open field is currently used by area residents for unstructured recreation and by youth sports leagues as practice space. At approximately 1.5 acres in size, it would be ideal for a civic space such as a 'green'. An old gymnasium occupies part of the space, but it will likely be demolished as the cost of renovation is not considered feasible.

Lamar Elementary School.


The opportunity for partnerships is likely limited at Flato Park as current park and school facilities occupy much of both of the existing spaces. Regardless, opportunities for joint use of parking and playground equipment make cooperation between the two (2) sites a possibility. A long term vision for the park and the school grounds may include increased play space by removing the alley and relocating the schools portable buildings that are near the park.



A.D. Harvey Elementary School.

The A.D. Harvey School Building and its staff parking lot are located between Brookshire 2 Park and the open field area owned by KISD. This visual and physical barrier reduces the practicability of a joint partnership for adding and maintaining park facilities to increase the Brookshire 2 Park's offerings. Brookshire 2 Park is currently home to the only pool in the park system, because of this it is a relatively popular part of the park system. If the pool there were to be expanded there is the potential for a joint parking agreement as peak pool use occurs when school is not in session. This partnership would be valuable as Brookshire 2 Park's small size has limited space for adding substantial recreation or aquatic elements.





The topography and width of the Tranquitas Creek corridor at Los Hermanos Flores Park allows for the development of a multi-use trail.

CREEKS, FLOODPLAINS, AND DRAINAGE CORRIDORS

The City of Kingsville's creeks, floodplains, and drainage corridors provide opportunities to serve as important community linkages and provide natural aesthetic qualities to be integrated into Kingsville's park system. These corridors are identified on **Map 3.1, Creeks, Floodplains, and Drainage Corridors** (page 48). Key criteria in the preservation of creek and drainage corridors include:

- Preserve the larger of the 100-year floodplain or strive to maintain a 300 foot wide corridor along undeveloped or underdeveloped creek areas.
- Ensure flood control and recreation opportunities by preventing unrestricted encroachment and destruction of the vegetative areas along creeks and their tributaries.
- Acquire and preserve drainage systems that can create linkages to adjacent neighborhoods. Preserve more than just the minimum for drainage purposes.
- Acquire land that is regularly subjected to flooding, remove all improvements, and restore the flood area to a healthy and functional ecosystem. This means returning the floodplain to the creeks with the benefit of flood control and recreation access

Tranquitas Creek

Tranquitas Creek is located in the northern part of Kingsville. The Creek travels northwest to southeast and has been channelized for much of its course within the City. The creek is 3.6 miles in length inside the city limits and 10.0 miles including the City's ETJ. The creek passes near Corral Park and Los Hermanos Flores Park. The channelization of the creek has created a corridor that is under city ownership for majority of its length within the city limits. The proximity of City parks as well as the nearby locations of KISD schools supports classifying the creek corridor as a linear park with the addition of a multi-use trail.

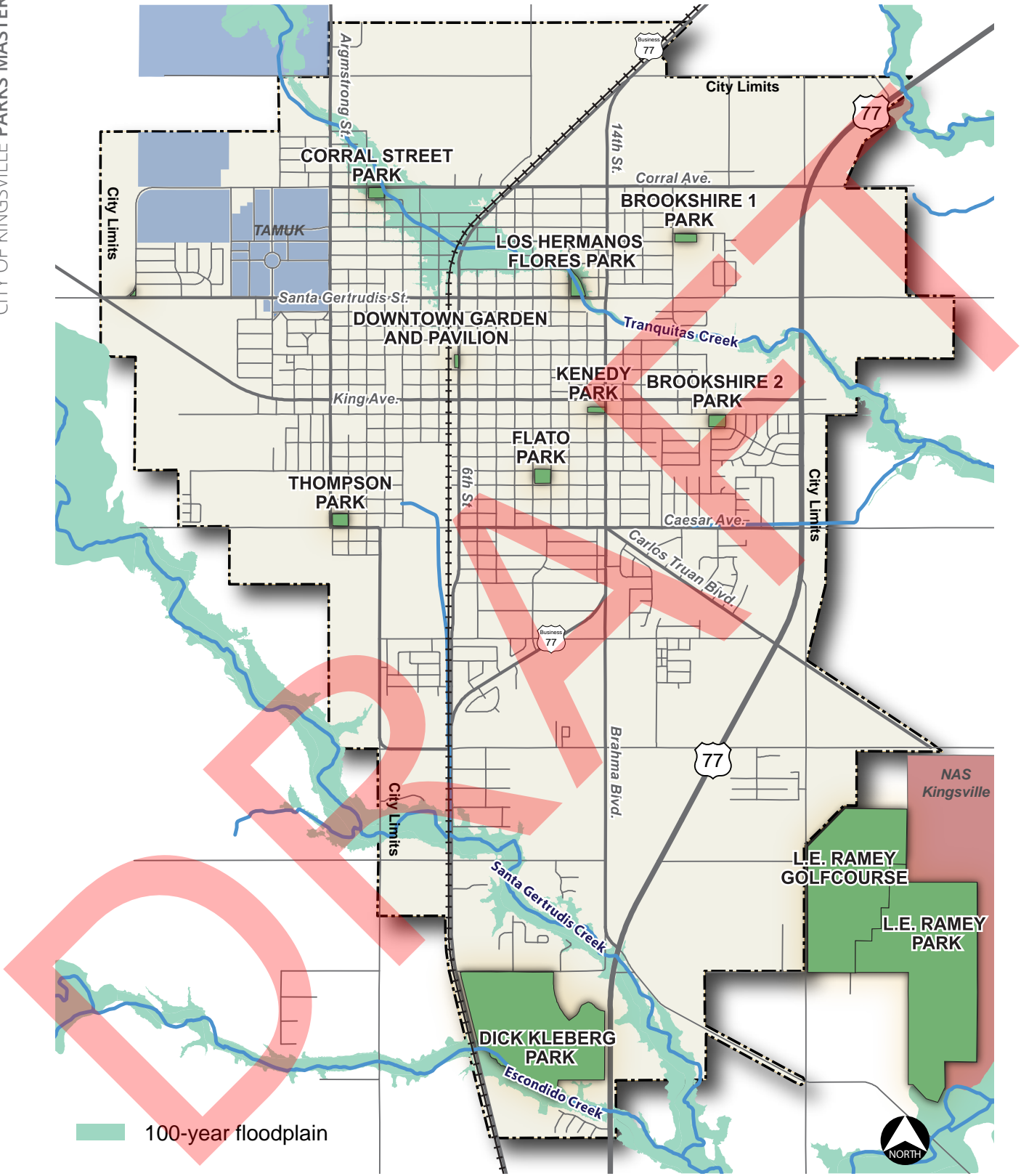
Santa Gertrudis Creek

Santa Gertrudis Creek is located in the southern portion of Kingsville. The creek corridor currently runs for 2.7 miles inside the City, and through 13.2 miles of the City's ETJ. The creek currently passes through private property as it traverses the Kingsville. Its relatively expansive floodplain limits the development of commercial and residential structures near the creek. Much of the creek corridor outside the city limits is bordered by farm land.

Escondido Creek

Escondido Creek is located near the southern boundary of the City Limits of Kingsville. This creek is dammed to create the Dick Kleberg Park Lake. The creek section of the lake runs for approximately 0.8 miles inside the City, and for about 3.8 miles through the City's ETJ before it flows into and becomes part of Santa Gertrudis Creek. The portion of the creek that is located within the City and part of the Dick Kleberg Park Lake lends itself to a looping trail as a compliment to the current offerings in the park.

Map 3.1, Creeks, Floodplains, and Drainage Corridors



Map Not to Scale.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Highway right-of-way areas can be used as strategic elements within the park system to provide trail connections and assist in City beautification efforts. Right-of-way corridors can provide vital “overland” trail linkages between trails that parallel waterways.

- **Highway Corridors.** Highway 77, which is undergoing improvements as it transitions to I-69, runs near the eastern boundary of the City limits. As highway corridors are improved or upgraded in urbanized areas they are being complimented through the addition of multi-use trails to provide infrastructure for alternative transportation modes. Kingsville has the opportunity to work with TxDOT in examining the potential for the implementation of portions of a trail network along the Highway 77 corridor.
- **Railroad Rights-of-Way.** The railroad corridor that bisects the community paralleling 6th street (Business 77) is owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The corridor north of King Avenue may allow for the inclusion of a multi-use trail as there is open space that parallels much of the rail line. South of King Avenue, existing development and the widening of the rail corridor limit the opportunities for trail placement
- **Utility Easements.** When present, utility corridors provide an opportunity in which multi-use trail networks can be supported. Kingsville currently lacks a prominent utility corridor to provide space for a significant stretch of trail. However, the potential for future partnerships with utilities companies to co-locate a multi-use trail should not be overlooked.

UNDEVELOPED PARKLAND

L.E. Ramey Park is home to the only land in the park system that would be considered undeveloped. As discussed previously, its proximity to the Kingsville Naval Air Station limits park development options. The golf course will continue to be the feature element of the L.E. Ramey property and continued improvements will likely be a priory for this area of the park system. There has been expressed interest in improving and reopening the park’s trap and skeet range. The remaining non-programmed space at L.E. Ramey Park is absent any pre-existing plans for its development.

In the event that the City decides to acquire land to meet future recreational needs, it may be appropriate for that land to remain undeveloped until funds are available for its build out. In these instances alternative maintenance practices would be appropriate. Some of these practices could include leasing the land for agricultural purposes or undertaking an incremental approach to allow for the reintroduction of native flora and fauna as part of a nature park. If new park land contains existing natural areas efforts should focus on maintaining as much of that native area as possible.



Rail corridors when paired with trails often offer long stretches of uninterrupted travel. It is important to work with the railroad company from the beginning when planning for trail infrastructure

STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

A standards-based assessment evaluates a community’s park system to assist in establishing long-term benchmarks for system development. National guidelines and standards established decades ago were based on demographic trends rather than specific local desires, and are now intended to serve as a reference for park planning. Each community however has its own unique geographic, demographic, and socioeconomic composition, and as such, the arbitrary application of national standards would not meet its needs. This section of the Master Plan identifies local and regional baseline standards against which Kingsville’s existing park system has been measured.

Three (3) types of standard-based levels of service (LOS) measures are referenced throughout this chapter to generate future park land and facility targets for Kingsville:

- Level of Service - Park Acreage. The park acreage level of service analysis defines the quantity of park land acreage in the City, expressed as a ratio of acreage to population. It analyzes whether there is sufficient acreage to serve current and future residents.
- Level of Service - Access to Park Land. The access to park land analysis examines the location and distribution of park land throughout Kingsville to determine its accessibility to residents.
- Level of Service - Park Facilities. The facility level of service analysis defines the number of facilities recommended to serve each particular recreation need. Facility standards are expressed as a ratio of units of a particular facility per population size. For example, a facility standard for a baseball field might be one (1) field for every 12,500 residents.

The recommended levels of service for the City of Kingsville are shown by park type in **Figure 3.1: City of Kingsville, Recommended Level of Service**. These level of service standards are based on a review of 2008 Master Plan, and have been adjusted where needed based on the current level of importance.

FIGURE 3.1: CITY OF KINGSVILLE, RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SERVICE

Park Classification	Recommended Level of Service
LOCAL, CLOSE TO HOME	
Community Park	4 acres per 1,000 residents
Neighborhood Park	2 acres per 1,000 residents
Mini-Park	N/A, Mini parks will be establish through private development or special circumstance.
REGIONAL SPACE	
Regional	No target established
SPECIAL USE	
Linear Park	Trail access withing 10 minutes (.5 miles)
Nature Parks	No target established
CIVIC SPACE	
Greens, Squares, and Plazas	No target established

¹Standards from Kingsville Master Plan, the City’s comprehensive plan.

Figure 3.2: Kingsville Park System Minimum Acreage Targets, identifies the municipal park system’s existing land holdings in comparison to the target level of service (LOS) established in **Figure 3.1**. Application of the Master Plan’s minimum acreage target is then compared to Kingsville’s estimated 2026 population. The figure suggests that Kingsville currently exceeds the City’s 2026 targets for park acreage LOS of community parks and is short of the target for park acreage LOS for neighborhood parks. **Figure 3.2 is a guide only, and does not relieve the City of ensuring even park land distribution throughout Kingsville service area in the future.**

FIGURE 3.2: KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM MINIMUM ACREAGE TARGETS

Park Classification	Current Acres	Park Acreage LOS ¹ (Acres per 1,000)	Current Rate	2026 Park Land Target
LOCAL, CLOSE TO HOME				
Community	179.7	4	6	122.9 acres
Neighborhood	16.1	2	.53	61.4 acres

¹Standards from Kingsville Master Plan, the City’s comprehensive plan.

Although the Parks Master Plan does not recommend changes to community and neighborhood park acreage measures provided in the City's 2008 master plan, it does recognize that addressing the deficit in neighborhood park acreage will be a formidable task. In order to overcome the deficit in neighborhood park acreage the City will need to develop partnerships to formalize additional recreation space near existing neighborhood parks and increase the park acreage when developing future neighborhood parks.

DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION GROWTH

Assessing development patterns and population growth is essential to ensuring a community's park system meets the long-term needs of its residents.

Kingsville's current parks are well-distributed in relation to existing development patterns and population density. The City's Future Land Use Map indicates that Kingsville is expected to grow primarily to the south and east. Future commercial development is planned to occur along Hwy 77. Though growth is expected, much of the area surrounding the existing city limits is expected to maintain a rural and agricultural in character.

The assertion that there is expected development and population growth for Kingsville is supported by the information found in **Figure 1.6, Population by Age** (page 10), which shows the population will grow by a few thousand people within this plan's time frame.

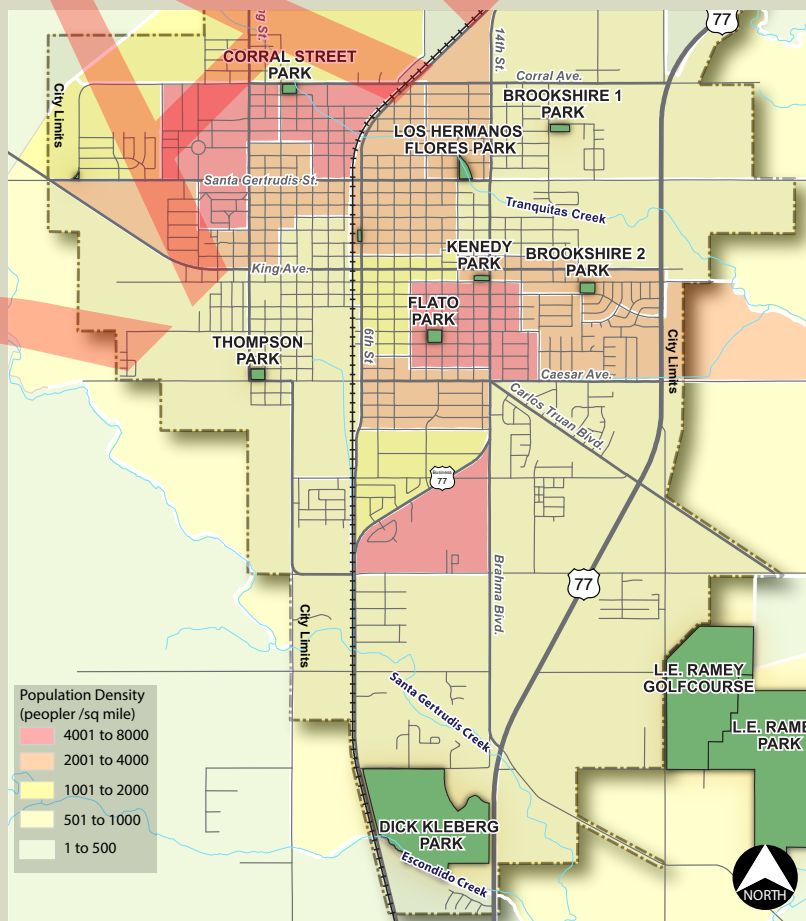
Kingsville's population increase will require the development of new neighborhood and community parks over time. Even so, the City's growth is not expected to be exponential like many other Texas communities. Since addressing growth pressures is not an urgent issue an incremental solution, such as a park land dedication ordinance, could be a functional mechanism for meeting much of the City's future park land needs.

MEASURES OF GROWTH

In considering resident accessibility to park land, the Master Plan evaluated the City's current and future land use patterns, and population density. An understanding of current residential concentrations, and projected residential growth has guided service area recommendations found in subsequent sections of the Master Plan.

POPULATION DENSITY

To best serve a given population park land should be located near residences. A population density map (right) shows the Kingsville's population density at the census block group level. The City's neighborhood parks in Kingsville are found to be evenly spread amongst the higher density residential areas of town. Dick Kleberg Park is located in the southern part of the City away from the more populated neighborhoods, but is still within a reasonable distance for much of the community.



Map Not to Scale.

LEVEL OF SERVICE BY PARK CLASSIFICATION

CLOSE TO HOME PARKS

MINI PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE

No specific LOS target is recommended for mini parks (including pocket parks) in the Master Plan. Often a mini park is best left to be implemented by the development community. The City's primary role in this instance is to enforce development standards that establish requirements for these recreation spaces which ensure feasibility and maintenance/responsibilities.

Instances where the city would be involved in the development of a mini park should be considered on a case-by-case basis and should be associated with the following provisions (list not all-inclusive):

- Public mini park development in Kingsville should occur when necessary to leverage a unique opportunity, or to protect a significant resource.
- Mini parks may be developed where smaller parcels are accessory to a larger resource. For instance, a pocket park may serve as a trailhead.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE

A neighborhood park in Kingsville is generally one (1) to 15 acres in size. The standard of two (2) acres of neighborhood park land for every 1,000 residents is the acreage target for Kingsville (consistent with the 2008 Kingsville Master Plan).

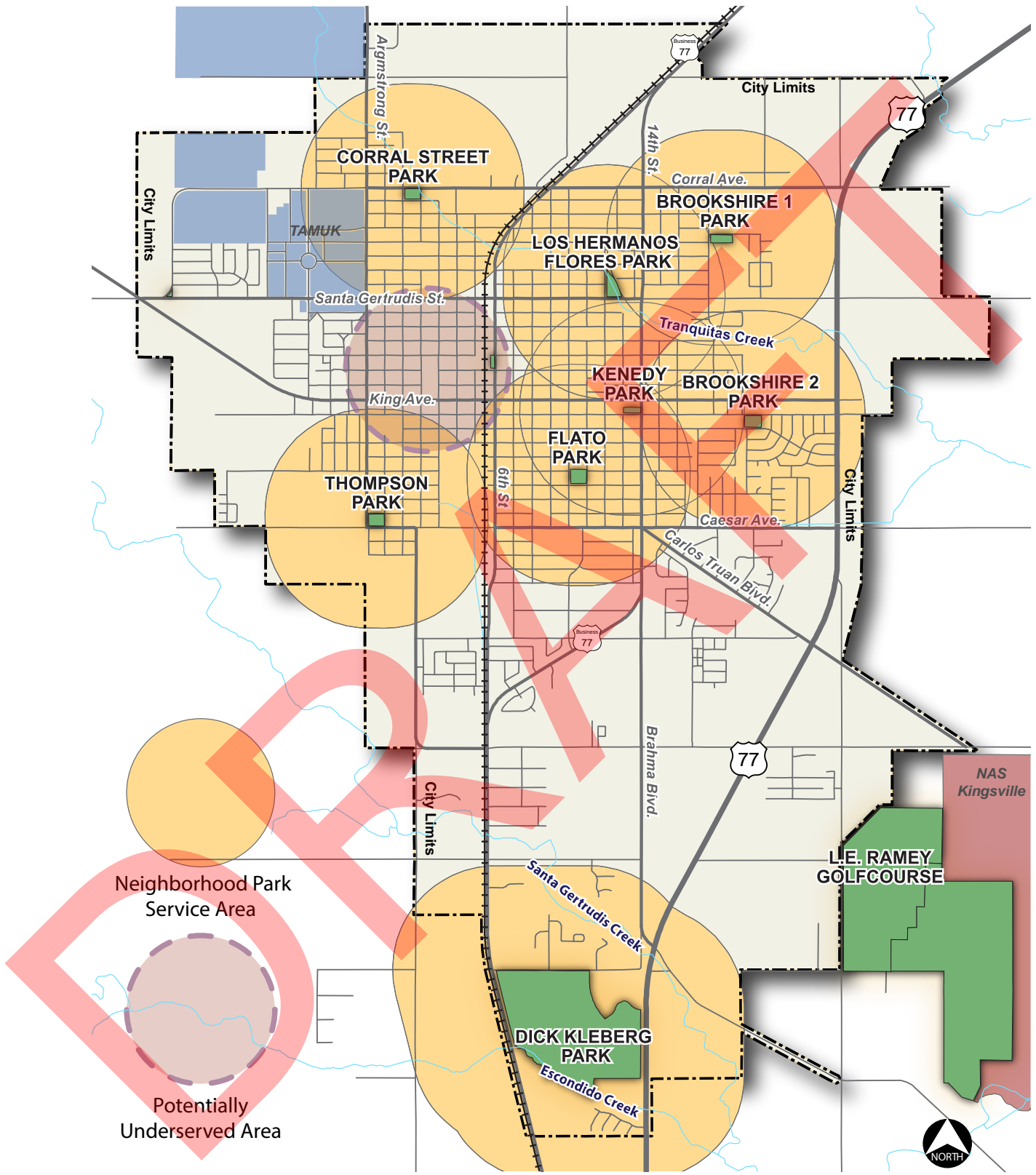
Accessibility to neighborhood parks is as important as acreage goals. Typically, neighborhood parks are in a central location for the residents they serve, and as such should be accessible to all users. The preferred service area for a neighborhood park from any neighborhood in Kingsville is one-half (.5) mile.

Map 3.2, Neighborhood Park Service Areas (page 53) illustrates the distribution and service areas for neighborhood parks in Kingsville. The map identifies a strong coverage of the core of the City. This coverage is so complete that all of the service area for Kenedy Park is overlapped by the service areas of other parks. Additionally, the map identifies an area where there is an existing gap in neighborhood park service area. This area is referred to as a potentially undeserved area. Filling this gap would contribute to exceptional coverage of neighborhood parks in meeting park access-based LOS.

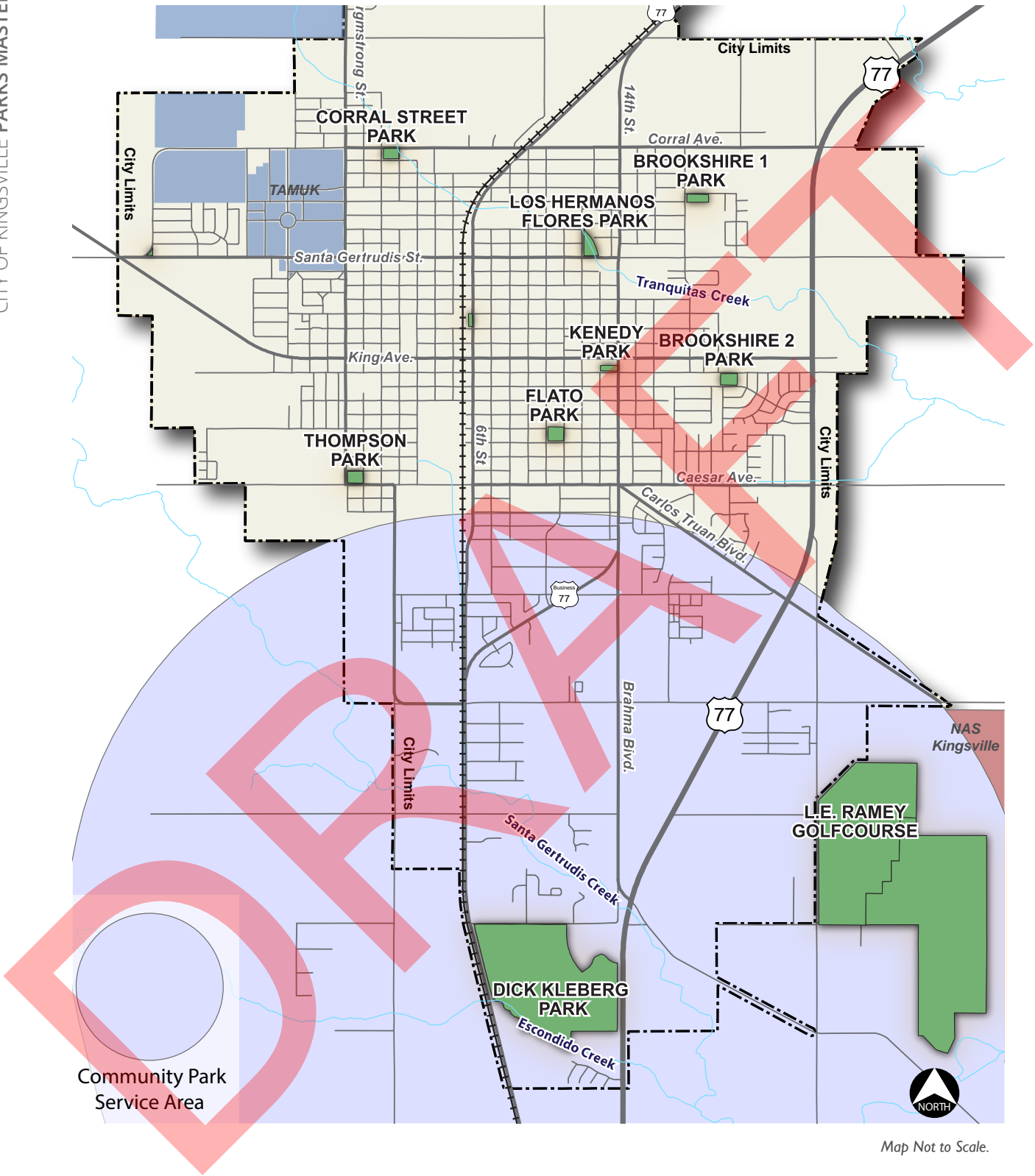
Neighborhood park development intended to meet Master Plan LOS targets should occur under the following provisions:

- Neighborhood park land must be principally reserved for recreational use. Drainage basins or utility easements should not be used to fulfill neighborhood park requirements.
- Neighborhood parks should be located outside of the floodplain. Flood prone areas should only overlap small percentages of neighborhood park area.
- In instances where service areas cross an arterial street, there should be improved and signaled crosswalks at intersections that provide the most direct linkages.

Map 3.2, Neighborhood Park Service Area



Map 3.3, Community Park Service Area



COMMUNITY PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE

Community parks in Kingsville are intended to serve large neighborhoods or several neighborhoods within a two (2) mile service area. Although intended to be accessed by the community via motor vehicles, they also serve as neighborhood parks to the residents in their immediate vicinity. Community parks may host larger community events, sports, and activities. Therefore, they contain many popular recreation and support facilities.

The additional facilities associated with a community park increases the park's size requirements. Future community parks in Kingsville should exceed 15 acres in size. The park acreage LOS for community parks in Kingsville should remain 4 acres per 1,000 residents (consistent with the 2008 Kingsville Master Plan).

The only existing community park in Kingsville, Dick Kleberg Park, is located in southern portion of the city. The sheer size of Dick Kleberg park can address acreage needs for Kingsville well into the future (absent other LOS measures). This park is the only property in the park system where athletic fields are found.

Community park development in Kingsville intended to meet Master Plan LOS targets should occur under the following additional provisions:

- Community parks may be partially located in flood-prone areas, but sufficient upland acreage should be available for facilities, buildings, and structures.
- Some community parks may be programmed so that a portion of their acreage serves as a nature park or preserve.
- Community parks may be of a sufficient size, and programmed in such a manner (i.e. athletic complex, event grounds, etc.) that they support a regional park function.
- Community parks must be accessible via at least one (1) major collector or arterial thoroughfare.

Map 3.3, Community Park Service Area (page 54) illustrates current service areas for community parks in Kingsville. The map shows that the southern portion of the city is within the Dick Kleberg Park service area, while the northern portion of the city is located outside the service area of a community park.

REGIONAL SPACE

REGIONAL PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE

No specific level of service target is recommended for regional parks in the Master Plan. The absence of defined level of service for regional parks does not mean that publicly accessible regional parks should not be developed in Kingsville. Dick Kleberg Park is classified as a community park. However, the park functions both as a community park and regional park in that it hosts regional activities, tournaments, and events.

SPECIAL USE SPACE

There is no specific LOS target for most types of special use parks such as golf courses, athletic complexes, etc. These "special interest" facilities may be programmed within other park land in Kingsville.

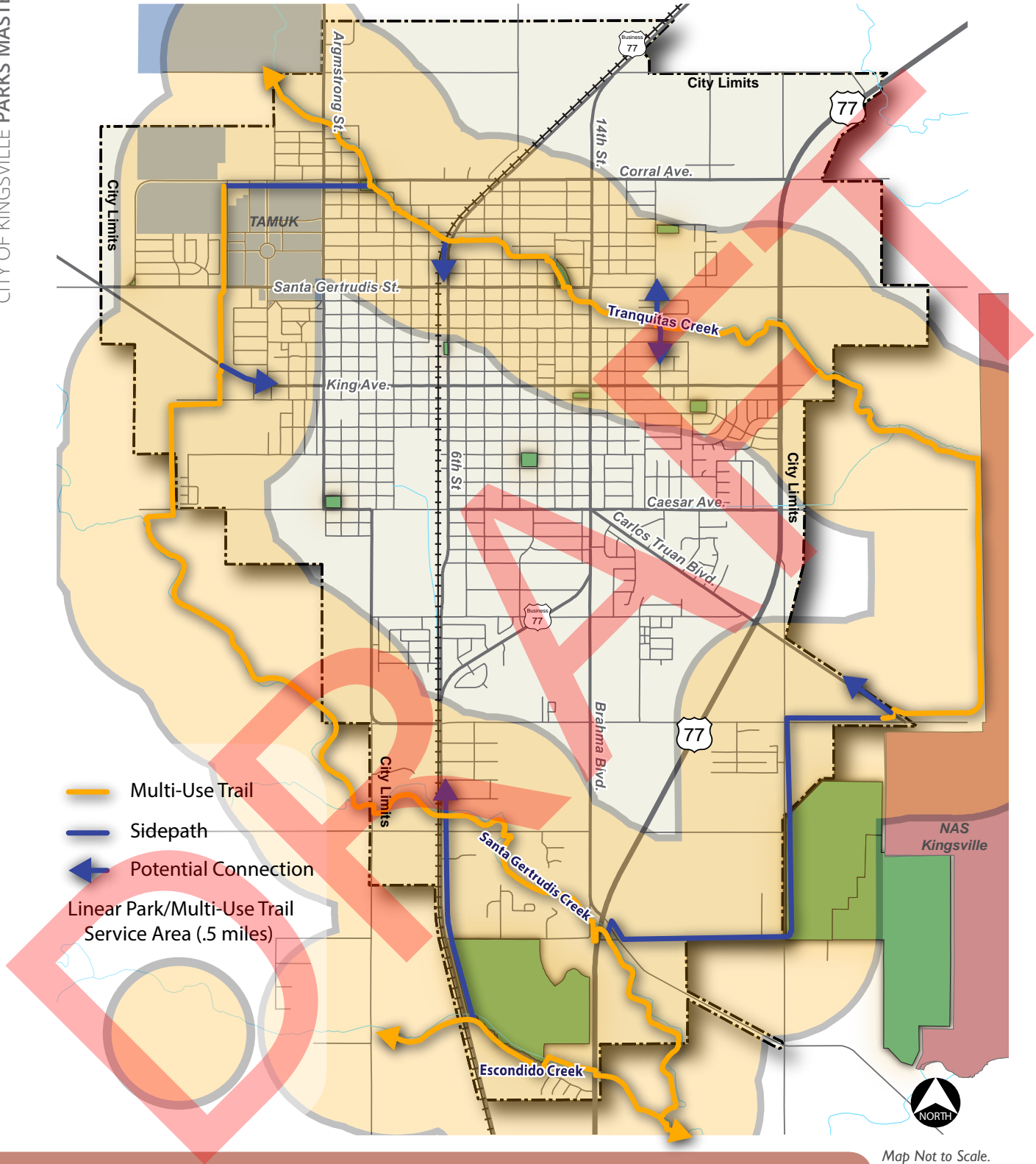
LINEAR PARKS

Stakeholder interviews, the on-line survey, and general public input reveals a high demand for multi-use trails for purposes of walking, jogging, and bicycling. Multi-use trails within linear parks and other corridors also provide greater access to other park facilities and community destinations. Acquiring rights of public access for trail corridors can also be significantly less expensive than fee-simple purchase of tracts of land for park construction.

Map 3.4, Linear Park/Multi-Use Trail Service Area (page 56) identifies the recommended location for a city wide trail system. Please note that future trail corridors illustrated on **Map 3.4** are conceptual and final alignments may vary. Nonetheless, the corridors depicted on **Map 3.4** may serve as the backbone of a city-wide multi-use trail network, and provide Kingsville with the basis to acquire trail corridor dedications as part of the development process.

For purposes of this Master Plan, linear parks simply represent the City's intent to establish a city-wide multi-use trail network – whether such trails are located in a linear greenway or not. For this reason, the Parks Master Plan recommends a proximity-based target level of service for linear parks/multi-use (hike and bike) trails in Kingsville providing for trail access from all residential areas within 10 minutes (roughly a .5 miles walk). This proximity standard may include trails within public road rights-of-way (side paths).

Map 3.4, Linear Park/Multi-Use Trail Service Area



The proposed city wide trail system takes advantage of the community's creek corridors to form a loop that encompass much of the City. A linear park/multi-use trail system of this size will be a large undertaking and as such it is important to garner strong community support. It is recommend to brand the project with a name such as the 'Lasso' to provide a sense of identity and common vision.

NATURE PARKS/PRESERVES

The acquisition of open space for natural resource preservation or restoration is one of the most important park issues facing communities today. It is vital to target and acquire undeveloped tracts of land for preservation before they are fully developed. Ideal areas for the establishment of nature parks or preserves in Kingsville include large stands of trees, wetland areas that attract migratory birds, and tracts that can support prairie land restoration.

No specific service level of nature parks has been established for the Kingsville parks system. While a portion of L.E. Ramey Park may be ideal for nature based recreation, its location next to the Kingsville Naval Air Station and the desire to avoid bird strikes limits habitat improvements. Any future acquisition of land for the purpose of a community park should strongly considered integrating natural areas as a large component of the park.

Property acquired or programmed for nature preserves should meet the following additional provisions:

- Nature preserve land should include woodland or meadows acquired and preserved in a largely natural state; or, previously cleared lands intended for restoration in accordance with a specific restoration plan.
- Nature preserve land must be principally reserved for conservation or natural restoration purposes. Drainage basins, utility easements, or other land kept cleared of natural vegetation should not be used to fulfill nature preserve requirements.
- Nature preserve land should be deed restricted to ensure its conservation status for an extended time frame or in perpetuity.
- Public access and use must be limited to low-impact activities such as hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, etc. Public access areas must be limited in scale.

CIVIC SPACE LEVEL OF SERVICE

No specific LOS target is recommended for civic spaces in the Master Plan. The absence of a LOS recommendations does not mean that publicly-accessible civic spaces should not be developed in Kingsville. Depending on the size and nature of the civic space, the property may function in contributing to the LOS targets for other park classifications. For purposes of this Master Plan the concept of "civic" space extends beyond the traditional definition of citizenship (and the free exercise of assembly) to include miscellaneous spaces intended for casual public gathering.

The development of new civic spaces should be considered in conjunction with the following:

- New development (or redevelopment) in downtown Kingsville.
- The enhancement of public grounds surrounding municipal buildings.
- As part of new "town center" or other high-intensity urban style developments.
- As part of large-scale non-residential development.
- Along prominent arterials where enhanced landscaping would help contribute to a sense of place and promote positive community image.

RECREATIONAL FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

Park system facility standards provide guidance municipal investments in recreational structures, offerings, and other amenities. This direction can be used to help program new parks with appropriate recreation facilities. Facility target LOS are also used to help insure park amenities are equitably distributed across neighborhoods.

Facility needs are based both on ratios related to existing population, as well as the amount of demand for each facility type (which is derived from public input and user information where available). These standards are adjusted based on Kingsville's recreational goals.

The park facility and special use types identified in **Figure 3.3: Recreation Facilities, Level of Service (page 59)**, do not represent an exhaustive list of recreational amenities - rather, they represent common facilities found throughout most municipal park systems nation-wide. Their purpose in this Master Plan is to assist in determining how future and existing parks should be programmed and/or expanded.

As this is first City-led park planning effort, there is value in creating the initial baseline facility LOS. The baseline LOS for each facility type listed in Figure 3.3 represent minimum recommended City targets. Additional facilities may be added to or removed from those listed in Figure 3.3 to reflect changes in public demands for recreational offerings.



Kingsville's disc golf course is located in Dick Kleberg Park. The park system currently meets the target LOS for such a facility.

FIGURE 3.3: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, LEVEL OF SERVICE


Facility	Current Amount	Baseline LOS ¹	Level of Need	Key Issues
Baseball Fields	2	1 per 12,500	Medium	Increased maintenance should be a priority before considering new fields. This number reflects the current provisions of fields.
Softball/Youth Baseball Fields	9	1 per 3,000	Medium	Softball and youth baseball fields are interchangeable, using this approach may help with maintenance practices.
Soccer Fields	8	1 per 3,000	Medium	Their was mixed feedback on the quality of existing fields.
Football	1	1 per 12,500	Medium	Youth football is popular and practice areas are limited.
Practice Fields/ Backstops	0	1 per 10,000	High	Practice fields can help maintain a quality playing surface for games. These are often programed fields that can be flexed between sport seasons.
Tennis Courts	1	1 per 10,000	Low	While there is not strong support for tennis courts, this is a very common recreation offering.
Basketball Courts	2	1-2 per park	Medium	While not receiving overly strong support in on-line survey results, stakeholders indicated that existing courts are very popular.
Volleyball Courts	1	1-2 per community park	Low	While there is not strong support for volleyball courts, this is a very common recreation offering.
Swimming Pool	1	1 per 15,000	High	Brookshire pool requires continual maintenance, and may require further renovation to meet long-term swimming needs.
Splash Pad/ Sprayground	0	1 per 10,000	High	There is strong community support for splash pads. Splash pads in neighborhood parks provide an opportunity for youth to beat the Texas heat without the need to drive to a pool.
Trails	0 miles	1 mile per 3,000	High	Trails are consistently identified as a high priority need. This matches a statewide demand for more trails. (Trails in this instance does not include walking and jogging paths that are fully contained within a park)
Playgrounds	Varies	1-2 per park	Medium	The focus should be on quality playgrounds over quantity in neighborhood parks. When feasible, playgrounds should also be covered with a shade structure.
Pavilions	4	2 per community park	Medium	Pavilions should be designed to host large gatherings of 80 or more people (8 tables min.). Pavilions could be used to hold community events as well as for rental for large private events.
Picnic Facilities	Varies	In every park	High	These are key facilities that should be included in all parks. They include picnic tables, drinking fountains, BBQ grills, benches, and trash bins.
Disc Golf Course	1	1 per City	Low	Survey results indicate the local popularity of disc golf is low. However, disc golf is an emerging trend in recreation and is very popular in a number of other communities.
Dog Park	0	1 per community park	Medium	If there is an opportunity for a second dog park, consider the feasibility of a large off-leash area.
Skate Park	0	1 per City	High	Skate parks are very popular destinations among youth and teens. A number of stakeholders have voiced strong support for a skate park.
Amphitheater	0	1 to 2 per city	Low	Amphitheaters are typically located downtown or in a large community park, where festivals and community events can be held.
Indoor Recreation Center	0	N/A	Low	While there is support for an indoor recreation center, the implementation of such as facility would likely occur outside the plan time frame.

¹ Developed based on analyzing current level of service, citizen demand determined during the public input process, and comparing to other similar cities in Texas.

SUMMARY OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment component of the Kingsville Parks Master Plan planning process is the foundation for the following chapters. As such it important to draw some initial conclusion and summaries derived from this process. Associated recommendations are found in Chapter 4. The following are relevant findings and the most prevalent needs for the Kingsville parks system:

- Maintenance is the greatest priority for improving the park system in terms of community perception, function, and appearance.
- Creating a City-wide trail network will help address current community demands for trails and overall park accessibility.
- A multi-use trail system should be designed to accommodate multiple users including walkers, joggers, and bicyclists.
- A need for a variety of aquatic facilities is necessary as water activities are highly desired by the community. Near term aquatic investments should focus on the provisions of splash/spray pads.
- Park facilities within neighborhood parks should be consolidated to reduce maintenance demands caused by current placement and arrangement.
- Neighborhood parks are currently well placed to provide recreation opportunities for much of the Kingsville community. Their small size limits the inclusion of ball fields and other area intensive recreational offerings.
- Residents feel safe in City parks, although lighting was identified as a important element to help improve the feeling of safety in park properties.
- There are many partnership opportunities with KISD to add recreation space, without the need for capital investment in land acquisition.
- There is a lack of field space for practice, or open lawns for informal play in central city.
- If the City determines that additional park land acreage is necessary, it should focus on an incremental approach in line with population growth.
- Establishing a parks land dedication ordinances as a mechanism to acquire property, would likely address many long term (beyond this plan time frame) park land needs.
- Standards for implementation of nature parks/preserves and linear parks need to be established.



The property between the Kingsville City Hall and KISD administrative building is a popular location for informal play and youth sports practices. Development of the space as a formal public green - through a City/KISD partnership provides a keystone center city park space in an undeserved area.